

September 2023

Patapsco Valley State Park Soldiers Delight NEA

Register [here](#) or by contacting us at 410-461-5005. patapsco.statepark@maryland.gov

Accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Seven days advance notice is requested.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Are you interested in setting up a private program for your family or friends? https://forms.gle/JkypVLag99Dsm8mu7 Unless otherwise noted, events are held rain or shine, free and fun for all ages; donations are always welcome. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather/activity, wear sunscreen and insect repellent, bring plenty of water and snacks, and remember to check for ticks.</p>					1	2 12 - Vulture Feeding International Vulture Awareness Day
3 12 - Aviary Tour	4 Hilton Nature Center & WOJHC Close for the Season	5	6	7 1 - Goodbye Summer Hike	8	9 12 - Intro to Knots 4 - Intergenerational Camping 8 - Owl Prowl - McKeldin Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend
10 11 - Goodbye Summer Hike (Girl Scout event) 1 - Goodbye Summer Hike (open to all) Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend	11 2 - Vulture Feeding	12 10 - Digs for Kids	13	14	15 Trailfest	16 Trail Fest 8 - Neptune at Opposition 8 - Bat Hike - Orange Grove
17 Trail Fest	18	19 1 - Digs for Kids	20	21 2 - Vulture Feeding	22	23 4 - Hike and Sketch 7 - Campfire Stories 8 - Bat Hike- Soldiers Delight
24 10 - Soldiers Delight 101 Hike	25	26 10 - Digs for Kids	27	28 1 - Fall Colors Hike	29 10 - Bigfoot Hike	30 1 - Fall Colors Hike 8 - Owl Prowl- Hilton

Spooky programming is back!

This year, we have decided to expand the spook into September! So join us for a couple hair-raising events this month and next all over Patapsco Valley State Park & Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area.

History & Nature Centers will close following Labor Day Weekend

William Offutt Johnson History Center: Weekends & holidays, 11 - 3 p.m.

5120 South Street, Halethorpe, MD 21227

Hilton Area Nature Center: Weekends & holidays, 11 - 3 p.m.

1101 Hilton Avenue, Catonsville, MD 21228

Soldiers Delight Visitor Center to remain open

Soldiers Delight NEA Visitor Center: Daily, 11 - 3 p.m.

5100 Deer Park Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

September 2: Vulture Feeding

Noon - 1 p.m. at Soldiers Delight NEA Visitor Center

Bald is beautiful! Join us at our Public Aviary on International Vulture Awareness Day in Soldiers Delight NEA to see just how gorgeous turkey vultures really are! Learn how they rid the planet of carrion, neutralizing disease along the way. Meet two of our feathered friends as we demonstrate their daily weigh in and flaunt their intelligence! Rain or shine. Free event, though donations welcome!

September 3: Aviary Tour

Noon - 1 p.m. at Soldiers Delight NEA Visitor Center

Following the weekly reptile Feeding Frenzy, join a Naturalist in the Public Aviary to meet our resident, native-to-Maryland feathered friends! Rain or shine, though donations are welcome. Closed toed shoes are mandatory. Rain or shine.

September 7: Goodbye Summer Hike

1 - 2:30 p.m. at Hilton Nature Center

Say goodbye to summer and welcome the first signs of autumn with us! Meet at Hilton Nature Center to hike down the Forest Glen trail into Avalon, and then along the Grist Mill Trail and back up Forest Glen. View the foliage and enjoy the beauty nature has to offer! Be prepared for a moderate to rigorous hike on variable terrain - not a hike for beginners! Shine only. [Sign up encouraged.](#) Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance.

September 9: Intergenerational Camping

4 p.m. 9/9 to noon 9/10 at McKeldin Area Youth Group Sites

Celebrate Grandparents Weekend by camping with the family! [Sign up required.](#) Please RSVP by September 5, so staff can send out final details on September 6.

Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend!

Every year, Girl Scouts explore the natural wonders found across our country during the Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend. During the weekend of September 9 & 10, 2023, Girl Scouts across Maryland will join their sister scouts to celebrate our shared love for the outdoors in our state parks, along with their troops, family & friends.

