Trexler Nature Preserve 2020 Environmental Education Programming

*All programs are free*

February

13th  Pre-K Pathfinders: Happy Campers, 10-11am

An indoor base camp experience complete with stories, songs, hot chocolate, and live animals. Teams will venture outside for a tracking hike. Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554

March

7th  Maple Trees & Pancakes Hike, 10am-12noon

Explore Trexler Nature Preserve’s trails on snowshoe or by foot with a Wildland’s Environmental Educator. Discover animal tracks, over-wintering birds, and meet the humble maple tree that produce’s the world’s best syrup! Get ready for some hot pancakes and syrup upon return to the Environmental Education Center. Snowshoes and lessons provided, including little snowshoes for ages 5+. Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554

15th  Drink Your Tree (Wild Edibles Tea Hike), 12-1:30pm

Most of us are probably quite familiar with healing teas like mint, but many people don’t realize that certain trees can also be used to make beneficial drinks, especially over winter. This edible tree identification hike culminates in tree tea tasting upon return to the Environmental Education Center. Program is underwritten by Lehigh County. Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554

19th  Pre-K Pathfinders: Bunny Trails, 10-11am

Hop into spring with live rabbits, themed games, and outdoor play. Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554
April

16th Pre-K Pathfinders: Over in the Forest, 10-11am

Learn about the animals that call Trexler Nature Preserve home with our educational wildlife and an outdoor expedition. Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554

May

14th Pre-K Pathfinders: Budding Birders, 10-11am

Observe live birds inside and up close before venturing outside to spy on their wild, feathered friends. Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554

June

June 7th- September 6th

Wild! At the Ford, 12-4pm

Explore the creek, explore the trails, learn about the local birds, and so much more! Location: Trexler Nature Preserve, Schnecksville, PA 18078. Follow the entry road past the LV Zoo parking lot to the ford across the Jordan Creek. No registration required.

11th Pre-K Pathfinders: Mix and Mash, 10-11am

Hands-on experiments may leave teams a little messy but very excited to explore to nature and science! Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554

17th Eco-Friends Day Camp, 9am-4pm

Campers- use your imagination and energy to tackle an eco-fun mission! Meet and greet some Wildlands education animals and investigate the park through exploration and games. Make sure to share your newly found eco-wealth with your family.

Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554

24th Science in Nature Day Camp, 9am-4pm

Curiosity, experimentation, and discovery- unearth the thrill of science, technology and engineering, and the beauty of the natural world. What will you create? What part of nature will inspire you? Put your STEM glasses on through many hands-on experiments and investigations.

Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554
July

8th    Rhythm of Nature Day Camp, 9am-4pm

Listen for the rhythm of nature creaking in an old tree’s branches, in water flowing over rock or emerging from the throat of a bull frog. Every sound has meaning, cause or purpose. Learn to hear it. Discover what it means. Rhythmically duplicating the sounds we hear, animal ambassadors and experiments fill our day.

Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554

9th    Pre-K Pathfinders: Splish & Splash, 10-11am

Teams meet at the Jordan Creek ford crossing to participate in water play and creek investigations. Closed-toe shoes required for creek access. Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554

11th   Get Out! For Wellness: Trexler Nature Preserve, 10am-12noon

Bring your water shoes for a chance to wade at the ford! First, we’ll walk down Jordan Creek from the ford on the Covered Bridge Trail to Geiger’s Covered Bridge, then cross the bridge and return to the parking lot. Here at the ford we can wade, splash, and look for macroinvertebrates (insects that indicate the health of a stream). The 1,108-acre Nature Preserve, home of the Lehigh Valley Zoo, was originally owned by General Harry C. Trexler, a successful lumber merchant and a founder of Lehigh Portland Cement Company. Trexler created the Preserve to protect bison, elk, and white-tail deer.

Leashed dogs welcome. Bring binoculars and/or camera to observe the elk from the road on your way out of the park. There are many other trails to explore while you are here. A portable bathroom is near the ford.

