

# Discover Nature

**Fall 2019** 



**The ODC Network** is a collection of nine business divisions with the mission to advance outdoor education and conservation in West Michigan.



#### **FREE ADMISSION-Two Locations!**



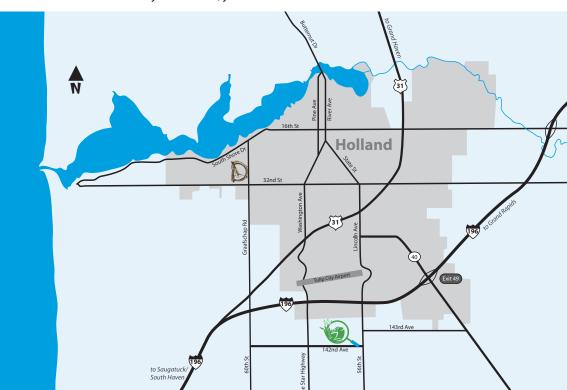
#### 4214 56th Street • Holland, MI • 49423

The Outdoor Discovery Center is 155 acres with about 3 miles of trails, located on the south side of Holland, just south of West Michigan Regional Airport. Admission is free!



#### 600 Graafschap Road • Holland, MI • 49423

DeGraaf Nature Center is 18 acres of forest and wetlands located within the City of Holland, just south of Lake Macatawa. Admission is free!



# Join us for a Program!

In the following pages, you will find descriptions of all of our community programs available in the upcoming months.

# Register at outdoordiscovery.org

#### **Program Locations**

Programs may be held at the Outdoor Discovery Center, at DeGraaf Nature Center, or at various other parks and natural areas in our community. Attend programs closest to you—or discover new places in our community! All locations are listed next to the program title—when necessary, the address and details can be found in italics beneath the program description.



Outdoor Discovery Center 4214 56th Street Holland, MI 49423



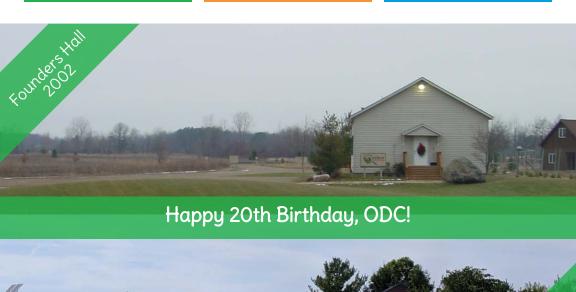
DeGraaf Nature Center 600 Graafschap Road Holland, MI 49423



Other Locations

Addresses listed beneath

program description



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
919	1	2	3 Hungry, Hungry Serpents	4	5	6 Knee-high Naturalists	7 Hunter Education
						Banquet	
						for the Birds	
	8	9 Evening with the ODC	10 Explore a Story	11	12 Amazing Insects	13 Knee-high Naturalists	14
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September 2019							
	15	16	17 Morning	18 Nature for Tykes	19 WiN–Kayaking	20 Knee-high	21 VoLes
			Bird Walk  Explore with Your			Naturalists	Macatawa River Clean-up
			Senses				
	22	23	24	25 Homeschool-	26 Birds	27 Knee-high	28 Mist-netting
Ť.				Insects	and Brews	Naturalists	Songbirds
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Ó	29	30	1 WiN–Archery	2	3	4 Knee-high	5 Dune Walk
						Naturalists VoLes	
						Night Hike	
	6	7 Fall Scavenger	8 Explore a Story	9	10 Fall Surprises	11 Knee-high	12
		Hunt				Naturalists	
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	13	14 Hungry,	15	16 Nature for Tykes	17 Banquet	18 Knee-high	19 What's Down
<del>Q</del>		Hungry Serpents			for the Birds	Naturalists	Under?
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October	20	21	22 Homeschool—	23	24	25 Knee-high	26 Treats & Trails
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	27	28	29 Things that	30	31	1 Knee-high	2 Nature's Paint-
			Go Who			Naturalists	brush—Fall colors
	3	4	5 Explore a Story	6	7	8 Knee-high	9 Migratory 5K
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	10	11 Hungry,	12 Homeschool–	13 Nature for Tykes	14	15 Knee-high	16 Toad Abode
9	10	Hungry Serpents	Birds	10 Nature for Tyrics		Naturalists	Voles
November							
	17	18	19 Animal	20	21 WiN—Greenery	22 Knee-high	23
9	17	10	Communication	20	Workshop	Naturalists	25
6							
Z	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
3	47	23	20	21	20	23	30

#### Hungry, Hungry Serpents (at ODC)

Have you ever wondered what snakes eat? Snakes are carnivores and only eat other animals. They are definitely not vegetarians! Come to the Visitors Center to find out what's on the menu as you

watch our resident serpents enjoy a meal.

