



MEDIA RELEASE

The Nature Institute
2213 South Levis Lane
Godfrey, IL 62035

Contact:

Amy Curry
(618) 466-9930
info@TheNatureInstitute.org

NATURE'S CREATIONS, MORE AT THE NATURE INSTITUTE

Environmental organization to spread holiday cheer with upcoming events

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Godfrey, Ill- A "Candy Cane Challenge", winter wreath making, a Christmas moon lit hike and more; friends, family, scout groups and the public are welcome to join The Nature Institute (TNI) in celebrating the 2015 holiday season with their upcoming December events.

TNI, located at 2213 South Levis Lane in Godfrey, Ill, is offering many winter events, some free, starting with the 1st annual "Candy Cane Challenge" on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to noon. This orienteering event is for those that enjoy exploring the woodlands with a GPS or compass. Individuals, partners and groups are invited to test their teamwork by completing the event's challenges. This event is \$5 per person.

The object of the "Candy Cane Challenge" is for participants to move through a series of points identified on a TNI map and return to the finish line. This sport involves endurance, ingenuity and decision making. This challenge is for any one, regardless of age or experience. Courses will be offered to beginners as well as the advanced. Guests may go out on their own or may compete in any of the following challenges: correctly obtain all five color coded canes while correctly deciphering clues, find the most candy canes, fastest time, correctly answer the most questions in the environmental quiz or complete two road blocks properly.

This event is for scout and homeschool groups, nature lovers or anyone with a competitive spirit. Participants should bring a backpack, water bottle, camera, extra clothes and weather related footwear. Guests can also bring their own compass. The "Candy Cane Challenge" will be held rain or shine. People may also arrive to the event around 9 a.m. for a course on familiarization with orienteering.

Get crafty with "Nature's Creations: Winter Wreaths". The making party will be on Monday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. Join a professional florist and friends at this course for making a memorable, natural wreath. This event is \$40 per person, which includes all making materials. Bring home your creation to brighten up your door for family holiday dinners upon completion.

Nature fans can finish their Christmas celebrations with this month's installment of the "Moon Light Hike", which will be held on Friday, Dec. 25 at 7 p.m. This hike is every month on the full moon evening and is free open to the public.

To register for any of these events or to learn of others, contact The Nature Institute at info@thenatureinstitute.org or (618) 466-9930. Starting January through March 2016, TNI trails will be closed for public use to allow the nature preserve to rest from foot traffic and allow preservation efforts to be performed by staff. Learn more at TheNatureInstitute.org.

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