

Save the date for Nature Fest 2025: May 9 & 10

2024
SCHEDULE

Nature Fest

TYPE OF ACTIVITIES

- Drop-in** Show up **anytime** within the timeframe
- Guided** Show up at the **start time** to participate

FRIDAY, MAY 10

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:
open to all ages

BIOBLITZ ACTIVITIES:
science investigations for all ages

7 - 9 P.M.

CANOES & CAMPFIRES **Drop-in** **Farmstead**

Grab a partner and canoe on Kesling wetland! All equipment is provided. After canoeing relax by the campfire for awhile and s'more fixings will be provided (as supplies last).

9 - 10 P.M.

INSECT LIGHT - LURING **Guided** **Farmstead**

It's amazing how many kinds of insects come out at night. Join us as we use simple "light lures" (lights on a sheet) to draw in some of that diversity. We will also search for insects that glow under blacklights and learn about these critters.

SATURDAY, MAY 11

8:30 A.M.

EVENT CHECK-IN BEGINS **Farmstead Lawn**

NATURE'S ARTWORK **Drop-in** **Farmstead Pavilion**

Get inspired by Leaf Man (by Lois Ehlert) & gather materials from nature while using your imagination to create art: a collage, a scene, or a bracelet!

BIRDING HIKE **Guided** **Bell**

Audobon's Spring Bird Count is happening today! Join Amanda Heltzel and Foy Spicer, members of Tippecanoe Audubon Society, for an excursion along the wetland and into the meadow to identify and record the birds that we see and hear. Foy and Amanda will demonstrate how to use the app e-Bird and Merlin. Wear your hiking boots and come prepared for the weather as we get off the pavement and onto the trails. Meet under the bell on the Farmstead Lawn. The group will head out around 9:00am and return close to 10:30am.

9 - 10:30 A.M.

SENSATIONAL SENSES EXPLORATION **Drop-in** **Kesling Wetland**

Take a family-friendly hike while using all five of your senses to explore what nature has to offer around the wetland. Sensory activities for the entire family to enjoy!

SELF-GUIDED OPTIONS **Drop-in** **Farmstead Lawn**

Interested in doing some exploring on your own? We will have hike bags, scavenger hunts, play areas and more ready to go!

BIOBLITZ TABLE **Drop-in** **Farmstead Lawn**

Come to the table for event info and BioBlitz-related games/activities that are going on.

10:30 A.M. -

GEOLOGY? SWEET! **Guided** **Kesling Porch**

Come explore the foundations of geology with a hike around Merry Lea! Enjoy a delicious geologic cupcake model to learn more about what's below Earth's surface. Go on a hike, learn about the rock cycle, how different rock layers are formed, and how geologists interpret these layers to learn about the Earth's history.

AQUATIC CRITTER DIPPING & ID **Drop-in** **Wetland Garage**

Equipped with waders (or your bare feet!) and a dip net, you'll squish your way into the Kesling Wetland and find out what small creatures live in the water. Search and examine the aquatic species at dipping sites along the Kesling Wetland edge. Families can drop in to use microscopes to observe critters, ask questions, and more!

12 P.M.

NATURE PREK CLASSROOM OPEN HOUSE **Drop-in** **Outdoor Classroom**

Walk out to Merry Lea's Nature Preschool outdoor classroom to explore how we spend time each afternoon we are in session. Climb logs, build a shelter, cook up a "snack" in our mud kitchen, or try your hand at other activities we often do.

MAKE & TAKE BIRD HOUSES **Drop-in** **Farmstead Pavilion**

Join us for a bird house making frenzy! This is an opportunity for families to construct one-of-a-kind bird house to take home. All the materials and tools will be provided - you bring the creativity! *As supplies last.

SELF-GUIDED OPTIONS **Drop-in** **Farmstead Lawn**

Interested in doing some exploring on your own? We will have hike bags, scavenger hunts, play areas and more ready to go!

BIOBLITZ TABLE **Drop-in** **Farmstead Lawn**

Come to the table for event info and BioBlitz-related games/activities that are going on.



SATURDAY, MAY 11 (CONTINUED)

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

open to all ages

BIOBLITZ ACTIVITIES:

science investigations for all ages

12 - 12:30 P.M.

(LUNCH TIME)

Grab your lunch and eat at a picnic table or on the grass. We also have a few activities to drop in on if you have time!

LOOSE PARTS PLAY Drop-in Farmstead Fire Ring

Sticks, blocks, leaves! Come play with nature's loose materials and display your creativity! How will you make use of the great outdoors?

SELF-GUIDED OPTIONS Drop-in Farmstead Lawn

Explore the outdoors on your own. We will have trail bags, scavenger hunts, and play areas ready to go!

BIOBLITZ TABLE Drop-in Farmstead Lawn

Come to the table for event info and BioBlitz-related games/activities that are going on.

12:30 - 2 P.M.

MAKE & TAKE BIRD HOUSES Drop-in Farmstead Pavilion

Join us for a bird house making frenzy! This is an opportunity for families to construct one-of-a-kind bird house to take home. All the materials and tools will be provided - you bring the creativity! *As supplies last.

LOOSE PARTS PLAY Drop-in Farmstead Fire Ring

Sticks, blocks, leaves! Come play with nature's loose materials and display your creativity! How will you make use of the great outdoors?

PAINT STRAWBERRY ROCKS AT THE FARM Guided Farmstead Pavilion

Join us for a guided tour of the Merry Lea Teaching Farm. The tour will end in the education garden with a rock painting activity that will help protect our strawberries.

FORAGING & WILD EDIBLE HIKE Guided Bell

Wild edible plants are leafing out and blooming all over Merry Lea. Go for a walk to see what there is to forage this time of year. Maybe we will find some wild onions, mushrooms, greens or flowers to taste. We will be getting off the trails some, so long pants and shoes for hiking are recommended.

CANOEING Drop-in Kesling Wetland

Grab a partner and canoe on Kesling Wetland! Canoes, paddles and life jackets are provided.

SELF-GUIDED OPTIONS Drop-in Farmstead Lawn

Interested in doing some exploring on your own? We will have hike bags, scavenger hunts, play areas and more ready to go!

BIOBLITZ TABLE Drop-in Farmstead Lawn

Come to the table for event info and BioBlitz-related games/activities that are going on.

2 - 3:30 P.M.

FINGERPRINT TREES Drop-in Carpenter Shop

Every species of tree can be identified by its leaf shape and patterns. Bring out your artistic side by creating your own tree with unique and colorful leaves to take home.

LEAP INTO LANDSCAPES! Guided Kesling Wetland

Let the beautiful landscapes of Merry Lea inspire you to make art! In this guided hike, we will visit eye-catching ecosystems and sketch them as a way to learn simple but essential artistic strategies.

ROCK & MINERAL IDENTIFICATION Guided Farmstead Fire Ring

Rocks and minerals are all around us in our daily lives, and we know so little about them! Come explore some properties of rocks and minerals! Use tools and tests that geologists use in the field to help ID rocks and make fascinating observations. Tools, tests, and safety gear will be provided.

CANOEING Drop-in Kesling Wetland

Grab a partner and canoe on the wetland! Canoes, paddles and life jackets are provided.

SELF-GUIDED OPTIONS Drop-in Farmstead Lawn

Interested in doing some exploring on your own? We will have hike bags, scavenger hunts, play areas and more ready to go!

BIOBLITZ TABLE Drop-in Farmstead Lawn

Come to the table for event info and BioBlitz-related games/activities that are going on.

