

December 2022

Patapsco Valley State Park Soldiers Delight NEA

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

January 1

10- First Day Hike

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.

12/2 Little Explorers/Sprouts

10-10:45 a.m. at Hilton Nature Center

This is a program for kids ages 0-3 to do with their parents/guardians as we introduce them to the natural world. This is the final part of a 6 part series. Families are invited to come for one or all of the series. We start each day with a fun song and “get loose” activity and wrap up each day with activities you can do at home. Shine only. [Sign up](#) encouraged. Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance. Spots for 20 total participants.

12/3 Bird Feeder Workshop

1- 2 p.m. at Soldiers Delight Visitor Center

Spread hospitality to your backyard birds with winter bird feeders! Learn how bird feeders can help Maryland’s native birds survive and thrive through the cold months! \$2 per participant. [Sign up](#) encouraged. Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance. Spots for 20 total participants.

12/3 Owl Prowl

5- 6 p.m. at Soldiers Delight Visitor Center

Follow a naturalist on a short 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](#) due to popularity of the program, spots for 20 total participants.

12/4 Kids Sensory Hike

1-2 p.m. at McKeldin 600

Join us for a hike on the 0.3 mi Medicine Tree Trail! We’ll hike and use all our senses to be in the present moment and connect to our natural resources. Geared to ages 4-10. Wear appropriate hiking shoes and dress for the weather. Sign up encouraged. Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance. Spots for 20 total participants. Shine only.

12/7 Digs for Kids: Hands on Archaeology

1- 1:45 p.m at 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. Spots for 15 kids. Shine only.

12/9 Little Explorers/Sprouts

10-10:45 a.m. at Hilton Nature Center

This is a program for kids ages 0-3 to do with their parents/guardians as we introduce them to the natural world. This is part of a 6 part series. Families are invited to come for one or all of the series. We start each day with a fun song and “get loose” activity and wrap up each day with activities you can do at home. Shine only. [Sign up](#) encouraged. Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance. Spots for 20 total participants.

12/11 Digs for Kids: Hands on Archaeology

1- 1:45 p.m at 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. Spots for 15 kids. Shine only.

12/11 The More You Snow: The Science of Winter

3-4 p.m. at Soldiers Delight Visitor Center Auditorium

Join us to learn about how snowflakes grow and what they look like up close! We’ll go on a hike, learn about the history of snow science, and cut our own snowflakes! Recommended for ages 10 and up. [Sign up](#) encouraged. Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance. Spots for 20 participants. Rain or shine; if the weather is poor, we will not hike.

12/14 Digs for Kids: Hands on Archaeology

1- 1:45 p.m at 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. Spots for 15 kids. Shine only.

12/17 Bird Feeder Workshop

1- 2 p.m. at Soldiers Delight Visitor Center

Spread hospitality to your backyard birds with winter bird feeders! Learn how bird feeders can help Maryland’s native birds survive and thrive through the cold months! \$2 per participant. [Sign up](#) encouraged. Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance. Spots for 20 total participants.

12/17 Owl Prowl

5- 6 p.m. at Soldiers Delight Visitor Center

Follow a naturalist on a short 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](#) due to popularity of the program, spots for 20 total participants.

12/18 Digs for Kids: Hands on Archaeology

1- 1:45 p.m at 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. Spots for 15 kids. Shine only.

12/19 The More You Snow: The Science of Winter

3-4 p.m. at Soldiers Delight Visitor Center Auditorium

Join us to learn about the science behind precipitation, weather patterns, and how you can be a citizen scientist! We'll go on a brief hike, learn about the history of snow science, and maybe do a craft! Bring your own hot cocoa if you like! Recommended for ages 10 and up. [Sign up](#) encouraged. Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance. Spots for 20 participants. Rain or shine; if the weather is poor, we will not hike.

12/23 Park Movie Night - Scrooge

5:30-7:30 p.m at Hollofield 300

Join us for a holiday movie on a cold winter night! We'll be screening the black and white 1935 telling of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Make sure you bundle up and feel free to bring blankets and your own seating if desired (the shelter has picnic tables)! We'll be providing a fire, BYO snacks and or cocoa! Alcoholic beverages prohibited. [Sign up](#) in advance required, as it takes place after park closing. Shine only. Spots for 20 total participants. Movie runs 1 hr 18 minutes.

12/24 Disc Course Maintenance

9-1 p.m. at McKeldin Disc Golf Course

Join our Disc Golf Course volunteer group to do cleanup of the disc golf pads and to remove obstructions in the course. Volunteers receive free entry for the day and volunteers that provide 100 hours of service to the park are eligible for a free MPS park pass for the following year. Recommended ages 10 & up!

12/26 Avalon Cleanup

9-11:00 a.m. at the Mobile Visitor Center by Avalon Shelter 104

What better way to greet the New Year than with a clean slate? We'll be picking up litter in the Avalon area of the park- meet at the Mobile Visitor Center, parked by Shelter 104. [Sign up](#) encouraged. Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance. Shine only.

12/26 Winter Ruins Hike

12- 2:00 p.m. at Alberton

Meet at the Alberton parking lot for a cold weather hike to by ruins that line the Patapsco! Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. [Sign up](#) encouraged. Groups larger than 5 must sign up in advance. Spots for 20 total participants. Shine only.

12/27 Digs for Kids: Hands on Archaeology

1- 1:45 p.m at 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. Spots for 15 kids. Shine only.

12/28 Digs for Kids: Hands on Archaeology

1- 1:45 p.m at 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. Spots for 15 kids. Shine only.

First Weekend Hikes

Join a Ranger or Naturalist for a hike on one of the Patapsco trails, or hike on your own!

12/30 from 9 - 3 p.m.: Warm Up Hike

Warm up for New Year's with a self-led hike! Medicine Tree Trail by McKeldin Shelter 600 is a 0.3 loop with variable terrain that winds through the McKeldin forest. Come when you can through the day, and enjoy McKeldin's other treasures while you're here!

12/31 from 4 - 5 p.m: Kid's Countdown Hike

Join us for an alternate New Year's Eve! Does your young one feel left out by the late night party? Join us for a family-friendly celebration! We'll take a short hike in the twilight to enjoy the last minutes of sunlight in 2022. Bring a flashlight and count down to sunset with us after the hike! Meet at Shelter 245 in the Hilton area. Sign up encouraged. Shine only.

12/31 at 2-40 p.m.: Sunset Hike

See the sun set for the last time in 2022! Meet at the Soldiers Delight Visitor Center to hike the 2.5 mi Serpentine Trail, ending at the Overlook on Deer Park Rd to watch the sun set over the valley. Hike will end with a short length of trail by flashlight back to the Visitor Center. The Serpentine Trail includes a stream crossing and is a hilly hike- dress for the weather and wear footwear appropriate for variable terrain. Shine only.

1/1 from 11 a.m.: First Day Hike - Ranger Led

Meet at Hollofield 301 for a slightly less than 2.5 mi hike on the River Ridge and Union Dam trails. Think about the past year and contemplate the coming one, or meditate on goals and resolutions you may have for 2023. Variable terrain, get ready for a strenuous hike. No strollers! Not a hike for beginners! Sign up required in advance. Shine only. Spots for 50 participants. Leashed pets are welcome.

