

SPRING 2018 PROGRAMS AT BAUER PARK

Madison's Agricultural and Environmental Center
257 Copse Road

Register for all classes in the Madison Beach & Recreation office at town campus or online at www.madisonct.org/recreation. Questions? Call 203-245-5623.

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General Programs

BIRDS IN YOUR BACKYARD AND AROUND THE WORLD

Sunday, March 25

1:00-2:30 p.m.

Experience an avian world, from the backyards of Madison to the exotic wild lands of Australia, Africa and the Galapagos Islands. Each species has its own fascinating stories to tell through its unique behaviors and adaptations. Participants will be encouraged to ask questions about birds throughout the program. Susannah Graedel holds a master’s degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and spent many years banding songbirds.

For adults and teens.

Instructor: Susannah Graedel

Fee: \$10

GET READY FOR BLUEBIRDS!

Sunday, April 15

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Bluebirds start nesting in Madison in early spring. Indoors we will learn about what these lovely songbirds need to raise a family. Nest box plans are available. Then tour the Bauer Bluebird Trail to see the birds in action. Learn how to become a bluebird nest box monitor as part of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology citizen science program.

All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Instructor: Susannah Graedel

Fee: \$5

ASTRONOMY NIGHT

Saturday, May 12

8:00-10:00 p.m.

Learn about the night sky with members of the Astronomical Society of New Haven. Telescopes will be set up on the Bauer Park Astronomy Platform near the community gardens. Take a close look at Jupiter and other celestial objects in the spring sky.

For all ages. FREE and open to the public. No registration required.

BEGINNING BIRDING BY EAR

Sunday, June 10

8:00-10:00 a.m.

Bauer Park is alive with the songs and calls of breeding birds in June. The secret of learning the vocalizations of birds is by locating a bird by listening and then seeing it with binoculars. This is the best time to hone your skills because birds are singing to attract a mate and defend their nests. Species such as Bluebirds, Red-tailed Hawks, Yellow Warblers and Orioles will be easy to find. Binoculars and field guides will be provided or bring your own.

For adults and teens.

Instructor: Susannah Graedel

Fee: \$10

THE SIXTEENTH GREAT SNAKE AND FROG HUNT

Saturday, June 2

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Join a herpetologist on a hunt for turtles, frogs and snakes. Learn about reptiles and amphibians then discover where and how to search for these elusive creatures.

All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Instructor: Chuck Annicelli

Fee: \$5

Children's Programs

SEED STARTING

Tuesday, March 20

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Come learn the basics of starting seeds indoors! Each participant will plant a collection of herb, flower and/or vegetable seeds to bring home.

Ages 4-6 with an adult
Instructor: Sue Stark
Fee: \$21

MINI-EXPLORERS

Come join in the fun of exploring! We will learn about nature and science through activities such as hiking, singing, games, reading and making crafts. For preschoolers ages 3-5, accompanied by an adult. Indoor/outdoor programs – dress for the weather.

Instructor: Donna Dione
Fee: \$11 per class

MAGNIFICENT MACHINES

Saturday, March 24
10:00-11:30 a.m.

Machines are everywhere in our lives and seem to be able to do just about everything. In this program, we will learn about simple machines like wedges, levers and wheels and do some experiments to see how they can make our lives easier. Participants will make a machine craft to take home.

MIXING MADNESS

Saturday, April 7
10:00-11:30 a.m.

Join us as we become mini-scientists and do some fun mixing and color experiments! See what happens when we mix some mystery liquids and powders. Make oobleck and slime and even do some color chromatography!

DOWN ON THE FARM

Saturday, April 21
10:00-11:30 a.m.

What would it have been like to live at Bauer Farm over 100 years ago? Would kids spend all day doing chores or would they get to have some fun? Join us as we play some games that were popular with children in early America along with making a colonial craft. Maybe we'll even do a farm chore or two!

DIG THOSE DECOMPOSERS

Saturday, May 5

10:00-11:30 a.m.

If you like exploring and playing in the dirt, then you will love decomposers! Insects, fungi and all sorts of cool critters help turn leaves and logs into soil. Join us as we visit the Bauer forest for an up-close investigation of who is living under our feet and helping to keep the woods alive.

INCREDIBLE INSECTS AND AMAZING ARACHNIDS

Saturday, May 19

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Insects and spiders can sometimes be scary pests, but there are quite a few that are actually helpful to plants, animals and people. Learn the difference between insects and spiders and explore why all these “creepy crawlers” are important. The class will include a “bug hunt” and an insect craft.

POND DIPPERS

Saturday, June 9

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Have you ever wondered what critters live in the pond at Bauer Park? Join us for some pond dipping with nets, and you’ll have the chance to observe some freshwater creatures up close. Please wear clothes and shoes/boots that you don’t mind getting a little wet and muddy.

BUSY BEES

Thursdays, April 26 – May 24

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Busy Bees will use the Bauer Farming Project’s organic vegetable garden as an outdoor classroom to observe and engage with nature. Participants will help plant, harvest, taste and share the fruits of their labor. Classes will consist of story time, hiking, crafts, songs, gardening, and lots of fun. Be prepared to hike outside, and bring a water bottle and snack.

Be advised: We will be tasting items from the garden and preparing foods. (Please make teachers aware of allergies or dietary restrictions.)

Ages 3-6 with an adult

Instructor: Sue Stark

Fee: \$91

COOL-OLGY MARCH MADNESS STEM CHALLENGES

Friday, March 9

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Design and create a ball shooter and goal and see how many points you can rack up!
Create a mini dog sled to celebrate the Iditarod, and design and create a rainbow bridge that will hold the heaviest pot of gold!

Ages 7-11

Instructor: Claudia Esposito

Fee: \$16

MOTION MAKERS

Thursday, April 5

4:00 – 5:30 pm

Through hands-on activities, learn about force and motion while exploring the six types of simple machines and determining how they make our work easier. Everyone makes their own balloon-powered car to take home!

Ages 6-9

Instructor: Donna Dione

Fee: \$11

AS THE WORM TURNS

Tuesday, April 17

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Prepare for Earth Day by learning about the earth's master recyclers – worms! Hunt for worms, then conduct experiments to discover more about these important creatures. Explore how vermicomposting works in the classroom and gardens at Bauer Park. Get ready to get dirty!

Ages 7-11

Instructor: Julie Ainsworth

Fee: \$13

PONDERING PONDS

Thursday, April 19

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Become a limnologist and conduct comparative studies of Bauer Park's four ponds. We'll measure each pond's water chemistry, collect aquatic animals and plants, and examine them under microscopes. Please wear boots and dress for the weather.

Ages 7-11

Instructor: Julie Ainsworth

Fee: \$13

SEED STARTERS

Thursday, April 26

4:00 – 6:00 pm

Come learn the basics of seed starting indoors! Each participant will plant a collection of herb, flower and/or vegetable seeds to bring home.

Ages 7-12

Instructor: Sue Stark

Fee: \$25

HERB GARDENING

Thursday, May 17

4:00 – 6:00 pm

Learn about the benefits of herbs and traditions of planting. We will plant a new herb garden at the Bauer Farming Project garden. Each participant will bring home live herb plants for their garden.

Ages 7-12

Instructor: Sue Stark

Fee: \$27

POLLINATOR PARTY

Thursday, June 7

4:00-5:30 p.m.

We will investigate the variety of pollinators at Bauer Park, learn about pollinator habitats and life cycles, and have a celebration party with foods that pollinators help provide.

Ages 7-12

Instructor: Sue Stark

Fee: \$21

FARM FANATICS

Thursday, June 14

4:00 – 5:30 pm

What would it have been like to live at Bauer Farm over 100 years ago? Would kids spend all day doing chores or would they get to have some fun? Join us as we play some games that were popular with children in early America along with making candles and a colonial craft. Maybe we'll even do a farm chore or two!

Ages 8-10

Instructor: Donna Dione

Fee: \$11

ROOTS TO FRUITS AFTER-SCHOOL GARDEN CLUB

Tuesdays, April 24 – May 29

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Using the Bauer Farming Project's organic vegetable garden as an outdoor classroom, participants will observe and engage with the natural world through a variety of activities including planning, planting, harvesting, tasting and sharing the fruits of our labor. This is a drop off program. Be prepared to be outside; bring a water bottle and a snack. Be advised: We will be tasting items from the garden and preparing foods (please make teachers aware of allergies or dietary restrictions).

Ages 7-12

Instructor: Sue Stark

Fee: \$113

OCEANOLOGY CLUB WINTER/EARLY SPRING SESSION

Wednesdays, February 28 – April 4

3:30-5:30 p.m.

Investigate our local marine environment in this science club for middle school students. From our home base at the Surf Club, we will study fish populations, water chemistry, plankton, seaweeds, beach topography and more, using standard oceanographic materials and methods. Students will collect and analyze data, learn to identify local species, and assess human impacts on our coastal waters. There will be an optional weekend boat trip to study seal populations in Long Island Sound (date and cost TBA). Students should have a serious interest in math, science and the marine environment.

Ages 10-14 (students currently in grades 5-8)

Instructor: Julie Ainsworth

Fee: \$75

OCEANOLOGY CLUB SPRING SESSION

Wednesdays, April 25 – June 13

3:30-5:30 p.m.

