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***Note: For images, call 708-771-1159 or email Stacina.Stagner@cookcountyil.gov. A complete listing of all programs is posted to the Forest Preserves' events website at fpdcc.com with seasonal brochures that can be downloaded.**

Forest Preserves of Cook County Events and Programs – May 2018

NORTHWEST

[Painting by the Pond – Spring Edition](#)

Rolling Knolls, 11N260 Rohrssen Rd, Elgin

*Friday, May 4 * 5 – 7 pm*

Explore nature through painting while taking in the Rolling Knolls landscape! Follow along as an instructor leads you step by step in creating a Georgia O'Keefe-inspired painting of spring ephemeral flowers using a large tree slice as your canvas. All painting materials will be provided. Ages 21 & up. BYOB (no glass). Payment required upon registration. Refunds are not available for any reason. Call 708-386-4042 ext. 26 to register.

[Archery 101](#)

Deer Grove, 1650 N Quentin Rd, Palatine

*Wednesday, May 16 * 4 – 6 pm*

Whether you're a first timer or a regular archer, our Archery 101 class is for you. Learn proper technique from certified archery instructors, along with archery history and bow basics. Ages 10 & up. Registration required for groups of 10 or more. To register or for information, call 708-386-4042.

[Camp Fire Cooking Workshop](#)

Camp Reinberg, 1801 N Quentin Rd, Palatine

*Friday, May 18 * 6 – 8 pm*

Cooking over a camp fire can take any camping trip to the next level! Come out to this free workshop to learn how to make great tasting and easy meals over a fire using cast-iron and basic campfire cooking techniques. Ages 14 & up. Registration required, email experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov to register.

NORTH

[Ralph Frese Memorial Paddle](#)

Willow Road Dam, Winnetka

*Saturday, May 5 * 9 – 11 am*

Bring your canoe or kayak and celebrate the legacy of canoe legend Ralph Frese by paddling down the Chicago River from Willow Road Dam to Linne Woods in Morton Grove. A free shuttle bus will be provided and will run from 8 am – 2 pm from Linne Woods to Willow Road Dam. Official launch at 9am. The event is free and concludes with a celebration at Linne Woods where refreshments will be served.

[Conservation@Home Series: Gardening to Feed Pollinators](#)

River Trail Nature Center, 3120 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook

*Saturday, May 12 * 1 – 3 pm*

Master Gardeners will share tips and give recommendations on what to plant in your garden to provide nectar to feed native pollinators from spring to fall. Learn about early blooming spring ephemerals, late blooming fall natives, and plants in-between. The demonstration will include practical ways to incorporate these plants in your home garden. Presented by University of Illinois Extension North Cook Master Gardeners. Drop-in demonstration table.

[International Migratory Bird Day Celebration](#)

LaBagh Woods, 5400 N Cicero Ave, Chicago

*Saturday, May 19 * 9 – 11:30 am*

Welcome back birds at this year's International Migratory Bird Day Celebration. Watch scientists band and release birds migrating from Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. Enjoy crafts, snacks, bird walks and more.

[Des Plaines Canoe and Kayak Marathon](#)

Dam No. 2 Woods, 902 N Des Plaines River Rd, Mt Prospect

*Sunday, May 20 * 8 am*

Join the second oldest continual canoe race in the United States! Race begins at Oak Springs Road in Libertyville and ends at Dam #2 in Mount Prospect. Free for spectators. Race starts at 8 am, activities at Dam #2 starts at 11 am. To register, visit canoemarathon.com.

[Camping 101 of Outdoor Youth Organizations](#)

Camp Dan Beard, 200 Portwine Rd, Northbrook

*Tuesday, May 22 * 5:30 – 7:30 pm*

Are you the leader of an Outdoor Adventure based club like the Boys and Girl Scouts, School Camping Club, Church Youth Group or Outward Bound? Do you have participants with little to no camping experience? Bring your youth to one of these free, hands-on workshops to learn camping skills and team work. Learn basic camping skills like tent set-up, campfire building, proper dress for camping, camping etiquette and more. Registration and adult supervision required, space is limited. Email experience.camping@cookcountyl.gov to register.

CENTRAL

[Spring Festival](#)

Trailside Museum of Natural History, 738 Thatcher Ave, River Forest

*Sunday, May 6 * 11 am – 3 pm*

Celebrate spring with a day of activities for all ages, including animal encounters, kids' tree climb, guided wildflower walks, netting in the pond, seed planting, building a bird house to take home, and much more! Call 708-366-6530 for more information.

[River Kayaking 101](#)

Trailside Museum of Natural History, 738 Thatcher Ave, River Forest

*Friday, May 11 * 3 – 5 pm*

Introductory class for new river kayakers. Technique and instruction provided prior to a short hands-on paddle along the Des Plaines River to Maywood Grove. Shuttle provided back to Trailside Museum. Registration required; call 312-533-5751.

[Makin' Music Bluegrass Jam](#)

Trailside Museum of Natural History, 738 Thatcher Ave, River Forest

*Friday, May 13 * 1 pm*

Join us on the second Sunday of every month for Trailside's bluegrass jam. Make a simple instrument, then join the fun! Bring your basses, fiddles, mandolins, guitars, and banjos too. All are welcome to play at the jam or just listen. Indoors in the case of rain. All ages.