Tuesday, September 3 Monday, October 14 Monday, November 11

**2–3 PM** • *No registration necessary* • *Fee: FREE* 



#### **Knee-high Naturalists** (formerly Nature School) (at ODC)

Knee-high Naturalists introduces the wonders of the natural world to young children. Crafts, activities, books, snacks, live animals, and outside exploration will be incorporated into their nature-based learning experience.

Parents are encouraged to attend with their 4 to 6 year old - though not required. Parents or guardians are asked to attend with their 3 year old to help with bathroom use and transitioning into a group learning environment.

Friday, September 13 Friday, September 27 Friday, October 11 Friday, October 25

Friday, November 8 Friday, November 22

**10** AM-12 PM • Registration required • Fee: \$10 per child, \$5 per child for members



#### Nature for Tykes (at ODC)

Bring out your little tykes to learn more about nature. In each program, you and your little tyke will have the opportunity to explore together. This fall we will be learning about insects, leaves, and tremendous turkeys! Please dress for the weather.

Wednesday, September 18 • Theme: Insects Wednesday, October 16 • Theme: Leaves Wednesday, November 13 • Theme: Turkeys

10-11 AM • Registration required • Fee: \$5 per child, FREE for members



#### Banquet for the Birds (at ODC)

Stop by the De Witt Birds of Prey Center during this open house style program and watch a naturalist feed our resident raptors. You will learn about the habitats these birds live in, some of their amazing adaptations, and what they love to eat. You can bring a snack for yourself too!

Plan to take a 10 minute walk from the Main Entrance to the De Witt Birds of Prey Center for this program.

Friday, September 6 Thursday, October 17

**11 AM–12:30 PM •** No registration necessary • Fee: FREE



#### **Hunter's Education Field Day (at ODC)**

The ODC is offering a field day for participants who have completed the online hunter safety course. Upon passing the online course, participants are eligible to complete the field day and take the written examination without attending a classroom course. The fees associated with the online course are not covered by the field day portion of the training.

Online course options can be found on the Michigan DNR website (www. michigan.gov/dnr). You must bring your online course certificate in order to participate in the field day. Dress for the weather, as we will be spending much of the time outdoors. Also, please bring a sack lunch or snack—there will not be adequate time to leave the site for lunch.

Saturday, September 7 9 AM–2 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$10 per person being certified



#### Women in Nature—Native Gardening (at ODC)

Women in Nature is a program series designed to motivate women to be more healthy, active and passionate about the natural world surrounding them. In order to do so, we are offering various program experiences.

In this gardening program, participants will learn the difference between native plants and "wildflowers", how they can be used in urban or suburban landscapes, and how native plants can attract birds and butterflies to their yards. Examples from the grounds of the Outdoor Discovery Center property will be viewed.

Tuesday, September 10 6–7:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$5 per person

#### Birds and Brews (at ODC)

Join the ODC and Saugatuck Brewing Company as we pair specialty beers with a live birds of prey show. We will be discussing some of the natural habits of our birds of prey while you sip on some tasty beverages. We'll learn about 5 different birds of prey and "pair" each bird's personality with the characteristics of one of SBC's beers. Each round includes a 5 oz sample of SBC beer.

Thursday, September 26 6:30–8:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$30 per person – beer samples included in ticket price, must be 21, IDs required



# Women in Nature—Archery (at ODC)

Women in Nature is a program series designed to motivate women to be more healthy, active and passionate about the natural world surrounding them.

This archery program will include a quick lesson on how to shoot a bow and arrow, which will be taught by one of our certified women archery instructors. Then participants will have the opportunity to practice for the rest of the evening. Fun 3D targets will be set up, along with normal ring targets.

