

Explore Nature Outdoor & Virtual Programs. Free!



Special Events

Park Pop-Ups!

Friday, Sept. 17, 4–5pm
@ Alcovia Heights Park, Free

Join us at the park! You can meet a naturalist or historian at one of our neighborhood parks to discover the nature and history of Arlington. The staff person may bring hands-on learning items, artifacts or activities. No registration is needed. Cancelled if raining.

Activity #612951-N

Dia de Muertos / Day of the Dead

Saturday, Oct. 23, 6–7:30pm
@ Long Branch, Free

Come celebrate the Day of the Dead with us for a night of family fun. We'll make calaveras, the decorative sugar skull masks, hear holiday lore, and see some live animals. Afterward, we'll go on a fun, not scary, night hike through the candlelit forest.

Activity #612951-Q



Native Plant Sale

Pre-order Pick-up, Saturday, Oct. 2, 1–4pm
@ Kenmore Middle School

Want to beautify your yard? Then it is time to go Native! We are offering a great selection of plants that are accustomed to local climate and wildlife. We have gorgeous natives for sun to shade, and even deer-resistant plants. This Fall we are offering all sorts of perennials in our Pre-order Sale! See our order form for information and to pre-order your plants online at: registration.arlingtonva.us. Payment can be made by e-check or credit card. **Orders must be placed by Sept. 22, 2021.** Pick-up Day is Saturday, Oct. 2, 1–4pm. You will be contacted to schedule a pick-up time between 1–4 pm before the 2nd. For information: 703.228.6535. Orders not picked up will not be refunded. No plants will be available for purchase on the pick-up day.

R.I.P. Remove Invasive Plants

Want to restore habitat and increase species diversity right here in Arlington? Work parties are held every month. We are making a real difference, with the return of ferns and wildflowers, and the animals that depend on them, in areas once covered in destructive invasive plants. Help make it happen! Must register children & adults by emailing NaturalResources@arlingtonva.us.

Free.

Sat., Sept. 11, 9:30–11:30am @ Gulf Branch
Sun., Sept. 19, 2–4pm @ Long Branch
Sat., Oct. 9, 9:30–11:30am @ Gulf Branch
Sun., Oct. 17, 2–4pm @ Long Branch
Sat., Nov. 13, 9:30–11:30am @ Gulf Branch
Sun., Nov. 21, 2–4pm @ Long Branch

Fall Heritage Fun Programs

Blacksmithing Campfire

Saturday, Oct. 2, 6–7pm
@ Gulf Branch, Free

The whole family is invited to join us at the Gulf Branch fire ring for lots of fun! This engaging program will be filled with entertaining activities that may include stories, special animal guests, and of course, S'mores (bring your own supplies, please!)

Activity #612851-C

Native American Games

Saturday, Oct. 9, 1:30–3pm
@ Long Branch, Free

Young hunters would hone their skills with games to prepare themselves for survival. Come test yourself with spear throwing, relay races in the woods, and other challenges! Ages 8 to 12.

Activity #612921-B

Papermaking Basics

Monday, Oct. 11, 2–3:30pm
@ Gulf Branch, Free

School's out! Join us to make your own personalized paper from recycled materials. This paper can be used for letters, notes, drawings, and more! Ages 5 to 11.

Activity #612821-B

Robert Walker Cabin Campfire

Saturday, Oct. 16, 6–7pm
@ Gulf Branch, Free

The whole family is invited to join us at the Gulf Branch fire ring for lots of fun! This engaging program will be filled with entertaining activities that may include stories, special animal guests, and of course, S'mores (bring your own supplies, please!)

Activity #612851-D





Fall Fun for Families!

Sat., Oct. 16, 1–2:30pm
@ Gulf Branch, \$5

Let's celebrate all things fall! Join us for an afternoon of pumpkin painting, leaf-art making, apple printing fun! \$5 materials fee helps cover the cost of supplies that cannot be returned.

[Activity #612851-I](#)



Amazing Apples

Saturday, Oct. 23, 2–3pm
@ Gulf Branch, Free

Discover the rich natural history of apples and our relationship with them, all while trying out some neat hands-on activities like using a real cider press! Ages 6 and up.

[Activity #612851-J](#)

Virginia Ghosts Campfire

Friday, Oct. 29, 5–6pm
@ Fort CF Smith Park, Free

The whole family is invited to join us at the Fort C.F. Smith Park fire ring for lots of old-fashioned fun and of course, S'mores (bring your own supplies, please!).

[Activity #612751-J](#)



National Hiking Day

Celebrate November 17th with a Great Hike!

