

DECEMBER 2023

MCDOWELL NATURE CENTER PROGRAM GUIDE



15222 South York Road, Charlotte NC 28278

(980) 314-1128 | MDNP@mecknc.gov | Melissa O'Lenick, Nature Center Manager



PROGRAMS IN ORDER

MDNP: Nature Hike

All Ages

#146735 Fri, Dec 1st 10am-11:30am

#146737 Fri, Dec 15th 10am-11:30am

FREE

Enjoy a morning hike with the family at McDowell Nature Preserve. This hike will be on uneven terrain and will be approximately 2 miles. If bringing small children, strollers are not advised.

Pre-registration required (for child and adult alike).

MDNP: Preschool Explorers Series

Ages 4-6

Those Nutty Squirrels: #146439 Fri, Dec 1st 1:30pm-3pm

Sitting Stones: #146451 Fri, Dec 22nd 1:30pm-3pm

\$5 resident/\$6 non-resident

Little ones and an experienced Naturalist will explore nature together starting with a story and then rotating through discovery stations that expand upon the story which may include crafts, games, songs, animal encounters and/or outdoor exploration.

No walk-ins accepted. Pre-registration required.

This is a drop off program. Adult participation not required.

HOURS

Monday- Saturday: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday: 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Center closed on Mecklenburg
County Holidays

Nature Preserve is open for hiking
from dawn to dusk,
seven days a week.



@MeckParkRec

@NatureCenters

parkandrec.mecknc.gov

PROGRAMS IN ORDER

MDNP: Winter Tree ID Hike

Ages 18+

#146722 Sat, Dec 2nd 10am-11:30am

FREE

Want to identify trees after they've lost their leaves? After an introduction on common species in the preserve, we will go for a 1.5-mile hike to identify trees by looking at bark, buds, and fruits.

Pre-registration required.

MDNP: Archery 101 (Youth)

Ages 10-12

#146728 Sat, Dec 2nd 1pm-3pm

\$15 resident/\$18 non-resident

Bows and arrows are some of the oldest tools humans have ever used, and still use to this day! Participants will start with basic terminology, practice proper form and safety with a recurve bow, then use their new-found knowledge with a little target practice.

Pre-registration required.

MDNP: Nature Book and Look

All Ages

#146718 Mon, Dec 4th 10am-11am

#146719 Mon, Dec 11th 10am-11am

#146720 Mon, Dec 18th 10am-11am

FREE

On select Mondays, Nature Book and Look offers preschoolers and their families an opportunity to get outside and enjoy nature!

Each week, a new fun and educational topic is presented with a nature book followed by a hands-on activity, craft, or exploratory hike!

Pre-registration required (for adult and child alike).

MDNP: Adult Trail Trekkers-December 2023

Ages 18+

(FlexReg) #146751

Tue, Dec 5th 1pm-2:30pm

Tue, Dec 12th 1pm-2:30pm

Tue, Dec 19th 1pm-2:30pm

FREE

Get active in nature with a McDowell Naturalist during this 90-minute, adults-only hike. Discover what is happening seasonally throughout the preserve. Meets on the boardwalk in front of the Nature Center unless e-mailed otherwise day of the event.

Pre-registration is required.

MDNP: Adult Mindful Coloring

Ages 18+

#146656 Wed, Dec 6th 1pm-3pm

#146657 Wed, Dec 13th 1pm-3pm

FREE

Take time for yourself and focus on peaceful coloring with like-minded people. Slow down with up to two hours of calm coloring at McDowell Nature Center in this weekly series.

No registration required.

MDNP: Winter Night Hike

All Ages

#146746 Wed, Dec 6th 6:30pm-8pm

FREE

Explore the preserve on a crisp winter night as we look for nocturnal animals.

This is not a drop off program. Adult participation required.

MDNP: Morning Coffee and Campfire

All Ages

#146658 Thu, Dec 7th 9:30am-11:30am

#146659 Thu, Dec 14th 9:30am-11:30am

FREE

Warm up with a cup of coffee and a toasty fire provided by McDowell Nature Center. Get your questions answered by staff and spend time with friends young and old on select Thursdays this fall.

No pre-registration required.

This is not a drop off program. Adult participation required.

MDNP: Kids Hiking Club

Ages 8-13

#146730 Fri, Dec 8th 9:30am-11:30am

#146731 Fri, Dec 22nd 9:30am-11:30am

FREE

Hey kids, get outside and enjoy your morning with the Kids Hiking Club! This group will meet monthly and explore McDowell Nature Preserve. All kids will receive a trail passport and a 100-mile hike club card to document their trail journeys and collect prizes along the way.

This is a drop off program. Adult participation not required.

Pre-registration required.

MDNP: Archery 101 (Adult)

Ages 18+

#146727 Fri, Dec 8th 1pm-3pm

\$15 resident/\$18 non-resident

Bows and arrows are some of the oldest tools humans have ever used, and still use to this day. Get a grip on basic terminology, practice proper form and safety with a recurve bow and compound bow, then use your new-found knowledge with a little target practice.

Pre-registration required.

MDNP: Explore the Carolinas: Greenway Series

Ages 18+

#146729 Sat, Dec 9th 9am-11am

FREE

Nature is everywhere! Explore what Carolinas have to offer by visiting different greenways each month. This month we are visiting James Boyce Park (300 Boyce Rd). These walks will be approximately 2-4 miles over paved greenways.

Pre-registration required.



PROGRAMS IN ORDER

MDNP: Animal Ambassador Meet n' Greet

All Ages

#146747 Sun, Dec 10th 2pm-2:30pm

#146748 Sun, Dec 10th 4pm-4:30pm

FREE

Head over to the McDowell Nature Center for a close up encounter with one of our live animal ambassadors!

Discover fun facts about the animals adaptations and everyday life out in the wild!

Pre-registration required (for adult and child alike).

MDNP: Public Homeschool: Shelter Building

Ages 8-11

#146739 Thu, Dec 14th 1pm-3pm

\$5 resident/\$6 non-resident

With adequate preparation, you can have fun in the wilderness! The goal of this program is to introduce the audience to the idea of exploring nature in a new way by doing a deep dive into shelter building.

No walk-ins accepted. Pre-registration required.

MDNP: Soil & Water Conservation Badge

Ages 10-17

#144340 Sat, Dec 16th 9am-3pm

\$15 resident/\$18 non-resident

Are you a boy scout interested in conservation? The soil and water conservation badge highlights the importance of using our resources intelligently so they can still be usable for our future. Be part of the solution, register today!

For more information, please contact Catherine Robertson at Catherine.Robertson@mecklenburgcountync.gov

MDNP: Trails and Tails - James Boyce Park

All Ages

#146745 Sat, Dec 16th 9:30am-11:30am

FREE

Have a K-9 companion? Want to meet other dog lovers in Mecklenburg County? Together with our "Tails" we will hit the "Trails". Each month we will meet at different parks, preserves or greenways around the Charlotte area.

Please call Chad Moore at 980-314-1565 for more information.

MDNP: MeckTeen Explorers: Snow Tubing

Ages 11-13

#146643 Wed, Dec 20th 8am-5pm

\$35 resident/\$42 non-resident

Hey MeckTeens! Get outside and explore cool areas around you! Every month we will take a trip to a park in the Carolinas. This month we will be Snow Tubing in the North Carolina Mountains. Please come prepared to be outside for the whole program. Please note some of these trips will take place offsite and will require traveling in a county van.

Pre-registration required.

MDNP: Winter Wonderland: Geocaching Adventure

Ages 6+

#146655 Wed, Dec 20th 10:30am-12:30pm

FREE

Hunt for hidden treasure in the woods with other participants using a GPS. No prior experience or special equipment needed! A naturalist will be there to guide you through this 2-3-mile geocaching experience.

This is not a drop off program. Adult participation required.

Pre-registration required (for adult and child alike)

MDNP: Winter Wonderland: Adult Mindful Coloring

Ages 18+

#146723 Wed, Dec 20th 1pm-3pm

FREE

Take time for yourself and focus on peaceful coloring with like-minded people. Slow down with up to two hours of calm coloring at McDowell Nature Center in this weekly series.

Pre-registration no required.

MDNP: Winter Wonderland: Morning Coffee and Campfire

All Ages

#146724 Thu, Dec 21st 9:30am-11:30am

FREE

Warm up with a cup of coffee and a toasty fire provided by McDowell Nature Center. Get your questions answered by staff and spend time with friends young and old on select Thursdays this fall.

No pre-registration required.

This is not a drop off program. Adult participation required.

MDNP: Wagon Ride and Campfire

ALL Ages

#146721 Fri, Dec 22nd 6:30pm-8:30pm

\$5 resident/\$6 non-resident

Take a trip through McDowell Nature Preserve in style! Travel through the McDowell prairie with a naturalist guide then finish at the nature center for a toasty campfire.

This is not a drop off program. Adult participation required.

MDNP: Winter Wonderland: Coloring & Cocoa

All Ages

#146435 Sat, Dec 23rd 10am-4pm

FREE

A bit chilly? Enjoy time with your family warming up with hot cocoa and coloring or crafting during this drop-in program from 10am-4pm.

No pre-registration required.

This is not a drop off program. Adult participation required.



PROGRAMS IN ORDER

MDNP: Public Homeschool: Migration

Thu, Dec 28th 1:30pm-3pm

#146436 Ages 7-9

\$5 resident/\$6 non-resident

Animal migration doesn't just happen once a year and isn't reserved just for the birds! Adapt, migrate, or stay with this hands-on program that is aligned with NC DPI K-12

Standards and Curriculum.

Pre-registration required.

MDNP: MeckTeen Explorers: Stone Mountain

Ages 11-14

#146644 Fri, Dec 29th 9am-4pm

\$15 resident/\$18 non-resident

Hey MeckTeens! Get outside and explore cool areas around you! Every month we will take a trip to a park in the Carolinas. This month we will be visiting Stone Mountain State Park. Please come prepared to be outside for the whole program. Please note some of these trips will take place offsite and will require traveling in a county van.

This is a drop off program. Adult participation not required.

Pre-registration required.



HOW TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

- Call (980) 314-1128
- Or online at www.parkandrec.mecknc.gov

To request a modification based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please contact staff at (980) 314-1192 or email TRInfo@MeckNC.gov

MECKLENBURG COUNTY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Volunteer Connect under "Nature Centers"



Mecklenburg County
Park and Recreation

NATURE CENTERS

MCDOWELL • QUEST • EASTWAY
REEDY CREEK • STEVENS CREEK

Free to visit - Open daily

- HIKING
- PROGRAMS
- LIVE ANIMALS
- ADVENTURE
- NATURE EXHIBITS
- SUMMER CAMP