Tuesday, October 1 6–7:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$10 per person



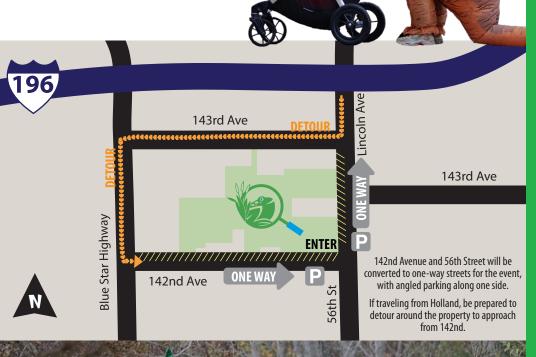
# **Treats and Trails (at ODC)**

Bring your entire family out for a safe and fun walk along the trails of the Outdoor Discovery Center. There will be wildlife encounters, games and candy. Don't miss seeing the live birds of prey or making s'mores. The North American Wildlife Exhibit in the visitors center will be open for exploration throughout the event.

Children are encouraged to wear their costumes. All the ODC Nature Preserve trails are wheelchair, stroller and wagon-friendly.

Saturday, October 26
2–7 PM

No registration necessary Fee: \$10 per family





#### Migratory 5K (at ODC)

If you are looking for a unique run, the Outdoor Discovery Center is a great place to go. This run will be approximately 3.1 miles and take place throughout our trail system. It will end with water, Biggby coffee and hot chocolate, Crane's Pie Pantry Restaurant & Winery cider donuts, and fruit from the Hamilton Food Center. There will also be an opportunity for a picture with one of our live birds of prey.

JR AUTOMATION

A special thanks goes to our Premier Sponsor: JR Automation Technologies LLC. Thank you to our Supporting Sponsors: Blue Cross Blue Shield, Biggby Coffee, DICKS Sporting Goods & Uniform Color Company

Sorry, dogs are not permitted on this run.

Saturday, November 9

**10 AM–12 PM** • Registration required • Fee: \$30 per person • T-shirt size not guaranteed after October 11 • Check-in as early as 9 am



TECHNOLOGIES.

#### **Animal Communication (at ODC)**

Have you ever wondered how ants follow what seem to be invisible trails leading to food? Or why beavers slap their tail? And why are skunks black and white? If so, you're in the right place! In this program we will learn about some types of critter communication found in the animal kingdom. You will learn about familiar vocalizations to more peculiar examples like dancing and chemical communication.

We are partnering with the Holland Big Read (https://hope.edu/offices/big-read/) for this communication program to go along with the book *The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quie*t by Carmen Agra Deedy.

Tuesday, November 19

6–7 PM • Registration required • Fee: FREE– sponsored by the Holland Big Read

#### Women in Nature – Greenery Workshop (at ODC)

Women in Nature is a program series designed to motivate women to be more healthy, active and passionate about the natural world surrounding them. In order to do so we are offering various program experiences.

Make your own wall decoration or table arrangement and leave the mess behind. We'll provide fresh greens and other natural materials; bring your own gardening gloves, ribbons, or accessories, if you wish to use them.

Thursday, November 21

**6–7:30 PM** • Registration required • Fee: \$15 per person



# New Red-shouldered Hawk at ODC

We acquired a new red-shouldered hawk this summer and he is on display at the DeWitt Birds of Prey Center now.

This hawk was hit by a car and injured his left wing. He was brought to a wildlife rehabilitator in Dow, IL, where they determined his injuries severe enough that he would not survive in the wild. We were able to provide this bird with a permanent home. We are not a rehabilitation facility—all of our birds come from licensed rehabilitators, not directly from the wild. We have permits

from the Michigan DNR and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to keep permanently disabled birds of prey to use in educational programs.



Stop by and visit the new hawk and the other raptors soon!





# **Stream Restoration at Peters Creek**

Education programs are only a small part of what we do here at the ODC Network. Another aspect of our organization includes our management of the Macatawa River Greenway. The goal of this long-term project is to protect and enhance natural lands, streams, and open spaces within the Lake Macatawa Watershed.

Over the past few years, we've been partnering with many organizations to help with our work of restoring the Macatawa Watershed using best management practices. Thousands of acres upstream in this watershed have been protected and enhanced to help manage flows and sediment loading. One of the most recent sites needing improvement and protection is the mouth of Peters Creek. This section of creek is located along the Macatawa River Greenway on our Poppen Woods property. Our restoration task at this location was to reduce the speed of the water, which was causing erosion to the nearby streambanks and carrying away excess sediment. Using natural channel design and materials from the site,

the channel was reshaped and log structures were added in order to slow the speed of the water to reduce erosion and move sediment naturally through the stream.

We were fortunate enough to work with organizations from around the United States, including crews from North State Environmental (North Carolina), Green Watershed Restoration (Colorado), Niswander Environmental (Michigan), and 28 Specialists (Michigan). This project was constructed with funds from Project Clarity and EGLE (formerly DEQ). With their partnership, we were able to complete the earthmoving and initial seeding in just under a weeks' time.