September 9: Intro to Knots

Noon - 1 p.m. at Hilton Area, Shelter 245

It's *not* too late to learn something new this summer! Have you been tied up with vacations and parties? This is your chance to rope your family into a fun and educational activity! Learn about knots that are useful both for camping and at home. No experience required, [Sign up encouraged](#). Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance. Rain or shine.

September 9: Owl Prowl

8 - 9:00 p.m. at McKeldin Area Medicine Tree Trail

Follow a naturalist on a 0.3 mile hike on the Medicine Tree Trail and listen for and try to call out to owls! We will discuss the biology, habitat, diet, and conservation of Maryland owls. Suitable for families and individual adult patrons alike. Come ready to walk! Bring a flashlight and wear shoes appropriate for hiking on variable terrain. Clear skies only- program canceled in case of rain. [Sign up required in advance](#), spots for 20 total participants.

September 10: Goodbye Summer Hike for Girl Scouts

11 - 12:30 p.m., at McKeldin Area Basketball Courts

Come join us at our McKeldin area for a fall colors hike. We will be enjoying the colors of fall as the leaves change and a colder breeze starts blowing in! Scouts will do parts of the Trees Badge as they learn how to identify trees and the science behind why they change colors. We will be taking the Tall Poplar trail and will meet by the Basketball court. [Sign up encouraged](#). Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance.

September 10: Goodbye Summer Hike

1 - 2:30 p.m., at McKeldin Area Basketball Courts

Come join us at our McKeldin area for a fall colors hike. We will be enjoying the colors of fall as the leaves change and a colder breeze starts blowing in! Learn how to identify trees and the science behind why they change colors. We will be taking the Tall Poplar trail and will meet by the Basketball court. [Sign up encouraged](#). Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance.

September 11: Vulture Feeding

2 - 3 p.m. at Soldiers Delight NEA Visitor Center, 5100 Deer Park Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Bald is beautiful! Join us at our Soldiers Delight NEA Visitor Center to see just how gorgeous turkey vultures really are! Learn how they rid the planet of carrion, neutralizing disease along the way. Meet two of our feathered friends as we demonstrate their daily weigh in and flaunt their intelligence! Rain or shine. Free event, though donations welcome! Great for homeschool groups!

September 12 - Digs for Kids

10 - 10:45 p.m. at Avalon Area's William Offutt Johnson History Center

A hands on experience! Participate in an archaeological excavation and trowel soil, screen dirt and document any discoveries. Recommended for ages 5-12!

[Sign up encouraged](#). Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance. Shine only. Great for homeschool groups!

September 15 - 17: Trailfest

Join Friends of Patapsco for any of the many outdoors events that are part of Trailfest! [Sign up on the Friends of PVSP website](#)

September 16: Neptune at Opposition Astronomy Exploration

8 - 10 p.m. at Soldiers Delight NEA Visitor Center

Join us to see Neptune at Opposition. The blue giant planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. This is the best time to view and photograph Neptune. Due to its extreme distance from Earth, it will only appear as a tiny blue dot in all but the most powerful telescopes, WHICH WE HAVE! Time machines (telescopes) will be provided by the Westminster Astronomy Club. All programs are rain or shine. September highlights: Swans, Flying Horses and a Coat Hanger.

September 16: Bat Hike

8 - 9 p.m. at Orange Grove Shelter 106

Follow a naturalist through the woods to spot bats while learning about their biology, diet, and conservation! Open for families and individuals of all ages.

Wear closed-toed shoes and bring a flashlight. Shine only. [Sign up required](#).

September 19: Digs for Kids

1 - 1:45 p.m. at Avalon Area's William Offutt Johnson History Center

A hands on experience! Participate in an archaeological excavation and trowel soil, screen dirt and document any discoveries. Recommended for ages 5-12!

[Sign up encouraged](#). Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance. Shine only. Great for homeschool groups!

