



Red Oak Nature Center

**On Route 25, one mile north of Route 56
630-897-1808**

Nestled on the east bank of the Fox River, Red Oak Nature Center is surrounded by 40 acres of lush forest and wildlife habitat – an ideal setting to learn about the great outdoors through direct interaction with nature.

General Information ▼

NATURE CENTER BUILDING HOURS

Monday to Friday:
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday / Sunday:
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Trails close at sunset

Closed for the following holidays:

Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day

RATES

FREE daily admission. Participation costs vary by program. Note: Groups of 10 or more must pre-register. See "GROUPS" below for more information.

RED OAK SCHOOL CONNECTIONS

Check out Red Oak Nature Center school programs online at foxvalleyparkdistrict.org.

GROUPS

Due to building capacity limits, all groups or visitors with 10 or more guests must call 630-897-1808 to pre-register their visit to Red Oak Nature Center or Lippold Park. \$1 suggested donation per person.



BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Red Oak Nature Center is a great location for birthday parties that interact up close and personal with nature!

Ages and fees vary per party. Visit our website for more information, or call 630-897-1808.

SCOUT GROUPS

Girl, Cub, Boy Scouts and Y-Adventure guides, visit Red Oak to work on various badges with a Naturalist. Programs are available during business hours for groups of 8 to 20 Scouts. Payment is due within 48 hours of booking. Minimum of 2 weeks advanced registration required. Free for leaders. Please no non-scout siblings. (MG)

Age	Groups of 8 to 20 Scouts	Location
Scouts & leaders	1 hour: \$60, 1.5 hour: \$80 2 hours: \$120	Red Oak Nature Center

Day	Date	Time
Tu-F	Winter-Spring	9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sa-Su	Winter-Spring	9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Just for Scout Groups		
Sa	Winter-Spring	9 to 10 a.m.

SNOWSHOE RENTALS

Don't let the winter blues keep you from having fun in the snow. Come out to Red Oak when there is 3+ inches of snow to rent a pair of snowshoes and explore the Nature Center grounds like never before. All snowshoes must be returned 30 minutes before the building closes and must stay on Nature Center property. (MG)

Age	Location	Fee
8Y & adult	Red Oak Nature Center	\$5 per pair

Day	Date	Time
Every day (3 inches of snow or more)	December-March	M-F: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sa-Su: 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Facility Highlights ▼

WILDLIFE ROOM

Step into the world of wild animals. The Wildlife Room is home to many animals that live and thrive in the Fox River area, featuring a 500 gallon turtle habitat, along with habitats for frogs, salamanders and snakes.

SENSE THE SEASONS

The Sense the Seasons exhibit gives budding naturalists a chance to use their senses to explore and make observations of the natural wonders of the seasons in a safe and kid-friendly environment before heading out into the woods to make discoveries of their very own.

RED OAK VIDEO IN MAPLE CLASSROOM

Ask about Red Oak's exclusive DVD starring the Fox Valley Park District mascot, Parker, and other amazing creatures at Red Oak Nature Center and Lippold Park.

CAVE

Follow the Fox River Trail from the Nature Center down to the cave at the river's edge. It's the only cave in the Aurora area.

LIPPOLD PARK

Lippold Park offers a unique play space, boardwalk and lake viewing just a 1/2 mile from Red Oak Nature Center. Note: This park is used for school, scout, camp and other programs. Please call Red Oak for more information.

OBSERVATION DECK

Step out, take a deep breath and enjoy truly spectacular views. Located directly behind the Nature Center, the Observation Deck sits over the Fox River and is an ideal vantage point for viewing river wildlife, migratory birds and the wooded shorelines and islands.

TRAILS

Red Oak features six hiking trails that run throughout the wood that border the Fox River. Each of the six trails has a wood-chip base for hiking stability and comfort. Dogs and bicycles are welcome on the paved trails only. For your safety, please stay on marked trails.

NATURE PLAY PRESCHOOL

Nature Play Preschool at Red Oak Nature Center provides an experience that nourishes a preschooler's developmental needs while inspiring a love of nature. For more information, call Deedee Buscher at 630-851-8990.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Trail maintenance, restoration and more. Call Red Oak at 630-897-1808 for more information about volunteer opportunities.

No-cost Nature Programs ▼

FREE! Family Maple Fest

Watch how maple sap is turned into delicious maple syrup, and learn how people through the ages and even animals like woodpeckers, have tapped maple trees for maple sap. Scout groups are encouraged to attend the Scout Syrup Saturday event, just for them. Maple-themed snacks and hot beverages will be available for a small fee. **Tickets are required for all participants for this event.** (MG)

Age	Fee	Location
All ages & adult	Free	Red Oak Nature Center

Day	Date	Time: Tickets note time slot
Sa	March 17	9-10:15 a.m.
Sa	March 17	10:45-noon
Sa	March 17	12:30-1:45 p.m.
Sa	March 17	1:30 - 3 p.m.

FREE! Nature Exploration Bags

Borrow one of Red Oak's Nature Exploration Bags during normal business hours to help you explore the woods. We have many topical bags to explore; the signs of the season, birds, insects, senses. Exploration bags are free of charge but a refundable deposit is required. Adult supervision is required. (MG)

Age	Location	Fee
All ages & adult	Red Oak Nature Center	Free

Day	Date	Time
Every day	Year-round	M-F: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sa-Su: 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

FREE! Cave Hike

Join us as we hike through the woods, enjoying the sights and sounds of the season as we head to our Cave. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The program is free but advanced registration is required. (MG)

Age	Location	Fee
All Ages	Red Oak Nature Center	Free

Code	Day	Date	Time
351974-01	Su	Jan. 28	2-3 p.m.
351974-02	Su	March 25	2-3 p.m.

40-YEAR ANNIVERSARY RED OAK NATURE CENTER

Anniversary Events ▼

Help us celebrate all year long. Each month we'll have special programs and fun adventures for the whole family. Start off the anniversary celebration with our weekend long "40 Item Scavenger Hunt." Pick up your passport booklet at that program and then keep an eye out on our Facebook page for 40th fun facts. (MG)

Collecting Red Oak Memories

Do you have treasured memories, family photos, or stories to tell about what Red Oak has meant to you and your family over the years? The staff of Red Oak would like to cordially invite you to join us by bringing in items and stories we can add to our memory book. If you have contributions you would like to make, visit the front desk to place them in our memory book. All entries will be featured during our 40th Birthday Bash in September as part of our temporary exhibit: "What Red Oak Means to Me".

FREE! Drop-in Nature Adventures

Every day in nature is a new adventure waiting to happen. Join us for a new adventure every day over spring break week. Whether it's a craft, a game or a special hike there's something fun to do every day. No registration is required, just come by the front desk to enjoy a fun day in this blast from Red Oak's past.

Age	Location	Fee
2Y and up with adult	Red Oak Nature Center	Free
Day	Date	Time
Su- Sa	March 25- 31	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

40 Item Scavenger Hunt

In honor of our 40th birthday, this Winter join us for a weekend long scavenger hunt to discover facts, special spots, and information about our year-long 40th birthday bash! Bring the family out and pick up your family passport and learn all the fun ways we'll be celebrating this year!

Age	Location	Fee	
2Y and up with adult	Red Oak Nature Center	Free	
Code	Day	Date	Time
351939-11	Su- Sa	Jan 6-7	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

FREE! Parker Cares Volunteer Day

In honor of our 40th birthday, we'll be celebrating with 40 acts of Kindness! Join us for a full day of volunteering to help us complete 40 tasks to help the nature center. From indoor cleaning jobs to trail maintenance to litter sweeps, we have tasks for people of all ages and abilities. Refreshments will be provided.

Age	Location	Fee	
5Y and up with adult	Red Oak Nature Center	Free	
Code	Day	Date	Time
351940-01	Sa	Feb 24	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Baby It's Cold Inside: Cold-blooded Animals ◆

Imagine never having a fever again or sleeping all winter long! These are some of the realities of life for cold blooded animals. Meet some of the nature center's favorite cold-blooded friends, play some games, and do some fun heat experiments to find out more about these cool animals.

Age	Location	Fee	
5Y- 8Y	Red Oak Nature Center	\$5(R) / \$7(N)	
Code	Day	Date	Time
351909-12	Sa	Feb. 17	1-2 p.m.

Batty Bats

Bats are one of the most misunderstood creatures at Red Oak. Join us for a special hike to see where Red Oak's bats spend their days before watching a thrilling program with some fantastic live bats. Find out more about why bats aren't really scary and in fact are quite incredible. All participants must be registered and adults must accompany a child. Presented by Incredible Bats.

Age	Location	Fee	
5Y and up with adult	Red Oak Nature Center	\$15(R) / \$23(N)	
Code	Day	Date	Time
351910-13	Tu	March 27	10 a.m. - noon

FREE! Monthly Themed Letterbox Hunt

Come join us for a FREE hunt for our letterbox! Each month we will feature a brand new hunt! Explore new areas of the nature center to add memories to our memory box and collect a fun prize!



WINTER Nature Programs ▼

Are You Smarter Than a Fox? ◆

This fun trivia game will test participants' knowledge of the natural world. Teams of two are encouraged for this afternoon of fun and prizes. All participants must be registered. (MG)

Age	Location	Fee
8Y-10Y	Red Oak Nature Center	\$5(R) / \$7(N)

Code	Day	Date	Time
351929-01	Sa	Dec. 9	1-2 p.m.

Animal Encounters ◆

Learn more about the animals that call Red Oak their home. Each month features a different animal. Sign up for one or all- space is limited and the fee goes to help care for the animals. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. (MG)

Age	Location	Fee
3Y and up with adult	Red Oak Nature Center	\$2(R) / \$3(N)

Code	Day	Date	Time	Featured Wildlife
251970-04	Su	Dec. 10	1 - 2 p.m.	Mysterious Mice
351975-02	Su	Jan. 21	1 to 2 p.m.	Warty... Forty: Toads and Frogs
351975-04	Su	Feb. 11	1 to 2 p.m.	To Love or not to love... Bugs
351975-06	Su	March 11	1 to 2 p.m.	Hop over for Bunnies

Nature's Dirty Jobs ◆

Things aren't always clean and tidy in nature, and someone's got to do the dirty work. Participants in this program find out about the not-so-clean side of nature and maybe get a little dirty themselves! (MG)

Age	Location	Fee
4Y-6Y	Red Oak Nature Center	\$5(R) / \$7(N)

Code	Day	Date	Time
351918-04	Sa	Dec. 16	1-2 p.m.

Yule Log Bonfire ◆

Celebrate the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, and get excited for the New Year. Learn about how ancient cultures celebrated the solstice and the myths and the legends associated with. Fill out your New Year's wishes and enjoy some winter snacks around the fire for a cozy family event. Adults must accompany their child and all must be registered. (MG)

Age	Location	Fee
5Y and up with adult	Red Oak Nature Center	\$10(R) / \$15(N)

Code	Day	Date	Time
351908-08	Th	Dec. 21	5:30-7:30 p.m.

CBC4KIDS ◆

Back for the second year and counting! Join Red Oak Naturalists and the Kane County Audubon Society for the Christmas Bird Count just for KIDS! Learn all about birds in the winter and then head out into the woods in search of these feather friends. Binoculars and refreshments provided. (MG)

Age	Location	Fee
8Y-12Y	Red Oak Nature Center	Free

Code	Day	Date	Time
351922-01	W	Jan. 3	9 a.m.- noon

Leave it to Beaver ◆

Have you ever wondered about the buck-toothed being that is the beaver? At Red Oak we have beavers of our own and signs of them can be found in our woods. Join us as we learn about beavers and what they are doing this time of year. After learning about these mammals, we will explore our woods to find signs of a beaver! (MG)

Age	Location	Fee
7Y-9Y	Red Oak Nature Center	\$5(R) / \$7(N)

Code	Day	Date	Time
351901-02	Sa	Jan. 13	1-2 p.m.

SNOW Way! ◆

Explore the 'ins and outs' of snow science. Test different recipes of fake snow, learn the difference between snow and ice, and make an exploding snow storm! If the weather permits, we'll take a short snowshoeing hike through the woods to become snow explorers! (MG)

Age	Location	Fee
7Y-10Y	Red Oak Nature Center	\$7(R) / \$11(N)

Code	Day	Date	Time
351905-06	Sa	Jan. 13	11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

A Warm Winter's Day ◆

Chicagoland winters can be way too cold – introduce your child to the science behind staying warm. Find out how animals stay toasty in sub-zero temperatures, mittens work and the best temperature to make hot chocolate! Take home a fun project and enjoy a sweet treat. (MG)

Age	Location	Fee
6Y-9Y	Red Oak Nature Center	\$5(R) / \$7(N)

Code	Day	Date	Time
351903-04	Sa	Jan. 20	10:30 a.m.-noon

What Happened to All the Animals? ◆

Come out to Red Oak to find out just where animals go in the winter time. Learn about the special adaptations animals have that allows them to survive the harsh winter. We will then go for a hike in our woods in search of these animals. Then, we will warm up with a craft. (MG)

Age	Location	Fee
6Y-8Y	Red Oak Nature Center	\$7(R) / \$9(N)

Code	Day	Date	Time
351976-01	Sa	Jan. 27	1-2:30 p.m.

Get reacquainted with nature at Red Oak!

Winter Bird Scavenger Hunt ♦

Do all birds migrate? Come to Red Oak and find out more about the special adaptations that allow birds to survive our harsh winters. Join us for a hike and try to find non-migrating birds with a scavenger hunt. (MG)

Age	Location	Fee
7Y-9Y	Red Oak Nature Center	\$5(R) / \$7(N)

Code	Day	Date	Time
351902-03	Sa	Feb. 17	10:30-11:30 a.m.

Groundhog Day PJ Party ♦

A party so fun you'll want to relive it again and again and again! Enjoy games, learn how to predict the weather for ourselves, and eat snacks with the whole family as we all "wake up" from hibernation to celebrate with Punxsutawney Phil. All children must be accompanied by an adult. All participants must be registered. (MG)

Age	Location	Fee
2Y and up	Red Oak Nature Center	\$5(R) / \$7(N); Family of 4: \$15, Each add'l: \$2

Code	Day	Date	Time
351904-05	F	Feb. 2	5-7 p.m.

