



Winter 2019-20 Programs at Blue Jay Point County Park

Pre-registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted. Online registration ends 3 days before a program. Call (919) 870-4330 to check on space availability/ability to register less than 3 days in advance.

Register ONLINE for Public Programs!

<http://www.wakegov.com/parks/bluejay/public>



Family Wildlife Series

Family Programs are FREE and everyone present must be registered. Most FWS programs are open to all ages although activities and content are most appropriate for ages 5 and up. (Note age limits on a few FWS programs). Children under the age of 16 MUST be accompanied by an adult. Don't forget—"kids are not required"—unaccompanied adults are always welcome in our family programs! Pre-registration is required unless otherwise stated.

Owl Prowl

Saturday, January 18, 6-7:15p.m.

Venture into the night on a Blue Jay hike. Learn about owl habits and adaptations as we listen for these nocturnal birds. This adventure is for families with kids ages 5 and up.



Oh Deer!

Saturday, February 22, 2-3 p.m.

Are you seeing more deer in your backyard? North Carolina's skyrocketing deer population is causing area residents to see more of these once elusive animals. Come and learn about deer ecology and their amazing ability to adapt to a changing North Carolina.

Tricky Tracks

Saturday, January 25, 10-11 a.m.

Come dressed for the weather so you can roam the park learning the fine art of "tracking". Make a cast of an animal track to take home.



Counting is for the Birds

Monday, February 17, 10-11 a.m.

Join Blue Jay staff to hear a bird story (or two), try a fun bird activity (or three), and count how many different kinds of birds we can see from Blue Jay's front porch as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count on Monday morning. Older kids will hike "further afield" to expand our bird count numbers while the peewees and their grown-ups make bird treats to take home. This family program for parents and children of all ages is FREE but pre-registration is required.

Spring Daze Hike

Monday, March 9, 10-11 a.m.

Learn about the signs that spring is about to pop as we hike Blue Jay's trails looking for wildflowers, animal activity, budding trees and more. Family Program (ages 5+)

Green Living

Saturday, March 14 10-11 a.m.

Spring is almost here and the world is greening around us. Learn what plants need to live as you plant seeds for a salsa garden to take home in recycled containers.



Recycle your holiday tree to mulch trails at Wake County Parks. Drop off your undecorated holiday trees at one of the following parks:

- **Blue Jay Point County Park**
3200 Pleasant Union Church Road, Raleigh
- **Harris Lake County Park**
2112 County Park Drive, New Hill
- **Lake Crabtree County Park**
1400 Aviation Parkway, Morrisville

**Trees may be dropped off
December 26—January 26**

More info: www.wakegov.com/recycling/division/Pages/happytrails.aspx



Happy Trails
CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

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Nature Peekers

A monthly program series for very young children ages 18mo – 3 yrs (and their grownups!) where we listen to a story, practice developmentally appropriate skills, interact with other youngsters and enjoy nature OUTSIDE if possible (and indoors if needed).



The Snowy Day

Tuesday, January 7 10:30 -11a.m.

The **Snowy Day** by Ezra Jack Keats, is the simple tale of a boy waking up to discover that snow has fallen during the night. Just as a little boy experiences adventures with snow we'll explore some fun snow crafts too!

Can You Growl Like a Bear?

Tuesday, Feb 4 10:30 - 11a.m.

From trumpeting like an elephant to howling like a wolf, kids will love discovering different animals and the noises they make in **Can You Growl Like a Bear?** by John Butler.

Up, Down and Around

Tuesday, March 10, 10:30 - 11a.m.

This garden is on the move! From seeds dropping into soil to corn bursting from its stalks, from children chasing butterflies to ants burrowing underground. A good-time, rollicking celebration of things that grow is found in **Up, Down, and Around** by Katherine Ayres.



Nature Stories

Theme-related stories and activities for parent and child aged 3 - 5 years and their grownups! Nature Stories is a great way for us to get to know each other before the Eco-Kids Summer Mini-camp! (now enrolling—see page 3)



Welcoming Winter

Wednesday, January 15 1 – 2 p.m.