Investigate our local marine environment in this science club for middle school students. We'll explore a variety of coastal ecosystems -- from sandy beaches and salt marshes, to tidepools and rocky shores. Students will collect and analyze data, learn to identify local species, and assess human impacts on Long Island Sound. We'll also monitor horseshoe crab and shorebird populations as citizen scientists for Project Limulus. On rainy days, we will do indoor activities,

such as fish printing, microscopic studies or dissections. The club schedule with meeting locations will be emailed to parents. Students should have a serious interest in math, science and the marine environment.

Ages 10-14 (students currently in grades 5-8)

Instructor: Julie Ainsworth

Fee: \$100

SUMMER 2018 PROGRAMS AT BAUER PARK

Madison's Agricultural and Environmental Center
257 Copse Road

Register for all classes in the Madison Beach & Recreation office at town campus or online at www.madisonct.org/recreation . Questions? Call 203-245-5623.

Attention middle school, high school and college students! Would you like to help Bauer Park instructors teach summer camps, earn community service hours, and have fun learning about nature? Please contact the Beach & Recreation Department if interested in being a summer camp volunteer by May 15: (203) 245-5623.

General Programs

FAMILY NATURE SKETCHING

Sunday, July 8

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Drawings can be more fun than photos! Find a favorite spot on the trails and in the fields of Bauer Park and create a memory you can take home. Natural Science Illustrator Susannah Graedel will be on hand to give you some tips on drawing what you see. Bring a sketch pad and colored pencils for each person. Recommended for families with children age 6 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Instructor: Susannah Graedel

Fee: \$5

THE BAUER PARK FAMILY SAILING REGATTA!

Sunday, July 15

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Build and sail your own boat! First, families will collect natural materials from the Bauer Woodland Trail. Using only these items from nature and their imaginations, they will construct miniature boats to sail and race on the Bauer pond in the annual Bauer Yacht Regatta!

Recommended for families with children 5 years and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Instructor: Susannah Graedel

Fee: \$5

BUTTERFLY WALK

Saturday, July 28

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Led by members of the Connecticut Butterfly Association (CBA), this walk will focus primarily on the open fields. Please wear clothing and footwear to protect you from poison ivy and ticks. Sunscreen and water are also recommended. Children are welcome with adults.

FREE and open to the public.

POND DIPPING FOR FAMILIES

Sunday, August 12

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Have you ever wondered what critters live in the pond at Bauer Park? Join us for some pond dipping with nets, and you'll have the chance to observe some freshwater creatures up close. Please wear clothes and shoes/boots that you don't mind getting a little wet and muddy.

All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Instructor: Donna Dione

Fee: \$5

WEARABLE BAUER NATURE ART

Sunday, August 19

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Use nature to create artistic expression that you can wear! Participants will collect natural objects from Bauer Park's woodland trail to make colorful prints using fabric paint. Bring a tee shirt, pillowcase or other articles of your choice. As fabric paints are permanent, participants should dress accordingly.

All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Instructor: Susannah Graedel

Fee: \$5

SUMMER CAMPS

MINI-EXPLORERS CAMP: ANIMAL ADVENTURES

Monday-Friday, July 9 - 13

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

We will learn about some of the animals at Bauer Park and see how many we can find on our daily excursions. We will focus on unique adaptations of animal groups such as the Insects,

Birds, Amphibians, Fish and Mammals. Children should be dressed appropriately for the weather, wear closed-toed shoes and sunscreen, and bring a snack and water bottle. This is a drop-off program. Children must be toilet-trained.

Ages 3 – 5

Instructor: Donna Dione

Fee: \$150

MINI-EXPLORERS CAMP: DIGGING DINOSAURS

Monday-Thursday, July 9 - 12

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

We will discover a variety of fun facts about fossils and dinosaurs including: how fossils formed, what it was like when dinosaurs roamed the earth, and the many adaptations dinosaurs had to help them survive. Children should be dressed appropriately for the weather, wear closed-toed shoes and sunscreen, and bring a snack and water bottle. This is a drop-off program. Children must be toilet-trained.

Ages 3 – 5

Instructor: Donna Dione

Fee: \$125

NATURE CAMP

Monday-Friday, July 23-27

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Find animals, make field guides, play games, and explore the habitats at Bauer Park.

Topics include pond life, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, birds, animal bones and using plants as natural dyes. Children should bring lunch, a water bottle, a bathing suit (for the sprinkler) and good walking shoes.

Ages 6 - 8

Instructor: Sara Levine

Fee: \$150

SUMMER'S BOUNTY GARDEN ADVENTURE

Monday-Friday, July 30 – August 3

1:00–4:00 p.m.

