REGISTRATION BEGINS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

Your guide to Programs, Events, Classes & More

2027 WINTER PROGRAM GUIDE & NEWSLETTER

Ocean County Parks & Recreation

Natural Lands Trust



WINTER in your Ocean County Parks

Ocean County Board of Commissioners

Robert S. Arace – Liaison to Ocean County Parks and Recreation

Frank Sadeghi – Director
Jennifer Bacchione – Deputy Director,
Robert S. Arace, Sam Ellenbogen, Ray Gormley

Mary Jane Bavais - Director of Parks and Recreation
Scott Binkley - County Parks Superintendent
Tracey Lynch - Division Director of Recreation
Timothy G. Hart - Division Director Cultural & Heritage

www.oceancountyparks.org

Our parks are home to wildlife in every season. This winter, come explore and see who you can discover.

When winter arrives in Ocean County, our parks may seem quieter, but they are far from empty. Beneath the bare trees, along frozen ponds, through the marshes and across the forest floor, wildlife continues to live, hunt, feed and survive the changing season. Some animals remain active throughout the winter, while others find shelter, slow down or migrate to warmer places.

"Your Ocean County parks are places where you can connect with nature in every season. Winter offers a unique opportunity to slow down, explore and discover the wildlife that continues to call Ocean County home," Commissioner Rob Arace noted.

The red fox is one animal you may still encounter during a winter visit to our parks. In fact, winter can be a great time to spot one. With fewer leaves on the trees and vegetation, the landscape is more open, making wildlife easier to see. Foxes don't hibernate. They remain active throughout the winter, searching for small mammals and other food. Their thick winter coat helps protect them from the cold, and their tracks can sometimes be spotted in snow or soft ground. If you're lucky enough to see one, enjoy the moment from a safe distance. A fox may disappear into the woods as quickly as it appeared.

Not every bird leaves when temperatures drop. While some species migrate south for the winter, many birds remain in Ocean County year-round. Hawks, owls, woodpeckers, cardinals, chickadees and other familiar birds can still be found throughout our parks. With fewer leaves on the trees, birds can be easier to spot, and their calls can carry through the quiet woods. Keep your eyes and ears open during your next walk.

Many of our turtles spend the colder months sheltered in mud at the bottom of ponds, beneath vegetation or in other protected locations. Their body temperatures and activity levels decrease as the weather cools, allowing them to conserve energy until warmer temperatures return. When spring arrives, they'll once again become a familiar sight along our waterways.

Since they are cold-blooded, snakes rely on their environment to regulate their body temperature. During winter, they enter a period of dormancy called brumation, often retreating underground, beneath logs or into other protected spaces. When temperatures rise in the spring, they'll emerge and become active again.

Even when the parks appear quiet, there is always something happening. A fox may be following a trail through the woods. An owl may be hunting after dark. A hawk may be watching from a high branch. Birds may be searching for food beneath the leaves, while turtles and snakes wait out the cold in protected places. Winter simply changes the way we experience wildlife. The next time you visit an Ocean County park, slow down and take a closer look, look for tracks, listen for birds, watch the trees, check the edges of fields and wetlands. You may not always see the animals themselves, but you may find signs that they're there.

Commissioner Arace added, "Winter is a wonderful time to experience Ocean County's parks in a whole new way. We invite everyone to bundle up, get outside, explore the trails and waterways, and discover the wildlife and natural beauty that make your parks special. Whether you're an experienced nature enthusiast or simply looking for a peaceful winter walk, there's always something new to see. Come visit your parks and enjoy all that Ocean County's great outdoors has to offer."

As you explore our parks, remember that we are visitors in their homes. If you encounter wildlife, admire them from a distance and give them plenty of space. Never chase, corner or attempt to touch an animal. Please do not feed wildlife. The best way to help wildlife is to allow them to find their own natural food and shelter.

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The Ocean County Parks & Recreation Newsletter is sponsored by the Ocean County Board of Comissioners
Robert S. Arace – Liaison to Ocean County Parks and Recreation
Frank Sadeghi-Director, Jennifier Bacchione-Deputy Director
Sam Ellenbogen and Ray Gormley
It is prepared by the Ocean County Parks & Recreation Department
Contributors: Active Recreation & Environmental Staff and is prepared by the Ocean County Parks & Recreation Department

Your Ocean County Lands Trust Property

Florence T. Allen Ext. II – Township Donation

The Florence T. Allen Ext. II property was known as the former Blackbeards Cave, that operated in Bayville for many generations. When the County originally purchased the property back in 2023, Berkeley Township pledged to donate an adjacent piece of property spanning over 50 acres to the County, in appreciation of the Ocean County Board of Commissioners preserving such a sought-after piece of property. The County has since closed on this donation parcel, which helps add more preservation to the beautiful Mill Creek area.

The property is adjacent to not only the former Blackbeard's Cave, but also the New Jersey Pulverizing site, as well as the Barnegat Branch Trail. The County continues to target properties in this immediate area for acquisition, as development could be probable in this immediate area, along Route 9.



The Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Program was established to acquire and maintain environmentally sensitive lands, natural areas or open spaces. For over 20 years, the Ocean County Natural Lands Trust has provided residents and visitors with natural open spaces intended for the enjoyment of nature, protection of our natural resources, and preservation of our important farming industry. The objective of the program, is to establish of a system of protected lands which, in combination with the Farmland Preservation Program, enhance the quality of life in Ocean County by:

Helping to maintain the County's rural characteristics;
Protecting critical environmental resources and water supply;
Maintaining and enhancing active agriculture;
Buffering areas that are not compatible with development.

In 1997, the residents of Ocean County, overwhelmingly voted to establish the Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Program. The approval of a 1.2 cent dedicated tax provides the Board of Commissioners with the funds to acquire lands in Ocean County for conservation and farmland preservation. On February 18, 1998, the Ocean County Board of Commissioners established a nine member Natural Lands Trust Fund Advisory Committee to advise on the preparation of the required open space plan and the nomination of properties to be acquired through the Natural Lands Trust Fund. The committee's purpose is to review nominations for the Trust Fund and to forward recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for consideration.

FREE WEEKEND PROGRAMS

****These programs will be on a first-come first served basis. ****

CATTUS ISLAND COUNTY PARK

Scales and Tales

Join a park naturalist as they dispel the myths and fears of native reptiles. You will see some of our live snakes and turtles up close and personal. Learn what makes these native species so special, and why they are such an important part of the ecosystem. This program is sure to inspire all young nature lovers. No registration required.
LOCATION: Cooper Environmental Center Lecture Room, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River
DATE: Saturdays and Sundays
TIME: 1:30 - 2:00 pm
FEE: Free AGE: All

Cattus Island Nature Walks

Join a park naturalist and follow in the footsteps of such legendary local environmentalists as A. Morton and Betty Cooper, Dorothy Hale and Pete McLain. Be prepared to discover the fascinating and diverse wonders of the natural world. No registration required.
LOCATION:Cooper Environmental Center Lobby,
Cattus Island County Park, Toms River
DATE: Saturdays and Sundays
TIME: 2:00 – 3:00 pm FEE: Free AGE: All

January 2 & 3	**Cattus Island's Ecosystems**
January 9 & 10	**Animal Habitats**
January 16 & 17	**Signs of Animals of Winter**
January 23 & 24	**Animal Tracks**
January 30 & 31	**Groundhogs or Whistlepigs?**
February 6 & 7	**Hibernation**
February 13 & 14	**A Winter Marsh Walk**
February 20 & 21	**Winter Birds**
February 27 & 28	**Backyard Birding**
March 6 & 7	**Signs of Spring**
March 13 & 14	**Naturalist's Choice**
March 20 & 21	**Osprey Nests of Cattus Island**
March 27 & 28	**Return of the Osprey**

Stay tuned to your
Ocean County Parks & Recreation
UPDATES, WEATHER CANCELATIONS, PROGRAM CHANGES,
PHOTOS/VIDEOS OF YOUR PARKS...and more
Search: Ocean County Parks & Recreation on FACEBOOK
Search: MyOCParks on INSTAGRAM
website: www.oceancountyparks.org

FREE WEEKEND PROGRAMS

JAKES BRANCH COUNTY PARK

Live Animal Talks

Come in and meet the animals of Jakes Branch County Park. Visitors will get an up-close look at the parks inhabitants and learn about each species.
****Talks will last approximately 20 minutes****
LOCATION: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood
DATE: Sundays, January 3 – March 28
TIME: 1:30 pm
FEE: Free AGE: All

Discovery Nature Walks

Join a park naturalist on these brief but informative nature walks through the park.
****Weather permitting - walks will not exceed 30 minutes****
LOCATION: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood
DATE: Sundays, January 3 – March 28
TIME: 2:00 pm
FEE: Free AGE: All



CLOVERDALE FARM COUNTY PARK

Beginner Bird Walks

Learn how Cloverdale Farm County Park's bird population changes month by month. This informative bird walk is perfect for beginners. **Please be prepared to walk a mile, wear comfortable sneakers or boots, dress for the weather, and bring a pair of binoculars. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be canceled.**
LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATES: Saturdays,
January 2
February 13
March 13
TIME: 8:30 - 10:00 am
FEE: Free AGE: 9 years - Adult

FREE WEEKEND PROGRAMS

CLOVERDALE FARM COUNTY PARK

Nature Photography

Cranberry bogs with their vibrant colors offer spectacular scenery and host an array of wildlife. Bring your camera along with you as you take a guided tour of the bogs at Cloverdale Farm County Park to snap some memorable photos. This program is great for photographers of all levels. **Please dress for the weather and wear comfortable sneakers or boots.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATES: Sundays,
January 3
February 21
March 14
TIME: 8:30 - 10:00 am
FEE: Free AGE: 12 years - Adult

Solving STEM Problems with LEGOs

Science, technology, engineering, and math, or STEM, are the foundation for many practical problem-solving skills that are useful in life. Fostering love and respect for STEM can be much easier when it's made a little more creative and fun. Join us at Cloverdale where we will be using LEGOs and our brains to create simple contraptions to solve practical STEM-related problems.

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Sundays,
January 31
February 28
March 21
TIME: 10:30 - 11:30 am
FEE: Free AGE: 6 years - Adult

Great Backyard Bird Count Weekend

Stop by our Visitor Center to learn how to identify common backyard birds and help the staff count the number of birds at our feeders.

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATES: Friday, February 12 - Sunday, February 14
TIME: 10:00 am - 3:30 pm
FEE: Free AGE: All

Calling All Artists!
Cloverdale Farm's Plein Air Weekend

Some of the most awe-inspiring works of art are associated with nature. Vincent Van Gogh's Starry Night, Claude Monet's Water Lilies, John James Audubon's watercolors of North American birds, and Albert Bierstadt and Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings of landscapes all have left impressions upon our hearts. Cloverdale Farm County Park is opening its gates to all types of artists from dawn to dusk. Bring your blank canvases and medium materials and get ready to create in this plein air-style (outside in open air) event. **Keep in mind your eco-footprint. Anything you bring in must be brought back home with you, including solvents or paint water, so be sure to pack containers and plastic bags.**

LOCATION: Entire Park, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Friday, March 19 - Sunday, March 21
TIME: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
FEE: Free AGE: All; Children must be accompanied by adult

FREE WEEKEND PROGRAMS

CEDAR BRIDGE TAVERN

Miniature Cannon Construction Craft

Using new and recycled materials, participants will create their own mini pom-pom firing cannon. All supplies provided.
LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat
DATE: Sunday, February 28
TIME: 1:00 – 1:45 pm
FEE: Free AGE: 4 -12 years

Decoy Carving Demonstrations

Stop by and visit with a local decoy carver as they demonstrate "America's Finest Folk Art"! This is your opportunity to see just how decoys are made firsthand and ask the carver anything! Some interactive folk-art games and crafts will be available.
LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat
DATE: Saturdays, March 6, 13, 20 & 27
TIME: 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
FEE: Free AGE: All

FAMILY FUN

NEW Festival of Trees

The Ocean County Parks and Recreation's "1st Annual Festival of Trees" is coming to the Cooper Environmental Center at Cattus Island County Park. Walk through a winter wonderland of beautifully decorated holiday trees, each uniquely styled by our various Ocean County Departments. Public viewing and voting will start on December 12th, 2026 during the Cattus Island Winter Solstice Celebration and end on January 3rd, 2027. Bring your family, friends and colleagues to explore the creative displays, start a new tradition and cast your vote for our first ever "People's Choice Winner".
LOCATION: Cooper Environmental Center, lecture room Cattus Island County Park, Toms River
DATE: Saturday, December 12, 2026 – Sunday, January 3, 2027
TIME: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm FEE: Free

Photo Opportunity with Santa Claus Families and Pets

Santa Claus will visit Cattus Island County Park for a fun photo opportunity with your family or pet. Bring your own camera, as one of Santa's helpers will be on hand to take your perfect holiday photo. All pets must be on a leash. This event is first-come, first-served.
LOCATION: Lecture Room, Cooper Environmental Center, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River
DATE: Sunday, December 13
TIME: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm FEE: Free



TEACHERS!...Borrow-A-Naturalist

Calling all Ocean County teachers. Sick of fluorescent lights? Tired of cutting through the red tape to run a field trip? Invite a naturalist to do a nature walk on your school's grounds. Most of Ocean County's schools are located in some of the richest and most unique natural areas in the county. The naturalist can also answer questions and provide program ideas. Perfect for all grade levels.

Contact Christopher Claus at (732) 506-5122
or
cclaus@oceancountynj.gov
for more information or to set up an appointment.

