



# Community Program Guide

Winter-Spring 2024



# Bowers School Farm

1219 E. Square Lake Rd.  
Bloomfield Hills, MI  
248.341.6475  
schoolfarm.org



# Johnson Nature Center

3325 Franklin Rd.  
Bloomfield Twp., MI  
248.341.6485  
johnsonnaturecenter.org

# BOWERS SCHOOL FARM

## Adult & Family Programs



WINTER & SPRING 2024  
JANUARY - MAY



### Winter Birth Celebration

1/21, 2/10, 3/10

12:00-3:00p

We have special barn visits during the winter to see the newborn animals. We have lambs, kid goats, and piglets. Calves are due beginning in February.

**\$10 Members | \$12 Non-Members**

**Pre-Registration Required**

All Ages



### Intro to Gardening & Soil Health

2/3 & 2/10

9:00-10:30a

4/4 & 4/11

6:30-8:00p

In this introductory course for community adults and teens, we will explore successful strategies for small-scale gardening in Michigan climates and present best practices for improving soil health using compost. This hands-on series of classes will help you prepare a space for growing various plants.

**Sliding Scale: \$45-55 (includes two sessions)**

**Pre-Registration Required**

Ages 16+



### Earth Day Celebration

4/20

Time 10:00a-2:00p

Two sites, one purpose. There's no place like Earth! Join us for a full weekend celebration of our great planet. Enjoy family-friendly activities, crafts, and demonstrations at Bowers School Farm and Johnson Nature Center.

**Free Members | \$10 Non-Members**

**No Pre-Registration Necessary**

All Ages



# BOWERS SCHOOL FARM

## Youth Programs

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WINTER  
JANUARY | FEBRUARY



### Literature at the Farm: *Farmhouse*

**1/13** **9:00a-12:00p**  
Books! Food! Creative Writing! Farm fun! What could be better? Students will read an award-winning book, participate in farm-related activities, meet our new baby animals, and then create a very special book of their own. Our book for this winter session is called *Farmhouse*, by Sophie Blackall.

**Sliding Scale: \$35-45**

**Pre-Registration Required**

**Grades 2-5**



### Farm Investigations: Frosty Farm Fun!

**1/20** **9:30-11:30a**  
Bundle up and head to the Farm for some Frosty FUN! We will meet the new animal arrivals, explore the winter environment, and design and create a "Fence Post Frosty" in our maker space. Warm up with cocoa and donuts and share a winter-themed story.

**Sliding Scale: \$30-40**

**Pre-Registration Required**

**Grades K-2**



### Farm Investigations: Love Your Local Farm

**2/11** **9:30-11:30a**  
Come and share the love on the farm! See our new babies and investigate the barns. Create valentines for yourself and some to spread the joy to a local senior center. While you're creating, enjoy a warm cup of cocoa and a farm-fresh donut.

**Sliding Scale: \$30-40**

**Pre-Registration Required**

**Grades K-5**

# BOWERS SCHOOL FARM

## Youth Programs

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SPRING 2024  
MARCH | APRIL | MAY



### Farm Investigations: Woolly Workshop

3/16 9:30-11:30a

A scientific exploration of wool and sheep! Students will investigate our sheep and learn about the uses and properties of wool through a variety of crafts and hands-on experiments.

**Sliding Scale: \$30-40**

**Pre-Registration Required**

**Grades K-5**



### Farm Investigations: Use Less, Grow More

4/20 9:30-11:30a

Join us for projects and experiments to celebrate our beautiful planet! We will get out our shovels and explore how certain materials break down in the “soil food web.” Kids will create a healthy soil mix for their seed of choice and get creative by making an “urban pack kit” that can be used for lunches or meals on the go (a great alternative to single-use plastics).

**Sliding Scale: \$30-40**

**Pre-Registration Required**

**Grades K-5**



### Love a Pony

4/10 3:30-5:00p

4/17 3:30-5:00p

5/7 12:30-2:00p

Join us in this fun-filled session where children ages 3-5 will work hands-on with our ponies. Children will learn how we care for our ponies and ride a pony while building skills that involve confidence, independence, safety, and fun!

Children must be under 55 lbs. for the health and safety of our ponies

**Sliding Scale: \$45-55**

**Pre-Registration Required**

**Ages 3-5**

# BOWERS SCHOOL FARM

## Youth Programs



SPRING 2024  
MARCH | APRIL | MAY



### Hold Your Horses

4/20 & 4/21 (Ages 6-10) 9:30-11:00a

5/11 & 5/18 (Ages 11-14) 9:30-11:00a

This 2-part program provides a foundation for working successfully with and around horses. Participants will gain new insights and skills to enrich their time spent with and around horses and make them more proficient in their care and safety.

**Sliding Scale: \$100-120**

**Pre-Registration Required**



### Literature at the Farm: The Hike

4/27 9:00a-12:00p

Books! Food! Creative Writing! Farm fun! What could be better? This program focuses on bringing literature to life on the farm. Students will read an award-winning book, participate in farm-related activities, and then create a very special book of their own. Our book for this spring session will be *The Hike* by Alison Farrell

**Sliding Scale: \$35-45**

**Pre-Registration Required**

Grades 2-5



### Farm Investigations: Make the Most of Compost

5/4 9:30-11:30a

What IS compost and why is it so cool? Kids will check out our steaming hot compost pile at the farm to learn about all the microbes using scientific tools such as a microscope. They will also explore the inner workings of a worm farm and discover the benefits they provide to our soil.

**Sliding Scale: \$30-40**

**Pre-Registration Required**

Grades K-5

# BOWERS SCHOOL FARM

## Events & Camp

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# JOHNSON NATURE CENTER

## Adult & Family Programs

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WINTER 2024  
JANUARY | FEBRUARY



### A Hike to S'more Happiness

1/1 1:00-3:00p

Step into the New Year with an exclusive, guided hike ending with a campfire and s'mores. Indulge in the simple pleasures of a walk through the woods and a beloved fireside treat.

**\$14 / person**

**Pre-registration required**

All ages

### Winter Wellness in the Woods

1/26 2:00-4:00p

Bloomfield Youth Assistance presents a program for children and their parents/caregivers to learn mindfulness skills and techniques for "Conflict Resolution." Jessica Cortez, LMSW, from Bloomfield Hills Child & Family Counseling, welcomes families to the beauty of the nature center while learning emotional regulation tools and enjoying warm refreshments fireside at the sugarbush.

**\$10 / family**

**Pre-registration required**

Adults and children

(grades DK-5)



### Candle Dipping

1/27 11:00a-12:30p

Enjoy time in our warm, log cabin dipping candles and taking them home. This hands-on activity offers not just a souvenir to take home, but a chance to connect with the heritage of candle making, a craft deeply rooted in history.

**\$15 / person**

**Pre-registration required**

Ages 5-Adult

### Night Hike: Owl Prowl

2/2 6:00-7:00p

Discover the magic of the night as we navigate through shadowy trails, guided by the occasional "who-cooks-for-you" serenade from our feathered owl relatives. It promises to be a hootin' good time.

**\$8 / person**

**Pre-registration required**

Ages 7+





# JOHNSON NATURE CENTER

## Adult & Family Programs



WINTER 2024  
JANUARY | FEBRUARY



### Sunday Stroll Series

2/4 3:00-4:30p  
Whether you saunter or stroll, join us on the trails. Coffee & warm drinks are available at 3p.

**Donations appreciated**

**No pre-registration necessary**

**All Ages**

### Wild Wisdom Trivia Night

2/10 6:00-9:00p  
Grab your squirrel squad for a night of quizzical antics that'll make you howl like a pack of wolves. A pizza dinner will be provided.

**\$80 per team of four participants**

**Pre-registration required**

**Ages 18+**



### Great Backyard Bird Count

2/17 11:00a-1:00p  
Join us on a guided bird hike, to support Audubon with their annual community science project, the Great Backyard Bird Count. An indoor children's activity will be provided after the hike.

**\$12 / person**

**Pre-registration required**

**Ages 7+**

### Craft Series: Birds

2/24 1:00-3:00p  
Winter is for the birds, so let's make a seeded birdfeed to keep our feathered friends happy this season. Once done with that, you'll get to create your own bird craft to take home.

**\$15 / person**

**Pre-registration required**

**Ages 5-Adult**



# JOHNSON NATURE CENTER

## Adult & Family Programs

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SPRING 2024  
MARCH | APRIL | MAY



### Maple Sugaring: Sap Happy Event

3/3, 3/9 & 3/16

9:00a-4:00p

Join us this maple sugaring season for a tour of our Sugarbush! Discover how to identify and tap the perfect sugar maple tree and enjoy the sights, smells, and tastes of the sweet syrup-making process in our Sugar Shack and Log Cabin. Self-guided tours begin every half hour from 9:30a - 2:30p with numerous activities available at your own pace.

**\$12 / person**

[Pre-registration required](#)

All ages

### Earth Day Event

4/21

9:00a-4:00p

Two sites, one purpose. There's no place like Earth! Enjoy family-friendly activities, crafts, and demonstrations. New this year: Join us for our first-ever Fairy Garden and Gnome Home Festival! Check back for details.

**\$10 entrance fee**

[Pre-registration required](#)

All ages



### Craft Series: Wind Chime

4/27

1:00-3:00p

Embrace your inner whimsy with a DIY wind chime take-home craft!

**\$15 / person**

[Pre-registration required](#)

Ages 5-Adult

### Night Hike: Constellations

5/11

9:30-10:30p

Embark on a celestial adventure like no other with our Constellation Night Hike! As the city lights fade away, a canvas of stars unfolds above, painting the night sky with dazzling constellations.

**\$8 / person**

[Pre-registration required](#)

Ages 7+

### Hoppin' Fun Frog Walk

5/18

2:00-3:00p

Embark on a guided frog hike through lush wetlands, immersing yourself in the enchanting chorus of croaks and discovering the diverse amphibian life thriving in their natural habitat.