Sunrise Hike

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 7–8:30am
@ Gulf Branch, Free

Let's celebrate National Hiking Day! Join us for an early morning stroll to the Potomac, making our way back to the nature center along the Potomac Overlook Trail and through the neighborhood. We'll watch the sunrise and enjoy the quiet of an early fall morning before work. Adults.

[Activity #612841-G](#)

Hiking the Arlington Line: Nature & History

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 12–2:30pm
@ Fort CF Smith Park, Free

The Arlington Line fortifications were constructed by the Union Army for the defense of Washington. We'll hike the northern end of the line, from Fort C.F. Smith to Fort Bennett Park and back, exploring the area's natural and historic resources along the way. This is a three-mile loop-hike on sidewalk and park trails. Adults.

[Activity #612741-A](#)

National Hike Day Hike

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 1–2pm
@ Long Branch, Free

Join us for a nature hike on National Hike Day led by a naturalist who will identify trees, plants, and different types of wildlife all while making a connection to the beauty that is in our environment. Adults.

[Activity #612941-J](#)

Campfires

The whole family is invited to join us for lots of old-fashioned fun. Campfires will be filled with entertaining activities which may include stories, special animal guests, games, songs and of course, S'mores (bring your own supplies, please!).

All Campfires are Free:

Campfires @ Long Branch

Seasonal Changes Campfire
Sun., Sept. 5, 8:30–9:30am [#612951-A](#)

Summer Farewell Campfire
Sat., Sept. 18, 7–8pm [#612951-B](#)

Halloween Animals Campfire
Sat., Oct. 9, 6–7pm [#612951-C](#)

Nature's Defenses Campfire
Sun., Oct. 24, 9–10am [#612951-D](#)

First Thanksgiving Campfire
Sat., Nov. 13, 5–6pm [#612951-E](#)

Campfires @ Gulf Branch

Monarch Campfire
Sat., Sept. 11, 6:30–7:30pm [#612851-A](#)

Journey of the Eels Campfire
Fri., Sept. 24, 7–8pm [#612851-B](#)

Preparing for Winter Campfire
Sat., Nov. 6, 5:30–6:30pm [#612851-E](#)

Full Moon Campfire
Sat., Nov. 20, 5–6pm [#612851-F](#)

Family Fun!

Beginner Birding Club

Sunday, Sept. 5 through Sunday, Nov. 21, 10–11am
Virtual, Free

Join a naturalist as we learn more about our feathered friends. In this club we will learn the life histories of birds, how to identify them based on sound and appearance, and create a bird journal for future use. This is a virtual class that will meet on the following Sundays 10–11am, 9/5, 9/19, 10/3, 10/17, 11/7, 11/21. We will email you a link to Microsoft Teams before the program start time. Please have your device ready to go prior to the start of the program.

[Activity #612951-K](#)



Chimney Swifts Put on a Show!

Friday, Sept. 10, 7–8pm
@ Walter Reed Community Center, Free

Each September Chimney Swifts put on an amazing show where hundreds gather, swirl, then disappear. We'll learn about their lives and walk to a nearby prime viewing location to enjoy the show.

[Activity #612851-G](#)

Afternoon at the Garden

Saturday, Sept. 11, 2–3pm
@ Gulf Branch, Free

What's blooming and who's buzzing at the garden? Join us to explore with nets, bug boxes, and more!

[Activity #612851-H](#)

Birding in The Field for Beginners

Sunday, Sept. 12, 9–10am
@ Long Branch, Free

Join a naturalist as we go into the field to learn how to identify birds using sight and sound while we observe them in their natural habitat as well as how to use the app called Merlin.

[Activity #612951-L](#)

World of Wonders: Wetlands

Sunday, Sept. 12, 12–12:45pm
@ Long Branch, Free

Join us to learn about our world of wonders! See how wetlands are one of the most important ecosystems to the health of our planet and local environments, and how wetlands act as natural filters. Then, we'll go out to visit our wetlands.

[Activity #612951-M](#)



Tech & Nature

Sunday, Sept. 19, 12–1:30pm
@ Long Branch, Free

Join a naturalist as we dive into the world of technology and nature using some nature-based apps such as iNaturalist. We'll start with a quick introduction to iNaturalist and other applications on your smart device, then head outside! Your observations and photos can contribute to a much larger scientific snapshot of the natural world.

[Activity #612951-T](#)

Adapted Nature Hike: Long Branch

Sunday, Sept. 26, 1:30–3pm
@ Long Branch, Free

All are welcome to join us on a leisurely-paced hike through a park. The forested trails will be accessible, smooth and shaded for a fun hike to explore and examine whatever we discover. There are paved trails mostly in shade, but not flat (there are inclines/hills), benches for rest along the way.

[Activity #612951-F](#)

Adapted Nature Hike: Barcroft Park

Sunday, Oct. 3, 1:30–3pm
@ Barcroft Park, Free

All are welcome to join us on a leisurely-paced hike through a park. The forested trails will be accessible, smooth and shaded for a fun hike to explore and examine whatever we discover. Restrooms & water fountains inside Barcroft Sports & Fitness Center, paved trails open in sun until forested area, trails are flat, benches at the picnic area for rest.

[Activity #612951-G](#)

Owl Night Hike

Friday, Oct. 8, 6:30–7:30pm
@ Long Branch, Free

Have you ever heard an owl hoot in the forest? Join us for a sunset hike to learn all about owls, their adaptations, how to use binoculars and to practice your calls. Whoop knows, maybe an owl will hoot back.

[Activity #612951-O](#)

Fall Colors Walk

Sunday, Oct. 10, 11am–12pm
@ Long Branch, Free

Explore the colors of fall during an easy walk on the trails around the nature center. Along the way, we'll discuss why leaves change color and why they "fall" off the tree.

[Activity #612951-P](#)

Spellbinders Story Fest

Saturday, Oct. 16, 3–4pm
@ Long Branch, Free

The Arlington Spellbinders will unleash the power of oral storytelling with favorite tales from around the world. Since ancient times in all cultures, this tradition has passed on wisdom, connected elders to youth, and engaged the imagination.

[Activity #612951-U](#)

Wild Virginia: Venomous Animals

Thursday, Oct. 21, 7–8pm
Virtual, Free

Get ready to go wild! Each program will focus on specific groups of wildlife that live right here in Virginia. We will email you a link to Microsoft Teams before the program start time. Please have your device ready to go prior to the start of the program.

[Activity #612951-I](#)

Fear Factor

Sunday, Oct. 31, 12–12:45pm
@ Long Branch, Free

Are you willing to face your fears? Join a naturalist as we enjoy a challenging and fun nature program filled with creepy crawlies, slimy specimens and many other things that create horrors and fright for some, but happiness and fun for others.

[Activity #612951-L](#)



Adapted Nature Hike: Bluemont Park

Sunday, Nov. 7, 1:30–3pm
@ Bluemont Park, Free

All are welcome to join us on a leisurely-paced hike through a park. The forested trails will be accessible, smooth and shaded for a fun hike to explore and examine whatever we discover. Restrooms available, paved trails open in sun until forested area, trails are flat, benches at the picnic area for rest.

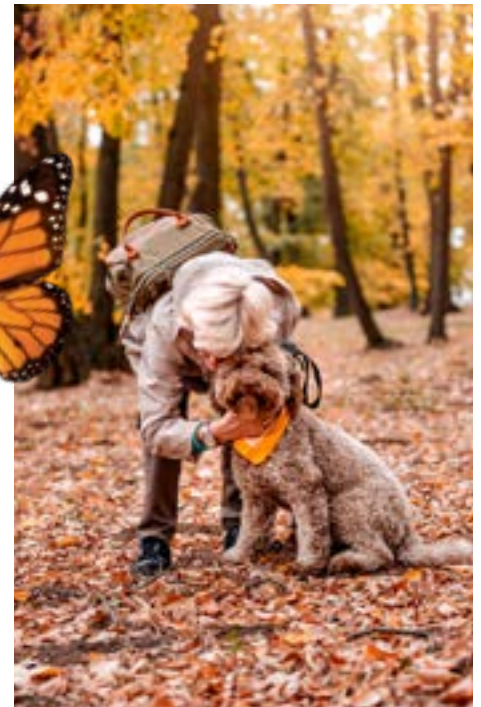
[Activity #612951-H](#)

Wild Virginia: Endangered Animals

Thursday, Nov. 18, 7–8pm
Virtual, Free

Get ready to go wild! Each program will focus on specific groups of wildlife that live right here in Virginia. We will email you a link to Microsoft Teams before the program start time. Please have your device ready to go prior to the start of the program.

[Activity #612951-J](#)



Waggin' Walk

Saturday, Nov. 20, 10–11am
@ Gulf Branch, Free

Join us for a nature walk through the park with your canine companion—let's give all four legs a little stretch! Dogs must be well-mannered and remain on a leash at all times.

[Activity #612851-L](#)

Nature Night Hike

Saturday, Nov. 20, 6–7pm
@ Long Branch, Free

Join a naturalist as they lead an interpretive hike to see what happens in Glencarlyn Park at night. We'll visit different habitats to learn about how nocturnal animals survive in the dark. Please bring a good flashlight.