[Kayak 101](#)

Trailside Museum of Natural History, 738 Thatcher Ave, River Forest

*Thursday, May 24 * 6 pm*

Enjoy learning the basics of kayaking, and practice paddling on our pond at Trailside! All equipment provided. Ages 8 & up.

[Adult Archery and Nature Hike](#)

Thatcher Woods Pavilion, 8030 W Chicago Ave, River Forest

*Thursday, May 31 * 12 – 2 pm*

Adults are invited to stay active and try their hand at a new or old pastime. Enjoy a brief nature hike on the trails while you wait for your next turn. Ages 18 & up.

SOUTHWEST

[Camping 101 for Outdoor Youth Organizations](#)

Camp Sullivan, 14630 Oak Park Ave, Oak Forest

*Tuesday, May 1 * 5:30 – 7:30 pm*

Are you the leader of an Outdoor Adventure based club like the Boys and Girl Scouts, School Camping Club, Church Youth Group or Outward Bound? Do you have participants with little to no camping experience? Bring your youth to one of these free, hands-on workshops to learn camping skills and team work. Learn basic camping skills like tent set-up, campfire building, proper dress for camping, camping etiquette and more. Registration and adult supervision required, space is limited. Email experience.camping@cookcountyl.gov to register.

[Camping Leadership Immersion Course \(CLIC\) Training](#)

Camp Sullivan, 14630 Oak Park Ave, Oak Forest

Saturday – Sunday, May 5 – 6

Are you a leader of a school, community, scouting, or youth group? Interested in bringing your group camping but don't know where to begin? The CLIC Training is an overnight course that provides skills such as camping equipment use and care, outdoor activities, teamwork and nature-based education. Upon completion, groups of up to 30 gain access to camping gear – tents, sleeping bags, sleeping pads and cookware – for overnight stays at Camp Sullivan. Training is required in order to gain access to gear. For more information, e-mail experience.camping@cookcountyl.gov.

[International Migratory Bird Day](#)

Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, 12545 W 111th St, Lemont

*Saturday, May 12 * 9 am – 2 pm*

Celebrate and learn about one of the most important events in the Americas – bird migration! Join us for bird hikes, special exhibits, and learn how you can support bird conservation. All ages.

[Afternoon Paddle & Fishing](#)

Saganashkee Slough Boat Launch, 11672 W 107th St, Willow Springs

*Tuesday, May 15 * 11 am – 1 pm*

What better way to spend your lunch hour than dropping in a fishing line or canoeing around Saganashkee Slough? Instruction and equipment provided, with our friends from Village of Palos Park going through a ‘how-to’ on proper fishing techniques. Beginners welcome. Call 312-533-5751 for information.

[Camping 101](#)

Camp Bullfrog Lake, 9600 Wolf Rd, Willow Springs

*Thursday, May 17 * 5:30 – 7:30 pm*

Camping 101 is a free, hands-on workshop series designed to teach basic camping skills to first-time campers. Learn tent set-up, campfire building, dressing for camping, camping etiquette and more. Perfect for families and novice campers. Not appropriate for youth groups. Parents required to be present with children 16 and younger. No registration required.

[Nature is Accessible!](#)

Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, 9800 Willow Springs Rd, Willow Springs

*Wednesday, May 23 * 1m am – 2 pm*

Visitors of all abilities are invited to celebrate nature through accessible activities.

SOUTH

[Chicago River Day Clean Up & Paddle](#)

Kickapoo Woods, 14498 S Halsted St, Riverdale

*Saturday, May 12 * 9 am – Noon*

Help celebrate the 26th annual Chicago River Day with the Forest Preserves of Cook County on the Little Calumet River. Join us in both river clean-up and land restoration as we celebrate Chicago’s vital waterways. See chicagoriver.org for more information and other Chicago River Day locations. All ages. Limited number of boats available. Registration required for groups of 10 or more. To register or for information, call 708-386-4042.

[Nature Block Party: A Celebration of Biodiversity](#)

Eggers Grove, 11201 S Ave B, Chicago

*Saturday, May 19 * 11 am – 3 pm*

Discover the flora and fauna of the Calumet region and our urban forest preserves. Join us for restoration activities, nature walks, games, biking and more. All ages. Limited number of bikes available. Registration required for groups of 20 or more. To register or for information, call 708-386-4042.

[What’s the Difference?](#)

Green Lake Family Aquatic Center, 1100 River Oaks Dr, Calumet City

*Saturday, May 26 * 1:30 pm*

Join us as we examine the differences between a lake, pond, marsh and more. This program will include hiking at Green Lake and Sand Ridge Nature Center. Participants will provide their

own transportation. Hosted by Sand Ridge Nature Center. Meet at the Green Lake Aquatic Center parking lot. Registration Required: Call Sand Ridge at 708-868-0606. Deadline: 5/24.

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About the Forest Preserves of Cook County

Don't you sometimes just want to escape? Explore the natural beauty of Cook County for an hour, a day or even a night. When you're surrounded by 70,000 acres of wild and wonderful there's no better place to feel free.

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