FAMILY FUN

Owl Prowl

Are you adventurous? If so, you will enjoy a guided walk through the forest looking and listening for Great Horned Owls and Eastern Screech Owls. If we are lucky enough, we will get to see an owl up close and personal! **Please wear sneakers or boots, dress for the weather, and be prepared to walk one mile at a moderate pace. If it is overcast or there are high winds, we will cancel.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATES/TIMES: Friday, January 22 5:00 - 6:30 pm……466466 – 6A
Friday, February 19 5:30 - 7:00 pm……466466 – 6B

FEE: $6.00 per person AGE: 8 years – Adult

Full Moon Hike

Experience the diverse beauty of Cloverdale under the light of the full moon. **Please be prepared to hike 2 miles on varied terrain. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable sneakers or boots.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat

DATES/TIMES: Saturday, January 23 5:00 - 7:00 pm……466466 – 6C
Saturday, February 20 5:30 - 7:30 pm……466466 – 6D

FEE: $6.00 per person AGE: 9 years – Adult

Winter S'more and Night Walk

We will enjoy some hot cocoa while we take a short walk. After the walk we will roast some marshmallows by the fire and even make a s'more or two!

LOCATION: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood

DATE: Saturday, January 23……465466 – 5A

TIME: 6:30 – 7:30 pm

FEE: $10.00 per person AGE: 7 years - Adult

NEW View the Supermoon & Penumbral Lunar Eclipse

Fill your travel mug with something warm, bundle up, and head on over to Long Beach Island with us as we view this astronomical delight from the sandy shores. The February Snow Moon will coincide with a partial lunar eclipse, which will result in a large, darkened supermoon. We recommend bringing a beach or camp chair, a camera, and a cozy blanket. Be prepared to walk a short distance on pavement and beach sand.

Children must be accompainied by an adult.

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown

DATE: Saturday, February 20……464466 – 4B

DEPARTURE/RETURN: 5:30 – 8:30 pm

FEE: $10.00 per person AGE: 9 years - Adult

Beginners' Geocaching Challenge

Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunt. It's a great way to get outdoors and exercise the gray matter. Adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices search for hidden containers, called geocaches. Geocaching also involves an online community where information is shared, and members develop a strong sense of community and support for the environment. After a brief introduction to Geocaching, participants will be given coordinates and turned loose in the park after a multi-cache. The first team to find the final cache will receive a prize. You will need a GPS unit or an equivalent smartphone app to participate. **Participants must be able to walk two miles over uneven terrain.**

LOCATION: Beach Complex, Ocean County Park, Lakewood

DATE: Saturday, February 20……468466 – 8A

TIME: 12:00 - 2:00 pm

FEE: $5.00 per person AGE: 14 years - Adult

LECTURES

Smudge Sticks and Herbal Incense

In this class, we will be examining the practice of smudging, including how smudge sticks are made, how to use them, and the plants used. Each participant will leave with their own smudge stick they will make on their own. **Program will involve small amounts of plant smoke, please list any related medical concerns when registering.**

LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood
DATE: Saturday, January 9…….....…….465166 – 5A
TIME: 10:30 – 11:30 am
FEE: $10.00 per person AGE: 14 years – Adult

Retaliation and Revenge in the Revolution

Discover the details of the bitter, civil war atmosphere experienced by the people of what is today Ocean County during the American Revolutionary War. Hear some of the real stories of personal grudges, family feuds, and neighbor against neighbor fights that characterized the Revolution in our backyards

LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat
DATE: Sunday, January 10…….....…….469166 – 9A
TIME: 2:00 - 3:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person AGE: All

Genealogy 101

Interest in family history is nothing new, but many people don't know where to begin. In fact, just the thought can seem overwhelming. Like the old joke, "How do you eat an elephant?", the genealogy answer is, "One bite at a time". In this interactive class designed for beginners, participants will take this "one bite at a time" and learn what supplies they'll need, find out how to create a research log, discover how an online tree can make the job easier, explore the US Census, research obituaries and cemeteries, scrutinize immigration and naturalization records, figure out what to do when hitting a brick wall, and finally, what to do with all this information…one bite at a time.

Please have $45.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials.

LOCATION: Cloverdale Farm County Park Program Room, Barnegat
DATE: Wednesday, January 20…….…466166 – 6A
TIME: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person registration fee AGE: 15 years - Adult

Naturalist Afternoons

What is a naturalist? The term is rarely used in our modern world. Teddy Roosevelt, John Muir, Gifford Pinchot and Rachel Carson were naturalists. A naturalist takes a holistic view of nature and eschews the supernatural. Naturalists are inherently curious, and that curiosity is encouraged during these short-subject programs. **Bring a notebook and plenty of questions.**

LOCATION: Beach Complex, Ocean County Park, Lakewood
DATE: Monday, February 1 – The Barnegat Bay Estuary……486021 – 8C
Wednesday, February 10 – Birds Of Ocean County ……..……486021 – 8D
TIME: 1:00 – 2:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person AGE: 12 years - Adult

NEW Winged Wildlife: Owls

Owls are fascinating birds known for their distinctive biological traits, separating them from other birds of prey. Come learn all about the history, biology, and behavior of these unique birds.

LOCATION: Lecture room, Cooper Environmental Center, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River
DATE: Tuesday, February 16……..…462166 – 2A
TIME: 1:00 – 2:30 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person AGE: 6 years – Adult

LECTURES

Cedar Bridge Tavern Then & Now

Join us at Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site to get a first-hand look at how the site was preserved with photographs of before and after. Discover all the factors that decide how a historic building is preserved and why historic preservation is so important!
LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat
DATE: Sunday, February 21……..……469166 – 9B
TIME: 2:00 - 3:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person AGE: All

Barnegat Railroad History

Barnegat was once a major hub of commerce due to the two extensive railroad systems that ran through Ocean County, the Jersey Central and Tuckerton lines. These railroads offered locals a way to ship goods, produce, and fish. They were also essential to the tourism industry as the lure of sport fishing and visiting the shore became popular. Join us as Curt Watts honors his father, Fred Watts, past Barnegat Historian, by sharing his father's photograph collection of Barnegat. Curt has added to the collection over the years through his own passion to share Barnegat's railroad history.
LOCATION: Cloverdale Farm County Park Program Room, Barnegat
DATE: Saturday, January 23…….466166 – 6B
TIME: 2:00 - 3:30 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person AGE: 15 years - Adult

Cattus Island Living Shoreline Restoration Project

Cattus Island is the most significant salt marsh and the largest breakwater in the northern portion of Barnegat Bay. The overall goal of this project is to restore critical shoreline areas of Cattus Island County Park to address significant erosion and prevent extreme wetlands and habitat loss in the Barnegat Bay. Some areas of the park have lost more than 300 feet over the past 85 years. This erosion is likely to increase over time, if the shoreline, and especially the northeast peninsula known as "Page's Point," is not stabilized. This PowerPoint presentation is an overview of the changes along the shoreline and the plans for restoration.
LOCATION: Lecture Room, Cooper Environmental Center, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River
DATE: Wednesday, February 24…….....…….462166 – 2B
TIME: 6:00 - 7:00 pm
FEE: $ 5.00 per person AGE: 12 years - Adult

Folklore by the Fire

Before there was writing, people shared stories by word of mouth around a fire. Join us in this timeless tradition to hear ancient stories of creation beliefs from the indigenous people of our region. We will talk about the creation of myths from the Lenape culture. We will also briefly cover the basics of the Lenape and their culture as they were in antiquity.
LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood
DATE: Sunday, January 24
TIME: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
FEE: Free AGE: 13 years – Adult

Family: Winter Native Plant Sowing

Have some fun sowing native plant seeds this winter for your upcoming spring garden! The Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County and the Rutgers Master Gardeners Native Plant Committee will help you create your container garden filled with native plants.
LOCATION: Field Outdoor Classroom, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Saturday, February 13 ……..……...466166 – 6C
TIME: 2:00 - 3:30 pm
FEE:$5.00 per team (1 child & 1 adult) AGE: 4 years - Adult

LECTURES

Family History Binder

Now that you've gathered all kinds of great information about your family history, what can you do with it? Using documents uncovered during online research along with photos and other family memorabilia, participants will learn how to create a family history binder that is portable, user-friendly, and best of all, tells the story of their family's history. Discussion will include archival quality supplies, writing a narrative, layout and more. Participants may opt to bring some of their collected information to practice layout or writing. **Please have $25.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials.**

LOCATION: Cloverdale Farm County Park Program Room, Barnegat
DATE: Wednesday, February 17……...466166 – 6D
TIME: 9:00 - 11:00 am
FEE: $5.00 per person registration fee AGE: 15 years – Adult

New Jersey Ice Age

Learn about the Ice Age and the extinct creatures that used to roam New Jersey's past through a hands-on activity and craft.

LOCATION: Lecture Room, Cooper Environmental Center, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River
DATE: Thursday, March 4…….....……...462166 – 2C
TIME: 1:00 - 2:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person AGE: 8 - 12 years

The Amazing World of Ants

Ants are so much more than just pests in our kitchen. There are around 14,000 described species of ants worldwide, each with a fascinating life history. From specialized hunting strategies to practicing agriculture, the ants world is not so unlike ours. Come learn about the incredible diversity, ecological interactions and lifecycles of our local ant species. This program will consist of a PowerPoint presentation on many species as well as a brief introduction into ant keeping and identification guide.

LOCATION: Lecture Room, Cooper Environmental Center, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River
DATE: Saturday, March 13……...…….462166 – 2D
TIME: 1:00 - 2:30 pm
FEE: $10.00 per person AGES: 9 years - Adult



LECTURES

A New Perspective on Family History

Stuff. We've all got it, but what do we do with it? Move beyond genealogy records and explore ways to dive more deeply into your family's history using all that stuff including letters, recipes, old photos, family heirlooms, and more. Make your family story really come alive and be more relatable for future generations. **Note: This program differs from the Family History Binder.**

Please have $25.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials.

LOCATION: Cloverdale Farm County Park Program Room, Barnegat
DATE: Wednesday, March 10……...466166 – 6E
TIME: 9:00 - 11:00 am
FEE: $5.00 per person registration fee AGE: Adult

Foraging and Cooking with White Pine Needles

White pine needles are incredibly rich in vitamin C. While traditionally used to make soothing cough syrup that naturally fights off colds, these needles can also be used to make delicious teas, syrups, and sodas. Join us at Cloverdale to forage and cook these pine needles to create your own tasty drink concoctions after combining them with different types of sugar and honey. We hope that the taste testing session will inspire you to try out your newly found white pine needle recipes at home.

LOCATION: Cloverdale Farm County Park Program Room, Barnegat
DATE: Sunday, March 21……466166 – 6F
TIME: 10:00 - 11:30 am
FEE: $5.00 per person AGE: 12 years – Adult

Winter Tree Identification

In the winter, many trees lose their leaves which makes identification difficult. Come on an educational nature walk to learn other identification methods such as branch structure, bark, and even smells to identify trees in the winter. This program will include a presentation of tree identification as well as a walk to identify trees on the trails at Jake's Branch.

LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood
DATE: Sunday, March 21 ……465166 – 5B
TIME: 11:00am – 12:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person AGE: 14 years – Adult

International Incident: The Hanging of Captain Huddy

Discover the story of patriot Captain Josua Huddy's capture from Toms River and his hanging during the American Revolution. The incident would involve General George Washington, King George III of England, and Queen Marie-Antoinette of France.

LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat
DATE: Sunday, March 21……469166 – 9C
TIME: 2:00 - 3:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person AGE: All

Nature, History & Birding WALKS

Our nature, history & birding walks offer participants a chance to learn about their surroundings while focusing on a specific theme. These walks are taken at a leisurely pace, allowing plenty of time to absorb new information. Walks will not exceed three miles unless otherwise noted. For birding specific programs, please bring your own binoculars if you have them. We only have a few loaner pairs available. Please read walk descriptions for specific information. We recommend you arrive 15 minutes prior to departure time. No refunds or credits for missed departures. Return times are approximate. Bug spray with DEET is recommended and dress for the weather. Layering is best.

Reevestown Cemetery History Walk

Traverse the historic "Road to Clamtown" on the way to Reevestown Cemetery with burials dating back to the 18th century (including some local legends). **Children must be accompanied by an adult. This is a 2-mile walk. There will be some uneven and wet spots**.

LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat
DATE: Fridays, January 1……...469536 – 9A
January 8……..…….469536 – 9B
TIME: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
FEE: $8.00 per adult/ $6.00 per child (ages 9-16) AGE: 9 years – Adult

Third Thursdays: Tavern Tales & Trails

Travel along historic roads that are now part of the trail at Cedar Bridge then warm up inside the Tavern with a cup of hot cocoa while discussing New Jersey's Revolutionary past. Interpretive walks range from 2.5 - 4 miles. **The terrain will be uneven and may be wet in some sections. Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat
DATE: Thursdays, January 21……..469536 – 9C
February 18……469536 – 9D
March 18…….....469536 – 9E
TIME: 10:00 am - 12:30 pm
FEE: $6.00 per person AGE: 9 years – Adult

Groundhog's Day Winter Bay Beach Walk

A winter walk is a wonderful way to clear your mind, body, and soul. We will walk out to Page's Point to take in the winter sites of Cattus Island, Silver Bay, and the Bay Beach. This is a 2-mile interpretive walk.

LOCATION: Lobby, Cooper Environmental Center, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River
DATE: Tuesday, February 2……..462536 – 2A
TIME: 1:00 - 3:00 pm
FEE: $6.00 per person AGE: 10 years - Adult

Harrisville Nature & History Walk

One of the more famous ghost towns of the New Jersey Pine Barrens, Harrisville was the site of an iron forge and later a thriving paper factory. We will search for interesting plant species, as well as evidence of the site's industrial past. **Be prepared to walk on uneven surfaces and through underbrush and grassy areas. Bug spray with DEET is recommended.**

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown
DATE: Friday, February 5…….....……464536 – 4A
DEPARTURE/RETURN: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
FEE: $6.00 per person AGE: 9 years – Adult

Nature, History & Birding WALKS

Timberdoodle Stalk

This can be one of the most memorable birding experiences of a lifetime, as we visit their dancing grounds in Barnegat and Stafford Townships. The courtship of the male is composed of several different calls followed by flight behavior that is truly amazing.

Dress for the weather.

