

**LEARN ABOUT BIRDS, GARDENING, HIKING, INSECTS, NATURE, YOGA
BUGS, HEALTHY LIVING, FROGS AND MORE
AT THE ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER**

*Essex County Executive DiVincenzo Invites Children and Families
to Expand their Understanding and Appreciation of the Environment*

Essex County, NJ – A variety of programs are being offered at the Essex County Environmental Center during the month of March that will teach children and adults about nature and help them gain a greater appreciation and understanding of our environment. Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. invites children and adults to visit the Environmental Center where they can enjoy an enriching recreational experience through nature and conservation activities.

“Our Environmental Center has become the premiere location for environmental education and nature appreciation. With the help of our partner groups, our dynamic schedule of events and activities will captivate all ages,” DiVincenzo said. “Walk in our woods, discover habitats, get pointers on gardening, learn about nature photography and much more. It’s all about nature and it’s all at our Environmental Center,” he added.

Events scheduled for March are as follows:

“**Campfire Hike**” is for families. Participants will hike around the Environmental Center forest, build a winter campfire, sip hot cocoa and make organic popcorn. Dress warmly. **Cost is \$12 per adult and \$10 per child.** Advance registration and a minimum number of participants are required. For information, call [973-228-8776](tel:973-228-8776). *Campfire Hike* will be held as follows:

Date: Thursday, March 8, 2018
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
[621B Eagle Rock Avenue](#)
[Roseland, NJ](#)

“**Little Explorers Spring Nature Program**” is for children ages 2 to 4 years. This child-caregiver class uses stories, walks and crafts to develop an awareness and appreciation for science and nature for the child as well as the caregiver. Each week, a different nature or science topic is covered. **Cost is \$12 per child/per class.** Advance registration, payment and minimum number of participants required. For information, call [973.228.8776](tel:973.228.8776). *Little Explorers Winter Nature Program* will be held as follows:

Age: 2 year olds
Date and Time: Fridays, March 9, 16 & 23 at 10 a.m.

Age: 3 year olds
Date and Time: Thursdays, March 15 & 29 at 1 p.m.

Ages: 4 & 5 year olds
Dates and Times: Thursdays, March 15 & 29 at 9:45 a.m.

Place: Essex County Environmental Center
[621B Eagle Rock Avenue](#)
[Roseland, NJ](#)

“Bug Club” is for children ages 6 to 10. The Bug Club is devoted to children who want to explore the wonders of insects through field walks, games, stories and crafts. **Cost is \$10 per child per session.** Advance registration, payment and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call [973-228-8776](tel:973-228-8776). *Bug Club* will be held as follows:

Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2018
Time: 4 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
[621B Eagle Rock Avenue](#)
[Roseland, NJ](#)

“4-H Environmental Kids Club” is for children in grades 2 through 9. The environment is filled with things, big and small, that are surprising and helpful. Come once a month to see how much fun it is to learn about the world. The club is ongoing and fosters a long-term relationship with caring adults and club member peers. Members are encouraged to get involved with 4-H county events including fairs and public speaking. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. Advance registration is required. For information, call [973-353-1337](tel:973-353-1337) or visit essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/. *4-H Environmental Kids Club* meets as follows:

Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2018
Time: 4 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
Garibaldi Hall
[621A Eagle Rock Avenue](#)
[Roseland, NJ](#)

“Bird Club” for children ages 5 through 10. Participants will explore the wooded wetland and see what birds live near the Environmental Center. Use binoculars, field guides, and a keen sense of observation to discover and identify all sorts of birds. **Cost is \$10 per child per session.** Advance registration, payment and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call [973-228-8776](tel:973-228-8776). *Bird Club* will be held as follows:

Date: Thursday, March 15, 2018
Time: 4 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
[621B Eagle Rock Avenue](#)
[Roseland, NJ](#)

“Make and Take a Relaxation Squishie” is for children in kindergarten and up. Support wellness, concentration and stress management for school-age children. Students will practice breathing techniques and enjoy a brisk and alert short hike outdoors being mindful of their surroundings and inner voice. Back in the laboratory, they will make stress balls from various materials including cornstarch and dried beans. Grade-school aged children can take a break from the potential stresses of a typical school day. **Cost is \$10 per child.** Advance registration and a minimum number of participants are required. For information, call [973-228-8776](tel:973-228-8776). *Make and Take a Relaxation Squishie* will be held as follows:

Date: Saturday, March 17, 2018
Time: 11 a.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
[621B Eagle Rock Avenue](#)
[Roseland, NJ](#)

“Horticulture for Seniors” is for senior citizens. Join the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County for this horticulture class especially designed for senior citizens. The topic for March is *Younger Thank Springtime*. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. **This is a free program.** Advance registration is required one week prior to program. For information, call Helen at [973-731-0717](tel:973-731-0717) or the Master Gardner Helpline at [973-228-2210](tel:973-228-2210). *Horticulture for Seniors* will be held as follows:

Date: Monday, March 19, 2018
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
Garibaldi Hall
[621A Eagle Rock Avenue](#)
[Roseland, NJ](#)

“Spring Forest Egg Hunt” is for families with children ages 1 to 6. Celebrate the beginning of spring with a story of the Little White Rabbit, a visit from a live Rabbit, and an egg hunt within the forest grounds of the Environmental Center. Kids are asked to bring their favorite basket to collect eggs and earn surprises. Find a golden egg for an “eggstra” special surprise (valued over \$100). Light refreshments and a photo-op with the bunny are included. Bring your own camera. This will be cancelled in case of bad weather. **Cost is \$15 per child.** Advance registration is required and a limited number of spaces are available. For information, call [973-228-8776](tel:973-228-8776). *Spring Forest Egg Hunt* will be held as follows:

Date: Saturday, March 24, 2018
Times: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
[621B Eagle Rock Avenue](#)
[Roseland, NJ](#)

“New Jersey Woodturners” is for adults and children ages 3 and up. Learn to turn with the NJ Woodturners Association. Discover the wonders of creating art from found pieces of wood. Topics vary by the month. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. **Cost is \$10 per adult and free for NJWA members.** Call Gualberto Malave at [908-310-3557](tel:908-310-3557) for details. *New Jersey Woodturners* will meet as follows:

Date: Monday, March 26, 2018
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
Garibaldi Hall
[621A Eagle Rock Avenue](#)
[Roseland, NJ](#)

“For the Love of Animals...Photographs Taken with Love,” an exhibit by By Jane Murphy, will be on display in the Environmental Center during the months of March and April.

Registration is required for all programs at the Essex County Environmental Center, unless otherwise noted. For more information or to register, please call [973-228-8776](tel:973-228-8776).

The Essex County Park System was created in 1895 and is the first county park system established in the United States. The Park System consists of more than 6,000 acres and has 23 parks, five reservations, an environmental center, a zoo, Treetop Adventure Course, ice skating rink, roller skating rink, three public golf courses, golf driving range, two miniature golf courses, three off-leash dog facilities, a castle and the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens.