SPRING 2020 PROGRAMS
SUMMER CAMPS

Calvert Nature Society
Calvert County Natural Resources Division

See a full listing of all the upcoming programs at www.calvertparks.org. Online registration is preferred.

Programs for Families

Families experience the fascinating natural world found in our area. These programs incorporate activities for learners of all ages.
Most programs spend time outdoors: dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear.
Adult participation required unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.
Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay $8 per family.

Radical Reptiles Scales and Trails
Ages 3-5
Wednesday, February 12
Session A: 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Session B: 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park
Come learn all about what makes reptiles so special! Make a fun craft and meet one of our resident reptiles up close!

Outdoor Art Adventures
Ages 5-7
Saturday, February 22
Session A: 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Session B: 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park
Nature can provide both inspiration and tools for creating works of art. Come prepared to get messy as we create several different nature art projects!

Maple Tapping - from Sap to Syrup
All Ages
Sunday, February 23; 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Full, waitlist available

Cordage Jewelry Making Workshop
Ages 8 and older
Sunday, March 1; 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Full, waitlist available

Salamander Soiree
Ages 8 and older
Saturday, March 7; 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park
Full, waitlist available

Slippery and Slimy
Ages 3-5
Sunday, March 8
Session A: 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Session B: 1:00-2:00 p.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park
Join the Naturalist for an hour of fun learning about the frogs and salamanders that begin to emerge at this time of the year. Take a walk in the woods to see who may be beginning to stir. Dress for the weather and possible mud.

Tracks 101
All Ages
Sunday, March 15; 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Full, waitlist available

Welcome Spring
All Ages
Thursday, March 19; 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park
Come out to Ward Farm Park and celebrate the first day of Spring with us! Come prepared to do some hiking as we explore the park and see what the changing seasons have brought us.
Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.
Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay $8 per family.

Nature's Hide-n-Seek
Ages 6-9
Saturday, March 21; 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park
Animals can be some of the best hide-n-seek players around. We will learn about different ways animals use camouflage and then go on hike to see if we can find anyone!

Babies in Backpacks
Ages 0 to 3 years old
Wednesday, April 8; 10:00 a.m. Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park
Friday, May 29; 9:00-10:00 a.m. Flag Ponds Nature Park
Thursday, June 25; 8:30-9:30 a.m. Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm
Parents, grandparents or caregivers can get in their fitness hike while baby gets to enjoy a ride through nature! Join the naturalist on a brisk hike through early summer woods and meadows. Trail is jogging stroller passable. Children must ride along during the hike. Dress in weather appropriate, fitness wear, bring water and Insect repellent.

Nests!
Ages 3-5 years old
Thursday, April 16; 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Kings Landing Park
What kinds of animals build nests? Birds do, of course, but what other animals protect their babies? We’ll discover nests big and small, try building our own, then go for an outdoor nest search!

Friday Night Frogs Hike
Ages 8 years old and up
Friday, April 17; 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park
Take a night hike through the swamps and ponds of Flag Ponds to look and listen for frogs and other night time animals. We will learn some frog calls before we set out to see who we can hear and possibly see along the trail. The hike is approximately 1.5 miles. Please bring flashlights and wear shoes that could get muddy on the spring trails.

Earth Day Nature Play
Ages 3-5 years old
Wednesday, April 22; 12:00-2:00 p.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park
Come celebrate Earth Day with us! We will play games, make a craft, and have fun learning about ways to keep our planet beautiful. Drop in any time between 12-2.

Help Take Care of the Animals
Ages 6-9 years old
Saturday, April 25
Session A: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Session B: 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
Your children will have fun helping the naturalist take care of the nature center’s live animals while being able to see them up-close. Wear clothes that can get dirty.

Down by the Bay
Ages 3 to 5 years old
Friday, May 8
Session A: 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Session B: 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park
Come find out more about what lives along the Chesapeake Bay. We will collect shells and fossils, use a net to catch critters in the shallow-water cove, and explore the beach ponds. Dress to get wet and sandy with comfortable footwear for the half-mile trek to the beach and back.

Teddy Bear Tea Party
Ages 3-5 years old
Thursday, May 14; 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Kings Landing Park
Come together for a celebration of spring! Bring your Teddy Bear or other furry friend to share fanciful treats, tea/juice, and a short stroll outdoors. Feel free to come dressed in your favorite celebration-fancy outfits.

REGISTRATION & NATURE PARK INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CALVERTPARKS.ORG
Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.
Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay $8 per family.

**Horseshoe Crab Survey**
All Ages  
Friday, May 29; 8:30-11:00 p.m.  
Flag Ponds Nature Park
Want to see some horseshoe crabs spawning on the beach by starlight? Join us for this unique chance to see Flag Ponds at night! With luck we will see horseshoe crabs spawning at the water’s edge or maybe bioluminescent comb jellies in the water!

**Summer Nature Play**
Ages 3-5 years old  
Tuesday, June 2; 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
Kings Landing Park
Playing outside is healthy for humans of all Ages. Take some time to enjoy the outdoors and meet like-minded families in this semi-structured event. Children and their grown-ups can explore the river’s edge by playing games, catching live river animals, and/or creating some nature art. Families may stay for some of the listed program time – activities will be ongoing. Younger siblings are welcome, but for safety, must be supervised by their adults.

**Butterfly Flutterby**
Ages 3 to 5 years old  
Wednesday, June 10  
Session A: 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
Session B 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center
Butterflies are all around our garden during the summer time. We will learn about the life stAge of the butterfly and what flowers they like to feed on while we search for them through the gardens and meadows.

**Midsummer Campfire on the Beach**
All Ages  
Friday, June 19; 7:15-9:30 p.m.  
Flag Ponds Nature Park
Celebrate the longest summer days at with a beach campfire at Flag Ponds Nature Park. Look for shark’s teeth, or simply relax and enjoy the view as the sky changes colors over the bay. Bring a blanket or chairs and a picnic supper, if you’d like. We will provide the s’mores and a few summer solstice folk tales from around the world.

**Let’s Go Fishing!**
Ages 6 years old and up  
Friday, June 26; 8:00-10:00 a.m.  
Kings Landing Park
This program will introduce beginners to the basics of fishing. Everything you need to get started will be provided, rod and reel, tackle and bait. Learn how to bait a hook, cast, remove a catch properly and return it to the water. Beginning anglers can be Ages 6 through adult, but participants Ages 16 and up must have the required tidal license. Recommended to bring PFDs for non-swimmers.

**School’s Out Adventures**

**Mud Monsters Spring Camp**
Ages 7-10 years old  
Thursday, April 9-Friday, April 10  
Daily 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Flag Ponds Nature Park
Feel like you've been stuck inside all winter? We will wade into the swamp, use nets to look for amphibians, and, of course, play in the mud.
Fee: $40 for members; $60 for nonmembers.

**Spring Fling-School's Out Adventure**
Entering grades 3-5  
Tuesday, April 28; 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park
Come explore the outdoors, meet new friends, discover new interests, and create memories that last a lifetime. We will spend the day exploring this new park-hiking the woods, walking in the creek, and playing games.
Fee: $10 for members; $20 for nonmembers.
Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.
Fees unless noted: Free for society members. Nonmembers pay $8 per family.

Homeschool First Fridays
Homeschool First Fridays is a series of environmental education programs developed especially for homeschoolers ages 4 to 12. These classes are a great way to get hands-on science and nature lessons, receive help on projects and research and network with other homeschooling families. Each two-hour program will consist of indoor and outdoor hands-on learning. Depending on the topic, students may observe live animals, collect aquatic creatures, take measurements of water quality or play games. Students will be grouped by age to allow for age appropriate topic exploration. Parents with younger children will stay with the group; parents of older children have the option to stay and participate as mentors and teachers. Siblings younger than 3 are welcome but must be under the care of a parent/guardian at all times and should not distract other participants. Our Winter/Spring homeschool series focuses on “phenology” - nature’s calendar. It is the study of seasonal changes in plant and animal life-cycles such as date flowers begin to bloom or frogs start singing in the spring. Month to month, we will make and record weather observations and check in with the plants and animals at Flag Ponds Park - watching watching winter change to spring.

Reservations required.
Children must be the age indicated for each program.
Free for society members.

Friday, April 3
Friday, May 1
Friday, June 5
Ages 4-12, with adult
Session A: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Session B: 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park
Nonmembers pay $8 per family.

Teen Homeschool Days
Ages 12-16. Adults are not required to attend.
Tuesday, April 21; 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Kings Landing Park
Tuesday, May 5; 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Lower Marlboro Pier
Wednesday, June 3; 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Kings Landing Park
Full, waitlist available.
Free for society members. Nonmembers pay $8 per person

Special Events for Adults & Older Children

Natures Trivia
21 years and older
Saturday, February 22
6:30-9:00 p.m.
Team Fee: $60
Think you are a nature expert well grab your friends and come test out your skills at Nature Trivia! We’ll have beverages from some local breweries as well and fun prizes. Check www.calvertparks.org for more updates on this event!

Eagle Hike
Ages 12 and older
Sunday, April 5; 9:00-11:00 a.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park
Flag Ponds Nature Park is one of the best areas in Calvert to view nesting Bald Eagles. We will hike along the trails to try and get a view of an eagle’s nest. Fee per person: free for members ; $8 nonmembers

River Ecology Kayak Trip
Ages 9 years old and up
Saturday, June 6; 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Kings Landing Park
This is a perfect trip for beginners to learn about kayaking and get out on the water. We will focus on basic kayak skills and the ecology of the Patuxent. Fee per person: $15 for members; $30 nonmembers

REGISTRATION & NATURE PARK INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CALVERTPARKS.ORG
Summer Camp


Adult participation is not required. Children must be entering the grade indicated for each program by.

Early Explores
Ages 4-5 years old
Monday, August 27–Friday, August 31
AM Session: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
PM Session: 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Various nature parks
We will set out on mini adventures throughout the park to explore our natural world. From the pond to the fields who knows what we may find. Parents are not required to stay during the camp. Must be 4 or 5 years old the week of camp. No younger or older siblings allowed.
Fee: $60 for member; $75 nonmembers

New Adventures
Entering grades 1-3
Tuesday, August 4–Thursday, August 6
Daily 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Various nature parks
Designed for beginning campers to get a taste of what day camp has to offer and to become familiar with our amazing local parks. Campers will spend each day at a different Calvert County park engaging in traditional camp activities. We will take hikes, do arts and crafts, sing around the campfire and more!
Fee: $100 members; $130 nonmembers

Creature Feature
Entering grades 1-2
Monday, June 29–Thursday, July 2
Daily 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Various nature parks
Send your children outside to explore nature with us! They will have a blast playing games, catching animals, and having close encounters with some of our exhibit animals. Each day will feature a different animal theme: reptiles & amphibians, birds, bugs, and fish.
Fee: $120 nonmembers; $150 nonmembers

Outdoor Art Adventures
Entering grades 2-3
Monday, July 13–Friday, July 17
9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park
Let nature be your inspiration as we spend the week creating works of art in many different forms! We will draw, paint, photograph, and sculpt our way through the park, and we will end the week with an art gallery exhibition walk-through for the parents to view all of our masterpieces.
Fee: $150 for members; $180 for nonmembers

Mad Science
Entering grades 1-2
Tuesday, July 21–Thursday, July 23
Daily 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park
Campers will spend three fun days exploring science in its many forms. Get a taste of geology, chemistry, biology and more through games, experiments and explorations. On Thursday we will have a Beach Day where we can really dive into science and get our feet wet.
Fee: $100 for members; $130 nonmembers

Marvelous Mud
Entering grades 3-5
Monday, June 22–Friday, June 26;
Time varies each day
Flag Ponds Nature Park
At the end of a summer day, if a child isn’t dirty, there is something missing! Dirt is teeming with life, and is often the sign of a good time. In this camp we will dig into underground ecosystems-exploring different habitats to discover who and what is underfoot. We will investigate different kinds of soil we have in the park and, of course, play in the mud! We will end the week with an overnight adventure. Thursday will be a family potluck cookout followed by the overnight for campers.
Fee: $175 for members; $205 for nonmembers

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Summer Camp

Adult participation is not required. Children must be entering the grade indicated for each program by.