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown
DATE: Saturday, March 20……...……464536 – 4B
DEPARTURE/RETURN: 6:00 - 9:30 pm
FEE: $6.00 per person AGE: 9 years – Adult

History of Cattus Island Van and Walking Tour

Join a park naturalist who will transport you back in time to visit the various sites around Cattus Island, bringing its varied history to life. **Wear comfortable shoes; there will be several short walks included.**

LOCATION: Lecture Room, Cooper Environmental Center, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River
DATE: Tuesday, March 23 ……....462536 – 2B
TIME: 10:00 - 11:30 am
FEE: $6.00 per person AGE: 10 years - Adult



OCEAN COUNTY HIKING CLUB

When you register and participate in any hike or jaunt offered below we automatically begin to record and keep track of your mileage. Pins and credits for free hikes are earned at the 50, 100, 250, 500 and 1000 mile marks. Join us as we get outdoor exercise, learn about our natural history, and make lasting friendships!

For more information call Wells Mills County Park at: 609-971-3085.

HIKES

Our naturalists cover the diverse terrain of New Jersey through our hiking programs. Pack your lunch and dress for the weather. **Trail ratings follow each departure time.** Please read them carefully to determine the best program for your endurance level. **Unlike our nature walks, these are recreational programs with minimal interpretation and break stops. You should be able to walk at a continuous pace on the given terrain of the hike. Please wear hiking shoes and be sure of your abilities. We recommend you arrive 15 minutes prior to departure time. No refunds or credits for missed departures.** All return times are approximate. Bug spray with DEET is highly recommended. *Staff reserves the right to deny a participant entry into a program if they are deemed physically unfit or inadequately prepared to participate in said program. If you have any questions, please call Wells Mills County Park at 609-971-3085.*

Sunfish Pond

Traveling to Warren County

We will hike the steep ascent from Old Mine Road to Sunfish Pond, a remote glacial lake located on the Kittatinny Ridge within Worthington State Forest. Our route will include portions of the Appalachian Trail and will provide us with beautiful views of the surrounding countryside.

PICK-UP: Beach Complex Parking Lot, Ocean County Park, Lakewood
DATE: Sunday, January 10…….....464236 – 4A
DEPARTURE/RETURN: 7:30 am – 4:30 pm
RATING & MILEAGE: Strenuous: steep, rocky– 5 miles
FEE: $12.00 per adult / $8.00 per child (ages 9-16) AGE: 9 years - Adult

Franklin Parker Preserve Hike

Traveling to Burlington County

The New Jersey Conservation Foundation purchased 9,400 acres of a Pinelands cranberry farm in 2003. Since then, much of the area has been returned to a more natural state. Our hike will take us along old dikes and former roads once used during the area's farming operations.

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown
DATE: Sunday, January 31…….....464236 – 4B
DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:30 am - 3:00 pm
RATING & MILEAGE: Easy: Flat, some sugar sand, may be wet- 6 miles
FEE: $12.00 per adult/ $8.00 per child (ages 9-16) AGE: 9 years - Adult

Wyanokie High Point Hike

Traveling to Passaic County

This rugged and sometimes strenuous hike through Norvin Green State Forest will provide us with several scenic viewpoints, an old iron mine and, at the summit of Wyanokie High Point, a panoramic 360 degree view.

PICK-UP: Beach Complex Parking Lot, Ocean County Park, Lakewood
DATE: Sunday, February 7…….....464236 – 4C
DEPARTURE/RETURN: 7:30 am – 4:00 pm
RATING & MILEAGE: Moderate to Strenuous: Steep, rocky, may be slippery - 4.5 miles
FEE: $12.00 per adult / $8.00 per child (ages 9-16) AGE: 9 years - Adult

HIKES

Vista Loop Hike

Traveling to Passaic County

We will climb a steep ascent up to Hawk Rock and then Cactus Ledge (up 400 vertical feet!) where we will view much of Bergen County and possibly the New York City skyline on a clear day. We will also parallel a cascading stream, crossing rocky trails and woods roads.

PICK-UP: Beach Complex Parking Lot, Ocean County Park, Lakewood
DATE: Sunday, February 28…….464236 – 4D
DEPARTURE/RETURN: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm
RATING & MILEAGE: Moderate to Strenuous: steep, rocky, may be slippery - 5 miles
FEE: $12.00 per adult/ $8.00 per child (ages 9-16) AGE: 9 years – Adult

Sourland Mountain Hike

Traveling to Somerset County

A steep climb through boulder covered mountainside will be followed by a gradual descent into former farmland, now reclaimed by nature.

PICK-UP: Beach Complex Parking Lot, Ocean County Park, Lakewood
DATE: Sunday, March 14…….464236 – 4E
DEPARTURE/RETURN: 7:30 am – 3:00 pm
RATING & MILEAGE: Moderate to Strenuous: Steep, rocky, may be slippery – 5.5 miles
FEE: $8.00 per adult / $6.00 per child (ages 9-16) AGE: 9 years - Adult

Turkey Mountain “100 Steps” Hike

Traveling to Morris County

This hike will take us up to Turkey Mountain, located in the Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area which consists of 1,500 acres of forests, fields and streams. We will start this hike with a steep ascent up “100 steps.”

PICK-UP: Beach Complex Parking Lot, Ocean County Park, Lakewood
DATE: Sunday, March 21……....464236 – 4F
DEPARTURE/RETURN: 7:30 am – 4:00 pm
RATING & MILEAGE: Moderate to Strenuous: steep, rocky, may be slippery– 5 miles
FEE: $12.00 per adult / $8.00 per child (ages 9-16) AGE: 9 years - Adult



JAUNTS

Jaunts are shorter and/or traverse easier terrain than most of our hikes. These programs are well suited for beginners or those simply seeking a shorter walk. Feel free to bring along a snack or lunch to eat at the end of the jaunt as we will generally be finished with our walk by lunchtime. For later ending programs, we will have lunch at the location. **Please wear shoes appropriate for hiking and dress for the weather. We recommend you arrive 15 minutes prior to departure time. All return times are approximate. No refunds or credits for missed departures. Bug spray with DEET is recommended.**

If you have any questions, please call Wells Mills County Park at 609-971-3085.

Turkey Swamp Jaunt

We will walk parallel to portions of the Manasquan River in this Monmouth County Park. The trails will take us though some deciduous forests and across some wet areas on boardwalks. This park does live up to the "swamp" part in its name so wear appropriate footwear.

PICK-UP: Nature Center Parking Lot, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood
DATE: Friday, January 29…….....464236 – 4G
DEPARTURE/RETURN: 9:00 am– 2:00 pm
RATING & MILEAGE: Easy: mostly flat, may be wet – 4.5 miles
FEE: $8.00 per adult / $6.00 per child (ages 9-16) AGE: 9 years - Adult

Songbird Trail at Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge Jaunt

Traveling to Atlantic County

This jaunt will start off with a little birding along the 8-mile bird loop that we will drive around to get to the trailhead. Then we will hike through a variety of upland habitats. For a small portion of the jaunt we will be walking along the wildlife drive.

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown
DATE: Friday, February 12……....464236 – 4I
DEPARTURE/RETURN: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
RATING & MILEAGE: Easy: Flat – 3.5 miles
FEE: $8.00 per adult/ $6.00 per child (ages 9-16) AGE: 9 years - Adult



Rancocas State Park Jaunt

Traveling to Burlington County

This jaunt will take us along woods roads and trails through forested uplands and open marsh on the north and south branch of the Rancocas Creek.

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown
DATE: Friday, March 12……....464236 – 4H
DEPARTURE/RETURN: 9:00 am– 1:00 pm
RATING & MILEAGE: Easy: mostly flat, may be wet – 4 miles
FEE: $8.00 per adult / $6.00 per child (ages 9-1 AGE: 9 years - Adult

VAN TOURS

Our Ocean County Parks van tours are held throughout the year. Each trip focuses on a specific theme.Here are some things to keep in mind when signing up for a van tour:

- •Pack a lunch (unless otherwise noted). We will try to stop at a picnic/park area to eat, when available.
- •Dress for the weather. Layering is best as in most cases we will be in and out of the van.
- •Be prepared for some walking (amount of walking will be indicated by the trip description)
- •We often travel on rough unpaved roads to accomplish the goals of the trip. Be sure to wear your seatbelt.
- •Read each description carefully so that you are adequately prepared.
- •Bug spray with DEET is recommended for our outdoor programs.
- •Those under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult unless otherwise specified.

Please arrive 15 minutes prior to departure. All return times are approximate. Seating is first come, first choice. Following the van is not permitted.

Birding the North Shore

Waterfowl are abundant in Ocean and Monmouth Counties this time of year. We will meander our way along the coast stopping at ponds and scanning the ocean looking for Mergansers, Grebes, Ducks and Gulls. **Bring your binoculars, pack a lunch, dress for the weather (layering is best) and be prepared for short walks.**

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown
DATE: Friday, January 8…….……464516 – 4A
DATE: Saturday, January 23……...……..464516 – 4B
DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
FEE: $14.00 per person AGE: 9 years – Adult

Wild Goose Chase**NEW**

Geese and other waterfowl migrate to the east and west coast of New Jersey to spend their winters. We will be looking for the ducks, geese and maybe even Sandhill Cranes that spend their winters here. Many make their winter homes in the fields of western New Jersey to take advantage of the grain fields after they have been harvested. Join us on a van tour around Burlington, Salem, and Cumberland Counties on the hunt for these winter visitors. **Due to the remoteness of our destinations, this trip has minimum bathroom breaks. Dress for the weather, pack a lunch and bring your binoculars.**

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown
DATE: Thursday, January 14…….464516 – 4C
DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
FEE: $14.00 per person AGE: 9 years - Adult

Eagles & Waterfowl Along the Delaware Bayshore

The magnificence of our national bird amidst the snow and ice is a sight not soon forgotten but there are also a wide variety of other birds to be seen this time of year along the Delaware Bayshore. Join us as we explore the nooks and crannies of the Delaware to find these magnificent birds. **Due to the remoteness of our destinations, this trip has minimum bathroom breaks. Dress for the weather, pack a lunch and bring your binoculars.**

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown
DATE: Friday, February 19…….464516 – 4D
DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
FEE: $14.00 per person AGE: 9 years - Adult

VAN TRIPS

Waterfowl of Barnegat Bay to Brigantine

We will head to Barnegat Light for views of Harlequin and Long-tailed Ducks, as well as Scoters and Purple Sandpipers. Next, we will visit the Brigantine Division of the Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, which will hopefully offer excellent views of a variety of waterfowl species, thousands of Snow Geese, over-wintering Tundra Swans and a chance sighting of a Bald Eagle. **Be prepared to walk up to 1.5 miles in sand. Wear appropriate footwear and winter gear. Bring your binoculars, pack a lunch, and dress for the weather. Layering is best.**

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown
DATE: Tuesday, February 16……464516 – 4E
DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
FEE: $14.00 per person AGE: 9 years – Adult

Cattus Island Flora and Fauna Van Tour

Join a park naturalist who will transport you throughout the various sites of Cattus Island, stopping along the way to see and learn about some of the plant and animal life that call this park home during the winter months. **Tour is dependent on the weather.**

LOCATION: Lecture Room, Cooper Environmental Center, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River
DATE: Sunday, February 21…….....462516 – 2A
Saturday, March 20…….....462516 – 2B
TIME: 9:00 – 10:00 am
FEE: $6.00 per person AGE: All

Ghost Towns of Ocean and Upper Burlington Counties

Henry Charlton Beck popularized the forgotten towns of southern New Jersey with his newspaper articles and books in the early 1900s. As so many have done since, we will retrace his steps, exploring the long-vanished company towns and agricultural villages that once flourished in the New Jersey Pine Barrens. **Pack a lunch, dress for the weather and be prepared to walk over uneven ground and through underbrush.**

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown
DATE: Friday, February 26…….....464516 – 4F
DEPARTURE/ RETURN: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm
FEE: $14.00 per person AGE: 9 years - Adult

Exploring the Hook & Surrounding Area

Sandy Hook's history dates back to the late 1600s and the Hartshorne family. It was then developed into Fort Hancock and now is a renowned location for winter wildlife. We will hopefully see a variety of ducks and sea birds but also, with any luck, some seals. We will also visit the Twin Lights and other areas related to the Hartshorne family. **Bring your binoculars, pack a lunch, dress for the weather (layers are best as we will be in and out of the van) and be prepared for short walks on the sand.**

PICK-UP: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown
DATE: Friday, March 19…….....464516 – 4G
DEPARTURE/RETURN: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
FEE: $14.00 per person AGE: 9 years – Adult

SMALL GROUP OUTINGS

Doylestown, PA

Enjoy museums and more in Doylestown. First stop, visit either the Mercer Museum, a collection of objects representing everyday life in the pre-industrial age or the Michener Art Museum, home to a world-class collection of Pennsylvanian Impressionism.
Senior admission fees: Mercer Museum $17.00, Michener Museum $13.00
After a 2-hour visit, we will spend the rest of the day in Downtown Doylestown for lunch on your own and to explore. If time permits, we will make a brief stop at the Moravian Tile Museum.
PICK-UP: Depart from Program Room, lower-level parking lot, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Wednesday, March 31……461466 - 1A
DATE: Wednesday, April 7.....461466 - 1B
TIME: Bus departs at 8:30 am SHARP approximate return time is 6:00 pm
FEE: $20.00 per person (transportation only)


Mercer Museum

PARENT CHILD FUN

Maker Monday's Kids Craft Drop In

Nature Crafts and activities are an easy way to inspire kids to develop a love and appreciation of the outdoors. Drop by with your child any time between 10 and 11 am and help them create their own natural wonder!
LOCATION: Nature Center, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood
DATE: Monday, January 18, February 15, March 15
TIME: 10:00 – 11:00 am
FEE: Free AGE: 3 – 5 years

Read Across America Day

In honor of National Read Across America Day, we will read a few stories by the fire, create our own special pencil holder, and make and take home your own mini book. Snacks will be provided. Please list any food allergies at the time of registration.
LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood
DATE: Tuesday, March 2……465332 – 5B
TIME: 10:30 – 11:30 am
FEE: $10.00 per person AGE: 4 - 7 years

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

The following programs are designed for preschool children without parent participation.
Children must be potty-trained.
Please note any food allergies during registration.
FEE: $5.00 TIME:10:00 – 11:00 am AGE: 3 – 5 years

Let It Snow

Put on your mittens and boots for an hour in an imaginary Winter Wonderland. We will read winter tales, make snowmen and play winter games.
LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Wednesday, January13……..……461021 – 1A

Polar Pals

What bird loves swimming through the icy water, using its wings as flippers? What snow-white bear keeps her cubs hidden in an igloo? Let's have fun learning about animals who live in the ice and snowy Polar Regions.
LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Tuesday, January19……....461021 – 1B

Penguins, Zebras and Oreo Cookies

What do they have in common? They're all black and white. Join us and learn about the uniqueness of black and white animals. We will discover them through stories, crafts and more.
PLEASE LIST ANY FOOD ALLERGIES AT TIME OF REGISTRATION
LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Wednesday, January 20……..461021 – 1C

Young Naturalists

Your little naturalist will learn about bugs and frogs, feel furs of local mammals, and make a fish print to take home.
LOCATION: Beach Complex - Ocean County Park, Lakewood
DATE: Wednesday, January 20……..468021 – 8A
DATE: Tuesday, February 9……....468021 – 8B
TIME: 1:00 – 1:45 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person AGE: 3 - 5 years



Sleepy Critters

Did you know that some animals sleep ALL winter long? Join us as we make crafts and listen to stories about animals that sleep away the winter.
LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Wednesday, January 27……...461021 - 1D

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Indoor Tennis for Preschoolers

Come join in on the tennis fun! In this beginner's Pre-K class, we will lay the groundwork for tennis by learning the fundamentals of the sport. We will go over forehands, backhands, and volleys and play a variety of lively games. Rackets will be available. Please wear sneakers and bring a drink.