September 21: Vulture Feeding

2 - 3 p.m. at Soldiers Delight NEA Visitor Center

Bald is beautiful! Join us at our Public Aviary behind the Soldiers Delight NEA Visitor Center to see just how gorgeous turkey vultures really are! Learn how they rid the planet of carrion, neutralizing disease along the way. Meet two of our feathered friends as we demonstrate their daily weigh in and flaunt their intelligence! Rain or shine. Free event, though donations welcome! Great for homeschool groups!

September 23: Hike and Sketch

4 - 6 p.m. at the Cascade Falls Trailhead in the Orange Grove section of Avalon

Beauty in nature is all around you and we're going to find it! Join us as we hike the Cascade Falls trail where we will complete a series of sketches from life. Beginners welcome. [Sign up encouraged](#). Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance. Shine only. \$2/participant in addition to entrance fee.

September 23: Campfire Stories

7 - 8 p.m. - Shelter 106 in the Orange Grove/Avalon Area

Join a naturalist for spooky stories around the campfire! Bring your own s'mores ingredients and dress for the weather! Shine only. [Sign up encouraged](#). Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance. Spots for 20 total participants.

September 23: Bat Hike

8 - 9 p.m. at Soldiers Delight NEA Visitor Center

Follow a naturalist through the woods to spot bats while learning about their biology, diet, and conservation! Open for families and individuals of all ages. Wear closed-toed shoes and bring a flashlight. Shine only. [Sign up required](#).

September 24: Soldiers Delight 101 Hike

10 - 11 a.m. at Soldiers Delight Visitor Center

A historian-led hike around the park highlighting the unique, interesting and odd elements of this distinct section of PVSP. Learn more about the Visitor Center, the Aviary and the trails. Approximately 3 miles hiking distance on variable terrain. Wear appropriate hiking shoes, dress for the weather and be prepared for ticks. [Sign up encouraged](#). Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance.

September 26: Digs for Kids

10 - 10:45 a.m. at Avalon Area's William Offutt Johnson History Center

A hands on experience! Participate in an archaeological excavation and trowel soil, screen dirt and document any discoveries. Recommended for ages 5-12!

[Sign up encouraged](#). Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance. Shine only. Great for homeschool groups!

September 28: Fall Colors Hike

1 - 3 p.m. at McKeldin Area Basketball Courts

Join us to enjoy the colors of autumn! Meet at the McKeldin Basketball Courts to hike the Tall Poplar Trail. View the foliage and enjoy the beauty nature has to offer! Be prepared for a moderate to rigorous hike on variable terrain - not a hike for beginners! Shine only. [Sign up encouraged](#). Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance.

September 29: Bigfoot Hike

10 - noon at McKeldin Area Basketball Courts

Have you ever heard of the Snallygaster? Would you like to? Join a naturalist on an informative hike through the McKeldin woods along the Plantation and Switchback Trails. We will talk about local cryptids, how these stories can relate to Leave No Trace, and the importance of habitat conservation. This hike is a tribute to the Bigfoot Hikes at Patapsco in 1984. Shine only, [Sign up encouraged](#). Groups of 5 or more must sign up in advance.

September 30: Fall Colors Hike

1 - 3 p.m. at McKeldin Area Basketball Courts

Join us to enjoy the colors of autumn! Meet at the McKeldin Basketball Courts to hike the Tall Poplar Trail. View the foliage and enjoy the beauty nature has to offer! Be prepared for a moderate to rigorous hike on variable terrain - not a hike for beginners! Shine only. [Sign up encouraged](#). Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance.

September 30: Owl Prowl

8 - 9 p.m. at Hilton Area, Shelter 245

Follow a naturalist on a 0.3 mile hike and listen for and try to call out to owls! We will discuss the biology, habitat, diet, and conservation of Maryland owls. Suitable for families and individual adult patrons alike. Come ready to walk! Bring a flashlight and wear shoes appropriate for hiking on variable terrain.

Clear skies only- program canceled in case of rain. [Sign up required in advance](#), spots for 20 total participants.