

Check Out Wisconsin State Parks

Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries Conference, April 2023

For a digital copy of this handout, email Teresa Schmidt, director@mercerpubliclibrary.org

Guidelines for libraries, marketing materials, and youth resources

dpi.wi.gov/libraries/public-libraries/adult-services/wisconsin-state-parks-pass-program

Information for Participating Libraries, including instructions on how to purchase passes

dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/outwigo



Programming ideas for all ages

- Invite a Wisconsin author to talk about natural resources or state parks.
- Invite staff from your local DNR property to talk about outdoor recreation opportunities on local public lands or to talk about management of local properties.
- Invite local silent sports groups or trail system representatives to share information about local trails, discuss trail etiquette, or provide tips for beginning hikers, bikers, skiers, etc. Encourage the speaker to include state park properties in the discussion.
- Invite a local silent sports shop to provide instruction on bicycle maintenance or to talk about preparation and gear for any kind of outdoor recreation.
- Learn about [Geocaching](#). The [Wisconsin Geocaching Association](#) has members all over the state, and many state parks have geocaches you can find.
- Host a community read or encourage your book clubs to read titles about natural resources or public lands. The booklist below includes several titles that discuss racial and socioeconomic equity in outdoor recreation, a topic that could provide rich conversation.

Programming ideas for children & families

- Host storytime programs about outdoor activities like hiking, biking, fishing, and camping.
- Encourage families to get outdoors with a [StoryWalk©](#). Your StoryWalk can be self-directed, or you can provide scheduled programming to encourage families to walk along with a librarian who will read the story.
- Ask your local DNR office if they could arrange for a visit with Smokey Bear.
- If your community has an Astronomy Club, invite them to present a program at the library or host a star-watching party. The continental United States will see two eclipses in the coming year: an annular solar eclipse on October 14, 2023, and a total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. Wisconsin is not in the path of totality for either event, but with proper viewing/safety equipment, we could view a partial eclipse. This is a great opportunity for outdoor programming!

Storytime Resources

Program themes

- **Family Camp Out:** [Marge Loch-Waters](#) shared a great idea for an evening event that combines a short storytime with time for families to build their own forts in the library. Incorporate outdoor recreation themed books and use the event as an opportunity to promote your park passes.
- **Storytime Camping:** Create a make-believe fire and share stories and sing camp songs.
- **Hold StoryTime outdoors:** Consider partnering with a local park, DNR property, or nature center to hold a library event in a new location. Be sure to have a backup plan in case of bad weather.
- **Feathered Friends** from The Cornell Lab of Ornithology contains monthly lessons in bird watching and identification. The lessons include games and hands-on activities that could be adapted for library programming.

Activities and crafts

- Check out the [Wisconsin Explorer Program](#) from Wisconsin State Parks for workbooks and activities, and download [Nature Discovery Kits](#) for science lessons, crafts, and activities.
- **Make natural paintbrushes** with conifer needles and sticks and use them to paint pictures and experiment with different textures.
- **Create bird seed cookies** with seed and gelatin or recycled hanging bird feeders with old plastic containers. Read stories about birds and talk about birdwatching and the birds that live in your area.
- Make binoculars out of toilet tissue cardboard rolls. [Follow these instructions from PBS Kids](#) for a fancier set of play binoculars for older children, or simply glue two rolls together, punch holes to add a yarn strap, and allow younger children to decorate their binoculars with markers or stickers.
- **Serve S'Mores Mix** at your camping-themed storytime: Mix Golden Grahams cereal or Teddy Grahams, mini marshmallows, and chocolate chips and share in small paper cups. You can try other kinds of trail mix, too, but omit the peanuts to avoid allergy issues.
- **Make paper S'Mores:** Provide young children with a large square of tan construction paper. Cut out a rectangle of darker brown paper or cardstock for the chocolate bar, and glue it to the tan construction paper graham cracker. Glue cotton balls on top of the chocolate bar to look like marshmallows.
- **Popsicle stick tent craft:** Use three popsicle sticks, some paper, and glue to create a [cute tent craft activity](#), as shared by Glued To My Crafts.
- [Be Outside from Idaho libraries](#) shared 60 program ideas for outdoor and nature programs.