As improvements continue to take place around the watershed, we hope stream projects using these types of techniques will become more commonplace, reducing the need for continued maintenance. The ODC Network coordinates projects like these with the overall goal of reducing the amount of sediment flowing into Lake Macatawa, creating a healthier lake for all.





#### **Knee-high Naturalists (at DeGraaf)**

Knee-high Naturalists introduces the wonders of the natural world to young children. Crafts, activities, books, snacks, live animals, and outside exploration will be incorporated into their nature-based learning experience.

Parents are encouraged to attend with their 4 to 6 year old - though not required. Parents or guardians are asked to attend with their 3 year old to help with bathroom use and transitioning into a group learning environment.

Friday, September 6 Friday, September 20 Friday, October 4 Friday, October 18 Friday, November 1 Friday, November 15

**10** AM–**12** PM • Registration required • Fee: \$10 per child, \$5 per child for members

#### **Explore a Story (at DeGraaf)**

It's time to round up the little ones and come out to DeGraaf Nature Center for Explore a Story! We'll be introducing kids to the outdoors through books and outdoor adventures. We'll read stories, take hikes, meet animals, and have lots of fun. Dress for the weather because we'll be heading outside to experience the nature around us.

Tuesday, September 10

Tuesday, October 8

Tuesday, November 5

**9–10 AM** • *No registration necessary* • *Fee:* \$5 per child, FREE for members

#### Morning Bird Walk (at DeGraaf)

Start your day with a morning walk at DeGraaf Nature Center. We will walk the trails in search of birds. With the fall songbird migration in full swing we will see what birds we can find stopping over at the nature center. Binoculars are available for lending.



No registration necessary • Fee: FREE



#### **Homeschool Class-Insects (at DeGraaf)**

What has an exoskeleton, 3 body parts, 6 legs and a pair of antennae? Why, insects, of course! One million strong and counting, insects are the most diverse and numerous groups of animals in the world, making up over 50% of all known living animals.

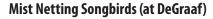
During this 3 hour drop off program, we will go on an insect safari, dip-netting for aquatic insects in their wetland homes and sweep-netting for insects in our

meadows. Once we have collected our specimens, we will examine all that we catch, learning about animal life cycles and metamorphosis. We will discuss our relationship with insects and how important they are to humans.

This drop-off program is geared for home schoolers ages 6 - 10. Please bring a water bottle and a snack.

Wednesday, September 25 • 9:30 AM-12 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$10 per student • A minimum of 10 registrants is needed for this class to be conducted.



Learn all about the world of birds during this morning of mist-netting. The morning will have visitors helping inventory songbird species found at the DeGraaf Nature Center. Stay for a few minutes or a few hours. No prior knowledge is necessary and all ages are welcome. Depending on their abilities, participants may be able to help retrieve birds from nets, band birds, record vital information about birds captured and release birds back to the wild.

Saturday, September 28 • 8-10:30 AM

No registration necessary • Fee: FREE—sponsored by Hope College Biology Department

#### What's Down Under? (at DeGraaf)

Come out to DeGraaf nature center and learn all about the world under our feet. We will explore the lives of earthworms and other animals that live beneath the surface of the earth. These animals help us with composting and are the reason we have rich soils to grow plants. This program is ideal for 6-12 year olds and each participant will bring home a homemade jar wormery.

Saturday, October 19 • 10:30 AM-12 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$8 per child, \$4 for members

#### Homeschool Class-Seeds (at DeGraaf)

Plants are on the move, but how do they do it? During this program, we will hike the property, collecting all the different seeds we find. We will then investigate how plants disperse their seeds with the help of gravity, wind, ballistics, water, and animals.

This drop-off program is geared for home schoolers ages 6 - 10. Please bring a water bottle and a snack.

Tuesday, October 22 • 9:30 AM-12 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$10 per child • A minimum of 10 registrants is needed for this class to be conducted.

#### Things That Go Who (at DeGraaf)

Who goes *who* in the night? What is out catching insects in the evening? Where do animals go when the sun goes down? When is the best time to catch a mouse? How do animals see in the dark? Come to this nocturnal program to learn about what happens outside after we go to sleep.

Tuesday, October 29 • 6-7 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$5 per person, FREE for members

#### Nature's Paintbrush—Fall Colors (at DeGraaf)

Fall is filled with colors in Michigan. It's truly a spectacle! In this Nature's Paintbrush Workshop, participants will capture the beauty of fall using watercolors. The workshop is designed for ages 10- adult. This program includes instruction and all materials.

