

**SPRING & SUMMER 2019 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](http://www.madisonct.org/recreation). Questions? Call 203-245-5623.

Bauer Park is on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/bauerparkmadisonct> Post photos, see event updates, and read about what's happening at Bauer Park!

Educational programs can be arranged for school, scout and community groups at Bauer Park, Salt Meadow Park, Rockland Preserve and the town beaches. Contact the Beach & Recreation Office for more information.

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## GENERAL PROGRAMS

### Get Ready for Bluebirds!

Saturday, April 27

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: \$7

### Astronomy Night

Saturday, May 11

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 Mars and other celestial objects in the spring sky.

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

### Beginning Birding By Ear

Saturday, June 8

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: \$5

### The Seventeenth Great Snake and Frog Hunt

Saturday, June 8

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

### **Family Nature Sketching**

Sunday, July 28

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 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 28

1:00 - 3:00 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 age 5 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Instructor: Susannah Graedel

Fee: \$10/family

### **Butterfly Walk**

TBA (*see website for date*)

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.

### **Wearable Bauer Nature Art**

Sunday, August 4

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

## **PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS**

### **Mini-Explorers**

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

Instructor: Donna Dione

### **Mixing Madness**

Saturday, March 30

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! (Weather will determine if some of the experiments take place outside.)

Fee: \$13

### **Down on the Farm**

Saturday, April 13

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 butter and a colonial craft. Maybe we'll even do a farm chore or two!

Fee: \$13

### **Dig Those Decomposers**

Saturday, April 27

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.

Fee: \$13

### **Pond Dippers**

Saturday, June 1

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.

Fee: \$11

## **AFTER-SCHOOL & VACATION PROGRAMS**

### **Madison Explorers Vacation Camp**

Monday-Friday, April 15-19

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. From the shoreline to the forests, we'll explore our beaches, land trust trails, and town preserves. Activities will include hiking, tidepooling, pond dipping, letterboxing, and nature scavenger hunts. Children should have boots 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 7 - 12

Instructor: Julie Ainsworth

Fee: \$107.50

### **Cool-ology Pop-Up Steam Makerspace**

Tuesday, April 2

1:45 - 3:45 pm

Experiment, explore, and create with a variety of hands-on, interactive bots and supplies including Sphero, Dash, Cue, Snap Circuits, Bristlebots, and Builder's Space!

Ages 7-11

Instructor: Claudia Esposito

Fee: \$24

### **Food Chain Forensics**

Thursday, April 11

4:00-6:00 pm

Owls are the supreme hunters of the night, silently swooping to catch their prey. We'll read a story and play a game to learn about their important role in the food chain. Then we'll dissect sterilized owl pellets to discover what barn owls like to eat. You'll use the bones inside to reconstruct skeletons of the owls' favorite foods.

Ages 6-10

Instructor: Julie Ainsworth

Fee: \$17

### **Farm Fanatics**

Thursday, May 2

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: \$15

### **Ocean Invaders**

Thursday, May 16

4:00-6:00 pm

Explore the world of aquatic creatures that have accidentally traveled here from other waters. Some introduced species have limited effects on our marine environment, while others can have a major impact on local habitats. We'll play games to learn how invasive species travel, then we'll search the shoreline to see how many of them we can find.

Meets at the Surf Club.

Ages 6-9

Instructor: Julie Ainsworth

Fee: \$17

### **Horseshoe Crabs**

Thursday, June 6

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Learn all about these blue-blooded creatures by studying live specimens. Why are horseshoe crabs called living fossils, what makes their blood so valuable, and how do their eggs fuel the migration of shore birds? Class includes a story, craft and outdoor exploration.

Meets at the Surf Club.

Ages 6-9

Instructor: Julie Ainsworth

Fee: \$17

### **Junior Marine Biologists**

Mondays, April 29 – June 10 (no meeting 5/27)

4:00-5:30 p.m.

Come to the beach after school to explore the shore! From our home base at the Surf Club, we'll study sandy beaches, tidepools, salt marshes, and the waters of Long Island Sound. Learn how to collect and identify aquatic animals, and discover their amazing adaptations for life in the sea.

Meets at the Surf Club.

Ages 7-10 (students in grades 2 - 4)

Instructor: Julie Ainsworth

Fee: \$75

### **Oceanology Club**

Wednesdays, May 1 – June 12

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 and up (students in grades 5 and up)

Instructor: Julie Ainsworth

Fee: \$120

### **Nature Camp**

Monday-Friday, August 5-9

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 - 9

Instructor: Sara Levine

Fee: \$142

### **Woodworking Adventures: Build A Wooden Drum**

Monday-Friday, June 24-28

1:00–4:00 p.m.

Campers will build their own wooden drum, talk about their hopes and dreams, design and decorate their drums, and learn a basic drum pattern to play. Campers will also participate in outdoor team building games, explore pond life and hike Bauer farm. Bring a bag lunch and water bottle, water shoes and shoes for hiking, a towel, and wear a bathing suit under your clothes. Please apply sunscreen and bug spray before camp.

Ages 6 – 11 (entering grades 1-5)

Instructor: Shari Lariviere

Fee: \$170

### **Cool-ology Science & Engineering Camp**

Monday-Friday, July 29 – August 2

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, robotics and a whole lot more!

Ages 7 - 10

Instructor: Claudia Esposito

Fee: \$157

## **Junior Marine Biologists Camp**

Session I: Monday-Friday, June 24-28

Session II: Monday-Friday, July 8-12

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: \$143

## **Marine Biology Camp**

Monday-Friday, August 12-16

11:00 a.m. – 4:00 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 travel to 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 (entering grades 5-10)

Instructor: Julie Ainsworth

Fee: \$300