**\$8 / person**

[Pre-registration required](#)

All ages

# JOHNSON NATURE CENTER

## Early Childhood Programs



FALL | WINTER | SPRING



### You, Me, and the Trees

Fridays (see schedule for dates)

10:30-11:30a

Parents and caregivers are invited to explore the outdoors with their toddlers and observe the many ways nature can help us learn. Children 2-3 years old will have the opportunity to embrace the wonders of nature through their senses and engage in unique learning experiences.

\$12 / child

**Pre-Registration Required**

**Ages 2-3**



### TreeSchool

2024-25 School Year

Class Schedule

Tuesdays/Thursdays OR Wednesdays

9:30a-1:30p

Every child deserves a “happy place” to gain independence, make friends, develop unique skills and interests, and learn to contribute to a community. TreeSchool, our drop-off early childhood program, provides children with such a place. With 40 acres of forest, pond, and prairie to explore, children develop lifelong skills through meaningful play and project-based learning experiences.

**Enrollment opens on February 9th!**

**Ages 3-4**

# JOHNSON NATURE CENTER

## Events & Camp



## MAPLE SUGARING

*Sap Happy Event*



MARCH 3RD, 9TH, AND 16TH  
9:30A - 2:30P (HALF HOUR TIME SLOTS)

TREE TAPPING | DRILLING DEMOS | SUGAR SHACK AND CABIN TOURS  
SAP AND SYRUP TASTINGS | MAPLE STORE



Johnson Nature Center Camp

# DIVERSE LEARNERS' DAYS

WINTER | SPRING | SUMMER | FALL



This specialized program is designed for children with special needs to provide a more accessible experience for the child and their family who might be hesitant to visit due to a child's complex learning needs or challenges (i.e. sensory needs/responses, language, emotional or social concerns, cognitive learning challenges, physical needs, etc.). During this collaborative program, the guide will work directly with the children (4:1 ratio) to provide specialized instruction and accommodation with animals, gardens, and farm/nature activities.



# SCOUTS & SMALL GROUPS

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WINTER | SPRING | SUMMER | FALL



Explore various focused topics, from bugs to plants, through hands-on, inquiry-based learning experiences.

We've designed these programs to meet scout badge requirements and can adapt to meet your group's needs.



# CONNECT & GIVE



Johnson Nature Center's  
*Outdoor*  
**CLASSROOM**



give every child a happy place to learn

The outdoor environment offers an abundance of learning opportunities for all ages. Nature-based learning supports emotional, behavioral, and intellectual development. Studies have shown that through meaningful play and learning, children develop lifelong skills, a sense of self, independence, confidence, creativity, decision-making, problem-solving skills, and empathy toward others.

Our new outdoor classroom space will feature hands-on manipulatives and natural play elements that children will enjoy for years to come. Consider making a year-end tax-deductible donation to the Friends of the Johnson Nature Center to help make our vision a reality!

Thanks to donors like you, we soon hope to offer this unique educational space to students and the community.

**Fully-immersive nature-based learning  
in an urban forest environment**

Yes! I want to help  
Johnson Nature Center  
spread the joy!

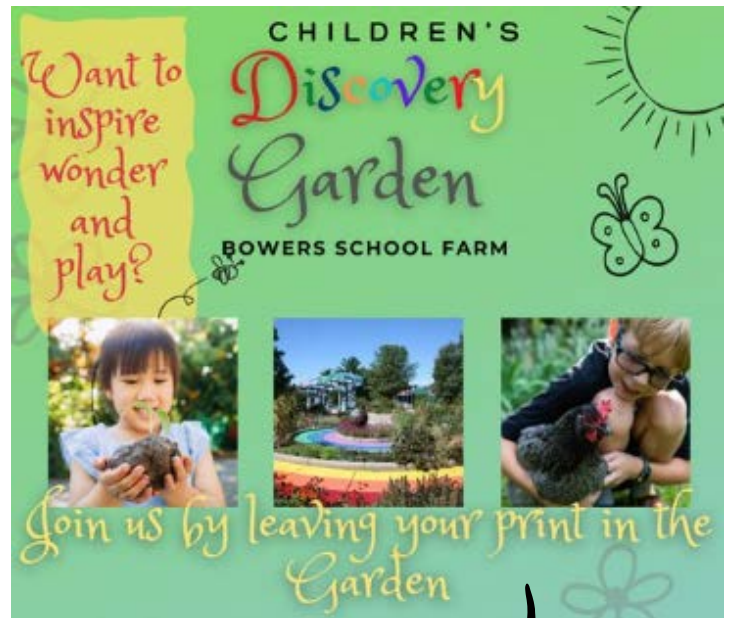


**BECOME A FRIEND**

THE FRIENDS' GROUPS OF BOWERS SCHOOL FARM AND JOHNSON NATURE CENTER SUPPORT OUR MISSION THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM AND FUNDRAISING EFFORTS. JOIN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER**

OUR VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS, EVENTS, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, ANIMAL CARE, AND MORE. CONTRIBUTE AND MAKE AN IMPACT THROUGH SERVICE TO STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY.



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