

BEAR BRANCH NATURE CENTER PROGRAMS

Hashawha and Bear Branch Nature Center are located just north of Westminster, off of Rt. 97 at 300 John Owings Road. Bear Branch Nature Center is open year round Wednesday-Saturday from 10am-5pm, and Sunday from 12-5pm. The Nature Center staff can be contacted by phone: 410-848-2517 or email bbnc@carr.org. All Nature Center programs require pre-registration, unless otherwise noted. Groups should schedule programs directly with the Nature Center.

Hashawha's trails are open to the public from dawn until dusk 365 days a year. Parking is only available at Lake Hashawha or Bear Branch Nature Center. There is no entrance fee for the park. **PLEASE NOTE: The Hashawha Environmental Facility is not open to the public except through reservation. Please do not enter the Hashawha gates or the posted restricted areas.** For more information about group rentals of the facility, contact Hashawha staff by telephone at 410-848-9040, or via e-mail Hashawha@carr.org.

In case of inclement weather... if inclement weather is in the forecast, please call before coming to your program to see if it has been cancelled/postponed. If Carroll County Government is closed, the Nature Center is closed.

SWAMP ROMP

September 5 1 session Saturday
Program #09BB80

Prepare to get down and dirty with a romp in the swamp! Experience the sights, sounds, and smells of the wetland. Wear an old pair of tie-on tennis shoes and lightweight long pants (highly recommended) - you will get wet and muddy! Age 10+.
TIME: 11am-1pm FEE: \$5/person

BUTTERFLY RETREATS

September 5 1 session Saturday
Program #09BB81

Learn how to care for monarch larva and butterflies. We will have all of the materials for you to make one butterfly retreat. These enclosures will allow you to raise monarchs, observe and release these wings of fancy without any harm. Age 8+.
TIME: 1-3pm FEE: \$9/person



DRAW FROM NATURE FOR HOMESCHOOLERS

September 9 1 session Wednesday
Program #09BB82

Does your student enjoy the experience of "coloring" in the woods? Well, pack their backpack with their favorite drawing medium, lunch and drink. We will hike about a bit and do some artwork. At the end of the day we will share our art. Age 7+.
TIME: 10:30am-2:30pm FEE: \$15/person



STORYTIME IN THE WOODS

Sept 11 OR Oct 2 OR Nov 6 1 session Friday
Program #09BB83 9/11
Program #09BB84 10/2
Program #09BB85 11/6

Bring Mom or Dad (or other adult caregiver) and a blanket to sit on as we venture into the woods for story time! Afterwards we'll make a craft related to that day's featured story, and maybe play a game or two! Age-Preschool.
TIME: 10:30-11:30am FEE: \$5/child

BUSY BEAVERS

September 11 1 session Friday
Program #09BB86

Are beavers really busy? We'll find out during this nocturnal program as we learn about beavers, and then take a hike to the wetland in search of Hashawha's resident beavers. Age-Families.
TIME: 6:30-8pm FEE: \$5/person



BEAR CUBS CLUB

Sept 24 OR Oct 15 OR Nov 19 1 session Thursday
Program #09BB87 9/24
Program #09BB88 10/15
Program #09BB89 11/19

Join us for this series of programs just for the little ones! Each month we will have a nature related program and craft. Your youngster will learn about the natural world through hikes, games, and other hands-on activities, so get your aspiring naturalist started early with our Bear Cubs Club! Age 4-6.
TIME: 10:30-11:30am FEE: \$5/child

ALL ABOUT NATURE FOR HOMESCHOOLERS

Sept 24 OR Oct 15 OR Nov 19 1 session Thursday
Program #09BB90 9/24
Program #09BB91 10/15
Program #09BB92 11/19

Calling all Junior Naturalists! Each month you can learn "all about" some of your favorite nature topics with a Naturalist through hikes, experiments and other hands-on activities. Each month will feature a different topic. Children should be mature enough to attend the program on their own. Age 7-11.
TIME: 2-3:30pm FEE: \$5/child

GREEN TEENS!

