

Essex County Environmental Center ~ Public Programs

WINTER 2022/2023



The Essex County Environmental Center is located at 621-B Eagle Rock Avenue in Roseland in Essex County West Essex Park and is a facility of the Essex County Parks System. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm and Saturday from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Essex County West Essex Park is open to the public every day from dawn until dusk. Pre-registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted. **All programs require a minimum number of participants to run.** For more information, please call 973-228-8776.

The Essex County Environmental Center continues to offer a variety of seasonal environmental education programming for groups and families. While mask wearing and social distancing requirements have been lifted, we remain cautious and ask our patrons to please be responsible, keeping the health and safety of everyone in mind.

Thank you for your continued support, cooperation, and participation!

FIELD TRIP OFFERINGS FOR ORGANIZED GROUPS (Schools, Scouts, Church/Community Organizations, Home Schools, Etc.)



VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

\$75 per program, 45 minutes

Choose from the Following Virtual Field Trip Topics

Seasonal Discovery Nature Tour / Backyard Birding / Animal Tracking / Lenape Learning Area Tour & Lenape Skills/ Camping 101
Swamp Tromp-Wetland Biodiversity/ Wild about Wildlife
Recycling (*grant funded and free for Essex County institutions while funds last*) / Green Building Tour...and more!

IN-PERSON FIELD TRIPS

Organized Group Bookings

(Institutions, Scouts, Municipal Recreation Programs, Homeschoolers, Etc.)

All ages. Program length is 1.5 hours. Choose from a variety of topics offered by the Essex County Environmental Center. Inquire by calling the Center at 973.228.8776. Minimum of 10 person booking requirement (if less booked, minimum booking fee will be applied). **Fee: \$10 per participant (including leaders/chaperones)**

Small Groups/Pods and Families

All ages. Winter selections include Seasonal Nature Adventure, Lenape Village Tours, Backyard Birding, Animal Tracking, Owls the Night Hunter, Swamp Tromp/Wetland Biodiversity, *Fire Making and Hot Chocolate, *Camping 101 and MORE! One group at a time with a limit of 6 people. Schedule your 45-minute time slot by calling the center at 973.228.8776. *Where noted, additional fees apply. Schedule your 45-minute time slot by calling the center at 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$10 child, \$12 adult or \$30 per family (2 adults, 2 children).**

CLUBS FOR CHILDREN

FOREST FRIENDS CLUB

January 19, February 16, March 16; 4pm to 5pm



For children ages 5 to 10 years. Each month, we'll explore the forest using nets, binoculars, magnifiers, and microscopes to investigate nature in our wooded wetland habitat. We hope to foster an ethic of stewardship and offer an opportunity to take part in hands-on conservation projects. Come ready to explore! Advanced registration and minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$10 per child per session**

To register, visit www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

ESSEX COUNTY 4-H – Essex County 4-H invites Essex County youth to participate in programming for all ages. For more information, visit <http://essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h>.

The Essex County 4-H Healthy Small Animals club is recruiting new members. Youth grades 4-8 meet to share their passion about animals, learn about small pet care and participate in state and County small animal events. Meetings occur on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 4pm to 5pm. For more information or to register, contact Essex4h@njaes.rutgers.edu.



MONTHLY PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

NEW JERSEY WOODTURNERS

Monthly on the 4th Monday

7pm to 9:30pm

For adults and children ages 3 and up. Learn to turn with the NJ Woodturners Association. Discover the wonders of creating art from found pieces of wood. Topics vary by the month. For details, please email Bob Amarant at bobamarant@gmail.com and, to learn more about the organization, visit <https://www.njwoodturners.com>. Meet in Garibaldi Hall on the fourth Monday of every month. Dates are subject to change, please call the Center to confirm, 973-228-8776.



Fee: \$10 per child, \$12 per adult; free for NJWA members

ESSEX COUNTY BEEKEEPERS SOCIETY

Monthly on the 2nd Tuesday

7pm to 9 pm

For adults and children ages 12 and up. The Essex County Beekeepers Society (ECBS), a chapter of the NJ Beekeepers Association, is dedicated to teaching new beekeepers how to manage their bees and helping experienced beekeepers to do it better. If you think you might be interested in keeping honeybees and would like to explore what's involved, you're welcome to join. ECBS meets at Garibaldi Hall from 7pm to 9pm on the second Tuesday of every month. Dates are subject to change, please call the Center to confirm, 973-228-8776. Details on monthly programs are posted on www.njbeekeepers.org and on www.ecbs.squarespace.com.