[Activity #612951-S](#)



Nature for Tots

Tiny Tot

Tiny Tot programs provide opportunities to interact one-on-one with your child while discovering the wonders of nature. Each program may include a variety of activities like dramatic play, songs, and mini hikes. Tiny Tot programs are offered throughout the year at both the Gulf and Long Branch Nature Centers. Themes repeat so please register for only one program at each center per month. Ages 18-35 months with adult.

Tiny Tot @ Gulf Branch, Free

Monarchs

Wed., Sept. 8, 10-10:30am #612811-M
Fri., Sept. 17, 10-10:30am #612811-N
Thu., Sept. 23, 10-10:30am #612811-O

Fall Colors

Tue., Oct. 5, 10-10:30am #612811-P
Thu., Oct. 14, 10-10:30am #612811-Q
Wed., Oct. 20, 10-10:30am #612811-R

Turkeys

Tue., Nov. 9, 10-10:30am #612811-S
Thu., Nov. 18, 10-10:30am #612811-T
Wed., Nov. 24, 10-10:30am #612811-U

Tiny Tot @ Long Branch, Free

Nature Shapes

Fri., Sept. 24, 4-4:30pm #612911-M
Tue., Sept. 28, 10:30-11am #612911-N
Thu., Sept. 30, 4-4:30pm #612911-O

Animal Movements

Wed., Oct. 20, 11-11:30am #612911-P
Sun., Oct. 24, 12-12:30pm #612911-Q
Thu., Oct. 28, 10:30-11am #612911-R

Fluff & Feathers

Thu., Nov. 4, 4-4:30pm #612911-S
Fri., Nov. 5, 10:30-11am #612911-T
Wed., Nov. 10, 4-4:30pm #612911-U



Nature for Preschool

Preschool

Preschool programs are offered throughout the year at both Gulf Branch and Long Branch Nature Centers. The theme for preschool programs is repeated during the month, so please register for only one session at each nature center per month. Caretakers do not register but must stay with their child during the program. Ages 3-5 years.

Preschool @ Gulf Branch, Free

Singing Insects

Thu., Sept. 9, 10:30-11am #612811-A
Sat., Sept. 11, 10:30-11am #612811-B
Tue., Sept. 14, 10:30-11am #612811-C
Wed., Sept. 22, 4-4:30pm #612811-D

Spectacular Spiders

Tue., Oct. 5, 11-11:30am #612811-E
Thu., Oct. 7, 10:30-11am #612811-F
Sat., Oct. 16, 10-10:30am #612811-G
Wed., Oct. 20, 4-4:30pm #612811-H

Amazing Acorns

Tue., Nov. 2, 10:30-11am #612811-I
Tue., Nov. 9, 11-11:30am #612811-J
Sat., Nov. 13, 10:30-11am #612811-K
Wed., Nov. 17, 4-4:30pm #612811-L

Preschool @ Long Branch, Free

Trail Blazers

Fri., Sept. 10, 4-4:30pm #612911-A
Wed., Sept. 15, 10:30-11am #612911-B
Thu., Sept. 16, 10:30-11am #612911-C
Sat., Sept. 18, 4-4:30pm #612911-D

Creepy Crawlers

Sun., Oct. 17, 12-12:30pm #612911-E
Thu., Oct. 21, 10-10:30am #612911-F
Tue., Oct. 26, 11-11:30am #612911-G
Sat., Oct. 30, 12-12:30pm #612911-H

Animals on Vacation

Fri., Nov. 12, 4-4:30pm #612911-I
Tue., Nov. 16, 10:30-11am #612911-J
Fri., Nov. 19, 4-4:30pm #612911-K
Sat., Nov. 20, 4-4:30pm #612911-L

Kids & Teens

Caring for Critters: Monarchs

Wednesday, Sept. 8, 4:30-5:30pm
@ Gulf Branch, \$5

Interested in learning how to temporarily keep and care for creatures at home? We'll continue this series with monarch caterpillars and learn about the importance of keeping wild things wild. Supplies for at-home monarch care will be provided. All materials, including monarchs, MUST be returned to Gulf Branch. \$5 materials fee helps cover the cost of supplies that cannot be returned. Ages 8-11.

Activity #612821-A

Trail Exploration Hike

Saturday, Sept. 18, 1:30-3pm
@ Long Branch, Free

Kids can be the leaders of this nature hike through Glencarlyn Park! Each participant will get the chance to lead the group to explore the trails and discover different habitats, with a naturalist along for the ride. Ages 6-11.

Activity #612921-A



Nature Storytime

Come enjoy a story with one of our naturalists along with the chance to meet a live animal! Ages 2-10.