Children's Books about camping and hiking

- Bogan, Carmen and Floyd Cooper. 2017. *Where's Rodney?* San Francisco, CA: Yosemite Conservancy Yosemite National Park.
- Brosgol, Vera and Alec Longstreth. 2018. *Be Prepared*. First ed. New York: First Second.
- Burgess, Matthew and Shahrzad Maydani. 2021. *Bird Boy*. First ed. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
- Dowd, Dineo and Cecil Gocotano. 2018. *Adventure Day*. United States: Dineo Dowd.
- Dowd, Dineo and Milcah Lagumbay. 2022. *I Am Emily*. Madison, Wisconsin: Dineo Dowd.
- Dubuc, Marianne. 2018. *Up the Mountain Path*. English ed. Hudson, NY: Princeton Architectural Press.
- Farrell, Alison. 2019. *The Hike*. San Francisco, California: Chronicle Books LLC.
- Henkes, Kevin. 1985. *Bailey Goes Camping*. First ed. New York: Greenwillow Books an imprint of HarperCollins.
- King, Loll and Adelina Lirius. 2020. *Old Enough to Save the Planet : Be Inspired by Real-Life Children Taking Action against Climate Change*. New York: Magic Cat Publishing.
- Longstreth, Galen Goodwin and Maris Wicks. 2013. *Yes Let's*. Terre Haute, IN: Tanglewood.
- Mann, Jennifer K. 2020. *The Camping Trip*. First edition. Reinforced trade ed. Somerville, Massachusetts: Candlewick Press.
- Martin, David and Frank Remkiewicz. 2005. *Piggy and Dad Go Fishing*. 1st ed. Cambridge, Mass: Candlewick Press.
- McCully, Emily Arnold. 2000. *Monk Camps Out*. First ed. New York: Arthur A. Levine Books.
- Messner, Kate and Christopher Silas Neal. 2017. *Over and Under the Pond*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books.
- Miller, Pat Zietlow and Katie Kath. 2021. *What Can You Do with a Rock?* Naperville, Illinois: Sourcebooks Jabberwocky.
- Oswald, Pete. 2020. *Hike*. First ed. Somerville Massachusetts: Candlewick Press.
- Paul, Miranda and Jason Chin. 2015. *Water Is Water : A Book About the Water Cycle*. First ed. New York: Roaring Brook Press.
- Quattlebaum, Mary and Laura J Bryant. 2013. *Jo Macdonald Hiked in the Woods*. 1st ed. Nevada City, CA: Dawn Publications.
- Rockwell, Anne F and Lizzy Rockwell. 2018. *Hiking Day*. First Aladdin hardcover ed. New York: Aladdin.
- Schindler, S. D. 2013. *Spike & Ike Take a Hike*. New York, NY: Nancy Paulsen Books.
- Snyder, Laurel and Emily Hughes. 2020. *Charlie & Mouse Outdoors*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books.
- Stein, David Ezra. 2007. *Leaves*. New York, NY: G.P. Putnam's Sons.
- Tariq, Ambreen and Stevie Lewis. 2021. *Fatima's Great Outdoors*. New York: Kokila.
- Theule, Larissa and Sara Palacios. 2020. *A Way with Wild Things*. New York: Bloomsbury Children's Books.
- Underwood, Deborah and Jared Chapman. 2018. *Monster & Mouse Go Camping*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
- Waboose, Jan Bourdeau and Karen Reczuch. 1998/1997. *Morning on the Lake*. 1st U.S. ed. Tonawanda, N.Y: Kids Can Press.
- Watt, Mélanie. 2021. *Scaredy Squirrel Goes Camping*. First ed. New York: Random House.
- Weiner, Andrew and April Chu. 2018. *Down by the River : A Family Fly Fishing Story*. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers.
- White, Kathryn and Miriam Latimer. 2012. *Ruby's Sleepover*. Cambridge, MA: Barefoot Books.