Brrrrr! When it's cold, you put on a coat. What do you suppose critters do? Learn how different animal groups deal with the winter cold. Bring your coat too, for this all outside adventure.

Silly About Salamanders

Wednesday, February 19 1 – 2 p.m.

Do salamanders really smile? Meet a real live salamander and find out! Explore the world of salamanders before making a cool salamander craft to take home. Be sure to wear your coat for this outside adventure.



A Nest Full of Eggs

Wednesday, March 18 1 – 2 p.m.

Take a look at lots of nests and more as you learn about spring bird activities. Make a "nest pickings" to take home to help the birds in your yard this Spring!

Adult Educator Workshop



Flying WILD Workshop

Wednesday Feb 12 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Flying WILD professional development workshops are designed with urban/suburban educators in mind. Each training session provides formal and nonformal teachers of K-12 students with a comprehensive overview of **Flying WILD: An Educator's Guide to Celebrating Birds**, as well as practical hands-on training in its implementation. Workshop facilitators also share information about migratory birds and their conservation needs and help participants become networked into the bird conservation community in their community. Each participating educator receives a complimentary copy of **Flying WILD: An Educator's Guide to Celebrating Birds** and a certificate indicating 6-hours of professional development training upon completion of the workshop. This workshop is approved for Criteria I credit in the NC EE Certification program. Bring a bag lunch and drink. Adult Workshop, **FREE but preregistration required.**



Save the Date for *Songbird Celebration*

Saturday, April 25, 2020

11 a.m.—3 p.m.

Songbird Celebration is an annual special event celebrating the return of migratory songbirds and in honor of World Migratory Bird Day. It is a FREE festival for bird lovers of all ages, and a great outing for families, Scouts and other youth groups. Enjoy bird-related activities throughout the park, including games and crafts, story times, bird hikes for adults and kids, learning stations and more!

SERIOUS SKILLS FOR ADULTS

Whether you are an outdoor buff wanting to hone your skills, or a dabbler that would just like to try something new, come hang with the Blue Jay staff and work on some Serious Skills!
* Pre-registration is required for these FREE Serious Skills for Adults sessions* <http://www.wakegov.com/parks/bluejay/public>

Volunteer Opportunities for Teens and Adults



Craft Materials Preparation Workdays

Help prepare crafts and materials for upcoming summer camps, family festivals and educational programs.

Saturday, January 4, 2020 Volunteer shift 2 p.m.—4 p.m.
Saturday, February 8, 2020 Volunteer shift 2 p.m.—4 p.m.
Saturday, March 7, 2020 Volunteer shift 2 p.m.—4 p.m.



Winter Open House

We need a few top notch adults and high school students to assist with our Winter Open House. Tasks include staffing activities, being a group guide and more!

Saturday, February 01, 2020 Volunteer shift 12:30-4:30



Songbird Celebration Family Festival

Saturday, April 25, 2018

Choice of volunteer shifts—

- ★ 10 a.m.—4 p.m.
- ★ 10a.m.—1p.m.
- ★ 1—4 p.m.
- ★ 3—5p.m. (event clean-up)

Help us celebrate World Migratory Bird Day and the return of our feathered friends. Opportunities include running game booths, activities and craft tables.

Register ONLINE for the Volunteer Opportunities above at www.wakegov.com/parks/bluejay/Pages/volunteer.aspx
ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST PRE-REGISTER

Summer Camp Assistants



Volunteer for as little as a single 3 day mini-camp— contact us for more info. (919) 870-4330 or bluejaypoint@wakegov.com

Winter Tree ID

Saturday, January 25

1—3 p.m.

Learn how to identify trees in the winter. Demystify buds, leaf scars and bud scales! You will learn hands-on techniques to help you identify trees while in the classroom and then take off into the woods to practice skills. Criteria 2 credit is available for NC EE Certification candidates.

Letterboxing 101

Saturday, February 29

9 a.m.—Noon

Letterboxing is an intriguing pastime combining artistic ability with delightful "treasure-hunts" in parks, cities, historical areas and more around the world. Participants seek out hidden letterboxes by cracking codes and following clues; this 160 year old game is actually the precursor to geocaching! We'll spend a few hours getting acquainted with the in's and out's of letterboxing, try carving your own stamp and find a few letterboxes right here at Blue Jay! This workshop has been approved for Criteria II or III credit for participants in the NC EE Certification program.