DIRECTIONS: From US Route 22, take Route 309 north for 5.5 miles to Schnecksville. Turn left onto Game Preserve Road and go 2.1 miles to entrance of Lehigh Valley Zoo. (You’ll pass through historic Schlicher’s Covered Bridge.) Make sharp left into the Preserve and go 1.0. Turn right as you near the Zoo parking lot, but keep going downhill for 0.3 mile. Turn left JUST before you get to the ford across the Jordan Creek. Drive to parking area where we will meet.

15th   Eco-Friends Day Camp, 9am-4pm

Campers- use your imagination and energy to tackle an eco-fun mission! Meet and greet some Wildlands education animals and investigate the park through exploration and games. Make sure to share your newly found eco-wealth with your family.

Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554
22nd    Science in Nature Day Camp, 9am-4pm

Curiosity, experimentation, and discovery- unearth the thrill of science, technology and engineering, and the beauty of the natural world. What will you create? What part of nature will inspire you? Put your STEM glasses on through many hands-on experiments and investigations.

Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554

August

5th     Rhythm of Nature Day Camp, 9am-4pm

Listen for the rhythm of nature creaking in an old tree’s branches, in water flowing over rock or emerging from the throat of a bull frog. Every sound has meaning, cause or purpose. Learn to hear it. Discover what it means. Rhythmically duplicating the sounds we hear, animal ambassadors and experiments fill our day.

Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554

12th    Eco-Friends Day Camp, 9am-4pm

Campers- use your imagination and energy to tackle an eco-fun mission! Meet and greet some Wildlands education animals and investigate the park through exploration and games. Make sure to share your newly found eco-wealth with your family.

Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554

13th    Pre-K Pathfinders: Into the Creek, 10-11am

Teams meet at the Jordan Creek ford to study the collect and observe the small aquatic species that call this creek home. Closed-toe shoes required for creek access. Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554

19th    Science in Nature Day Camp, 9am-4pm

Curiosity, experimentation, and discovery- unearth the thrill of science, technology and engineering, and the beauty of the natural world. What will you create? What part of nature will inspire you? Put your STEM glasses on through many hands-on experiments and investigations.

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September

12th    Monarch Tagging, 10-11am

Monarch tagging is citizen science at its best! The purpose of the tagging is to associate the location of capture with the point of recovery for each butterfly. The data from these recaptures helps to determine the pathways taken by migrating monarchs, the influence of
weather on the migration, and the survival rate of the monarchs. Learn how to capture, hold, and tag these fragile beings and then create milkweed seed bombs to help create new habitat.

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17th  Pre-K Pathfinders: Fairytale Yoga, 10-11am

A fun, movement-based storytelling experience using classic fairytales as inspirations. Each participant should bring a yoga mat. Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554

October

10th  Big Sit, 6am-6pm

The Big Sit is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event hosted by Bird Watcher’s Digest and designed to appeal to birders and citizen scientists of all skill sets. Called a “tailgate party for birders,” the event requires a good spot for bird watching. The roof-top observation area of the nature preserve’s environmental center building is definitely a great birding location. That’s it. Find a spot, sit in it, have fun. That’s what we’ll be doing. Join us! Come for an hour or stay all day!

Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554

15th  Pre-K Pathfinders: Animal Lore, 10-11am

A storytelling experience complete with live animals and art. Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554

November

5th  Pre-K Pathfinders: Owl Pals, 10-11am

Celebrate autumn with live owls, hot coca, and a habitat hike. Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554

7th  Hoody Hoot Hike, 5-6:30pm

After meeting our education owls to learn about their amazing adaptations, we'll go in search of Trexler Nature Preserve’s resident owls. Later, we'll relive our adventures while sipping hot cocoa.

Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554
December

3rd Pre-K Pathfinders: Drink Your Tree, 10-11am

Learn how to identify several species of local trees, before enjoying tree-tea! Location: Trexler Environmental Center, 4935 Orchard Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078-2554