****This class is indoors, so please dress appropriately.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Mondays, February 1 & 8…….....463123 – 3A
TIME: 1:00 – 2:00 pm
FEE: $8.00 per child AGE: 3 – 5 years

Groundhog Day

Will the groundhog see his shadow, is springtime on its way? Let's get together and make some funny groundhog crafts, read a story and play a game.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Tuesday, February 2…….……...461021 – 1E

Pre-K Gym

Play a variety of fun games that will help improve your child's coordination and physical development while interacting with other children. We will finish the class with a giant parachute which is always a fan favorite. Children will also practice sportsmanship, sharing, and taking turns. **Please wear sneakers and bring a drink.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Stanley "Tip" Seaman County Park, Tuckerton
DATE: Thursday, February 4…….…….....463332 – 3B
TIME: 1:00 – 2:00 pm



Valentine Fun

Preschoolers join in the fun of making special Valentine Crafts in this one-day workshop.

PLEASE LIST ANY FOOD ALLERGIES AT TIME OF REGISTRATION

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Wednesday, February 10…….....461021 – 1F

Dinosaur Adventure

Let's go back in time to when giant creatures once roamed the Earth. We will roar with the dinosaurs and dig making Dino crafts.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Tuesday, February 16…….....461021 – 1G

Dragon Tales

We are going on a dragon hunt, using the magic of imagination. Through stories, games, and crafts, our little adventurers will capture their own magic dragon.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River

DATE: Thursday, February 18…….....461021 – 1H

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Spunky Monkey

Come and monkey around with us. We will listen to monkey tales, make monkey crafts and play silly monkey games.
LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Wednesday, February 24……...…461021 – 1I

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!

Come along with us as we journey through the wacky world of Dr. Seuss. The day will be filled with celebrating the wacky Cat with stories, crafts, and games.
PLEASE LIST ANY FOOD ALLERGIES AT TIME OF REGISTRATION
LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Tuesday, March 2…….....461021 – 1J

Quack, Quack

Come paddle about with our web-footed friends. You will "quack up" with stories, games and ducky crafts.
LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Wednesday, March 3……...…….461021-1K

We're Going On A Bear Hunt

"If you go into the woods today, you're in for a big surprise" We're going to the forest in search of some "Beary" fun stories, games and crafts.
LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
PLEASE LIST ANY FOOD ALLERGIES AT TIME OF REGISTRATION
DATE: Tuesday, March 9……...…….461021 – 1L

Lucky Leprechauns

Catch a leprechaun and capture his pot of gold! Through stories, crafts, and games, we will be Irish for the day and bring home your very own leprechaun.
LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Wednesday, March 10…….....……...…461021 – 1M

The Circus Is In Town!

Come clown around with us for a fun circus adventure. We will tame wild animals, do circus crafts, and have three rings of fun!
LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Tuesday, March 30 ……...…461021 – 1N



FUN FOR KIDS

Play those Freedom Beats: Make your own 250 Drum!

Come design your own drum to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of The American Revolution! We'll hear some patriotic inspiration and then decorate our drums. All supplies provided. **Parent must accompany child.**

LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat
DATE: Sunday, January 31……....469332 – 9A
TIME: 11:00 am- 12:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person AGE: 4 – 7 years

Homeschool Gym - North

This class is designed for children who are being homeschooled, but still want that gym class atmosphere. Every week, fun new activities will be introduced to allow children the opportunity to get some exercise, learn new skills, and play and interact with other children. The instructors will bring various pieces of equipment for all to use depending on the activity planned for the day. **Please wear sneakers and bring a drink. We will have two instructors from 10:30 – 11:30 am teaching separately.**

LOCATION: Soccer Field, Beaver Dam Creek Park, Point Pleasant
DATE: Mondays, March 1 – March 29……..….463332 – 3C
TIME: 10:30 – 11:30 am
AGE: 5 – 6 years
DATE: Mondays, March 1 – March 29…….....….463332 – 3D
TIME: 10:30 – 11:30 am
AGE: 7 – 8 years
DATE: Mondays, March 1 – March 29……..…..….463332 – 3E
TIME: 12:00 – 1:00 pm
FEE: $14.00 per child AGE: 9 – 14 years

Homeschool Gym – South

This class is designed for children who are being homeschooled but still want that gym class atmosphere. Every week, new activities will be introduced to allow children the opportunity to get some exercise, learn new skills, and play with other children. The instructor will bring various pieces of equipment for all to use depending on the activity planned for the day. **Please wear sneakers and bring a drink**.

LOCATION: Softball Field 1, Stanley "Tip" Seaman County Park, Tuckerton
DATE: Wednesdays, March 3 – March 31……...…...463332 – 3F
TIME: 10:30 – 11:30 am
FEE: $14.00 per child AGE: 5 – 8 years
DATE: Wednesdays, March 3 - March 31.....4633132 - 3H
TIME: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
FEE: $14.00 per child AGE: 9 – 17 years

Sleeping Forest

Cozy up inside the Wells Mills Center to discuss how plants, insects, and animals survive the winter. Enjoy a brisk nature walk to search for seed pods and signs of wildlife, then wrap up indoors by making a pinecone bird feeder to take home.

LOCATION: Program Room, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown
DATE: Wednesday, January 27……..……464466 – 4A
TIME: 10:00 – 11:00 am
FEE: $5.00 per child AGE: 5 - 8 years

Make an Apple Birdfeeder

Winter is a great time to feed your backyard birds and an apple is a perfect healthy treat! Join us to put together and paint birdfeeders shaped to fit an apple.

LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood
DATE: Saturday, March 20 ……..……465332 – 5A
TIME: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person AGE: 5 – 10 Years

FUN FOR KIDS

Design Your Own Snow Globe Keepsake

Participants will learn to sketch Historic Cedar Bridge Tavern and use their artwork to design a unique snow globe keepsake. All supplies provided.
LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat
DATE: Sunday, March 28……..……...….469332 – 9C
TIME: 1:00 - 2:00 pm
FEE: $6.00 per person AGE: 5 - 10 years

Old and New: Kids House Tour & Diorama Making

Step back in time with a visit to Historic Cedar Bridge Tavern: children will tour the 1810 tavern and explore how daily life back then differs from today. After the tour, they'll create their own historic house diorama with fun craft materials. **All supplies provided.**
LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat
DATE: Sunday, January 17 ……...469332 – 9B
TIME: 1:00 - 3:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person AGE: 6 – 17 years

Musical Muscles

Children will explore multiple forms of fitness and learn about rhythm. From dance to cardio drumming to kickboxing, students will enjoy learning a variety of ways to exercise to music. We may go outdoors for one of the classes. Please wear sneakers and bring a mat. *This is a drop-off program, though you are welcome to sit outside the glass walled classroom or take a scenic walk! **Please have a check for $30.00 made payable to Gabrielle Molino on the first day of class.**
LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Tuesdays, January 26- March 9 (no class 2/16)…….....463332 – 3G
TIME: 12:00 – 12:50 pm
FEE: $5.00 registration fee per person AGE: 7- 10 years

Archery for Kids

Be a part of the exciting world of archery by learning the essentials, including safety, equipment and technique. This class is suitable for beginners and all equipment is provided. Our NASP certified instructor will get you hitting the bullseye in no time! Students will practice what they have learned on our outdoor range. **Participants should wear sneakers and bug spray.**
LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat
DATE: Saturday, March 27……469332 – 9D
TIME: 1:00 - 2:30 pm
FEE: $10.00 per person AGE: 10 – 17 years



FESTIVAL of TREES

Visit Cattus Island County Park to get in the Holiday Spirit.
County agencies will be decorating trees highlighting themes.
Please come view and cast a vote for your favorite creation.

Entries are displayed in the Lecture Room from December 23 - January 3 (10am-4pm) for People's Choice Voting.

Cattus Island County Park

Cattus Island Gingerbread House Contest

Entries drop off
Dec 16-20
No Houses accepted after 12/21

Youth (0-6) (7-12)
Teen (13-17)
Adult (18+)

In person
People's Choice Voting

12/26 - 1/4
10am-4pm



Cattus Island Gingerbread House Contest & People's Choice Voting

Create and enter your very own Gingerbread House with the theme "Out in Nature".
Entries must be mounted on a 12 inch by 12 inch board, and no taller than 12 inches.
It must be constructed of edible materials.
Entries can be dropped off at the Cooper Environmental Center from 12/16-20 from 10am-4:30pm.
Entries are displayed in the lecture room from 12/23 - 1/3 from 10am-4pm for People's Choice Voting.
Only one entry per person. Only one voting ticket per person.
Categories include: Youth (0-6) (7-12) Teen (13-17) Adult (18+).
Please email nvernachio@co.ocean.nj.us for the official rules.There is no fee or pre-registration.

The Affair at Cedar Bridge

23rd Commemoration of the 1782 (244 years ago)
Affair at Cedar Bridge, at Cedar Bridge Tavern,
200 Old Halfway Road in Barnegat
Sunday, December 6th from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
~ Skirmishes at 12:00pm & 2:00pm ~





Lighting Up Nature

Heading out to drive through your neighborhood to look at Holiday Lights?... swing by Jakes Branch County Park for their

NEIGHBORHOOD-Style
Drive Thru Display
December 11 thru 14
6 – 8 pm
FREE!!

JAKES BRANCH COUNTY PARK

1100 Double Trouble Road, Beachwood

WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

Cattus Island County Park Cooper Environmental Center

Saturday, December 12
10am - 2pm







FREE EVENT

Games ~ Crafts ~ Live Animal Talks ~ Horse Carriage Rides (11am-2pm) ~ Campfire Storytime
Food ~ A Visit from Santa ~ Candy Cane Nature Walk

Family/Pet Photos with Santa Claus

FREE



Santa Claus will visit Cattus Island County Park for a fun photo opportunity with your pet.

Bring your own camera, and one of Santa's helpers will be on hand to take your perfect holiday photo.

All Pets Must be on a Leash

This event is "*first come first served.*"

LOCATION: Cooper Environmental Center
DATE: Sunday, December 13 11:00am-2:00pm FREE All Ages

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREES



Cattus Island County Park, Toms River
Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
Wells Mills County Park, Waretown
Ocean County Park, Lakewood
Beaver Dam County Park, Point Pleasant
Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood
Mill Creek County Park, Berkeley
Enos Pond County Park, Forked River
Robert J. Miller Airpark, Berkeley
Freedom Fields County Park, Little Egg Harbor
Patriots County Park, Jackson
Stanley H."Tip" Seaman County Park, Tuckerton
A. Paul King County Park, Stafford
Atlantis Golf Course, Little Egg Harbor
Forge Pond Golf Course, Brick

Brought to you by the County of Ocean Board of Commissioners

WINTER BEACH BLAST

FREE Ocean County Mall ~ Toms River
Saturday ~ February 20
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Giant Twister Game
Crafts
Cool...Fun Games

SUMMER FUN...IN WINTER

YOUR OCEAN COUNTY GOLF COURSES

OPEN EVERY DAY EXCEPT THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS DAY
BOOK YOUR TEE TIMES
www.oceancountyparks.org

Unlimited Play Packages are available at both county golf courses. Ocean County residents are eligible for a reduced greens fee upon purchase of a Resident Golf ID Card. Check our website or stop in to one of the pro-shops for further details.