Long Branch, Free

Wed., Sept. 29, 1-1:30pm #612911-V
Wed., Oct. 27, 1-1:30pm #612911-W
Tue., Nov. 23, 10-10:30am #612911-X

Camouflage Critters

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 3:30-4:30pm
@ Gulf Branch, Free

Discover the many ways animals use camouflage to hide from predators or sneak up on their food. Play a game to sharpen your powers of observation, and then we'll explore the woods, gardens and ponds for creatures trying to fool us. Ages 5-12.

Activity #612821-C

Webbed Wonders

Wednesday, Oct. 27, 3:30–4:30pm
@ Gulf Branch, Free

All spiders can produce silk, though not all make webs. Discover their amazing diversity as we search the trails for spiders that can make webs, jump far, and even run across water! Ages 5–12.

[Activity #612821-D](#)



Autumn Nature Art for Teens

Saturday, Oct. 30, 2–3pm
@ Long Branch, Free

Join us for nature sketching during the most colorful time of the year. We'll visit scenic spots in Glencarlyn Park to draw what we observe with colored pencils. Ages 12–17.

[Activity #612931-A](#)

Fort Building

Thursday, Nov. 4, 10–11:30am
@ Gulf Branch, Free

School's out! Join us for a morning of fort building at the park. How do we construct a fort safely using only the materials we can find in the woods? Ages 8–11.

[Activity #612851-K](#)

Hike to the Potomac for Teens

Saturday, Nov. 6, 1–2:30pm
@ Gulf Branch, Free

Join other nature-loving teens for a hike to the Potomac River and back. We'll cross the stream, hike over boulders, and explore the woods along Gulf Branch all the way to the Potomac. Remember to dress warm and wear sturdy shoes. Ages 12–17.

[Activity #612831-A](#)

Autumn Nature Art

Saturday, Nov. 6, 2–3pm
@ Long Branch, Free

Join us for nature sketching during the most colorful time of the year. We'll visit scenic spots in Glencarlyn Park to draw what we observe with colored pencils. Ages 8–12.

[Activity #612921-C](#)

Turtle Thanksgiving

Saturday, Nov. 13, 2–3pm
@ Long Branch, Free

Come help us make Thanksgiving for our turtles. We'll chop up fresh fruits and veggies, then give them worms for dessert! Ages 3–6.

[Activity #612911-Y](#)



Pokémon GO & Hike!

Sunday, Nov. 14, 12–1pm
@ Long Branch, Free

Join a naturalist on a Pokémon adventure as we hike around Glencarlyn Park and catch Pokémon while also learning about what creatures they were created after. Ages 12–17.

[Activity #612931-B](#)

Life in the Leaf Litter

Saturday, Nov. 20, 2–3pm
@ Gulf Branch, Free

We will rustle through the leaf litter in search of insects, roly-polies and other invertebrates. Discover what other animals search the leaf litter for food and learn about tools scientists use to find invertebrates in the leaf litter. Ages 5–12.

[Activity #612821-E](#)



Nature for Adults

Northern Virginia Bird Club Walk

Wednesday, Sept. 1, 8:30–11am
@ Long Branch, Free

Join members of the Northern Virginia Bird Club for informal walks through Glencarlyn Park in search of resident and migratory birds. Experienced and beginning birders welcomed. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. Adults.

[Activity #612941-A](#)

Pokémon GO & Hike!

Saturday, Sept. 11, 12–1pm
@ Long Branch, Free

Join a naturalist on a Pokémon adventure as we hike around Glencarlyn Park and catch Pokémon while also learning about what creatures they were created after. Adults.

[Activity #612941-G](#)

Deep Dive: Animal Myths

Wednesday, Sept. 15, 7–8pm
Virtual, Free

Take a Deep Dive into a natural history topic that scratches more than just the surface. We will take a new look at some old myths about animals, from outright falsehoods to those rooted in near truths. You may even find some of your animal facts aren't as factual as you thought! We will email you a link to Microsoft Teams before the program start time. Please have your device ready to go prior to the start of the program. Adults.

[Activity #612841-A](#)





Are You Smarter Than A 5th Grader?

Thursday, Sept. 23, 7-8pm
Virtual, Free

Join us for this quiz-style presentation on local animals and ecology. We'll learn about the basic nature concepts being taught at the grade school level, so you can be as smart as your kids. We will email you a link to Microsoft Teams before the program start time. Please have your device ready to go prior to the start of the program. Adults.

[Activity #612941-H](#)

Q & A Hike

Nature Inquiry doesn't have to be just for kids. Join a naturalist on a casual hike to ask your nature questions, with the focus being on YOU for a change. Please feel free to bring binoculars, guidebooks or nature ID apps. Trails will be paved, shaded and have gentle inclines. Adults.

Long Branch, Free
Sun., Sept. 26, 4-5pm

[#612941-D](#)

Barcroft Park, Free
Sun., Oct. 3, 4-5pm

[#612941-E](#)

Bluemont Park, Free
Sun., Nov. 7, 4-5pm

[#612941-F](#)

Resource Protection Areas Virtual Tour

Tuesday, Sept. 28, 7-8pm
Virtual, Free

Join us virtual tour of Arlington's Natural Resource Conservation Areas and highest quality natural lands with Natural Resources manager Alonso Abugattas. Out of 250 acres of natural land in our parks, seven areas (totaling 126 acres, just .8% of Arlington) were designated Natural Resource Conservation Areas. Learn how and why these



areas were given special protection and get a brief tour of the highlights of all seven. We will email you a link to Microsoft Teams before the program start time. Please have your device ready to go prior to the start of the program. Adults.

[Activity #612841-E](#)

Deep Dive: Monarch Butterflies

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 7-8pm
Virtual, Free

Explore the life cycle and annual migration of this fascinating insect and what you can do at home to support them (Hint: it's about more than just milkweed)! We will email you a link to Microsoft Teams before the program start time. Please have your device ready to go prior to the start of the program. Adults.

[Activity #612841-B](#)

Northern Virginia Bird Club Walk

Wed., Oct. 6, 8:30-11am
@ Long Branch, Free

Join members of the Northern Virginia Bird Club for informal walks through Glencarlyn Park in search of resident and migratory birds. Experienced and beginning birders welcomed. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. Adults.

[Activity #612941-B](#)

Deep Dive: Animal Legends

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 7-8pm
Virtual, Free

Take a Deep Dive into a natural history topic that scratches more than just the surface. Discover the real-life animals behind some fantastic creatures. What animals may be behind the origins of banshees, mermaids and unicorns? We will even dive into the legends of some modern-day cryptozoology. We will email you a link to Microsoft Teams before the program start time. Please have your device ready to go prior to the start of the program. Adults.

[Activity #612841-C](#)

Sip & Craft: Nature Critter Tree Cookies

Saturday, Oct. 16, 10-11:30am
@ Long Branch, \$5

Join a naturalist as they provide step-by-step instructions on how to create a wonderful nature critter tree cookie as well as provide information on the subject that is being

created. You will also have the luxury of enjoying freshly made mocktails. \$5 materials fee helps cover the cost of supplies that cannot be returned. Adults.

[Activity #612941-I](#)

Deep Dive: Zombies of the Natural World

Wednesday, Oct. 27, 7-8pm
Virtual, Free

Sometimes fact is more interesting than fiction! We'll explore real-life zombies in celebration of Halloween. We will email you a link to Microsoft Teams before the program start time. Please have your device ready to go prior to the start of the program. Adults.

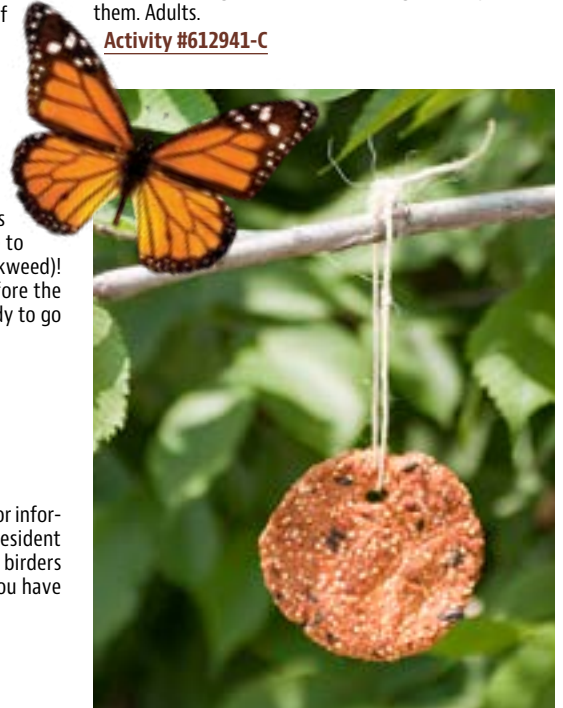
[Activity #612841-F](#)

Northern Virginia Bird Club Walk

Wednesday, Nov. 3, 8:30-11am
@ Long Branch, Free

Join members of the Northern Virginia Bird Club for informal walks through Glencarlyn Park in search of resident and migratory birds. Experienced and beginning birders welcomed. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. Adults.

[Activity #612941-C](#)



Deep Dive: Urban Birds

Wed., Nov. 10, 7-8pm
Virtual, Free

Take a Deep Dive into a natural history topic that scratches more than just the surface. Now that the migrants are gone, let's chat about the birds that have stayed behind. Specifically, we will focus on urban birds. From European Starlings to Rock Pigeons to Peregrine Falcons, discover what makes these birds so successful in our urban areas. We will email you a link to Microsoft Teams before the program start time. Please have your device ready to go prior to the start of the program. Adults.

[Activity #612841-D](#)

Explore the natural world in Arlington! More classes are available online at parks.arlingtonva.us and search *Nature Programs*.

Explore History Outdoor & Virtual Programs. Free!



History Kids

The Union Army in Arlington

Join a Union soldier virtually at the Fort C.F. Smith Park Visitor Center to learn about how Union soldiers lived in our county during the Civil War, as well as what brought them there. We will email you a link to Microsoft Teams before the program start time. Please have your device ready to go prior to the start of the program. Ages 7–11.

Virtual, Free

Sun., Sept. 12, 3:30pm-4:30pm [#612721-N](#)
Sun., Sept. 26, 3:30pm-4:30pm [#612721-O](#)
Sun., Oct. 10, 3:30pm-4:30pm [#612721-P](#)
Sun., Oct. 24, 3:30pm-4:30pm [#612721-Q](#)
Sun., Nov. 14, 3:30pm-4:30pm [#612721-R](#)
Sun., Nov. 28, 3:30pm-4:30pm [#612721-S](#)

CIVIL WAR DISCOVERIES:

Infantry Drills

We'll drill like Union soldiers by practicing our marches and turns, as well as how to "load in nine times" with replica wood rifles. Ages 7–11.

@ Fort C.F. Smith Park, Free

Sat., Sept. 4, 12–1pm [#612721-H](#)
Sun., Oct. 17, 12–1pm [#612721-K](#)

Camp-side Coloring

Join a Union soldier at Fort C.F. Smith Park's virtual camp site and coloring station for this pop-in program. Each week, we will be coloring pictures that show different parts of Union soldier life in Arlington. When you register, you will receive a scan of that week's coloring sheet. Feel free to print and color by hand or open the file in a paint application. We will email you a link to Microsoft Teams before the program start time. Please have your device ready to go prior to the start of the program. Ages 4–9.

Virtual, Free

Sun., Sept. 5, 3:30–4:30pm [#612721-A](#)
Sun., Sept. 19, 3:30–4:30pm [#612721-B](#)
Sun., Oct. 3, 3:30–4:30pm [#612721-C](#)
Sun., Oct. 17, 3:30–4:30pm [#612721-D](#)
Sun., Nov. 7, 3:30–4:30pm [#612721-E](#)
Sun., Nov. 21, 3:30–4:30pm [#612721-F](#)

Artillery Drills

Register children only. Work as a team practicing the steps to load and aim a replica Civil War cannon. We'll talk about different types of artillery and put our skills to the test. Ages 7–11.

@ Fort C.F. Smith Park, Free

Sun., Sept. 19, 12–1pm [#612721-I](#)
Sat., Nov. 6, 12–1pm [#612721-L](#)

Build a Fort

Register children only. We'll investigate how and why forts were built in Arlington during the Civil War. Then we'll work as a team to design forts to defend the city. Ages 7–11.

@ Fort C.F. Smith Park, Free

Sat., Oct. 2, 12–1pm [#612721-J](#)
Sun., Nov. 14, 12–1pm [#612721-M](#)

History Families

History Highlights: The C.F. Smith Story

Have you ever wondered how Fort C.F. Smith Park got its name? Join park staff for a presentation on the life and death of Union general Charles Ferguson Smith. We will email you a link to Microsoft Teams before the program start time. Please have your device ready to go prior to the start of the program.

Virtual, Free

Fri., Oct. 22, 7–7:45pm [#612751-H](#)

WALKING TOURS

Fort C.F. Smith Park Walking Tour

Fort C.F. Smith was one of the last Union forts built to protect Washington during the Civil War. We'll learn about the park's history, the role of the fort and the soldiers stationed there in the Civil War. Dress for the weather. Terrain will be uneven and possibly muddy.

@ Fort C.F. Smith Park, Free

Sat., Sept. 4, 10–11am [#612751-A](#)
Sat., Oct. 2, 10–11am [#612751-B](#)
Sat., Nov. 6, 10–11am [#612751-C](#)

Fort Ethan Allen Park Walking Tour

Fort Ethan Allen was built by the Union Army in September 1861 to command the approach to Chain Bridge and has the most extensive remaining features of any Civil War fort in Arlington. We'll explore the earthworks and discuss how and why the fort was built. Dress for the weather. Terrain will be uneven and possibly muddy.

@ Fort Ethan Allen Park, Free

Sun., Sept. 19, 2–2:45pm [#612751-D](#)

Fort Scott Park Walking Tour

Built by the Union Army in 1861, this fort had a commanding view of the Four Mile Run Valley and protected approaches to Washington from the south. Explore the remaining earthworks while we discuss how and why the fort was built.

@ Fort Scott Park, Free

Sun., Oct. 17, 2–2:45pm [#612751-E](#)

HISTORY HIKES

The D.C. Boundary Stones

Some of the earliest federal monuments in the United States can be found in Arlington parks. On this two-mile round-trip hike, we'll learn about the creation of the District of Columbia, and how we can find the surviving boundary markers in our neighborhoods.

@ Banneker Park, Free

Sat., Sept. 25, 10am-12pm [#612751-F](#)
Sat., Sept. 25, 1–2pm [#612751-G](#)

Duel in Arlington

On April 8, 1826, Secretary of State Henry Clay and Senator John Randolph crossed the Chain Bridge into Virginia for a duel. It was the result of years of bitter political fighting, finally turned violent. To mark the 195th anniversary, we will hike the approximate path of the duel and learn how it came to be.

@ Fort Ethan Allen Park, Free

Sat., Oct. 23, 1–2pm [#612751-I](#)

FORT CF SMITH VISITOR CENTER

Open 10am-2pm Saturday & Sunday
2411 N. 24th Street, Arlington, VA 22207
Call 703.228.4775
Email: dfarmer@arlingtonva.us

REGISTRATION.ARLINGTONVA.US CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

RESIDENT ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS AUGUST 4, 2021.

Gymnastics registration opens at 7am. All other classes open at 7:30am. Non-resident registration begins August 6, 2021 at 8am.

DID YOU KNOW?

Administrative Services Staff is available the first day of registration starting at 7am. Give us a call at 703.228.4747 if you need online registration assistance. For registration services, press 1; for scheduling, press 2; para español presione 9.



GYMNASTICS



ALL OTHER
CLASSES



We *Qim* to Please!

Our vision for Arlington is a happy and healthy place to live, learn, work and play. To make this a reality, our Mission is to promote wellness and vitality through dynamic programs and attractive public spaces. Arlington County's Department of Parks and Recreation is one of the 136 Agencies in the U.S. to have received national accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (Capra) by meeting 144 standards.

We welcome folks from all around the DC Metropolitan area to our recreation programs.

Non-residents of Arlington pay an additional fee of \$20 per class.

ACCESS FOR ALL

Parks & Recreation camps, classes, fitness memberships, preschools, programs and more are at a price you can afford!

Our fee reduction program helps *Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day!* Access for All. Easy to apply! Whether you have a short-term setback or something longer-term. Details [here](#).

Additionally, all Parks & Recreation programs, classes, and camps can put modifications in place to promote an enjoyable and successful program experience for participants of all abilities. Advance notice is welcome. Call 703.228.4740 or email TRinfo@arlingtonva.us



REDUCED FEES ARE AVAILABLE!

Arlington has resources to help keep residents of all incomes and abilities participating in our programs and classes. For more information, call 703.228.4747.

Disability Modifications

Arlington County can provide, upon request, reasonable modifications for people with disabilities. Advance notice is appreciated. Call 703.228.4740 or email TRinfo@arlingtonva.us

Fee Reductions

Arlington County residents may request a fee reduction for classes! Apply for a fee reduction before you register for a class—discounts are not retroactive. Fee reductions are available on a sliding scale based on household income and size. For more information, visit [here](#).

DO YOU SPEAK ANOTHER LANGUAGE?

Free language assistance services are available to you. Call 703.228.4747 or visit parks.arlingtonva.us

SPANISH: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios de asistencia lingüística gratuitos. Llame al 703.228.4747 o visite parks.arlingtonva.us

MONGOLIAN: хэрэв та монгол хэлээр ярьдаг бол хэлний тусламжийн үйлчилгээ үнэ төлбөргүй үйлчлэх боломжтой. 703.228.4747 руу залгах буюу parks.arlingtonva.us руу зочилно уу

BENGALI: আপনযদিবাংলা কথা বলনে, বনামূল্যে ভাষা সহায়তা পরষিবো আপনার জন্য উপলব্ধ। 703.228.4747 কল করুন বা parks.arlingtonva.us দেখুন

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ARABIC: إذا كنت تتحدث اللغة العربية ، فستتوفر لك خدمات المساعدة اللغوية مجانًا. اتصل بالرقم 703.228.4747 أو قم بزيارة parks.arlingtonva.us