Sept 24 OR Oct 15 OR Nov 19 1 session Thursday
Program #09BB93 9/24
Program #09BB94 10/15
Program #09BB95 11/19

If your home schooled teen is feeling green, then this monthly foray is suited just for them. We'll meet and spend our time outdoors learning about natural history and completing conservation related projects. Teens should be prepared and dressed for the outdoors. Age 13-18.
TIME: 2-3:30pm FEE: \$5/child


PLANETARIUM SHOWS

Sept 25 OR Oct 24 OR Nov 21 1 session Fri OR Sat
Program #09BB96 9/25
Program #09BB97 10/24
Program #09BB98 11/21

Join the Westminster Astronomical Society under the star dome to learn the stars and constellations of the night sky. Following each planetarium show the Westminster Astronomical Society invites you outside for a Star Party to observe the nighttime sights. Bring your

own telescope or look through one of theirs! *Large Scout Groups (or other organized groups) should call the Nature Center to schedule their own Planetarium Show.* Age 8+. (8:30pm show offered if 7:30 fills.)
TIME: 7:30pm **FEE:** \$5/person

INQUISITIVE INSECTS

September 27 1 session  Sunday
Program #09BB99
 September is a "buggy" time of year. Just step outside and you are enveloped in a cacophony of insect operas. We will meet some of the insects in the Nature Center and then go out for a hike to find so many more! Age 5+ (under 10 accompanied by a paying adult).
TIME: 2-4pm **FEE:** \$5/person


OH DEER! - FOR HOMESCHOOLERS

October 1 1 session Thursday
Program #09BB100
 Special presentation for Homeschoolers - take a look into the White-tail's Woods! Learn all about deer from our local expert, E.W. Grimes, President of the Maryland Quality Deer Management Association. Get an up close look at real antlers and jaw bones and then enjoy a short hike outside while learning about deer biology and habitat. Results of the recent studies done in the park will be presented. Find out more about the research opportunities available for homeschool students. Age 8-adult.
TIME: 1-3pm **FEE:** \$5/person

CRICKET CAMP-OUT

October 2-3 1 session Friday-Saturday
Program #09BB101
 Spend an autumn night camping out under the stars with the crickets and your family! We'll set up camp, build a campfire, and then enjoy hotdogs, s'mores and a night hike. This program is for families who have young children and limited camping experience. Tents will be provided, but you should bring your own sleeping bags. Age-Families.
TIME: 5pm-8am **FEE:** \$50/family

OH DEER!

October 3 1 session Saturday 
Program #09BB102
 Take a look into the White-tail's Woods! Learn all about deer from our local expert, E.W. Grimes, President of the Maryland Quality Deer Management Association. Get an up close look at real antlers and jaw bones and then enjoy a short hike outside while learning about deer biology and habitat. Results of the recent studies done in the park will be presented. Age 8-adult.
TIME: 10am-12pm **FEE:** \$5/person

MEET THE BEEKEEPERS

October 3 1 session Saturday
Program #09BB103
 Learn all about this amazing insect. Do bees really dance? Are there boy bees? How is honey made? What do beekeepers do? Learn the answers to these questions and more, and meet a real beekeeper! Meet at BBNC. Age-all.
TIME: 10am-12pm **FEE:** \$5/person

FALL SCAVENGER HUNT

October 4 1 session Sunday
Program #09BB104
 Now that fall has arrived, the weather is cooler, leaves are changing colors and animals are preparing for winter. Join us as we head out

into the woods to look for these and other signs of fall! Prizes will be awarded to all participants! Age 6+.
TIME: 2-3pm **FEE:** \$5/person

FALL PERENNIAL SWAP & WILDFLOWER WALK

October 4 1 session Sunday
Program #09BB105
 Bring your excess perennials, water plants, shrubs and trees (native plants preferred, please do not bring invasive, exotic plants) and then enjoy a leisurely stroll around our gardens. Please divide and label your plants. Bring grocery bags or containers for your plants. Age-adults
TIME: 2-4pm **FEE:** \$5/person



SOUTHERN MARYLAND CAMP-OUT

Oct 10-Oct 11 1 session Saturday-Sunday
Program #09BB106
 Teens! Join us for our 9th annual trip to Southern MD and the western shores of the Chesapeake Bay. During this trip we will camp at Point Lookout State Park and visit the Calvert Marine Museum and St. Mary's College. Various outdoor activities, including hiking, fossil hunting, beachcombing and more! Includes meals, camping, transportation and instruction. Please plan to attend a brief pre-trip meeting on Thursday, October 8th at 4:30pm at BBNC. Age 13-18. Reg. deadline: Oct. 5.
TIME: 8am Sat - 7pm Sun **FEE:** \$70/child