Capturing that Sense of Wonder

Saturday, March 21

9 a.m.—Noon

Join Wende Essrow, award winning author and artist to learn creative ways to combine poetry, art, and still shots to express what you feel while you are out in nature. Bring your smart phone and your sense of wonder as we spend time on the trail reconnecting with nature, capturing images and then returning to our classroom to create an example collaborative product of our work. Feel unartistic? Learn about some apps and other resources that will lend you a creative hand. This workshop will count for Criteria II credit for the NC EE Certification program and is equally appropriate for every parent, grandparent or educator who has ever wanted to share their love of the outdoors in a tangible way.

Winter 2019-20 Programs continued

Blue Jay Point County Park

2019 Summer Mini-Camps

Blue Jay Explorers

June 22, 24, and 26 9 a.m.-3p.m.

For 9-12's Fee: \$72 (track 1, traditional.)

From the sun and stars to Global Positioning Systems (GPS's) join us as we progress through time to learn how explorers have used tools to find their way through our world. We will use these tools to become skilled in such activities as letterboxing and geocaching while we explore the wilds of Blue Jay Point County Park.



Hone your tracking skills as we hunt down wild animals and plants in this exciting mini-camp. As a nature detective, you'll use your senses and a special kit to discover hidden secrets in the Blue Jay forest. This will be an all-weather adventure, so dress accordingly! Campers should bring a healthy snack and a packed lunch each day.

Forest Detectives

July 13, 15 and 17 9 a.m.-1p.m.

For 6-8's. Fee: \$48 (track 4, traditional.)

Eco-Kids Incredible Insects

July 20, 22, & 24 9 - Noon

For 4-5's Fee: \$36 (track 4, traditional)

Ladybugs, butterflies, and dragonflies are just some of the amazing insects that live all around us. How are they alike? How are they different? Come explore Blue Jay Point habitats as we seek them out. Listen to creepy-crawly stories; make some critter crafts; and enjoy yummy buggy snacks. .



2019-2020 "Scout Saturday" dates at Blue Jay Point

Are you a Girl Scout or Cub Scout leader? Bring your troop/den for up to 15 Scouts for a free one hour Scout Saturday program at Blue Jay that focuses on the requirements for a particular badge. (Do you have a small troop/den? Invite another troop/den to come with you!) Advance registration required--call (919)870-4330 for space availability and specific badge requirements covered. **Scout Saturday programs are available from 1:30-2:30 p.m. or 3-4 p.m.** Additional service projects and theme-related Discovery Boxes under leader guidance are frequently available before or after a specific Scout Saturday program. You provide the scouts and badges, we provide a great learning opportunity!

Date	Intended Scouts	Targeted Badge
Jan 11	Brownies	Household Elf
Feb 15	Webelos	Earth Rocks
Mar 14	Brownies	Letterboxing

- Don't forget to come to our February 1, 2020 **Winter Open House "It Takes a Village"**. Join us to learn how one person's actions joined with other people's actions add up to make a difference to our planet. You can earn a free patch for participating! There are even some things your troop can do ahead of time to help—we have a list of things your can collect from your family, friends or neighbors to bring for our collection boxes (plastic caps, poptop tabs, old eyeglasses or hearing aides, canned goods etc to be donated to the proper agencies.
- An additional **FREE scout badge/patch opportunity** is available by attending our Songbird Celebration Festival on **Saturday, April 25, 2020** (mark your calendars now!) and completing specific requirements including a short bird class and a bird hike For individual scouts or scouts acting as a group, a **Songbird Celebration Special Interest Patch** is available by completing various tasks on your "Songbird Migration Pass" (patch is free at the event) Older scouts may earn an **Environment for the Americas Stewardship Patch** (patch is free at the event) by both participating and volunteering with Songbird Celebration! **Scout troops/individual scouts must contact us at bluejaypoint@wakegov.com or (919) 870-4330 by April 1, 2020 to arrange to earn various patches at Songbird Celebration!**

Register ONLINE for Public Programs!
<http://www.wakegov.com/parks/bluejay/public>

Did you know that Blue Jay
is on



Get reminders of upcoming programs, and alerts of weather-related closures, cool natural history happening, updates on park closing times and more. All you have to do is “like” us! We’d also love it if you’d tag us in your favorite Blue Jay pictures!