Books about the outdoors for adults

- Barr, Nevada. 1994. *A Superior Death*. New York: Berkley Books.
- Bates, John and Rebecca Jabs. 2021. *Wisconsin's Wild Lakes : A Guide to the Last Undeveloped Natural Lakes*. Mercer, WI: Manitowish River Press.
- Bates, John. 2018. *Our Living Ancestors : The History and Ecology of Old-Growth Forests in Wisconsin (and Where to Find Them)*. Mercer, WI: Manitowish River Press.
- Dial, Roman. 2020. *The Adventurer's Son : A Memoir*. New York, NY: William Morrow, an imprint of Harper Collins Publishers.
- Finney, Carolyn. 2014. *Black Faces, White Spaces : Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors*. Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Press.
- Hildebrand, John. 2019. *Long Way Round : Through the Heartland by River*. Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press.
- Johnson, Steve. 2021. *Best Lake Hikes Wisconsin : A Guide to the State's Greatest Lake and River Hikes*. Guilford, Connecticut: Falcon Guides an imprint of The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group.
- Johnson, Steve. 2022. *Best Loop Hikes Wisconsin : A Guide to the State's Greatest Loop Hikes*. Guilford, Connecticut: Falcon Guides.
- Lanham, J. Drew. 2017. *The Home Place : Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*. First paperback ed. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Milkweed Editions.
- Link, Michael and Kate Crowley. 2012. *Going Full Circle : A 1 555-Mile Walk Around the World's Largest Lake*. 1st ed. Duluth: Lake Superior Port Cities.
- Lugo, Derick. 2019. *The Unlikely Thru-Hiker : An Appalachian Trail Journey*. Boston: Appalachian Mountain Club Books.
- McManus, Melanie Radzicki. 2017. *Thousand-Miler : Adventures Hiking the Ice Age Trail*. Madison, Wisconsin: Wisconsin Historical Society Press.
- Mills, James Edward. 2014. *The Adventure Gap : Changing the Face of the Outdoors*. Seattle: Mountaineers Books.
- Moor, Robert. 2017. *On Trails*. New York: Simon & Schuster Paperbacks.
- Powers, Richard. 2019. *The Overstory : A Novel*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.
- Preston, Richard. 2007. *The Wild Trees : A Story of Passion and Daring*. New York: Random House.
- Rashid, Bob. 1999. *Gone Fishing*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press.
- Revolinski, Kevin and Eric Hansen. 2022. *Hiking Wisconsin : A Guide to the State's Greatest Hikes* Third ed. Guilford, CT: Falcon Guides.
- Roach, Mary. 2021. *Fuzz : When Nature Breaks the Law*. New York NY: W.W. Norton & Company.
- Soskin, Betty Reid. 2020. *Sign My Name to Freedom : A Memoir of a Pioneering Life*. Place of publication not identified: Hay House Inc.
- Spoolman, Scott. 2018. *Wisconsin Rocks! : A Guide to Geologic Sites in the Badger State*. Missoula, Montana: Mountain Press Publishing Company.
- Spoolman, Scott. 2018. *Wisconsin State Parks : Extraordinary Stories of Geology and Natural History*. Wisconsin: Wisconsin Historical Society Press.
- Spoolman, Scott. 2022. *Wisconsin Waters : The Ancient History of Lakes Rivers and Waterfalls*. Madison, WI: Wisconsin Historical Society Press.
- St Louis, Danielle. 2022. *A Dog Lover's Guide to Hiking Wisconsin's State Parks*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press.
- Turner, Chad. 2023. *Hiking Waterfalls Wisconsin : A Guide to the State's Best Waterfall Hikes*. Essex Connecticut: Falcon Guides.