Fee: \$10 per child, \$12 per adult, free for ECBS and NJBA members

December 2022 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

HOT CHOCOLATE HIKE

Saturday, December 3

11am to 12:30pm

For families. Join us for a hike around the Environmental Center forest, build a winter campfire, sip hot cocoa and make S'mores. Dress warmly. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**



To register, visit www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

COOKIES WITH SANTA 4H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Saturday, December 3

1pm to 3:30pm

Join ECEC partners, the Rutgers 4 H Youth Development Program, as they welcome families and their pets for Cookies with Santa! Families and their pets will enjoy a sweet treat and refreshments with an opportunity to take a picture with Santa! Meet in Garibaldi Hall. Register at <https://go.rutgers.edu/x6h5b7zi> Once registered, payments can be sent via Zelle to essex4hleader@gmail.com or checks can be made out to Essex 4-H Leaders Association and mailed to 621-A Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ 07068. **Fee: \$15/per family in advance or \$20/per family at the door (includes a picture, cookies, and hot cocoa).**



FOREST FRIENDS FEEDER WORKSHOP

Thursday, December 8

4pm to 6pm

For families. Join the Center staff to create an edible, festive and unique wetland wildlife feeder to be on display in an outdoor exhibit on ECEC's forest trail. Some materials will be provided, and it is encouraged to bring your own items, most especially– your creativity! All participants will have their project entered into our Forest Friends Feeder Contest. Prizes awarded. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**



To register, visit www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

FOREST FRIENDS FEEDER CONTEST

Registration Deadline: Friday, December 9th

Project Drop-off: Friday, December 16th by 5pm



For all ages. Create an edible, festive and unique wetland wildlife feeder for our outdoor exhibit. The purpose of this contest is to provide participants with a fun and educational experience, engaging creativity to make natural edible treats for the center's backyard forest friends. Add to a winter's bounty by registering for this contest and submitting a forest feeder for our forest friends to enjoy! All contest entries will be displayed for one week (or for as long as the wildlife will allow) during the winter holiday and will be voted on by a panel of eco-experts! Grand prizes are awarded to entries that place 1st in all categories; 2nd and 3rd

place entries will be recognized with a plaque, certificate, and a small gift from the Environmental Center. For contest rules and to register, please contact the Essex County Environmental Center at 973.228.8776 or email mrobinson@parks.essexcountynj.org. **FREE**

December 2022 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

FAMILY WALK & CAMPFIRE

Tuesday, December 13

6pm to 7:30pm

All ages. Join an ECEC naturalist for a short walk on the trails and experience forest life in wintertime. After the walk, enjoy a campfire with organic fire-popped popcorn and mint tea. Dress for the weather. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**



To register, visit www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

OWL PELLET DISSECTION

Tuesday, December 20

6pm to 7:30 pm



For ages 7-12. Learn about our beautiful and mysterious silent hunters of the night. Discover what they're eating as we discuss predators and prey and food chain dynamics. Carefully reconstruct the bones found inside owl pellets! Advanced registration and minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$10 per child**

To register, visit www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

WINTER WILDLIFE EXPLORERS CAMP

Tuesday, Dec. 27; Wednesday, Dec. 28 & Thursday, Dec. 29

9:30am to 3:30pm

For children ages 6-10. Campers enjoy stories, crafts, campfires, and forest adventures exploring our wooded wetland forests in wintertime. For more information, call 973.228.8776. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$210 per child for all three days OR \$85 per child per day**



To register, visit www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

January 2023 SEASONAL PROGRAMS



HOT CHOCOLATE HIKE

Saturday, January 7

11am to 12:30pm

For families. Join us for a hike around the Environmental Center forest, build a winter campfire, sip hot cocoa and make S'mores. Dress warmly. Meet at Garibaldi Hall. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**

To register, visit www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

January 2023 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

WINTER TRACKING & ADAPTATIONS

Saturday, January 14

For families. Do you know how frogs and tadpoles survive the winter? How about birds that don't migrate? Take a walk with an ECEC naturalist and learn all about forest life in wintertime and how animals' furs and feathers help them survive the cold. Make and take a bird feeder from sticks and seed. Dress for the weather. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**

11am to 12:30pm



To register, visit www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.