Forge Pond Golf Course
301 Chambers Bridge Road
Brick, NJ
(732) 920-8899

Atlantis Golf Course
261 Country Club Boulevard
Little Egg Harbor, NJ
609-296-2444



Holiday Gifts
Gift Certificates are
always available

OCEAN COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION



Cloverdale Farm County Park



Ocean County Park



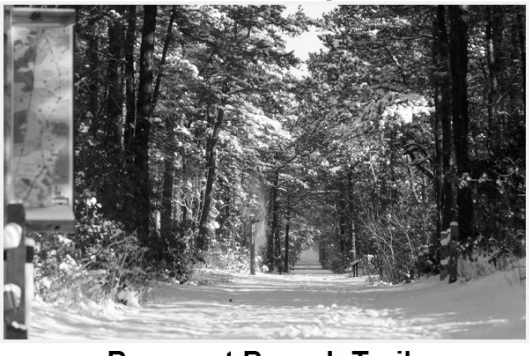
Jakes Branch County Park



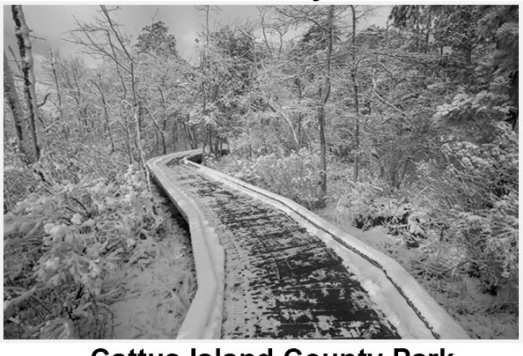
Wells Mills County Park



Ocean County Park



Barnegat Branch Trail



Cattus Island County Park



YOUR OCEAN COUNTY DOG PARKS:

There are 3 Off-Leash Dog Parks:

Freedom Fields
Little Egg Harbor Township

Ocean County Park
Lakewood

Robert J. Miller Air Park
Berkeley Township

For more information:
(732) 506-9090 x5950

Ocean County Park

659 Ocean Avenue, Lakewood, NJ 08701
(732) 278-9441

Robert J. Miller Air Park

901 Route 530, Berkeley Township, NJ 08721
(732) 341-3243

Freedom Fields County Park

1160 Route 539, Little Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08087
(848) 240-6734

We thank you for helping to keep our dogs safe and our parks clean.

Dog Park Hours

Our Off-Leash Dog Facilities Open at 8am and close 30 mins prior to the park closing time.

Registration Requirements:

- **Current township dog license, tags are not acceptable.**
- **Proof of up-to-date vaccinations**
- **Payment of required fee**
- **Proof that all male dogs are neutered**
- **Dogs must be at least 6 months old**

****Please visit our website for full information, Dog Park Permit Form, Dog Park Waiver and how, and where to register. www.oceancountyparks.org***

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

Pottery Classes

Enjoy the exciting world of pottery. You will study hand building techniques, use of the potter's wheel, and glazing techniques.
LOCATION: Pottery Barn, Ocean County Park, Lakewood
DATES: Tuesdays, February 9 – April 27
TIMES: 10:00 am -12:00 noon……461384 – 1A
5:00 – 7:00 pm……461384 – 1B
7:00 – 9:00 pm……461384 – 1C
DATES: Wednesdays, February 10 – April 28
10:00 am – 12:00 noon ……461384 – 1D
FEE: $200.00 per person AGE: Adult

Kinusaiga

Do you have a lot of fabric scraps and want to put them to good use? Join us and learn the Japanese no-sew, fabric-shaping technique known as Kinusaiga. During this program, you will create shallow grooves and tuck the edges of the fabric to create a beautiful eye-catching art piece.
LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Wednesday, January 13……466186 – 6A
TIME: 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
FEE: $20.00 per person AGE: Adult

Short-Eared Owl

Join us as Kevin Hammell, a local carver, teaches you the fine art of carving a scaled-down short-eared owl through step-by-step instructions. The first day of class will focus on carving. The second day will entail putting finishing touches on your carving and learning how to paint your short-eared owl. **Pack a bagged lunch or snack. Please bring $90.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials on the first day of class.**
LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Saturday, January 16 & Sunday, January 17……466186 – 6B
TIME: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person registration fee AGE: Adult



Illuminated Letter

This winter chase away the wintertime blues and give yourself the "me" time you deserve by creating a luxurious, gilded-like, gold acrylic-painted initial of either your first or last name. **Please have $35.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials.**
LOCATION: Cloverdale Farm County Park Program Room, Barnegat
DATE: Saturday, January 23……466186 – 6C
TIME: 9:00 - 11:00 am
FEE: $5.00 per person registration fee AGE: Adult

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

Introduction to Card Making

Greeting cards are so thoughtful to send, and such a treat to receive, but today's store-bought cards have become SO expensive. No matter what your skill level, this workshop will help you create greeting cards that will put a smile not only on your recipients' faces, but yours as well! From embellishments to pop-up and pull-tab creations, we will create cards perfect for the winter season. **All materials will be provided.**

LOCATION: Lecture Room, Cooper Environmental Center, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River
DATE: Monday, January 25……..……...….462186 – 2A
TIME: 6:00 - 8:00 pm
FEE: $15.00 per person AGE: 14 years - Adult

Needle Felted Baby Seal: Beginner

Needle felting is the art of using specialized needles to condense natural wool fibers in order to create beautiful soft sculptures. Join us for our winter needle felting class, where we will be making baby seals! You will learn basic needle felting techniques and leave with your own felted work of art! **No experience necessary, all supplies will be provided by the instructor.**

LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood
DATE: Sunday, February 7……..……..465186 – 5C
TIME: 10:30 am – 1:30 pm
FEE: $10.00 per person AGE: 16 years – Adult

Create Your Own Walking Stick

Hiking season is here, and what better way to kick it off than to make your very own, personalized walking stick? Join us for an afternoon with Brad Koller, who will teach us how to handcraft a beautiful walking stick. Wood, tools, gloves, and aprons will be provided and sanitized. **Please bring exact cash or check payable to instructor Brad Koller for $30.00. Children age 8-13 must be accompanied by an adult.**

LOCATION: Lecture Room, Cooper Environmental Center, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River
DATE: Sunday, February 7……..462186 – 2B
Sunday, March 21……...……..462186 – 2C
TIME: 12:00 - 3:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person registration fee AGE: 8 years – Adult

Cupid's Arrow

Valentine's Day is swiftly approaching and cupid is stringing his bow. Beat him to it with this heart and arrow wall art. Express your romantic side creating something unique to give a loved one or treasure it yourself.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Thursday, February 11 ……461186 – 1A
TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
FEE: $20.00 per person AGE: Adult

DIY Leaf Stamped Tableware

Bring the beauty of nature into your own home. Participants will create one-of-a-kind cloth napkins and a tablecloth by using leaves as natural stamps with fabric paint. During this hands-on craft, participants will explore different leaf shapes, textures, and patterns to produce unique botanical designs that can be used as seasonal home décor or functional table linens.

LOCATION: Lecture Room, Cooper Environmental Center, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River
DATE: Friday, February 12……..……462186 – 2D
TIME: 5:00 - 6:30 pm
FEE: $10.00 per person AGE: Adult

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

Scherenschnitte



Join us for this fun, interactive workshop in which you will learn the traditional German folk art of paper cutting or "scissor cuts" known as Scherenschnitte. You will create intricate designs by folding and cutting paper using Exacto knives.
Please have $25.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials.
LOCATION: Cloverdale Farm County Park Program Room
DATE: Saturday, February 13…….....466186 – 6D
TIME: 9:00 - 11:00 am
FEE: $5.00 per person registration fee AGE: Adult

Easter Egg Acorn Craft

When Easter has come and gone, some of us are left with empty plastic eggs. Why throw them away when you can upcycle them? Join a naturalist as we upcycle our Easter eggs and turn them into decorative acorns. **Bring one dozen plastic eggs.**
LOCATION: Lecture Room, Cooper Environmental Center, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River
DATE: Thursday, March 18…….....462186 – 2E
TIME: 2:00 - 3:30 pm
FEE: $10.00 per person AGE: Adult

Natural Moon Wreath

Join us as we create our own moon wreaths using a variety of natural elements including different mosses, lichen, feathers, dried plants and gems. **Feel free to bring any of your own embellishments you wish to add to your creation.**
LOCATION: Program Room, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood
DATE: Friday, February 19…….....465186 – 5E
TIME: 6:30 – 7:30 pm
FEE: $15.00 per person AGE: 16 years - Adult

Wooden Hand Carved Long Bowl

This 15-inch-long x 4-inch high and 6-inch-wide bowl is a sheer, classic beauty. It will make a perfect decorative piece to grace your entry way table or can be used as an everyday piece on your kitchen table. **Pack a bagged lunch or snack. Please bring $90.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials. Please bring a Dremel and tool kit with you.**
LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Saturday, February 20 & Sunday, February 21…….....466186 – 6E
TIME: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person registration fee AGE: Adult

Watercolor Birds: An Absolute Beginner Class

Discover the relaxing world of watercolor in this gentle, beginner-friendly class designed especially for adults who have never painted with watercolor before. We'll start with the basics—how to handle your brush, mix colors, control water, and create simple washes—then put those skills into practice painting a variety of beautiful birds. Together, we'll paint charming studies of New Jersey birds, like bluebirds, goldfinches, and cardinals, learning simple techniques for capturing their colors, shapes, and character. No previous art experience is needed. Come ready to experiment, learn at your own pace, and enjoy the process! Please bring paper towels, a ceramic plate (to mix colors) and a glass jar for your water. All other supplies provided!
LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Thursdays, February 25 and March 4…….....460186 – 1B
TIME: 1:00 - 3:00 pm
FEE: $20.00 per person AGE: Adult

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

Woven Wheat Shamrock

Bring your friends and get your St.Patrick's Day shenanigans started a little earlier this year as you create a woven wheat shamrock. This beautiful shamrock will be the perfect simple accent piece to decorate your window or hang on your front door. **Please bring $35.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials the first day of class.**
LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Thursday, March 4…….....….466186 – 6F
TIME: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person registration fee AGE: Adult

Needle Felted Chick: Intermediate

Get your Easter baskets ready for these adorable fluffy chicks! In this class we will be working with wire armature and getting some practice felting tiny little toes- a great skill to have for any Felter! **This is an intermediate level class; participants should have taken at least one needle felting class previously and be familiar with basic techniques.**
LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood
DATE: Saturday, March 6 …….....465186 – 5F
TIME: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
FEE: $20.00 per person AGE: 16 years – Adult

Pine Needle Soda & Tea

Pines are plentiful in the pinelands, this is no surprise, but did you know some can make a tasty drink? Using white pine and sugar we will learn how to prepare pine soda. In the meantime, we will also make and taste white pine tea. Everyone will be able to have a cup of pine needle tea and be able to take home a jar of pine needle soda (soda will take about 5 days to ferment), all materials will be provided. **Please list any food allergies at the time of registration.**
LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood
DATE: Sunday, March 7…….....465544 – 5B
TIME: 10:30 – 11:30 am
FEE: $10.00 per person AGE: Adult

Chunky Yarn Bunny

Let's make some new decorations using chunky yarn. Chunky yarn is an easy material for beginners and their trendy crafts. Join us as we guide you step-by-step on how to make bunnies by hand crocheting yarn. This crafty DIY project will give you something new to decorate your home with this spring. **No knitting experience is needed, and all supplies will be provided.**
LOCATION: Lecture Room, Cooper Environmental Center, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River
DATE: Monday, March 8…….....……462186 – 2H
TIME: 5:30 – 7:30 pm
FEE: $25.00 per person AGE: 14 years - Adult

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

Fabulous Fabric Bowls

Using fabric scraps and your sense of style, create a unique, versatile and colorful container for any occasion. Please bring a bowl, any size from home, as your base, all other supplies provided

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Thursday, March 4…….....461186 – 1B
TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
FEE: $20.00 per person AGE: Adult

Felted Soap

Felted soap is a bar of soap wrapped entirely in raw wool and then wet felted using warm water and agitation so the wool fibers lock tightly together. The result is a beautifully colored bar of soap with a built-in washcloth that gets a better lather and lasts longer than traditional soap! Join us to create our own felted bars of soap where you will get to choose from a rainbow of colors of wool to personalize to your own style!

LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood
DATE: Friday, March 12…….....465544 – 5C
TIME: 7:00 – 8:00 pm
FEE: $8.00 per person AGE: 16 years – Adult

Songbird Carving: Carolina Wren on a Toadstool



Join us as Kevin Hammell, a local carver, teaches you the fine art of carving a Carolina Wren through step-by-step instructions. The first day of class will focus on carving. The second day will entail putting finishing touches on your carving and learning how to paint your piece. **Pack a bagged lunch or snack. Please bring $90.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials on the first day of class.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Sunday, March 7 & Sunday, March 14
TIME: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.....466186 – 6G
FEE: $5.00 per person registration fee AGE: Adult

Paint-along: Bottle Gourd Birdhouses

Time to spread your creative wings with our paint-along class! We'll paint a beautiful design on a bottle gourd, perfect for indoor decorating or waterproof it at home for local birds to nest in. No experience needed! All participants will leave with something they can be proud of. Bottle Gourds, paint, and use of brushes included. **Wear clothing that can get paint on it. Please pack a bagged lunch.**

LOCATION: Community Center, Stanley "Tip" Seaman County Park, Tuckerton
DATE: Sunday, March 14…….....460186 – 1A
TIME: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
FEE: $15.00 per person AGE: 12 years - Adult

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

Pysanky, Ukrainian Egg Decorating

Pysanky is the folk art of Ukrainian egg decorating. The designs are "written" on the eggs using natural bees wax, and the eggs are submerged in beautiful dyes. This craft is thousands of years old and a large part of the Ukrainian tradition. Learn about the history and symbolism of the Pysanky designs and how to create your very own egg to take home.

LOCATION: Lecture Room, Cooper Environmental Center, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River
DATE: Monday, March 22…….....462186 – 2F
TIME: 5:00 - 7:30 pm
FEE: $10.00 per person AGE: 12 years – Adult

At Home Bird Feeders

Join us for an exciting and eco-friendly project that combines creativity, sustainability, and wildlife conservation by using things that you can find around your home! Learn about popular feeder birds and what seed they enjoy! As we strive to reduce waste and promote environmental awareness, this fun activity demonstrates how everyday items can be repurposed into various bird feeders. Not only will you be crafting unique feeders, but you'll also be providing local birds with essential food sources, especially during those chilly months when resources are scarce.

LOCATION: Lecture Room, Cooper Environmental Center, Cattus Island County Park, Toms River
DATE: Thursday, March 25…….....462186 – 2G
TIME: 2:00 - 3:30 pm
FEE: $10.00 per person AGE: Adult

Stories & Snacks: Bite Sized Art History

Bring a snack and settle in for a lively, bite-sized journey in art history. We'll explore a handful of fascinating artworks and the stories behind them: unexpected details, historical moments, and the people who made them. No background in art is needed, just curiosity (and maybe something tasty to munch on). You'll leave with a few new favorite artworks and a fresh way of looking at art.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Thursday, March 25……..……..460186 – 1C
TIME: 2:00 – 3:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person AGE: Adults

Crystal Terrarium

Come create your own mini terrarium using various succulents, moss, and crystals. If you would like to add anything to your terrarium such as real stone crystals, feel free to bring them with you the day of class.

LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood
DATE: Saturday, March 27…….....465186 – 5G
TIME: 11:00 am – 12:00 noon
FEE: $15.00 per person AGE: 14 years – Adult

South Jersey Basket Making

Join us as Mary May, a local basket maker, speaks about South Jersey basket traditions and demonstrates how to create a basket. Be prepared to weave, as you will be creating your own basket.

Footed Wool Basket

With the celebration of the 250th birthday of our nation just behind us, Mary May heard many wishes last year for a larger traditional-style basket that maintained old-world charm. This footed, Colonial-style wool drying 12 x14 basket with D-handle will suit everyone's wishes perfectly. It is ideal for storage of any variety, from small blankets to knitting supplies. The raised legs elevate the basket to keep it off the floor and your items clean. We know that you will proudly display this awe-inspiring handcrafted showpiece near your fireplace or in your living room for all guests to see. All basket weaving levels welcomed. **Please bring $130.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials the first day of class.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Saturday, January 9 & Sunday, January 10…….....466186 – 6H
TIME: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person registration fee AGE: Adult



CHOCTAW BASKET



EASTER BASKET

Large Choctaw Basket

Choctaw baskets have been found and dated back from 7,000 years ago in Florida, while another basket fragment found in Louisiana has been estimated to be over 12,000 years old. Although we will not be using river cane as the original Choctaw nation did, Mary May will be challenging your hands and minds to learn and create while using a new weaving method. This beautiful basket will last a lifetime and can be passed down to the next generation. **This is an experienced basket weaving class. You must have created at least six baskets with your own hands in the past. Please bring $80.00 in exact change for the instructor and materials the first day of class.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Friday, February 26……..…466186 – 6I
TIME: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person registration fee AGE: Adult

Heirloom Easter Basket

Create a beautiful handmade, custom basket to surprise the little ones with this Easter! Memories can be filled in this basket year after year! Great beginner basket. **Please bring $65 in exact change to cover instructor fees and material costs.**

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATE: Friday, March 12 ……466186 – 6J
TIME: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person registration fee AGE: Adult

YOUR CONNECTION TO



www.oceancountynj.gov

Brought to you by the Ocean County Board of Commissioners:
Frank Sadeghi – Director, Jennifier Bacchione – Deputy Director
Robert S. Arace, Sam Ellenbogen, Ray Gormley

On the OCEAN COUNTY website www.oceancountynj.gov **you will have quick and convenient access to the host of programs and services offered by the Ocean County Board of Commissioners. Whether you are looking for information on senior services, parks and recreation programs or commuter forecasts, just to name a few, this website provides you with updated information on all that Ocean County has to offer. In addition, you can retrieve information on federal, state, county and local offices and programs. Please feel free to browse and visit often as this is** your Ocean County Government.

Online Services:
Getting a Passport
Megan's Law
Ocean Ride Bus System
Ocean County Library
Park Programs
Property Search
Prop. Tax Assessments
Solid Waste Mgmt
Voter Registration

Resources:
2020 Census Info
Audit Reports
Budget & Financial Info
Contact a Commissioner
Meeting Agendas
Meeting Dates
Meeting Minutes
Open Public Records Act
Planning Department
Prosecutor's Office
Vo-Tech School

News & Info:
Commuter Forecast
Contact Information
County Connection
County Directory
Emergency Mgt.
Press Releases
Photo Gallery
Videos

Events, News & More
Sign up to receive email notifications of different categories of your choice from the Ocean County Web Site.
https://www.co.ocean.nj.us/frmEmailSubscribe.aspx

Legislators:
State Senators
US Congressmen
Congressional Districts
NJ Governor
US Senators
State Assembly Members
State Legislative Districts
NJ Association of Counties

About Us:
Complex Map
Contact Numbers
Directions
Ocean County Data Book
Satellite Resource Centers
NJ State Constitution
United States Constitution

OCEAN COUNTY

Popular Links

Consumer Affairs: **Everything you need is at your fingertips to help educate you from be**coming the victim of Consumer Fraud. If you would like to hear from us however, please feel free to contact one of our trained clerical team members to assist you better.

"Education is key to the prevention of Consumer Fraud in the high-tech world we live in. We realize people make mistakes and may be taken advantage of at the most vulnerable times of their lives. We are here to assist you and we will do everything we can to offer assistance."
-Ronald Heinzman: Director

Health Department*:* In partnership with our community, we are committed to serving as a leader to prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles, ensure a clean and safe environment, and provide equitable and high-quality public health services to protect our present and future generations.

Ocean County College: Discover your path to success with our diverse range of degrees, **certificates, and workforce development programs. Our innovative programs are designed to em**power you to achieve your academic and career goals.

Ocean County Tourism: On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, I invite you to visit us. **Whether it is your first time or a family favorite for generations, we know that Ocean County draws** people back time and time again. Because the wonders and discoveries, the memories and new friends remain in the hearts of those who escape to our part of the Jersey Shore. We are not your **typical destination. Explore our website and find your next adventure here…in Ocean County, NJ.**
Commissioner Jennifier Bacchione, Liaison to Business Development & Tourism

Senior Services: According to the most recent census estimates, Ocean County is home to over 200,000 adults 60 years of age and older. With 10,000 baby boomers turning 65 each day, that number is only going to grow. Given the shear numbers, it is inevitable that you or someone you love is in need of services to maintain independence and age well at home.
The Ocean County Office of Senior Services is committed to providing information and assistance regarding programs and services available through our aging network.

Veterans Bureau: **Services include initiating and filing veterans claims with both the state and federal government, filing for death benefits, filing for burial benefits and filing for other enti**tlements.The Veterans Service Bureau also facilitates transportation to V.A. medical centers, and serves as a referral source for mental health, medical and social service agencies.

www.oceancountynj.gov

If you're more comfortable getting Ocean County information in-person...
The County Connection **is located near JC Penney's in the Ocean County Mall.**
The County Connection is handicapped accessible and served by public transportation, including New Jersey Transit and Ocean Ride buses.



Seniorcise Exercise

Let's get moving! This gentle exercise class includes low-impact aerobics, stretching, and strengthening routines. Improve your joint flexibility, balance, range of motion, and muscular strength. Participants may perform these exercises while seated. Some equipment will be supplied. Linda is an AAAI-certified personal trainer with over 20 years of experience.

LOCATION: Program Room, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood
DATE: Tuesdays and Fridays
SESSION 1: January 5 – January 26 7 total classes…….....463123 – 3A
SESSION 2: January 29 – February 19 7 total classes.....463123 – 3B
TIME: 9:15 - 10:00 am
FEE: $60.00 per person AGE: Adult

Beginner Tai Chi

This program will enhance the quality of life for individuals without any prior knowledge of Tai Chi. While practicing this ancient art, we will use nine basic slow, flowing, joint-safe movements, deep-breathing exercises, and focused intention to improve balance, physical health, and restore mental calm. The meditative program will include warm-up and cool-down exercises. This class will help you feel better, inside and out! Chairs will be provided during class. If the weather is nice, we may move the class outdoors. **Please have a check for $60.00 made payable to Linda Osowski on the first day of class.** Linda is an AAAI-Certified personal trainer with over 20 years of experience.

LOCATION: Program Room, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
DATES: Tuesdays and Fridays
SESSION 1: January 5 - 26 7 total classes……..…….…. 466123 – 6A
SESSION 2: January 29 - February 19 7 total classes……. 466123 – 6B
TIME: 10:30 - 11:15 am
FEE: $ 5.00 per person registration fee AGE: Adult

Chair Stretch

This new and exciting stretch class will improve balance, strength, mobility, flexibility, and reduce stress. All movements will be safely performed in and around a chair. Adaptable for all fitness levels and physical challenges. In this class, you will be doing exercises that involve multiple body parts and muscle groups. You will be working the FULL BODY, not just body parts. **Please have a check for $60.00 made payable to Linda Osowski on the first day of class.** Linda is an AAAI-certified personal trainer with over 20 years of experience.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Tuesdays and Fridays
SESSION 1: January 5 – January 26 7 total classes…….....463123 – 3C
SESSION 2: January 29 – February 19 7 total classes.....463123 – 3D
TIME: 1:15 – 1:45 pm
FEE: $5.00 registration fee per person AGE: Adult



Tai Chi with a Yoga Twist

This program improves the quality of life for people with joint pain without any prior knowledge of Tai Chi. This ancient practice combines agile steps, joint safe exercise, and mental strength to improve mobility, breathing, and relaxation in ways that help you feel better. In this class, you will learn warm-up and cool-down exercises, and eight basic movements, along with some meditation. **Please have a check for $60.00 made payable to Linda Osowski on the first day of class.** Linda is an AAAI-certified personal trainer with over 20 years of experience.
LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Tuesdays and Fridays
SESSION 1: January 5 – January 26 7 total classes…….....463123 – 3E
SESSION 2: January 29 – February 19 7 total classes.....463123 – 3F
TIME: 2:00 - 2:45 pm
FEE: $5.00 registration fee per person AGE: Adult

A Walk in the Park "Southern Edition"

Have you been interested in exploring some new parks within the Ocean County Parks system but didn't know where to start? Then this is the class for you. We will meet at a new park every week and explore the unique beauty each park has to offer. We will be walking at a brisk pace to get some cardiovascular benefits for about 1 hour. Walking is a great low-impact exercise that can help manage your weight, relieve stress, and improve your mood. **Please wear comfortable sneakers or boots and bring a drink.**
LOCATIONS WHERE WE WILL BE MEETING:
1/20: Burr Street Parking Lot, Barnegat Branch Trail, Barnegat
1/27: Nature Center, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown
2/3: Parking Lot, Lochiel Creek County Park, Barnegat
2/10: Nature Center, Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat
2/17: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historical Site, Barnegat
DATE: Wednesdays, January 20 – February 17 ……...…..463123 – 3G
TIME: 10:00 -11:00 am
FEE: $14.00 per person AGE: Adult

Gentle Yoga

Join us for this class teaching the essentials of yoga. These 6 week-long classes are for anyone new to yoga, as well as those with experience. Exercise, meditation, and breathing are key components of this practice. Connect with yourself…relax. Please wear loose comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat. Lores Way is a registered yoga instructor with the Yoga Alliance.
LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Mondays
SESSION 1: January 4 – February 22 (no class 1/18 & 2/15) ….....……..463123 – 3H
SESSION 2: March 1 – April 5…….....463123 – 3I
TIME: 5:00 - 6:00 pm
FEE: $40.00 per person AGE: 16 years – Adult

Yoga after Work

Keep calm and try yoga. These 6 week-long classes are designed for students of any level interested in furthering their yoga knowledge. The practice of yoga benefits the body, mind, and spirit. Focus on exercise, breathing, and meditation for a transforming experience. Feel free to move at your comfort level. Please wear loose, comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat. Lores Way is a registered yoga instructor with the Yoga Alliance.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Thursdays
SESSION 1: January 7 – February 11……...….463123 – 3J
SESSION 2: March 4 – April 8…….....463123 – 3K
TIME: 5:00 - 6:00 pm
FEE: $40.00 per person AGE: 16 years – Adult

Intro to Pickleball

Join in on the fastest-growing sport in the country. Pickleball is a sport that combines tennis, badminton, and ping pong. The game is played with a solid pickleball paddle and a plastic ball on a court about 1/3 the size of a tennis court. Learn how to play the game in this fun and exciting 4-day clinic. Pickleball is a social sport you can learn quickly. All equipment will be supplied. **Please wear sneakers and bring a drink. You must complete this class BEFORE taking the Pickleball Rally Class.**

LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 3 & 4, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood
DATE: Tuesdays, March 16 – April 6…….....….463123 – 3L
TIME: 10:00 – 11:30 am
LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 1-3, Ocean County Park, Lakewood
DATE: Thursdays, March 18 – April 8…….....463123 – 3M
TIME: 5:00 – 6:30 pm
LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 1-3, Stanley H. “Tip” Seaman County Park, Tuckerton
DATE: Wednesdays, March 24 – April 14…….…….....463123 – 3N
TIME: 3:00 – 4:30 pm
FEE: $12.00 per person AGE: Adult

Pickleball Rally

This 3-day Pickleball Rally class is designed for newer players who have some experience playing pickleball but want to play more matches to practice their newly acquired skills. Players should have a basic understanding of the rules of pickleball before signing up for this class. Staff will be available to answer questions and review positioning and strategy to help get you on your way. **Equipment will be available if needed. Please wear sneakers and bring a drink. You must have taken the Intro to Pickleball BEFORE taking this class.**

LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 3 & 4, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood
DATE: Tuesdays, March 16 – April 6……...463123 – 3O
TIME: 12:00 – 1:30 pm
LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 1-3, Ocean County Park, Lakewood
DATE: Thursdays, March 18 – April 1…….463123 – 3P
TIME: 3:00 – 4:30 pm
LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 1-3, Stanley H. “Tip” Seaman County Park, Tuckerton
DATE: Wednesdays, March 24 – April 7…….....….463123 – 3Q
TIME: 1:00 – 2:30 pm
FEE: $10.00 per person AGE: Adult

ACTIVE RECREATION

Advanced Rally

This three-day Advanced Pickleball Rally class is designed for experienced players who want to further hone their skills and play in a more competitive environment. Players should have a strong grasp of the game. Staff will be present to answer rules questions and help officiate games. Please wear sneakers and bring a drink. You must have taken the Pickleball Rally BEFORE taking this class.
LOCATION: Pickleball Courts 1-3, Ocean County Park, Lakewood
DATE: Fridays, March 5 – March 19……..….463123 – 3R
TIME: 5:00 - 6:30 pm
FEE: $10.00 per person AGE: Adult