Overnight Lodge Available

Great week nights are still available for the 2019-20 school year!

- Are you part of a group like a school, scouts, or Y-Guides?
- Is your group Interested in studying hands-on science and nature?
- Are you looking for a comfortable and affordable **overnight** outing?
- Are you willing to do 6 educational activities per night of your stay?

If you answered “YES!” to **all four** of those questions, give us a call at **(919) 870-4330** to find out about available dates in the coming year for reserving Blue Jay’s Overnight Lodge.

There is great information about the Lodge on our website at <http://www.wakegov.com/parks/bluejay/about/Pages/>



Interested in Simple Ways to Help?

At Blue Jay, reuse and minimizing the solid waste stream is always in our minds when planning programs and public festivals. Park visitors are always asking for ways they can help, so here are some ideas! We would love the donation of the following gently used items for use in park programming and natural resource projects:

- Gable top almond milk/orange juice cartons—rinsed and DRIED
- Empty Metamucil containers
- Old highway maps or Nat Geo maps
- Sturdy garden art, especially out of recycled materials
- Ribbon of all varieties
- Toy plastic animal figurines (not tiny ones)
- Clean and dry Gatorade or Powerade bottles with lids (specifically)

We will be offering collection containers for the following items at our Winter Open House “It Takes a Village” Saturday, February 1 and throughout the month of February. At the end of February, park staff will take all items will be taken to the requesting agencies:

- Food items for the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC (see their guidelines)
- Aluminum pop tops for the Ronald McDonald House
- Old eyeglasses and hearing aides for the Lions Club
- Items on CLAWS, Inc’s request list (see their website)
- Plastic bottle caps and lids of all kinds (clean and dry) for a Girl Scout Troop
- Boxtops for Education (all those paper ones you saved before they went digital!)

It doesn’t matter if you only have a few—remember, one person’s actions joined to other people’s actions can make a difference to our planet!



“Like” us on Facebook to get park updates and reminders!



FEB. 1, 2020 | 1 – 4 P.M. | BLUE JAY POINT COUNTY PARK

Spend a winter afternoon getting to know Blue Jay Point County Park at our Winter Open House. Whether you're a regular visitor or have never stopped by, this is the perfect opportunity to explore what the park has to offer, meet staff and check out exhibits from community organizations in a fun, laid-back atmosphere.

The Winter Open House is free, and registration isn't required. The event features:

- Interactive displays and hands-on activities
- Crafts and games
- Refreshments on the covered porch
- Live animals
- Participatory story times

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Join us to learn how one person's actions joined with the actions of others can add up and make a difference to our planet. At the Winter Open House, Blue Jay Point will transform into Collection Central! Bring those eyeglasses you've been saving for the Lions Club, the pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House, clean plastic jar and bottle caps for the Girl Scouts or the last of the paper Box Tops for Education. We will have collection boxes available and Blue Jay staff will send those items to their destination!

We will also again be collecting food and non-food essential items for the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. Please find a list of most needed items [here](#). Don't worry if you forget your items on the way to the Winter Open House—we will accept donations for the entire month of February!

VISIT EXHIBITORS AND EARN A PRIZE

Pick up an event brochure when you arrive at the event, and get it stamped at specified booths. Show your stamped program at the Information Table before you leave, and you'll get to choose a prize!

LET'S GET SOCIAL

Throughout the day, be sure to share your experiences at the Winter Open House by posting pictures on social media and using the hashtag #BJPWOH. And don't forget to follow @WakeGovParks on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#), and [Blue Jay Point County Park](#) on Facebook. We love connecting with our visitors.

<http://www.wakegov.com/parks/bluejay/Pages/woh>