MLK DAY: FOREST ANIMALS WINTER SURVIVAL – ONE DAY CAMP

Monday, January 16

9:30am to 3:30pm

For ages 6-10. Look at winter habitats and how New Jersey's nature survives the cold season! Children will explore the winter wetlands and do indoor activities that are both fun and educational. Provide your child with good footwear and outer gear so we can fully enjoy the seasonal discoveries. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$85 per child**

To register, visit www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

OWL PELLET DISSECTION

Monday, January 23

6pm to 7:30 pm



For ages 7-12. Learn about our beautiful and mysterious silent hunters of the night. Discover what they're eating as we discuss predators and prey and food chain dynamics. Carefully reconstruct the bones found inside owl pellets! Advanced registration and minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$10 per child**

To register, visit www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

**ECEC PROGRAMS CAN NOW BE
REGISTERED AND PAID FOR
ONLINE!**

PLEASE VISIT: www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar

February 2023 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

ESSEX COUNTY BEEKEEPERS' SOCIETY: BASIC BEEKEEPING

8:30am to 4pm

3-DAY SHORT COURSE: Saturdays, February 4 & 11; Snow-day March 11; Field Day TBA

For adults and children ages 12 and older. This short course is appropriate for new beekeepers, as well as those who need a refresher. It is offered by the Essex County Beekeepers Society, <http://ecbs.njbeekeepers.org/index.htm>, a branch of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association, and overseen by EAS Certified Master Beekeeper Landi Simone. Successful completion of this class fulfills the education requirement necessary to legally keep bees in NJ. Classroom topics covered include: Honey-Bee Biology, Beekeeping Equipment, Getting Started with Bees, Keeping Bees in Populated Areas, Bee Plants, Seasonal Management, Honey Bee Pests and Diseases, Harvesting Your Honey Crop, Queens, Queen Problems and Re-Queening. Day 3, Field Day, takes place in apiaries in Montville Township and provides students with an introduction to working with the bees. Students will have the experience of opening and inspecting a beehive themselves and obtain hands-on lessons in recognizing the various components of a hive and colony as well as inspection basics such as smoker lighting, protective gear, and correct use of the hive tool.



For more information, contact registrar Justin Luna at Justin@GalacticGold.org. Online registration available at <https://njbeekeepers.org/Education.htm>. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. **Fee: \$130, which includes all class materials, continental breakfast, and afternoon snack.**

WINTER JOURNALING

Saturday, February 4

11am to 12:30pm

All ages (children under 5 require caregiver supervision). Discover the joy of phenology, the cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena, especially in relation to climate and plant and animal life. Let us find a special place to write down and draw our winter discoveries and appreciate the cold and brisk change of the season. Maybe partake in some winter birding! We will also hike the grounds to note seasonal changes and beautiful discoveries. We will make our journals here on site. Friends and family are encouraged to join. Dress warmly. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**



To register, visit www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

VALENTINES DAY FAMILY WALK & CAMPFIRE

Tuesday, February 14; 6pm to 7:30pm

All ages. Join an ECEC naturalist for a short walk on the trails to experience forest life at night. We'll make a campfire and enjoy fire-popped popcorn and mint tea. Dress for the weather. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**



To register, visit www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

February 2023 SEASONAL PROGRAMS

BUILD-A-BIRD HOUSE

Saturday, February 18

11am to 12:30pm



For families. Join us to build a home that encourages breeding birds and other wildlife to take residence. Putting out your bird house now creates a good chance of having a nesting pair of songbirds in your garden by spring. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$15 per birdhouse (2 people max per birdhouse)**

To register, visit www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

WINTER CAMPFIRE AND CHARCOAL ART

Wednesday, February 22

5:30pm to 7pm



For families. Join us for a winter campfire and make your own charcoal art. We collect our perfect wood sticks and char them into a tool of art magic! Charcoal art paper will be provided. Expect to get your hands dirty with this fun project! Dress warmly. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child,**

\$12 per adult

To register, visit www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

LOOKING AHEAD

SPRING CAMP

Tuesday, April 4; Wednesday, April 5; Thursday, April 6

OR Tuesday, April 11; Wednesday, April 12; Thursday, April 13

12:30pm to 3:30pm



For children ages 6-10. Restore the bond between children and nature. Children will have the opportunity to explore nature right here at the Essex County Environmental Center's varied habitats-forest, wetland, pond, and river.

For details, call the Center at 973.228.8776. Advanced registration and payment are required. For more information, call 973-228-8776. **Fees: \$210 per child for all 3 days OR \$85 per child/per day**

gARTbage ART CONTEST

Register by Friday, April 7

Project Drop-Off, Saturday, April 15

11am-2pm

This g'ART'bage contest takes a creative approach to protecting our planet from plastic pollution by pulling plastics out of the waste-stream and transforming them into works of public art. Contest participants are challenged to be thoughtful and creative in crafting art made from single-use plastic garbage (non-recyclable plastics). Team and individual projects are welcome. Projects must be crafted to withstand the elements, as they will be showcased in an outdoor setting on the grounds of the Essex County Environmental Center. Winning entrees will be displayed during the week of Earth Day! Grand prizes are awarded to entries that place 1st in all categories; 2nd and 3rd place entries will be recognized with a plaque, certificate, and a small gift from the Environmental Center. Pre-registration required, contact 973.228.8776 or email tcasella@parks.essexcountynj.org.