Saturday, November 2 • 1–3 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$25 per person

#### **Homeschool Class-Birds (at DeGraaf)**

We're flying with the birds today. We'll be going bird watching around the property with the help of binoculars, observing all the birds at our feeders, and meet some of our resident raptors up close and personal as we study birds at this program.

This drop-off program is geared for home schoolers ages 6 - 10. Please bring a water bottle and a snack.

Tuesday, November 12 • 9:30 AM-12 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$10 per child • A minimum of 10 registrants is needed for this class to be conducted.

#### Toad Abode (at DeGraaf)

Would you like more toads to visit your garden? These helpful creatures keep your garden healthy and pest free. And they're really fun to catch to be able to get a closer look. Come to our workshop and build a toad abode made of recycled and natural found materials such as acorns, bark, and leaves. We will provide all of the materials needed. This is a perfect workshop for ages 6-12 but any age is welcome.

Saturday, November 16 • 10:30 AM-12 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$8 per toad abode, \$4 for members

#### **VoLes Volunteer League (at various locations)**

Our Volunteer League is a service club for teens to experience what it takes to maintain a natural area and captive wildlife; and to gain insight to the ODC Network mission of educating people about the importance of nature. This program is designed for 12 to 18 year olds who will work with ODC Network staff on a variety of indoor and outdoor tasks. We might spend time improving the nature preserve by removing invasive species, cleaning up animal enclosures, or a number of other projects that further our goal of connecting people with nature. It's also a great way to earn those community service volunteer hours!

VoLes club meetings are scheduled for one Friday/Thursday and one Saturday of each month, for a total of six meetings per session. Spring, Summer and Fall sessions are available, no prior experience or participation required to sign up.

There is no fee for this activity, however a signed Behavior Guidelines Agreement and Photo/Liability Release Form are required.

Friday, September 13 • 3:30–5:30 PM
Saturday, September 21 • 1–4 PM • River Clean-up
Friday, October 4 • 3:30–5:30 PM
Saturday, October 26 • 2–7 PM • Treats & Trails
Friday, November 8 • 3:30–5:30 PM
Saturday, November 16 • 3:30–5:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: FREE



#### **Evening with the ODC (at Boatwerks)**

Join us for dinner, drinks, and great time with good friends at our annual fundraising event.

Monday, September 9 6–9 PM

Program Location: Boatwerks Waterfront Restaurant, 216 Van Raalte Ave, Holland, MI 49423
Registration required at http://bit.ly/odcevening • Tickets: \$125

## Amazing Insects (at Ridge Point Community Church)

Don't you want to learn about the most abundant and diverse group of animals on the planet? Insects are amazing and all around us. Come and explore the meadows of Ridge Point Community Church with us as we catch insects and learn about the many different types of insects we have right in our own backyard.

Thursday, September 12 6–7 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$5 per child, FREE for members
Program Location: Ridge Point Community Church 340 104th Ave. Holland, MI
(use drive 3, meet at door F)



## Specials at Butch's in September

From September 15-21, Butch's Dry Dock will donate proceeds from each purchase of a special cocktail, "The Aviation," to the ODC Network. The Aviation is a vintage combination of gin and crème de violette, uniquely indigo in color, with floral and citrus flavors. Dine out to show your support during the week of September 15th or join us the evening of September 20th to see our birds of prey!



Program Location: Butch's Dry Dock,44 E 8th St, Holland, MI 49423



#### Explore with your Senses (at Shore Acres Township Park)

Use all of your senses on this walk through Shore Acres Township Park. Touch, feel, smell, see, and taste your way along these dune trails with one of our naturalists. Learn how you use your senses different than many of Michigan's native animals. This program is perfect for adventurous 4-9 year olds.

Tuesday, September 17 4–5 PM

Registration required • Fee: FREE—sponsored by Laketown Township Program Location: Shore Acres Township Park 6602 138th Ave. Holland, MI



#### Women in Nature—Kayaking (at New Richmond Bridge Park)

Women in Nature is a program series designed to motivate women to be more healthy, active and passionate about the natural world surrounding them. In order to do so we are offering various program experiences.

This program will take place on the Rabbit River. We will be launching from New Richmond Bridge Park (North side) and paddling up river and then turning around and heading back to the park. This river has little current and is ideal for an inexperienced or casual paddler. During these programs, women will get the opportunity to learn about river wildlife, our efforts to improve local watersheds, and enjoy a casual paddle with a naturalist.

Thursday, September 19 6–7:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$10 per person
Program Location: New Richmond Bridge Park (North Side) 5758 Old Allegan Rd., Hamilton, MI



## Macatawa River Cleanup (at Window on the Waterfront)

Help clean the Macatawa River. Depending on the group size, there may be a crew on the shores of the lake and another in kayaks in the river. Anyone under 16 years old must be with an adult. All boats, paddles and life vests will be provided. Meet at the parking lot off River Ave.

Saturday, September 21 1–4 PM

Registration required

Fee: FREE—sponsored by Macatawa Watershed Project

Program Location: Window on the Waterfront, 20 S. River Ave., Holland, MI



#### Night Hike (at Huyser Farm Park)

Take a walk through the woods at night. Use your senses along the walk to find out how much you can feel, touch, hear, and see at night. Learn how nocturnal animals use their other senses to survive in the evening.

Friday, October 4 7:30–8:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: FREE—sponsored by Laketown Township Program Location: Huyser Farm Park, 64th Street, Holland, MI



#### **Dune Walk (at North Shore Dunes)**

Explore the Lake Michigan dunes with one of our naturalist staff. We will hike through each unique dune zone and identify birds, insects, and plants. As we learn about the different flora and fauna that call the dunes their home we will begin to understand a little more about this rare ecosystem.

Saturday, October 5
10–11 AM

Registration required • Fee: \$5 per person, FREE to members

Program Location: North Shore Dunes, 6522 135th Ave., Saugatuck, MI • Park along the side of the road and look for the ODC banner

#### Fall Scavenger Hunt (at Keppel Forest)

Get the little ones and explore outside on a fall scavenger hunt. Join one of our naturalists and hike the trails of Keppel Forest in search of colors, bugs, birds, plants and more. You're sure to find some fun as you search and learn about how plants and animals are getting ready for winter. All materials are provided.

Monday, October 7
11 AM-12 PM

Registration required • Fee: FREE—sponsored by Park Township Program Location: Keppel Forest, Lakewood Blvd. & 168th Ave.

#### Fall Surprises (at Ridge Point Community Church)

Winter is on the way and all of Michigan's animals and plants need to get ready! Who's staying? Who's leaving? Who's gonna get ready for the long sleep and who's going to stay up all winter?

We are going on a scavenger hunt around the property as we find out about many of fall's surprises. Dress for the weather for this outdoor adventure.

Thursday, October 10 **6–7 PM** 

Registration required • Fee: \$5 per child, FREE to members

Program Location: Ridge Point Community Church, 340 104th Ave. Holland, MI —use drive 3, meet at door F







# Save the Date for Upcoming Adventures in 2020

# National Treasures of the Sonoran Desert Photography Tour March 22-28, 2020

Wildlife photographers and bird watchers alike will explore the "Real, Natural, Arizona". Highlights of the trip will include visiting the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum, Sweetwater Wetlands, Saguaro National Park, and Gray Hawk Nature Center. There will be numerous opportunities for sunrises, sunsets, desert landscapes, and wildlife photography as we tour the greater Tucson area. The group will also get exclusive access to desert wildlife during a private photo session with Sandy Anderson from Gray Hawk Nature Center.

The tour will be co-lead by ODC Network's VP of Programming Jamie Krupka and professional photographer John Dykstra. For more information or to register, contact Jamie Krupka at 616-355-1057 or jamie@ outdoordiscovery.org.

# Sylvania Wilderness Kayaking June 27–July 2, 2020

Spending time in the wilderness can be a life-changing experience. Join the Explorer Network for a five-night excursion into the heart of the Upper Peninsula as we explore the Sylvania Wilderness Area near Watersmeet, MI. This 18,000 acre federally designated wilderness is home to 34 named lakes, old growth forest, ample wildlife, hiking trails, and campsites within the Ottawa National Forest. Your adventure will begin by kayak as we make our way to beautiful, remote, lakeside sites with abundant solitude. In the days that follow we will explore by

kayak and on foot the many lakes and trails in search of eagles, loons, beaver, northwoods scenery, and more. If you are looking for a chance to unplug, this escape to the Sylvania Wilderness may be just what you need.

The tour will be led by ODC Naturalist Mike Graves, who has logged many hours in

kayaks and on trails in Northern Michigan. For more information or to register, contact Mike Graves at 616-355-1057 or mikeg@outdoordiscovery.org.