Using the Bauer Farming Project's organic vegetable garden as an outdoor classroom, we will explore the mid-summer excitement in the garden. Through hands-on work in the garden, campers will learn about growing beautiful healthy food organically. We will learn about the ecosystems working in the garden, harvest food for enticing recipes each day, learn about saving the bounty of summer for later in the year, and harvest food and flowers to donate. We will also be making beautiful works of art from things gathered in the garden. Be prepared to be outside; bring a water bottle, clothes for water play, and a snack.

Ages 7 - 12

Instructor: Sue Stark

Fee: \$148

CREATE A CONCRETE LEAF SCULPTURE

Monday-Friday, August 13 - 17

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Concrete leaf casting is an easy and fun way to add a stepping stone, bird feeder or birdbath to your home landscape. Participants will learn to preserve leaves in cement in this hands-on camp. The natural depressions and veins of the leaf are captured in amazing detail, and once cured, the casting can be used ornamentally in the home or garden. Wear work clothes and bring a water bottle. Bring clothes for water play at the end of the day!

Ages 7 - 12

Instructor: Sue Stark

Fee: \$177

WOODWORKING AND GARDENING: BUILD A GARDEN BOX

Monday-Friday, July 2 – 6 (no class Wednesday, July 4)

1:00–4:00 p.m.

Campers will learn basic gardening skills, hike the Bauer property, and explore what is growing in the many Bauer gardens. Each participant will plan and design a mini garden, which will go inside the wooden garden box that they will also create. This camp will include tasting and experimenting with fresh vegetables and herbs as well as some cooking activities. Please dress for hiking, and bring water shoes for pond study. Also bring a snack and water bottle.

Ages 6 - 12

Instructor: Shari Lariviere

Fee: \$150

WOODWORKING: BUILD A RACE CAR

Tuesday-Friday, July 24-27

1:30–4:30 p.m.

Each participant will build a wooden racecar that they will take home at the end of camp. Students will learn about vehicle safety and engineer a system to keep their “passenger” safe in the event of a crash. They will apply for a mock driver’s license, and have the opportunity to race against themselves or others. Please dress for hiking, and bring water shoes for pond study. Also bring a snack and water bottle.

Ages 6 - 12

Instructor: Shari Lariviere

Fee: \$150

COOL-OLGY SCIENCE & ENGINEERING CAMP

Monday-Friday, July 30 – August 3

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

This camp introduces young children to science and engineering through hands-on, inquiry based learning experiences sure to thrill and delight! These STEM-based lessons are geared toward capturing your child’s natural curiosity while teaching the scientific and engineering design process and critical thinking skills in a safe, fun environment. Topics include: catapults, flight, roller coasters, bug engineering and a whole lot more!

Ages 7 - 10

Instructor: Claudia Esposito

Fee: \$155

SUMMER EXPLORERS

Monday-Friday, June 25-29

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Discover the variety of habitats we have right here in Madison! Each day we’ll meet at a different site for hiking and exploration. Activities may include tagging horseshoe crabs at Circle Beach, seining at the Surf Club, geocaching at Rockland Preserve and hiking Madison Land Trust trails. Children should have closed water shoes and hiking shoes, and bring a water bottle and energizing snack each day. The week’s schedule and directions will be sent to participants before camp begins.

Ages 8 - 11

Instructor: Julie Ainsworth

Fee: \$145

JUNIOR MARINE BIOLOGISTS

Monday-Friday, July 2 - 6 (no meeting Wednesday, July 4)

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Get your feet wet exploring the world of marine biology! We'll visit a different beach in Madison each day to discover what makes each one unique. Learn how to collect and identify an assortment of aquatic algae and animals, and discover their amazing adaptations for life in Long Island Sound. We'll also measure water chemistry and study sand samples at each coastal habitat. The week's schedule and directions will be sent to participants before camp begins. In case of inclement weather, indoor marine science activities will be held at Bauer Park.

Ages 7 - 10

Instructor: Julie Ainsworth

Fee: \$120

MARINE BIOLOGY CAMP

Monday-Friday, August 13-17

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Become a field biologist and investigate Connecticut's coastal waters. Conduct experiments, collect data and learn about the organisms that inhabit Long Island Sound and its watershed. Using a variety of field research techniques, both in and out of the water, we'll increase our knowledge of local shorelines. Four days will be based in Madison, as we explore the town's beaches, tidepools, and salt marshes. On the fifth day, camp will meet at Project Oceanology in Groton, CT where we'll visit science labs and embark on a marine study cruise. The week's schedule will be sent to participants before camp begins. Bus transportation is provided to Project Oceanology. Campers should have a serious interest in math, science and the marine environment.

Ages 10 – 14

Instructor: Julie Ainsworth

Fee: \$259



Visit www.madisonct.org/recreation for registration and program updates.