Archery for Adults

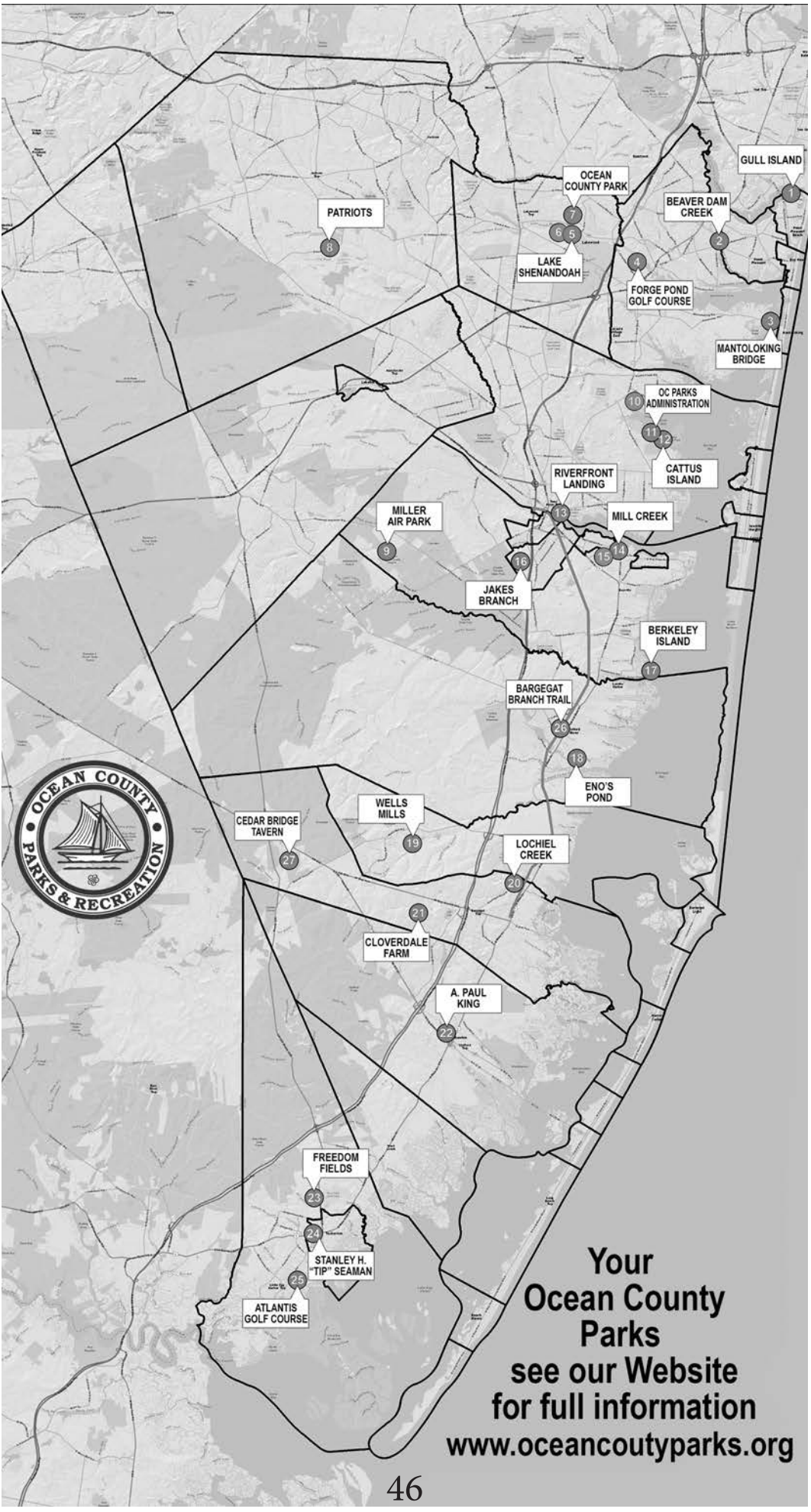
Be a part of the exciting world of archery by learning the essentials, including safety, equipment and technique. Our NASP certified instructor will get you hitting the bullseye in no time! Students will practice what they have learned on our outdoor range. This class is suitable for all archery experience levels and all equipment is provided. **Participants should wear sneakers and bug spray.**
LOCATION: Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site, 200 Old Half-Way Road, Barnegat
DATE: Saturday, March 27…….....469123 – 9A
TIME: 10:00 - 11:30 am
FEE: $10.00 per person AGE: Adult

HELP WANTED

The Ocean County Parks & Recreation ACTIVE RECREATION DEPARTMENT is accepting applications for this summer to work as a "SPORTS RECREATION AIDE"

All applicants must be 17 years old or older, with a valid Driver's License by the application deadline and must be an Ocean County resident.

Please email:
jaredtate@oceancountynj.gov
for an application or if you have any questions concerning the position
APPLICATION DEADLINE 2/12/2027


GULL ISLAND
1
OCEAN COUNTY PARK
7
6
5
BEAVER DAM CREEK
2
PATRIOTS
8
LAKE SHENANDOAH
4
FORGE POND GOLF COURSE
3
MANTOLOKING BRIDGE
10
OC PARKS ADMINISTRATION
11
12
CATTUS ISLAND
RIVERFRONT LANDING
13
MILLER AIR PARK
9
MILL CREEK
15
14
16
JAKES BRANCH
BERKELEY ISLAND
17
BARGEGAT BRANCH TRAIL
26
18
ENO'S POND
WELLS MILLS
19
CEDAR BRIDGE TAVERN
27
LOCHIEL CREEK
20
21
CLOVERDALE FARM
A. PAUL KING
22
FREEDOM FIELDS
23
24
STANLEY H. "TIP" SEAMAN
25
ATLANTIS GOLF COURSE
OCEAN COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION
Your
Ocean County
Parks
see our Website
for full information
www.oceancoutyparks.org

A. Paul King 48 acres2 W. Bay Avenue,Manahawkin
Basketball court, fishing, horseshoe pit, picnic area, swimming (seasonal), playground and handicap-accessible restrooms.

Barnegat Branch Trail RailTrail: Toms River to Barnegat
The trail will be constructed in several phases, and will stretch 15.6 miles from Barnegat to Toms River once completed.

Beaver Dam Creek 40 acres, 3430 Bridge Ave,Pt Pleasant
Basketball, conservation area,open playing fields, picnic area, playgrounds, restrooms, soccer, softball pickleball and tennis.

Cattus Island 4 530 acres, 1170 Cattus Island Blvd, Toms River
Nature trails, scenic boardwalks, birding, photography, conservation area, environmental education, picnic, playground, overlooks, and ADA environmental center with restrooms.

Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site 327 acres, 200 Old Halfway Rd
Barnegat. The site includes a fully restored tavern with exhibits, 3.5 mile trail, outdoor picnic tables, restrooms, and short walking paths.

Cloverdale Farm 90 acres, 34 Cloverdale Road, Barnegat
Visitors Center, restrooms, self-guided nature trail, fishing, bird watching, photography, hiking and walking trails, cross country skiing, environmental education and picnic area.

Eno's Pond 28 acres, 330 East Lacey Road, Lacey
Conservation area, handicapped accessible, open playing fields, nature trails, observation decks, picnic area/grills, playground, restrooms, volleyball.

Freedom Fields 120 acres, 1160 Route 539, Little Egg Harbor
Softball fields, soccer fields, Little League fields, picnic areas, hiking trails, ADA restrooms

Gull Island 48 acres, 419 Broadway, Pt. Pleasant Beach
Kayak launch site, conservation area, fishing, crabbing, ADA accessible, picnic tables.

Jakes Branch 400 acres, 1100 Double Trouble Road, Beachwood
ADA nature center and restrooms, hiking and walking trails, interpretive nature trails, bike trail, discovery play trail, cross-country skiing, open play field, softball fields, baseball fields, multi-use fields, tennis and pickleball courts, basketball courts, playgrounds.

John C. Bartlett, Jr. County Park at Berkeley Island
425 acres, 399 Brennan Concourse, Bayville
Spray park, crabbing, fishing, horseshoe pits, bocce courts, small picnic areas with grills, playground, restrooms, covered pavilion, ADA accessible.

Lake Shenandoah 143 acres, 660 Rt 88 & 300 New Hampshire Ave, Lakewood
Bike trail, conservation area, fishing, picnic area, restrooms, small boat launch (electric motors only), basketball, soccer, softball.

Lochiel Creek 177 acres, Barnegat Boulevard North, Barnegat
Amenities include a comfort station with restrooms, ample parking, and a 1.75 mile marked nature trail with access to the Barnegat Branch Trail.

Mantoloking Bridge Fishing Pier 30 Mantoloking Rd., Brick
The Park features a new 70-foot long fishing and crabbing pier, a boardwalk, picnic area, sun shade gazebo and lighted paths.

Mill Creek 14 acres, 111 Chelsea Avenue, Berkeley
Conservation area, ADA accessible, pavilion, picnic area, grills, playgrounds, trails.

Ocean County Park 323 acres, 659 Ocean Ave. (Route 88), Lakewood
Bike trail, cross-country skiing, driving range, fishing, 3.1 mile perimeter walking trail, open playing fields, large picnic area, playgrounds, restrooms, softball fields, tennis and pickleball courts, 18 hole disc golf course.

OCP&R Administrative Offices 39 acres, 1198 Bandon Rd., Toms River
Conservation area, handicapped accessible, picnic area, program room, registration desk, restrooms and car top boat launch.

Patriots 219 acres, 485 Bowman Road, Jackson
Basketball, bike trail, bocce, conservation area, cross-country skiing, ADAaccessible, horseshoes, picnic area, playground, shuffleboard, soccer, softball and a fitness trail.

Riverfront Landing 71 E.Water Street, Toms River
Benches, crabbing, fishing, handicapped accessible and picnic area.

Miller Airpark 35 acres, 901 Rt. 530, Berkeley
Conservation area, cross-country skiing, handicapped accessible, open playing fields, pavilion, picnic area, restrooms.

Tip Seaman 22 acres, 120 Rt. 9, Tuckerton
Fishing, open play area, picnic area, playground, ADA accessible restrooms, small car top boat launch, LL field, softball, paths, basketball courts, tennis and pickeball courts.

Wells Mills 910 acres, 905 Rt 532, Waretown
Bike trail, canoe rental (seasonal), conservation area, fishing, handicapped accessible, nature center, open playing fields, picnic area, playground, restrooms.

Breathing Meditation

Stressful year? Jump into the New Year and learn the basics of two breathing meditations with us this winter. In this beginner friendly program, we will learn how to sit with our breath with non-judgmental, mindfulness thinking. There will be a 5-minute simple counting meditation and a 20-minute introduction to a more advanced breathing meditation, in which we will go through the four "Tetrads". Bring anything you need for comfort, chairs will be provided.

LOCATION: Classroom, Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood
DATE: Saturday, January 2 ……..…..465544 – 5A
TIME: 10:30 – 11:30 am
FEE: $10.00 per person AGE: 16 years – Adult

Awaken Your Soul with Meditation

If you've ever considered introducing a meditation practice into your life, this is the class for you! You'll learn different styles of meditation and take-home methods to begin an at-home practice of your own. Meditation done on a daily basis reduces stress, improves memory as well as your ability to focus, improves the quality of sleep and helps you develop the mental discipline needed to avoid unhelpful habits. If you think you don't have the time, let me change your mind! (Please bring a mat, blankets, and pillows and wear comfortable clothes. Aromatherapy will be provided.

Please bring exact cash or check payable to Instructor, Karen English for $60.00 which is for the full 6-week meditation class.

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Session 1: Tuesdays, January 5 – February 9…….....461544 – 1A
DATE: Session 2: Tuesdays, February 16 – March 23…….....461544 – 1B
TIME: 6:00 - 7:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person registration fee AGE: Adult

Crystal Singing Bowls with Reiki and Aromatherapy

Join us for a transformative 90-minute session where we blend the resonant sounds of crystal singing bowls with the healing energies of Reiki and the soothing scents of aromatherapy. This class is designed to guide you into deep relaxation, balance your chakras and elevate your overall well-being.

During this 90-minute session, the two Instructors (Karen English and Kathy Gabrielli) will use crystal bowls to produce harmonic tones. These sounds wash over you as a Reiki practitioner will channel healing energy to promote physical, emotional and spiritual healing. Carefully chosen essential oils will be diffused throughout the space to help with stress.

Please bring a yoga mat or blanket for comfort and wear comfortable clothing
Please bring exact cash or a check for $30.00

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Wednesday, March 3…..…….....….461544 – 1D
TIME: 6:00 – 7:30 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person registration fee AGE: Adult

Walking the Mystical Path with Practical Feet

Cultural anthropologist, Angeles Arrien, taught simple wisdom practices as tools for gaining insights for self-empowerment, balance, and grounding in ourselves, our relationships, and our lives. During this program, we will explore our life path and purpose through the Maori drawing and discover what brings us closer to connecting with what has heart and meaning. No prior drawing experience required.

***Please bring exact cash or a check payable to Licensed Physical Therapist Regina Rosenthal for $25.00**

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Thursday, February 18…….....461544 – 1E
TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person registration fee AGE: Adult

Acupressure and Chakra Tai Chi

Learn a simple acupressure practice and Chakra Tai Chi, a movement meditation practice, to integrate and raise awareness for balance and healing through our energy bodies and the chakra system. These simple, empowering self-care practices will activate and align energy from the base of the body to the crown. Practicing acupressure and Chakra Tai Chi cultivates mindful presence and supports deeper understanding and connection with ourselves and others. ***Please bring exact cash or a check payable to Licensed Physical Therapist Regina Rosenthal for $25.00**

LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Thursday, March 18……..……..461544 – 1F
TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person registration fee AGE: Adult

Make Your Own Cuticle Balm & Body Oil

Join us for a fun, hands-on class where you'll create a nourishing 1 oz. tin of cuticle balm using shea butter, beeswax, oils, and essential oils. You'll also blend a 5 ml. dropper bottle of nourishing hand oil to take home.