LOOKING AHEAD

gARTbage Art Workshop Saturday, April 8

11am to 1pm



Join the Center staff to create an entry for our contest! Some materials will be provided; however, it is encouraged to bring personal items to add a unique artistic flair. The g'ART'bage Art Contest takes a creative approach to protecting our planet from plastic pollution by pulling non-recyclable plastics out of the waste-stream and transforming them into works of public art. Contest participants are challenged to be thoughtful and creative in crafting art made from single-use plastic garbage (non-recyclable plastics). Team and individual projects are welcome. Projects

must be made to withstand the elements, as they will be showcased in an outdoor setting on the grounds of the Essex County Environmental Center. All workshop participants will have their projects entered into our gARTbage Art Contest. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants required. For more information, call 973-228-8776.

EARTH DAY 2023 Saturday, April 22

11am to 3pm

All ages. Yay, it's EARTH DAY! Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to our annual outdoor festival honoring beautiful planet EARTH, the sustainer of all life! On this special day, the Essex County Environmental Center will make extra efforts to share its wonder and appreciation of the natural world with patrons, partners, and friends. Enjoy a day filled with crafts, games, and recreational opportunities, such as canoeing and hiking. Enjoy demonstrations, information, a local eco-vendors' sale. Environmental Center staff and partner groups will be on hand to guide you throughout this exciting Earth-centric day! Seeking eco-vendors with a sustainable mission. For more information, call 973-228-8776.



FREE EVENT (items may be for sale)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ECEC PROGRAMS CAN NOW BE REGISTERED AND PAID FOR ONLINE!

PLEASE VISIT: www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar

ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION—Meetings are held virtually the first Monday of each month at 6pm. Some dates may change. For an up to date listing of meeting dates or for more information, please contact Essex County Environmental Affairs Coordinator Tara M. Casella at 973.228.8776 or visit <https://www.essexcountyparks.org/facilities/environmental-center/partners>.

GARDENING—Do you have garden-related questions? Contact Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Essex County and a Master Gardener will gladly assist you on their FREE helpline service. Helpline hours are Monday through Friday from 10am to 2pm. Call 973.228.2210 or e-mail mastergardenec@gmail.com.

OTHER OFFERINGS



EXTRA! EXTRA! Calling all Nature Enthusiasts....

Grades Pre-K through 7. Youth Eco-Activity Boxes Available for Purchase! Looking for enrichment ideas? The Environmental Center educational staff has custom made boxes designed to excite and engage youth in nature exploration and active learning. The boxes are intended to keep children in pre-K through seventh grades excited and engaged in environmental science related outdoor activities.

Box themes include: Seasonal Discovery—Winter/Spring/Summer/Fall, Butterfly Safari, Buzz Box (Bees), Flying Friends (Birds), Hop, Walk & Slither, Junior Naturalist, Wilderness Skills and more!

Fee: \$40/Box

**The boxes include crafts, projects, activities and outdoor fun opportunities!
Boxes available for pick-up only at the Essex County Environmental Center
Limited Availability! For more information, please call 973.228.8776.**

ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER PARTNER AGENCIES

New Jersey Audubon Society (NJAS) – Scott Barnes 908.396.6506

Essex County Beekeepers Society (ECBS) – John DeBenedett, johndebenedett@yahoo.com

West Essex Park Conservancy (WEPC) – Ron Pate 973.669.8030

Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County (MGEC) – Amy Rowe 973.287.6360

New Jersey Woodturners Association (NJWA) – Bob Amarant 908.442.4729

Essex County 4-H Youth Development Program (4-H) – Marissa Blodnik 973.353.1337

Essex County Environmental Commission – Tara M Casella 973.228.8776

ATTENTION:

If you are not already on our e-mail list and you would like to receive an electronic file of our brochure as well as other e-notices and alerts, please call the Center (973.228.8776) at your earliest convenience or e-mail tcasella@parks.essexcountynj.org with an e-mail address. Thank you!



Our Environmental Center has become the premiere location for environmental education and nature appreciation. With the help of our partner groups, our dynamic schedule of events and activities will captivate all ages. Walk in our woods, discover habitats, get pointers on gardening, learn about nature photography and much more. It's all about nature and it's all at our Environmental Center.

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive

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COUNTY OF ESSEX

Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs

ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

621-B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ 07068

973.228.8776 / www.essexcountyparks.org

Putting Essex County First