

FIVE RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Winter 2019 Program Schedule

Come explore outdoors this winter! The grounds are open every day from sunrise to sunset. The education center is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, except state holidays.

Programs listed below are free of charge unless otherwise noted. Dress for the weather! In the event of inclement weather, outdoor programs may be canceled. Please call to confirm. Organized youth/civic groups are asked to call ahead to ensure we can accommodate your group at these programs. If we cannot accommodate your group, we are happy to make alternate arrangements. Please check our online calendar at www.dec.ny.gov/education/1980.html. For further information, call us at 518-475-0291.

We welcome those who have any type of physical challenge to all of our programs. If you call ahead to let us know your needs, we will be happy to learn how we can accommodate you.

Five Rivers Listserve: Register at www.dec.ny.gov for e-mail notifications about upcoming programs at Five Rivers. Look for the blue "DEC Delivers" box and follow the instructions.

Dogs and other pets are not permitted at Five Rivers. If you are looking for a natural area to walk with your pet, we are happy to recommend other nearby locations. Call us at 518-475-0291.



Friends of Five Rivers: The Friends of Five Rivers (FOFR) is the year-round community support group for Five Rivers Environmental Education Center. Members receive a 20% discount on select purchases at the FOFR bookstore, complimentary snowshoe loans, reduced fees for selected programs, and a subscription to the newsletter *River Ramblings*. Membership levels and volunteer information are available at www.FriendsofFiveRivers.org or call 518-475-0295.

WINTER FUN: SNOWSHOE RENTALS

Snowshoes are available for rent from the Friends of Five Rivers (FOFR) for \$5 per pair; free for FOFR members (must show a current member card or be on the current members list). Rental fees apply during guided programs, except for "learn to..." programs. Snowshoes may only be used on site and must be returned by 4:00 PM on the day of rental. No snowshoes will be rented after 3:00 PM. Renters must be at least 16 years old and complete the rental agreement form available at the greeter desk. To minimize damage to the equipment, there must be at least six inches of snow on the ground.

CITIZEN SCIENCE: WINTER RAPTOR SURVEY

Every Other Thursday Through March

People with bird watching skills or a desire to learn are needed to help discover winter feeding areas of endangered raptor species. Volunteers meet at Five Rivers every other week and spend an hour, centered around sunset, scanning for and recording raptor species on Five Rivers' grasslands. Participants do not have to attend every session but will need their own binoculars. Study dates are subject to change due to weather conditions. Pre-registration is required. Please help us save threatened and endangered species. Call Five Rivers at 518-475-0291 or email 5Rivers@dec.ny.gov to register.

Tuesday, January 1, 2019, 9:00 AM

Citizen Science: NEW YEAR'S BIRD COUNT

Join local bird experts for our 38th annual New Year's Day survey. Seventy-one different species have been found at Five Rivers on Albany's "First Morning," and the birds found over the decades of this long-term study show interesting range changes for many species. Bring binoculars if you have them. Dress warmly. If severe weather is forecast, call on Monday, December 31 to confirm the event will be held.

Saturday, January 5, 10:00 AM

Family Fun: FROSTY THE BIRD FEEDER

At Five Rivers, we put up bird feeders in winter to help our wild birds, and to attract them for people to watch. Come learn about the benefits of feeding the birds and build a snowman bird feeder. Space is limited; call to register by Thursday, January 3.

Saturday, January 5, 2019, 11:30 AM

AMC Hudson Mohawk Chapter: SOCIAL, MEETING, AND OUTING

Following a potluck lunch, there will be a discussion and display of outdoor equipment. Depending on snow cover, a guided snowshoe or walk will begin around 1:30 PM. At least six inches of snow is required for rented snowshoes. Please dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear, including winter-traction cleats, if needed. Snowshoe rental \$5, free for Friends members. The public is welcome to attend any part of this event.

Wednesday, January 16, 2:00 PM

Guided Hike: THE WELL TRAVELED PATH

Looking to learn a new trail at Five Rivers? Join a center naturalist as we explore one of our eight major trails on this guided hike. Consensus from the group chooses the trail we walk.

Saturday, January 19, 2:00 PM

ANIMAL INTELLIGENCE

This in-depth program will investigate the physiological and psychological ways scientists measure intelligence. Come learn which animals score the highest worldwide. We will then learn about some of the brightest of our local wildlife and how they rank on the intelligence scales and why. This indoor program will feature some live brilliant local birds.

Tuesday, January 22, 7:30 PM

Outdoor Fun: MOONLIT SNOWSHOE

We'll explore Five Rivers' trails at a relaxed pace, enjoying the moonlit snowy scene. Arrive by 7:15 PM to rent snowshoes or review snowshoeing techniques. Snowshoe rental \$5, free for Friends members. Space is limited; call to register by noon, Tuesday, January 22. This program will be canceled if there is insufficient snow. Call to confirm conditions.

Wednesday, January 23, 2:00 PM

Guided Hike: THE WELL TRAVELED PATH

Looking to learn a new trail at Five Rivers? Join a center naturalist as we explore one of our eight major trails on this guided hike. Consensus from the group chooses the trail we walk.

Saturday, January 26, 10:00 AM

Family Fun: GRAFTON LAKES STATE PARK 34TH ANNUAL WINTER FESTIVAL

Join us for games at Grafton Lakes State Park for their 34th Annual Winter Fest! The event is fun for families and outdoor enthusiasts. Stop by Five Rivers' table to see what "show" we have taken on the road.

Saturday, January 26, 10:00 AM

How to Do It: LEARN TO SNOWSHOE

Never tried snowshoeing before? Now is your chance! We'll go over the basics of how to put snowshoes on (and take them off), walk and turn. We'll go outside to put our new skills to work on a short walk. Snowshoe rental fees are waived. Please register by Wednesday, January 23. The outdoor portion of this program will be conducted on foot if there is insufficient snow.

Saturday, January 26, 2:00 PM

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ANTLERED

Join us for a look at what antlers are made of, how they are used, and their importance to different deer species, especially New York State's white-tailed deer. During this indoor presentation, Allen Lindsay, long-time Five Rivers naturalist, will share his expertise, based on published studies and personal observations, including some made at Five Rivers.

Saturday, February 2, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Educator Workshop: AQUATIC WILD

Educators attending this exciting workshop will learn about, use, and go home with the award-winning Aquatic WILD K-12 Curriculum and Activity Guide. Aquatic WILD explores aquatic wildlife and ecology through hands-on simulations and modeling. This interdisciplinary K-12 resource is provided free of charge by the NYS Return a Gift to Wildlife Fund. Certified teachers will receive 4 CTLE hours. Call to register by Wednesday, January 30.

Thursday, February 7, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Making Local Conservation Happen

Join us in learning about conservation success stories from area landowners and partners while warming up with hot apples cider and local food samples. At 8:15 PM, after the indoor discussion, there will be an optional guided walk as we listen for owls and other creatures of the night. Organized by the Town of Bethlehem.

Saturday, February 16, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Educator Workshop: GETTING LITTLE FEET WET

Developed specifically for teachers working with young children (ages 3–6), and in coordination with early childhood experts and educators, Getting Little Feet Wet is Project WET's early childhood curriculum. The book, provided to workshop participants for free, contains 11 interactive, hands-on activities for young learners to explore different aspects of water—from water properties to water sounds. During the workshop we'll try out some of the activities and discuss how they can be used to build understanding about water in our lives. Space is limited; call to register by Wednesday, February 13. This workshop may be canceled if there is insufficient registration.

Tuesday, February 19, 10:00 AM

Family Fun: CARDBOARD CARPENTRY

Cardboard is an incredibly useful material that can be used to build some pretty cool things. Join our center staff to learn about building your own things out of cardboard and help us build a cardboard playhouse for the center! Space is limited; call to register by Saturday, February 16.

Tuesday, February 19, 7:30 PM

Outdoor Fun: MOONLIT GUIDED WALK

Experience Five Rivers' trails by moonlight. Dress for the weather and meet at the visitor center for this winter adventure. Space is limited call to register by noon, Tuesday, February 19. This program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather.

Wednesday, February 20, 1:00 PM

Denali National Park: SCIENCE OF SLED DOGS

Denali sled dogs are specially adapted to survive and thrive in the subarctic. They are not wild animals, but they are not house pets either. Sled dogs and rangers are a team that work together. Join us as we explore the adaptations that make Denali's sled dogs well-suited to living and working in subarctic winter conditions through an interactive lesson with park rangers from Denali National Park. This program is designed for children in grades 3–5, but all are welcome.

Thursday, February 21, 10:00 AM

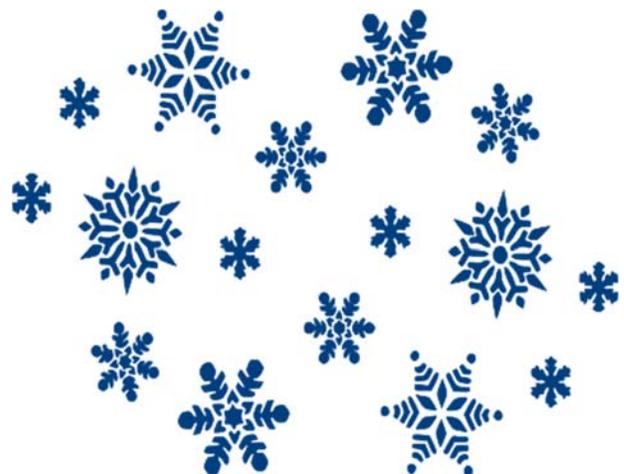
WHO ARE YOU? ANIMAL INTERVIEWS

Have you ever wondered about our critters here at the education center? Come join us in learning more about these native and non-native non-releasable creatures.

Thursday, February 21, 2:00 PM

Guided Hike: THE WELL TRAVELED PATH

Looking to learn a new trail at Five Rivers? Join a center naturalist as we explore one of our eight major trails on this guided hike. Consensus from the group chooses the trail we walk.



WINTER WONDERLAND AT FIVE RIVERS

Friday, February 22

9:30 to 4:00 PM

Drop in throughout the day to enjoy some games, winter crafts, and movies (10:00 AM and 3:30 PM), or come to one of our scheduled programs.

2:00 PM WHERE DO THEY GO?

In the winter we can put on more layers, have some hot chocolate, and sit by a nice fire to stay warm. But what about wildlife? How do they stay warm and make it through the toughest part of the year? Join our naturalists around a campfire to learn about the amazing ways wildlife survives in the harsh winter months.

5:00 PM TALES AND HOT DOGS

Join us by the fire for tantalizing tales as you roast a hot dog and sip hot chocolate. There is a small fee for the food.

Saturday, February 23, 10:00 AM

Guided Walk: WINTER WALK

Join us for this short walk on some of Five Rivers' flat trails. Along the way we will look for birds that stay during the colder months and discuss some of their strategies for surviving winter. We will look for tracks and trails of other animals and find out who has been there and what they were doing. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Saturday, February 23, 2:00 PM

FASCINATING FISHERS

These amazing members of the weasel family are secretive and rarely observed. Find out why they are becoming increasingly common in our local suburbs. Discover what these predators eat and how they live at this indoor presentation. If weather permits, we will head outdoors to discuss what habitat these animals live in and what signs they leave behind.

Saturday, March 2, 10:00 AM

Family Fun: DR. SEUSS READ-A-THON

It's time for our annual celebration of all creatures strange and silly! Join us as we mark Read Across America Day with selections of favorite books by Dr. Seuss. Create a Seuss-themed craft and watch for an appearance by The Cat in the Hat himself.

ENJOY THE SWEETER SIDE OF FIVE RIVERS

MAPLE SUGAR OPEN HOUSES

Saturdays, March 9, 16, 23 & 30

1:30 to 3:30 PM

Join us for an introduction to maple sugaring, from tap and sap to syrup. You'll get to twirl a brace and bit, pound a spile, inspect the sap flow, enjoy the aroma of sap boiling in our evaporator and take the maple syrup taste test challenge. A local maple producer will be on site to answer questions and offer a variety of maple products for sale. Organized groups, please call to register.

FRIENDS OF FIVE RIVERS FAMILY FUN PROGRAMS

Outdoor Programs for Preschoolers and Their Caregivers

The Friends of Five Rivers is offering programs at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center for preschoolers (ages 2-4). Children must be accompanied by an adult. Adults and children will explore the natural world together for 90 minutes each week during the multi-week sessions. Each visit features a storybook on a nature topic, followed by an outdoor activity suggested by the book.

Winter Session: January to early February

Spring Session: late February to mid-March

For information, including dates, fees and how to register, go to www.friendsoffiverivers.org/node/174.