

## self-guided outdoor adventures

For a casual get-together or continued fun after a rental, try these budget-friendly outdoor activities with your family or small group during building hours. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

**TRAIL PACKS** ages 3 - 8  
Try a variety of fun, themed, seasonal activities and tools to guide your explorations. Packs available for a \$2 rental fee.



**GPS TREASURE HUNT** ages 8 & up  
Use a hand-held GPS unit to find hidden geocaches throughout the Nature Center! Guidebooks are \$1 each; GPS units available for a \$5 rental fee (or bring your own).

**SNOWSHOEING** ages 6 & up  
Get out and actively enjoy the wonders of winter! With a snow base of four inches or more, snowshoes are available to use on-site for a \$4-\$5 hourly rental fee (or bring your own).

**CAMPFIRE PROGRAMS** ages 3 & up  
Enjoy storytelling, singing, learning, snacking and camaraderie around a campfire. Themes and dates change each season. Contact Emily Oaks staff for a program schedule.

## seasonal special events

Entertain your guests at an Emily Oaks event! We've taken care of all the preparations, so you can focus on fun with friends and family. Per-person admission fee may apply. For all ages.

**SPRING Earth Day Celebration**  
Sunday in April closest to the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Participate in engaging discovery activities, eat wholesome food, purchase native plants, and celebrate the earth as a vessel of life!

**SUMMER Pancake Breakfast in the Woods**  
Sunday morning in early July, 8:30 a.m.-Noon. Take a walk on the trails, and then get your fill of delicious pancakes in the great outdoors.

**FALL Things That Go Bump in the Night**  
Friday and Saturday, two weeks prior to Halloween. This is a fun and non-frightening way to meet the plants and animals of Emily Oaks! Conclude by a campfire with snacks and songs.



**WINTER Winter Chilly Fest**  
The second weekend in February. Enjoy an evening of outdoor ice skating (weather permitting) and winter fun and games under the stars, as well as a cozy chili dinner indoors.

## party planning

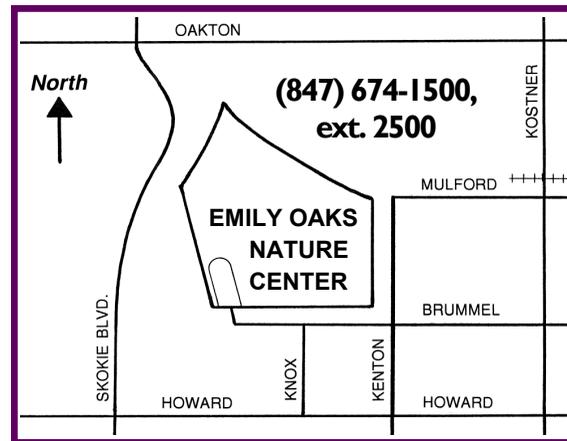
Reservations are required for all groups, and must be **made in person** no later than two weeks in advance of the desired party date. Dates are subject to availability. The total fee is required at the time of reservation.

**Birthday Party Package Fees**  
Skokie Resident.....\$180.00  
Non-resident .....\$225.00

Birthday party rentals are available on weekends from **10 a.m.-1 p.m.** or **3-6 p.m.**, with the exception of campfire parties that may be scheduled near sunset.

A leader-guided activity is scheduled within the three-hour rental time. Rental includes use of program room, tables and chairs; bring food, utensils and decorations to suit your group. Activity participation is limited to **25 children**.

Please note that all activities take place outdoors. In the event of rain or inclement weather, however, alternative indoor activities will be available.



4650 Brummel Street  
Skokie IL 60076  
www.SkokieParks.org



*Building Relationships  
with the Natural World*

## Birthday Party Activities



**Celebrate a special day  
with fun and memorable  
outdoor experiences!**

SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT  
(847) 674-1500, ext. 2500

Visit our website! [www.SkokieParks.org/emily-oaks-nature-center](http://www.SkokieParks.org/emily-oaks-nature-center)

## nature fun & games party activities

### MOUSE WALK

ages 3-4

Spring, Summer & Fall

Explore and play outdoors, after being transformed into a mouse! We will be busy making a mouse house, finding mouse food and hiding from foxes—just like the real animals living in the woodland.