RAPTOR MIGRATION TRIP TO HAWK MOUNTAIN

October 16 1 session Friday
Program #09BB107
 Join us on our annual trip to watch the fall migration of hawks, eagles, falcons, osprey, harriers and vultures at the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania. Bring binoculars, lunch, water, seat cushion and spending money for the gift shop. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and dress for the weather. Van transportation and entry to Hawk Mountain included. Age 14-adult.
TIME: 8am-6pm **FEE:** \$15/person

TO DYE FOR

October 17 1 session Saturday
Program #09BB108
 Using nature's pallet, we'll collect materials and then make our own natural dyes. Please bring two white cotton t-shirts or pillowcases to try the natural dyes on. Age 8-adult.
TIME: 1-2:30pm **FEE:** \$7/person

AUTUMN SPLENDOR HIKE FOR HOMESCHOOLERS

October 21 1 session Wednesday
Program #09BB109
 Bring your backpack, your lunch and drink. We are going to hike through several trails around and about Bear Branch and Hashawha. Do you have a nature journal or camera? Bring it along to take time to photograph, draw or write about what we observe. Age 7+.
TIME: 10:30am-2:30pm **FEE:** \$15/child

LEAF ART

October 24 1 session Saturday
Program #09BB110
 Fall is here! Find out why leaves change color and fall off, and then collect some leaves to make a cool piece of art to wear. Bring a new white or light colored shirt to use. Age 7+.
TIME: 2-3pm **FEE:** \$5/person



HALLOWEEN GOURDS

October 25 1 session Sunday
Program #09BB111

Need time to let your artistic nature out? Come on out to the Nature Center. We have these wonderful gourds for you to paint and use as décor during this season of fun! We supply the paints and the ideas - you supply the inspiration and time. Age-adults.
TIME: 2-4pm FEE: \$12/person

PRESCHOOL CREEPY CRITTER PARTY

October 29 1 session Thursday
Program #09BB112

Join us for some spooky fun as we meet some creepy critters, make a spooky craft, enjoy some treats, and don't forget to wear your Halloween costume! Age-Preschool.
TIME: 10am-12pm FEE: \$7/child

BATS & BUGS

October 30 1 session Friday
Program #09BB113

We'll search the night sky for the amazing world of bats. This will be a great evening to learn some fascinating facts about our backyard bug-zappers. We'll also get chance to see all the incredible insects that bats like to eat. No flashlights please! Age-Families.
TIME: 6-7:30pm FEE: \$5/person



RAPTOR PHOTO SHOOT

November 7 1 session Saturday
Program #09BB114 9-10am (adults only)

Program #09BB115 10-11am (all ages, under 12 w/paying adult)
Calling all photographers! Here is your chance to get up close and personal with Hashawha's birds of prey. Take advantage of the morning light and fall colors to photograph these birds in a natural setting. Children under 12 must be accompanied by a paying adult. Parking avail. at BBNC and outside Hashawha gates. Meet at Raptor Mews.
TIME: Choose above FEE: \$10/person

GETTYSBURG GHOST TOUR

November 7 1 session Saturday
Program #09BB116

Come join us on this special candlelit evening ghost tour amongst the town of Gettysburg, PA. We'll walk into the realms of the unknown and be escorted by a period dressed guide as we journey back in time down the very streets soldiers walked a century ago. The tales and legends we will learn about are educational for all ages. Fee includes van transportation and admission only, dinner fee is on your own. Age-Families.
TIME: 5:30-11pm FEE: \$15/person

FALL COLORS HIKE

November 8 1 session Sunday
Program #09BB117

Enjoy the fall kaleidoscope of color as we hike and explore the trails of Hashawha. We'll learn about identifying trees and leaves, by shape, texture, and of course, by color. Bring a water bottle and field guide if you have one. Age 10+.
TIME: 1-3pm FEE: \$5/person



OWL PROWL

November 13 1 session Friday
Program #09BB118

Get eye to eye with a live owl before heading out into the woods as we try our luck in calling in some of the park's wilder residents! No flashlights please! Age 10+.
TIME: 4:30-6pm FEE: \$5/person



WORMS, BUGS, & SLUGS

November 15 1 session Sunday
Program #09BB119

We'll wander through the forest and talk about the importance of leaf litter. We'll also look at some rotting logs for spiders, centipedes, millipedes, and various fungi. Includes an edible, earthy treat! Age-Family.
TIME: 1-2:30pm FEE: \$5/person

WILD NIGHT HIKE

November 20 1 session Friday
Program #09BB120

Join us as we venture out into the wilder areas of the park after dark, using our senses as we make our way through the woods. We'll also enjoy a campfire and s'mores before heading back to civilization! No flashlights, please! Age 10+.
TIME: 5-7pm FEE: \$6/person



TURKEY TIME!

