

Young Children

Nature Babies - Strap on your baby carrier and get ready for an adventure! This 45 minute program is crafted for ages 12 weeks to 2 years and includes outdoor and sensory activities, as well as a short group hike. Starts at 10am, \$7/child non-members, \$6/child members

- September 15th: Sight and Smell
- October 20th: Touch and Taste
- November 17th: Hearing

Knee-High Naturalist - Put on some rainboots and get ready for an adventure! This 1 hour program is crafted for ages 3 to 5 years and includes outdoor and sensory activities, as well as a short group hike. Starts at 10am, \$7/child non-members, \$6/child members

- September 1st: Birds
- October 6th: Reptiles
- November 3rd: Amphibians
- December 1st: Mammals

Older Children and Youth

Kids Night Out - Need an evening off? Join us for a Kids Night Out! This 3 hour drop off program includes dinner and an evening of fun for ages 6 - 10. \$30/child non-members, \$27/child members

- August 27th, 6 - 9 pm: Under the Stars - Explore the world of astronomy, constellations, and mythology at our first ever Kids Night Out! Kids will have the opportunity to use high tech telescopes, create astronomy themed crafts, and go on a hike to look at stars.
- October 1st, 5 - 8 pm: Grossology - If you love activities that make others say, "Gross!", then this Kids Night Out is for you! The evening will be spent dissecting owl pellets, creating oobleck, and exploring the unusual things that nature has to offer.

Discovery Nature Club - Join TNI staff for an after school nature exploration. This program is designed for 1st-5th graders. Will occur once a month on a Thursday from 3-5pm. \$10/session non-members, \$9/session members

- September 9 - Tracks
- October 14 - Scat
- November 4 - Animal Homes
- December 9 - Eggs

Outdoor EDventure Days - This drop off program provides a single camp day for students when schools are closed. Morning snack is included in the program pricing. This program runs from 9 am - 3 pm and is available to ages 6 - 12. \$50/child non-members, \$45/child members

- October 29th: Creepy Crawlies - As Halloween approaches, join TNI's education staff for a day full of spooky adventures. Conduct experiments, study worms and insects, and head outside to learn about our nocturnal animals out in the forest.
- November 24th: Bird Bonanza - Learn bird calls, go bird watching, and craft a birdfeeder. Have fun exploring our native habitats and going on hikes!

Scout Badge Days - Bring your troop out to complete a badge in one swoop! Scouts are welcome to join with their entire troop or as individuals. \$4/scout

- October 9th @ 9 - 11 am: Girl Scout Brownies: Letterboxer - This Scout Badge Day is offered specifically for Brownies that would like to complete their Letterboxer badge! This program includes a craft, word puzzles, and a fast paced scavenger hunt. All badge requirements will be completed during this time.
- November 8th @ 3:30 - 5:30 pm: Cub Scout Bears: Fur, Feathers, Ferns - This Scout Badge Day is offered specifically for Bears that would like to complete their Fur, Feathers, and Ferns badge! This program includes a guided hike, using scientific tools such as magnifying glasses and binoculars, and looking for signs of wildlife! Requirements 1 - 5 will be met during this program.

Field Guides - Join TNI staff for an after school nature exploration. This program is designed for 6th-12th graders. Will occur once a month on a Thursday from 4-6pm. \$10/session non-members, \$9/session members

- September 23 - Bird Count/Bird Song Survey
- October 28 - Water Quality Testing
- November 18 - Forest Health Survey

Family and Adult

Yoga + Hike - Yoga Buzz is headed to the Nature Institute for the first time for a 60-minute hike in nature before connecting more in a 60-minute yoga practice with a view of the Mississippi River. Then, stick around for a coffee from local shop Germania Brew Haus. Mark your calendar and grab your hiking boots along with your mat for a nature-centric Saturday morning outing! August 28th, 8 - 10a.m. \$35/non-member \$30/member

Telescope Nights - Have an old telescope laying around, but never use it? Always wanted to look at the universe through a telescope, but don't own one? You are in luck! Come on out to the Talahi Lodge on the night after a full moon and we will have some set up. You can also bring your own and we can help you use it. We will talk about how telescopes work and look at the moon and other night sky objects. \$5 for non-members, Free for members

- September 21st: 8-10PM
- October 21st: 7:30-9:30PM
- November 20th: 7:30-9:30PM
- December 19th: 7:30-9:30PM

Moonlight Hike - Join TNI staff for a hike under the full moon. Hikes will be moderately strenuous and will cover up to two miles. Monthly on the full moon. \$5 for non-members, Free for members

- August 22 - 8:30pm
- September 20 - 8pm
- October 20 - 7:30pm
- November 19 - 7:30pm
- December 18 - 7:30pm

Heartland Prairie Hikes - Head out to Heartland Prairie for an evening hike to learn some plant ID and prairie ecology. Hikes occur on 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Starts at 5:30pm. Free

- August 10
- August 24
- September 14
- September 28
- October 12
- October 26

Volunteer Naturalist Training - Interested in volunteering with our Education programs this fall? We will be hosting our Fall Volunteer Training on September 13th from 5 - 7 p.m. Email iscull@thenatureinstitute.org for more information.

Special Events

In Harmony with Nature- Come enjoy a night of music on the preserves as The Nature Institute hosts the AHS Symphonic Orchestra for a concert on the Skeet Range. September 24th 5:30-7:30pm
Tickets: \$10 each, children 12 and under free

Enchanted Forest- Mark your calendar for this yearly event celebrating the creatures of the night. More info to come..
October 15, 6-9pm, Tickets: \$5 each

Mission

Our Mission is to foster awareness and appreciation of the natural world through preservation, restoration, and education.



Community Outreach

- Over 15,000 visitors hike and use the nature preserve, including K-12 fieldtrips, hikers, educators, birders, and scout groups
- Discovery Day Camp serves approximately 400 area youth annually, for the past 40 years
- TNI is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization, funded by donations and grants
- Privately owned and operated 450+ acre nature preserve undergoing continual stewardship and restoration efforts
- Over seven miles of marked trails to explore
- Home to over 300 types of native plants, 150 species of birds, and many other creatures



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www.thenatureinstitute.org

Fall 2021 Calendar of Events

Trails are open from dawn to dusk, 7 days a week



Find more information at our website,
www.TheNatureInstitute.org
and on Facebook