¾ hour



### WINTER MOUSE WALK

ages 3-4

Winter

Explore and play through abbreviated outdoor Mouse Walk activities listed above. Then come inside to create mouse masks to take home. Expect to spend half of the party time outdoors.

1 hour

### BUSY BEES

ages 4-5

Spring, Summer & Fall



Buzz around the Nature Center, to find out what it's like to be a bee! Play group games to search for flowers, collect pollen, perform bee dances, and bring nectar to the hive. The birthday child will receive a "Birthday Bee" pin to take home.

1 hour

### ANIMAL CARNIVAL I

ages 5-6

Year-round

Enjoy classic group party games that feature favorite Emily Oaks critters! Play "Hot Potato" like an owl, freeze dance with a rabbit, leap like a frog in "Musical Lily Pads," and catch insects in a spider web parachute. The birthday child will take home a big carnival ticket that guides the games.

1 hour

### BIRD BUDDIES

ages 5-7

Winter

Become a bird in an outdoor migration tag game, and experience some of the challenges that go along with flying south! Then come indoors to make a pinecone bird feeder to take home. Expect to spend half of the party time outdoors.

1 hour

### GOING BUGGY

ages 6-7

Spring, Summer & Fall

Visit the places where tiny critters like crickets, ants, dragonflies and pill bugs live at Emily Oaks. At each location, play a game that highlights their amazing "buggy" senses and skills. Along the way, create a poster for the birthday child to keep.

1 hour



### ANIMAL CARNIVAL II

ages 7-8

Year-round

Enjoy classic group party games that feature favorite Emily Oaks critters! Test your memory like a blue jay, pin the nose on a coyote, play animal charades, and try "Marco Polo" like a bat catching moths. The birthday child will take home a big carnival ticket that guides the games.

1¼ hours

### EARTH STUDIOS

ages 7-9

Spring, Summer & Fall

Join the great artist who works outside in the Earth Studio at Emily Oaks! You are invited into this special studio to create your own masterpieces, using natural materials and inspiration from the outdoor world. Conclude with a gallery tour of all the artwork.

1 hour

### WOODLAND BINGO

ages 7-10

Year-round

Explore outdoors while searching for specific natural items. After filling blank Bingo cards with pictures of the items found, the game begins. Sticker prizes provided. "Something green...a bird in a tree...BINGO!"

1¼ hours



### EARTH WALK

ages 7-10

Year-round

Reawaken your senses on an Earthwalk in the woodland! Use Rainbow Chips to see incredible colors outdoors, share Prickly and Ticky touches with a friend, and Scratch 'n Sniff the wonderful smells outdoors, among other seasonal activities.

1 hour

### COYOTE CHALLENGE

ages 8-9

Winter

Test your animal instincts as you play games outside to represent the daily survival strategies of coyotes. Then come inside to create a Coyote Collage for the birthday child to take home. Expect to spend half of the party time outdoors.

1¼ hours



### MICRO-PARKS

ages 8-10

Spring, Summer & Fall

Using a special park building kit, set up your own park (2'x2') with flags marking the amazing, tiny natural wonders found there. Take tours of other parks and invite visitors into your Micro-Park!

1-1¼ hours

### SEASONS PLAY

ages 9-10

Spring, Summer & Fall

Visit the Woodland Theatre for a most unusual seasonal production! You'll take turns as silent actors and the blindfolded audience, while sharing with each other the smells, touches and sounds of a day outdoors.

1 hour

## campfire party activities

### BEAR SNORES ON

ages 6-7

Spring & Fall

Get to know Bear and his woodland friends who gather for a special meal in a story based on the popular book, *Bear Snores On* by Karma Wilson. Enjoy a trail walk and interactive storytelling, followed by campfire songs and marshmallows.

1 hour

### THE LORAX

ages 7-9

Spring & Fall

Take part in the telling of this famous Dr. Seuss story, seated around a cozy campfire. Become a Brown-Bar-Ba-Loot, a Humming Fish, or the Lorax himself. Storytelling will be accompanied by a trail walk and marshmallow roasting.

1¼ hours

### S'MORES OPTION

¼ hour

Make a classic snack at the close of your campfire! We'll provide all supplies for one s'more for each child plus up to 10 additional guests. Additional fee: \$20.