Watershed Safari
Entering grades 3-5
Monday, July 6-Friday, July 10; 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Various nature parks
Explore the stream that started it all – Battle Creek! Who lives there? Where does the water go? Campers will spend days walking on the land and in the water amongs the rare bald cypress trees. We will go “off the grid” exploring the fields, forests, and wetlands that make up the North Battle Creek watershed-learning through a spirited mix of nature, science, and play.
Fee: $150 members; $180 nonmembers

Nature Photography
Entering grades 4-6
Monday, July 20-Friday, July 24
Daily 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Various nature parks
Your children will capture the natural wonders of Calvert County Parks on camera. In addition to fun camp activities, they will learn camera basics and picture-taking tips. After camp on Friday, families are invited to a presentation highlighting campers’ work. Campers must provide their own digital camera.
Fee: $150 for members; $180 for nonmembers

Outdoor Skills
Entering grades 4-6
Monday, August 3-Friday, August 7
Daily 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Various nature parks
Whether your child is already at home outside or needs a little encouragement, this outdoor skills camp introduces campers to some of the basic skills necessary to keep them safe and self-reliant in the “wild.” We’ll spend the week exploring the natural resources of Calvert County while learning important outdoor skills like: navigation, animal tracking, shelter building, and fire safety.
Fee: $150 for members; $180 for nonmembers

Birding Adventures Camp
Entering grades 6-8
Monday, June 29-Thursday, July 2
Time varies each day
Various nature parks
Take your interest in birds to the next level with this camp. From hikes to boat trips we will be learning about the many species of birds that call our area home. We will teach you how to identify birds by their song and appearance. You will also get the chance to observe a bird banding research project. Bring your binoculars and your camera for a fun week long adventure.
Fee: $150 nonmembers; $180 nonmembers

River Runners
Entering grades 6-8
Monday, July 13-Friday, July 17
Time varies each day
Various nature parks
This week we will explore all things aquatic while learning the basics of getting around on the water using a variety of watercraft like canoes, kayaks, and river rafts. The last 2 days will be an overnight adventure to western Maryland-including a tubing trip and river rafting. Come prepared to get WET and have fun.
Fee: $275 members; $305 nonmembers

Hit the Trail!
Entering grades 9-12
Tuesday, July 7-Thursday, July 9
Time varies each day
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center
Learn how to plan and prepare for a backpacking adventure and then test your skills on an overnight trip on the Appalachian Trail in Maryland. On Tuesday, we will gather at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center at 9:00 a.m. to learn tips, tricks and skills to prepare for our trip. We will meet at 7:00 a.m.on Wednesday morning and head out for our Appalachian Trail experience. We will return Thursday afternoon weary and with many tales of adventure to tell.
Fee: $120 members; $150 nonmembers

REGISTRATION & NATURE PARK INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CALVERTPARKS.ORG
Assisting at the parks is a rewarding way to raise awareness of the importance of our natural lands. Use your experience to help preserve our future in Calvert County by becoming one of our Calvert Stewards. Some projects are appropriate for families and teens.

**Great Backyard Bird Count**
All Ages  
Saturday, February 15; 8:00-10:00 a.m.  
Flag Ponds Nature Park  
The 23rd Annual Great Backyard Bird Count is this weekend. Whether you are a novice or an expert birder, volunteers of all ages are welcome to help identify and count birds. Researchers at Cornell and the National Audubon Society will use the data we collect.

**Swamp Wade-In**
Ages 18 and older  
Friday, April 3; 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Flag Ponds Nature Park  
Join other park volunteers for this nighttime adventure into the swamp at Flag Ponds. We will wade into the swamp and with luck find spring peepers calling and spy on other swamp animals, like salamanders, in the water.