Love is for the Birds ♦

Valentine's Day is on its way and love is in the air at the nature center! Come learn about some of the birds that live near the nature center! Learn about how they pick a "valentine" and make nature valentines or a special valentine-themed bird feeder. (MG)

Age	Location	Fee
5Y-7Y	Red Oak Nature Center	\$5(R) / \$7(N)

Code	Day	Date	Time
351906-02	Su	Feb. 11	10:30-11:30 a.m.

Homeschool Academy ♦

Winter can be a wonderland of discovery. Join us for winter and snow science experiments and more. We will go outside when possible so dress for the weather. (MG)

Age	Location	Fee
7Y-10Y	Red Oak Nature Center	\$7(R) / \$11(N)

Code	Day	Date	Time	Theme
351924-05	W	Feb. 14	10-11:30 a.m.	Winter Science
351924-06	W	Feb. 21	10-11:30 a.m.	Snow Science
351924-07	W	Feb. 28	10-11:30 a.m.	Ice Science

Nature Detectives: Lost in Time ♦

Red Oak's animals have slowly been going missing over the last 10,000 years. Join one of our naturalists on an adventure to find the missing animals of Illinois. Look for clues and hints to find the animals before we lose any more. Can our detectives solve the mystery before it's too late? (MG)

Age	Location	Fee
6Y-10Y	Red Oak Nature Center	\$7(R) / \$9(N)

Code	Day	Date	Time
351907-09	Su	Feb. 18	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Winter Survival ♦

Do you have what it takes to survive in winter? Come out for a fun day and test your winter survival skills of fire making, shelter building and way finding. All tools will be supplied; you just need to dress for the weather. (MG)

Age	Location	Fee
8Y-10Y	Red Oak Nature Center	\$7(R) / \$9(N)

Code	Day	Date	Time
351935-01	M	Feb. 19	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Making Maple Syrup Stick! ♦

Enjoy a pancake breakfast at Prisco Community Center with real maple syrup and then join the naturalists at Red Oak Nature Center and hike the woods, to learn how maple syrup is made. Transportation to and from Prisco will be provided. All participants must have a ticket. (MG)

Age	Location	Tickets
2Y and up	Red Oak Nature Center / with Adult Prisco Community Center	\$5(R); Family of 4: \$15 \$7(N); Family of 4: \$21

Day	Date	Time
Sa	March 24	9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Just for SCOUTS ▼

Merit Badge Workshops ♦

Boy Scouts can earn the required Environmental Science badge in one day! Pre-work will be required to complete the badge in one day. Any work not completed is the scouts' responsibility to finish on his own. To schedule your own private scout program, call 630-897-1808 (fees and availability will vary for private programs. Dates fill up quickly, minimum of 6 scouts needed for a private program). Registration closes Dec. 31st. Pre-work will be sent out on Jan. 2. (MG)

Age	Location	Fee
12Y-18Y	Red Oak Nature Center	\$10(R) / \$15(N)

Code	Day	Date	Time	Age
351530-05	M	Jan. 15	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	12Y-18Y

Scout Syrup Saturday

A special day of sap to syrup just for Scouts. Watch how maple sap is turned into delicious maple syrup, and learn how people through the ages and even animals like woodpeckers, have tapped maple trees for maple sap. Programs are at: 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. All participants, including adults, must have tickets; children must be accompanied by an adult leader – space is limited. (MG)

Age	Location	Fee
Scouts ages 5Y and up	Red Oak Nature Center	\$1

Day	Date	Time
Sa	March 10	11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Sa	March 10	12:30-1:45 p.m.
Sa	March 10	1:30-2:45 p.m.

Super Scout Afternoons ♦

Each monthly adventure will fulfill requirements for specific level badges. All scouts must be registered individually. Scout groups of 8 or more may schedule private scout program; fees and availability will vary for private programs. (MG)

Age	Location	Time	Fee
All Ages	Red Oak Nature Center	1-2:30 p.m.	\$8(R) / \$12(N)

Code	Day	Date	Ages	Badge
251522-08	Sa	Dec. 2	7Y-9Y	Outdoor Art Creator
251522-07	Su	Dec. 3	7Y-9Y	Call of the Wild
351531-01	Sa	Jan. 13	10Y-13Y	WEBELOS Walkabout
351531-02	Su	Jan. 14	7Y-9Y	Council Fire
351531-03	Sa	Feb. 3	8Y-10Y	Fur, Feathers and Fern
351531-04	Su	Feb. 4	7Y-9Y	Senses
351531-05	Sa	Mar. 3	7Y-9Y	Household Elf
351531-06	Su	Mar. 4	10Y-12Y	Geocacher