November 21 1 session Saturday
Program #09BB121

It's almost Thanksgiving, and that means it's time for turkey! Learn all about this big bird and make a cool turkey craft to take home. Age 6+.
TIME: 2-3pm FEE: \$5/person

HAIKU HIKE FOR HOMESCHOOLERS

November 25 1 session Wednesday
Program #09BB122

Japanese poetry is nature based. Let us go on a meandering hike, stopping to observe nature and writing what we see. Then we will return to the Nature Center, learn the rhythms of the haiku and try our hands at becoming a haiku poet. Bring your lunch, drink, paper and pencils all in a backpack, ready to hit the trails! Age 7+.
TIME: 10:30am-2:30pm FEE: \$15/person

FOSSIL FUN

November 28 1 session Saturday
Program #09BB123

If it weren't for fossils, we'd have a very different view of what life on Earth used to be like! Join us as we learn all about these ancient artifacts and make one of your own to take home! Ages 9+.
TIME: 2-3pm FEE: \$5/person

MARTIN CABIN HISTORY HIKE

November 29 1 session Sunday
Program #09BB124

No TVs - no cell phones! Take a trip back into time and see what life was like in the 1800's as we hike to the Martin Family Cabin. See inside of the log cabin as we learn what life was like on this land before Hashawha! Age-Families.
TIME: 1-2:30pm FEE: \$5/person



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES :

Numerous volunteer opportunities exist at the Nature Center. Students may earn service learning hours. Call Bear Branch at 410-848-2517 or email bbnc@carr.org for more information about these and other upcoming volunteer opportunities.

TRAIL BLAZIN' - Help out with Hashawha's trails. No experience required! Age 14+. Sundays, 1-3pm: September 27, October 11, and November 15,

OUTDOOR EXPLORERS - Students assist with on-going conservation projects in the park. Age 4th-12th grades. Saturdays, 2:30-4:30pm: September 12, November 14

GARDENING DAYS - All ages welcome (under 12 must be accompanied by an adult). Help maintain the Nature Center's gardens, no experience required! Saturdays, 9am-12pm: September 26, October 24

SEED SEARCH - Help collect seeds, acorns, and nuts from trees in the park for reforestation efforts across the state. Age 8-adult. Saturday, 10am-12pm: October 17

SPECIAL EVENTS

MONARCH MADNESS FESTIVAL

September 20 Sunday

Celebrate the arrival of autumn by visiting the Nature Center for this special event. Monarch butterflies will have begun their fall migration to Mexico by now. Learn about their amazing journey as we look for Monarchs and other fall butterflies. Age-all.

TIME: 12-4pm **FEE:** Free

STICKS, STONES & STARS - SCOUT DAY at BBNC!

November 1 Sunday

Attention all scouts and scout leaders! Join us for this three part program about forestry, geology and astronomy. Call the Nature Center at 410-848-2517 for registration information regarding times, ages and fees for this special program. REGISTRATION IS THROUGH THE NATURE CENTER.

BEAR BRANCH AND PINEY RUN NATURE CENTER MEMBERSHIP



Are you a Nature Center Member?

Nature Centers Members play an important role within our parks and membership has numerous privileges! Membership benefits include: discount registration for Nature Camps, 10% discount in either Nature Center Gift Shop, invitations to "Members Only" programs and activities, an opportunity to serve on your affiliate Council, plus Library book check out privileges at Piney Run and Bear Branch. As a member of either Piney Run or Bear Branch, you also know that you are helping to support quality environmental education programs at the Nature Centers in Carroll County.

Membership Rates:

Family	\$15
Individual	\$10
Senior Citizen (62+)	\$8
Senior Couple	\$12
Full Time Student	\$8
Organization	\$25
Contributing	\$50
Sustaining	\$100
Patron	\$500
Benefactor	\$1000
Lifetime	\$250

YES, I would like to become a member of (please check one):

Bear Branch Nature Center
Check payable and mailed to:
Friends of Hashawha/Bear Branch
300 John Owings Road
Westminster, MD 21158

Piney Run Nature Cntr
Check payable and mailed to:
Piney Run Recreation &
Conservation Council
30 Martz Road
Sykesville, MD 21784

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____

(type) membership

*Contributions in excess of your membership fee are tax deductible.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____