**Spring Cleaning**
Ages 15 and older  
Thursday, April 23; 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp  
We’re taking advantage of the warm Spring weather to do a much-needed thorough cleaning of the exhibit cages. Extra hands are appreciated and make the job more fun.

**Kayak Volunteer Training**
Ages 18 and older  
Saturday, May 16; 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Kings Landing Park  
Are you interested in helping out with our kayak trips? This training course will cover getting boats to the water, paddle strokes, rescues, and routes for our trips. While this program is free, volunteers are expected to help with two trips during the season.

**Measuring Milkweed Density**
Ages 15 and older  
Wednesday, May 6; 2:00-3:30 p.m.  
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp  
Help the naturalist count milkweed plants in the meadow for the 2020 Monarch Larva Monitoring Project. This volunteer opportunity is one of many that will be offered through October to improve conservation efforts for monarch butterflies. Homeschool students can get involved with real science through these programs too.

**Bay Animals ID**
Ages 18 and older  
Wednesday, April 29; 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Flag Ponds Nature Park  
Join a naturalist and other park volunteers for this fun supplemental training opportunity. Many of us spend a lot of time at the Flag Ponds beach but don’t have time to identify what we find there – now’s the chance!

**Monarch Larva Monitoring Project**
All Ages  
Tuesday, June 16; 9:00-11:00 a.m.  
Tuesday, June 23; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, June 30; 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp  
Help the naturalist count monarch caterpillars in the meadow. This volunteer opportunity is one of many that will be offered through October to improve conservation efforts for monarch butterflies.

**Monarch Larva Monitoring Project**
All Ages  
Varies dates throughout the season. Check the Calvert Stewards website for details.

NATURE PARK INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT [WWW.CALVERTPARKS.ORG](http://WWW.CALVERTPARKS.ORG)
CALVERT STEWARDS
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Assisting at the parks is a rewarding way to raise awareness of the importance of our natural lands. Use your experience to help preserve our future in Calvert County by becoming one of our Calvert Stewards. Some projects are appropriate for families and teens.

Cypress Swamp Nest Box Monitoring
Flag Ponds Nest Box Monitoring
Ward Farm Nest Box Monitoring

Ages 10 and older
Varies dates throughout the season. Check the Calvert Stewards web site for details
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
Accompany the naturalist into the swamp as she checks nest boxes. Come lend a hand and learn how you can help.

Animal Care Training

Ages 10 and older
Varies dates throughout the season. Check the Calvert Stewards web site for details
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
We are always looking for an extra hand to take care of the nature center’s reptiles & amphibians. As you accompany staff, you will learn how to clean cages, feed and handle some of them.

Raptor Care Training

Ages 18 and older
Varies dates throughout the season. Check the Calvert Stewards web site for details
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
If you would like to work in close proximity to the nature center’s beautiful raptors, we are always looking for help cleaning and maintaining their cages and preparing their food.

Calvert Stewards Mission
The Calvert Stewards volunteer program provides an opportunity for public service in education, research, and stewardship which support the overall missions of the Calvert County Division of Natural Resources and the Calvert Nature Society. This benefits the participants, the parks and the community as Calvert Stewards use and develop their skills to form an environmentally aware community and become the environmental stewards of Calvert County.

We also encourage youth and families to volunteer for projects to create a pipeline of engaged citizens that will continue their involvement in the parks into adulthood.

How to Become a Calvert Steward?

1. Explore our web site https://calvertstewards.galaxydigital.com to learn about the different Programs and Opportunities
2. Sign Up for an account.
3. Once you have an account, you are one of our Calvert Steward Users
4. Become a Fan of the Programs that you might want to volunteer.
5. Attend a Training or Orientation
6. When you Respond to an Opportunity, you are committing to that volunteer position.
7. Contact us if you have any questions at volunteer@calvertparks.org or 410-535-5327

Read our "Volunteer Primer" about this site.

NATURE PARK INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CALVERTPARKS.ORG