***Please bring exact cash or a check payable to Kathy Gabrielli for $25.00**
(Certified Holistic Aromatherapist/ Reiki Practitioner) *
LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Monday, March 22…….....…….461544 – 1G
TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person registration fee AGE: Adult

LIFEGUARDS WANTED SUMMER 2027

Join the team at A. Paul King County Park in Manahawkin!
We're looking for responsible, certified lifeguards to help keep our community safe while enjoying a rewarding summer job.



What We Offer:
- Competitive starting salary of $18/hour
- Certification reimbursement at the end of the working season

Applicants must:
- Be 16 years of age or older
- Be an Ocean County resident
- Hold current certifications in:
  - Advanced Lifesaving
  - First Aid
  - CPR
  - Waterfront Skills

Ready to make a difference this summer?
Contact Tracey Lynch at TLynch@oceancountynj.gov to request an application.

CPR & Basic Life Support

Adult/Child/Infant CPR AED Certification

Did you know that four out of five cardiac arrests happen at home? If called on to administer CPR in an emergency, the life you save is likely to be that of a child, spouse, parent or friend. Prepare yourself!! Come and learn life-saving CPR and AED use, as well as how to relieve choking in adults, children and infants. This hands-on course is taught in a relaxed and comfortable environment by certified instructors and is designed for anyone with limited or no medical training. Upon completion, participants will receive a CPR AED Course Completion Card. Please bring a check for $55.00 payable to Ocean Side CPR.
LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Wednesday, January 13 ……..461166 – 1A
DATE: Wednesday, February 10……..……..461166 – 1B
DATE: Wednesday, March 10 ……..……..461166 – 1C
TIME: 6:30 – 9:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person registration fee AGE: 14 years – Adult

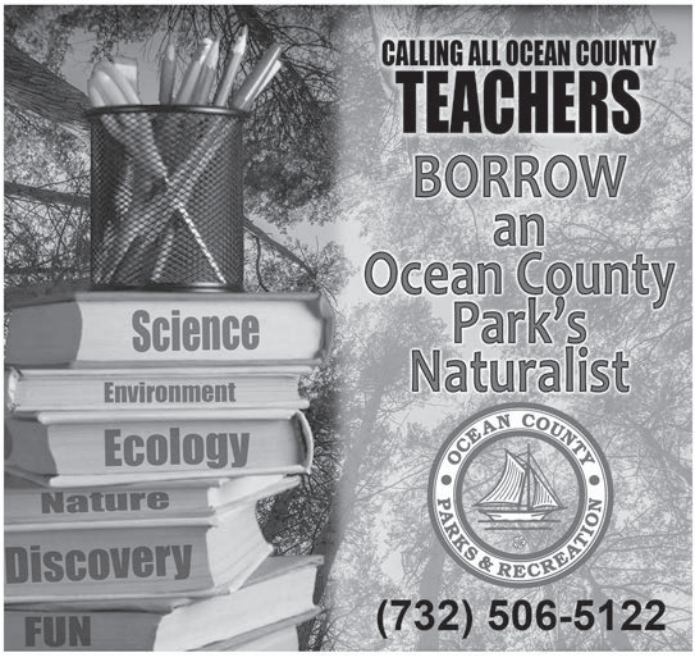


Basic Life Support (BLS) for the Healthcare Provider

Designed for the health care professional, this extensive hands-on course will prepare you to recognize and confidently respond to several life-threatening emergencies. Participants will actively engage in simulated clinical scenarios mastering CPR, use of an AED, and relieving choking in a safe, timely, and effective manner. Certified instructors will guide you through various learning stations to test ability and ensure proficiency in performing these
life-saving skills. Upon the conclusion of skills testing, participants must also complete a written exam. Participants will receive a BLS for the Healthcare Provider Completion Card. **Please bring a check for $85.00 payable to Ocean Side CPR.**
LOCATION: Program Room, Parks Administration Office, Toms River
DATE: Wednesday, January 27 ……..461166 – 1D
DATE: Wednesday, February 17 ……..461166 – 1E
DATE: Wednesday, March 24 ……461166 – 1F
TIME: 6:30 – 9:00 pm
FEE: $5.00 per person registration fee AGE: 14 years - Adult

Stay tuned to your
Ocean County Parks & Recreation
UPDATES, WEATHER CANCELATIONS, PROGRAM CHANGES, PHOTOS/VIDEOS OF YOUR PARKS...and more
Search: Ocean County Parks & Recreation on FACEBOOK
Search: MyOCParks on INSTAGRAM
website: www.oceancountyparks.org

TEACHERS...BORROW A NATURALIST



Sick of fluoresent lights? Tired of cutting through the red tape to run a field trip?

Invite a naturalist to do a nature walk on your school's grounds.

Most of Ocean County's schools are located in some of the richest and most unique natural areas in the county.

The naturalist can also answer questions and provide program ideas...perfect for all grade levels.

Contact Christopher Claus
(732) 506-5122
cclaus@oceancountynj.gov

Recreation Program Policy and Information

1. Recreation personnel in charge of each program will have the final decision in all matters, especially where participant safety is concerned.
2. Due to the strenuous nature of some of our activities, recreation personnel reserve the right to deny a participant entry into a program. If the participant has already paid a fee, this fee will be reimbursed in accordance with our refund/credit policy.
3. Alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited on all recreational programs.
4. All participants and their guardians must realize there may be some unavoidable hazards involved in all recreation programs. At the start of the program you will be asked to sign a Waiver of Liability Form, which is mandatory in order to attend the program and must be signed.
5. It is the participant's or guardian's responsibility to inform staff members of any medical problems that may inhibit your participation in a program. Please consult your doctor if you are not sure.
6. Please be advised that all return times are approximate. The actual times depends on the ability of the participants, prevailing weather, field conditions, and unforeseen circumstances.
7. All children under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult, except programs specifically designed for young children.
8. Age range for programs have been designated according to program content and will be strictly adhered to.
9. WARNING! Ticks may be present on all outdoor programs. To protect yourself from Lyme Disease, we recommend participants spray clothing with insect repellent which contains DEET, wear light color clothes, tuck pants into your boots or socks, always change clothes as soon as you return home and check yourself over closely for ticks. Deer ticks are present all year round.
10. WARNING! The rabies epidemic is present throughout the state. For your safety, please enjoy wildlife from a distance, report any wildlife behaving strangely to park staff.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Unless otherwise stated, all programs require registration along with payment in full at time of **registration**. Anyone attending a program or trip, without registering in advance, must pay by check or money order (cash is unacceptable). Participants will only be permitted upon availability. When a program/trip has been advertised in a previous newsletter we will accept enrollment prior to the registration date listed in this newsletter issue.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE/ACCOMMODATIONS available upon request

For program availability or a program guide please call:
(732) 506-9090

MAIL-IN REGISTRATION IS PREFFERED (early mail-ins will be returned)

REGISTRATION LOCATIONS:

Monday – Friday 8:30am to 3:30pm
Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood (732) 281-2750
Parks & Recreation Administrative Office, Toms River (732) 506-9090
Wells Mills County Park, Waretown (609) 971-3085

PROGRAM REGISTRATION APPLICATION

When registering by mail or in person, you must complete and sign the entire **Program Registration Application.** For your convenience you can print our **"Program Registration Application"** right from our website or you may copy this application; however, an original signature must be on each application. Incomplete and unsigned applications will be returned unprocessed. Please return your completed Program Registration Application along with your payment to:

Ocean County Parks & Recreation Administrative Offices
1198 Bandon Road, Toms River, N.J. 08753·3138
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO "COUNTY OF OCEAN"

If you would like to register in person, please visit one of our three locations listed above. Mail ins are also accepted.

Refund and Cancellation Policy

****Once a program has started, fees will not be refunded nor credit issued, regardless of the reason.****

REFUND POLICY

1. When the **Department** reschedules or cancels a program costing $15 or more per person, a full refund will be issued by means of **a properly completed and signed Program Registration Application.**
2. When the **Customer** cancels participation in a program costing $15 or more per person, having given **at least two weeks notice prior to the scheduled program start date**, a full refund will be issued by means of **a properly completed and signed Program Registration Application.**
3. Vouchers or credits will only be issued to the **individual whose name appears on the check and/or reservation.**

CREDIT POLICY

1. When a program costing less than $15 per person is cancelled or rescheduled by the **Department**, the customer will receive a credit which is valid up to one year from the original date of that program. The credit will be applied to the household that the class was registered to.
2. When the **Customer** cancels participation in a program costing less than $15 per person, having given **at least two weeks notice prior to the scheduled program start date**, the customer will receive a credit which has no expiration date.
3. If a Customer cancels a program less than two weeks prior to the scheduled program start date, regardless of the cost per person, the customer **does not** receive a credit or a refund on that program.
4. Once a credit has been issued, it may not be **exchanged for a cash refund** This includes all credits applied to future registrations. NO EXCEPTIONS.

The Department of Parks & Recreation reserves the right to cancel or postpone any trip or program. NOTE: See application for Refund and Cancellation Policy.

REGISTRATION FORM

Each of the undersigned, with the intention of binding himself or herself and any other persons for whom his or her signature is requested as parent or legal guardian, and the heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns of the undersigned or said other persons, does hereby knowingly and voluntarily release and discharge the County of Ocean and its officers, employees and agents, from any and all claims, demands, actions, judgements, and executions which each of the undersigned or the persons for whom his or her signature has been requested ever had, or now has, or may have or claim to have out of participation or any activity conducted, sponsored or approved by the Ocean County Parks and Recreation Department or the County of Ocean whether occasioned by the negligence of the county, its officers, agents or employees, or otherwise.

This Release and Waiver is given in consideration of the efforts of the County of Ocean in making these activities available to undersigned of the person for whom his or her signature is requested as parent or legal guardian and allowing the undersigned or such person to participate in these activities.

Each undersigned declares that prior to the execution of this Release he or she apprised him or herself of sufficient relevant data in order to intelligently exercise his or her own judgement in deciding whether to execute this Release and he or she further declares that this decision was not predicated on or influenced by any declarations or representations of the County of Ocean or its agent, officers or employees.

Each undersigned expressly agrees that the foregoing Release and Waiver is intended to be as broad as is permitted by the laws of the State of New Jersey and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

EACH UNDERSIGNED ACKOWLEDGES THAT HE/SHE HAS READ AND VOLUNTARILY SIGNS THIS RELEASE AND WAIVER OF ALL LIABILITY.

I need a reasonable modification for a disability to enjoy this activity
___ Yes __ No

Upon completion of this application, please sign the Claimant's Certification & Declaration box below. In the event a program refund is necessary, for programs costing more than $15.00 per person, this application will serve as a County Refund Voucher.

County of Ocean - Parks & Recreation Vendor Claimant's Certification & Declaration I do solemnly declare and certify under the penalties of the law that the within bill is correct in all its particulars; that no bonus has been given or received by any person or persons within the above claim; that the amount therein stated is justly due and owing.

It is understood and agreed that park visitors and participants in Ocean County Park System programs, activities, and events may have their names and pictures used, without fee, in broadcast, telecast, and print media accounts for promotional and publicity purposes.

_____ ___/___/___
Participant's Signature Today's Date

Event #: _____Refund Amount _____Refund Date __/__/__
Event #: _____Refund Amount _____Refund Date__/__/__

REGISTRATION FORM

CUSTOMER: please print the following information and return the entire signed and completed application to the address noted below.

OCEAN COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION
PROGRAM REGISTRATION APPLICATION

LAST _____ FIRST _____

ADDRESS _____

APT #/BUILDING _____ TOWN _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ 4 DIGIT EXT. _____

HOME # ( ) _____

WORK # ( ) _____ EXT #. _____

EMERGENCY # ( ) _____ CELL # ( ) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Total Amount Enclosed: $ _____ Check # _____

Make check payable to "COUNTY OF OCEAN" and mail to: Ocean County Parks & Recreation, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE 1198 Bandon Road, Toms River, N.J. 08753-3138

Mail in registration preferred. **REGISTRATION WILL BE ACCEPTED BEGINNING**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4th FOR PROGRAMS IN THIS ISSUE

PROGRAM #	TITLE	LOCATION	TIME / DATE
Last Name/First: Date of Birth:			FEE:
Staff Use:			
PROGRAM #	TITLE	LOCATION	TIME / DATE
Last Name/First: Date of Birth:			FEE:
Staff Use:			
PROGRAM #	TITLE	LOCATION	TIME / DATE
Last Name/First: Date of Birth:			FEE:
Staff Use:			
PROGRAM #	TITLE	LOCATION	TIME / DATE
Last Name/First: Date of Birth:			FEE:
Staff Use:			
PROGRAM #	TITLE	LOCATION	TIME / DATE
Last Name/First: Date of Birth:			FEE:
Staff Use:			
PROGRAM #	TITLE	LOCATION	TIME / DATE
Last Name/First: Date of Birth:			FEE:
Staff Use:			
PROGRAM #	TITLE	LOCATION	TIME / DATE
Last Name/First: Date of Birth:			FEE:
Staff Use:			

YOU MUST SIGN THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THIS FORM

FESTIVAL of TREES

Vist the Cooper Environmental Center at Cattus Island County Park in Toms River to get into the Holiday Spirit

Ocean County Agencies will be decoration trees highlighting themes.

Stop by and cast your vote for your favorite.

Entries are on display from December 23 to January 3 (10am-4pm) for People's Choice Voting



Brought to you by the Ocean County Board of Commissioners

OCEAN COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
1198 Bandon Road
Toms River, New Jersey 08753-3138
(732) 506-9090

PRSPT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #544
LAKEWOOD, NJ
08701

Mail in Registration is Preferred
REGISTRATION WILL BE ACCEPTED BEGINNING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4th FOR PROGRAMS IN THIS ISSUE
Early Mail-Ins Will Be Returned
Parks & Recreation Administrative Office, Toms River 732-506-9090
www.oceancountyparks.org

Vistis our website: www.oceancountyparks.org
for full information on all our parks, trail maps,
rental forms, rules and regulations, etc.
FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA