



Afton State Park

651-436-5391

Sundays; Dec. 13; Jan. 10, 24 and 31; Feb. 7 and 14
2-3 p.m.

R *Running on Snow with Snowshoes*

Jim McDonell, avid snowshoe runner, will teach you how to run on snow. He will cover types of running snowshoes, techniques, and clothing. All skill levels welcome. Some snowshoes available for rent (\$6/person). Registration required. Call 651-436-5391.

Saturday, Feb. 6 6-9 p.m.

Candlelight Hike/Snowshoe

Hike or snowshoe by moonlight along a two-mile trail lit with candle luminaries, then warm up by the wood stove and enjoy refreshments. Meet at the Visitor Center. In case of poor weather, the back-up date is Saturday, Feb. 13.



Big Bog State Recreation Area

218-647-8592

Sunday, Feb. 7 2-4 p.m.

Snowshoe Adventure

Snowshoe a mile along the Old Caribou Camp Trail under snow-covered evergreens. Return to the picnic shelter for a warm fire, hot chocolate, and marshmallows. Meet at the North Unit parking lot with your snowshoes.

Sunday, March 21 1-3 p.m.

Ice Fishing on Ludlow Pond

Bring your jig stick or an ordinary fishing pole and try your luck at catching some Ludlow Island panfish. The holes will be drilled for you, and bait will be provided. Meet at the North Unit parking lot.



Buffalo River State Park





218-498-2124

Saturdays, Jan. 30 and Feb. 6 6-9 p.m.

Candlelight Ski, Hike, or Snowshoe

Ice candles will illuminate the 1.25-mile ski trail and the .75-mile hike/snowshoe trail. Trails start at the parking lot about a half-mile past the park office. Enjoy campfires and refreshments at each location. Skis can be rented at the park office on a first-come, first-served basis (\$10/day for skis, boots, and poles). Ski passes, required for skiers age 16 or older, can be purchased at the park (see page 28 for more information).

Notes: **F** - Program Fee **R** - Registration Required

Biomes:  Prairie  Deciduous  Coniferous  Aspen Parkland



Charles A. Lindbergh State Park

320-616-2525

Saturday, Jan. 23

6-9 p.m.

Candlelight Ski and Snowshoe

Explore 1.5 miles of easy, candle-lit trails, then enjoy free refreshments around a fire. Start at the picnic shelter. A candlelight walk will be held if there is not enough snow. Ski rentals are available in Little Falls. Ski passes, required for skiers age 16 or older, can be purchased at the park (see page 28 for more information).



Father Hennepin State Park

320-676-8763

Saturday, Feb. 20

6-9 p.m.

Candlelight Ski

Join us for a night of candlelight skiing through the winter woods of Father Hennepin State Park. The 2.5-mile groomed trail goes through our two campgrounds and then swings through a mixture of pine and hardwood forest along a flat to gently rolling terrain. The event, sponsored by the Friends of Father Hennepin State Park, will start at the Lakeview Shelter. Refreshments will be available in the shelter building, and we'll also have a bonfire, so bring your marshmallows! Ski passes, required for skiers age 16 or older, can be purchased at the park (see page 28 for more information).



Fort Snelling State Park

612-725-2724

Sat., Nov. 7, and Sun., Nov. 8

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Registration required by Friday, Oct. 30



Snowshoe Lacing Workshop



Looking for a handmade holiday gift? Make a wooden pair of snowshoes! This is a two-day class with a fee for materials. Call 612-725-2724.

Saturday, Dec. 12
and Sunday, Dec. 13

10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
noon-3:30 p.m.



Basket Weaving Workshop

During this two-day workshop you will learn how to make baskets from red-osier dogwood and willow cuttings. Cost is \$10/person. Registration required. Call 612-725-2724.



Fort Snelling State Park

continued

Sunday, Dec. 20 1-2 p.m.

R *Animal Track Stories*

Learn to read the stories told by animal tracks and identify the "authors," then create your own story on paper big enough to use as wrapping paper for gifts. Registration required. Call 612-725-2724.

Thursday, Dec. 31 3-8 p.m.

New Year's Eve Candlelight Walk and Skate

Enjoy a healthy walk along candle-lit trails or lace up your skates and twirl around a candle-lit rink on Snelling Lake. You can also roast marshmallows at an outdoor fire or have a cup of hot chocolate or cider near the fireplace in the Visitor Center.

Saturday, Jan. 2, or Sunday, Feb. 14 1-2 p.m.

R *Feed the Birds*

Show your fine-feathered friends some love by making a feeder to help sustain them through the rest of winter. Cost is \$5/feeder. Registration required. Call 612-725-2724.

Saturday, Jan. 9 1-2 p.m.

R *Snowshoeing for Beginners*

Discover the fun of snowshoeing and how people throughout history have used snowshoes. Registration required. Call 612-725-2724.

Saturday, Feb. 6 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

R *Parent/Child Ice Fishing*

Get hands-on instruction and try one of Minnesota's favorite winter activities. All equipment and bait will be provided. Dress warmly and meet at the Visitor Center. Registration required. Call 612-725-2724.



Sundays, March 7, 14, 21, or 28

Saturdays, March 20 or 27 1-2:30 p.m.

Maple Syruping in Your Backyard

Join us at any one of these workshops to learn about the natural history of maple trees and the history of making maple syrup. Find out what equipment is required, how to tap trees, and how to process sap into syrup. Meet at the Visitor Center.





Fort Snelling State Park

continued

Saturday, April 17

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Clean Your Park Day

Celebrate Earth Day at Fort Snelling State Park. Please join us in helping to preserve this pristine place for future generations by picking up trash on the trails.



Frontenac State Park

651-345-3401

Saturday, Jan. 23

5:30–8 p.m.

Candlelight Ski

Luminaries will light an easy one-mile loop trail. Start at the picnic shelter. If there is not enough snow, the event will become a candlelight walk. Ski passes, required for skiers age 16 or older, can be purchased at the park (see page 28 for more information). The Frontenac State Park Association sponsors this annual winter gathering.



Glendalough State Park

218-864-0110

Saturday, Feb. 20

6:30–9:30 p.m.

Candlelight Ski

Ski the 1.5 miles of lighted and groomed trails, then sip hot cider by the fire in the Trail Center. If you like, bring a snack to share or some marshmallows to roast. Skis can be rented at the park (\$10/day for skis, boots, and poles). Ski passes, required for skiers age 16 or older, can be purchased at the park (see page 28 for more information).



Gooseberry Falls State Park

218-834-3855

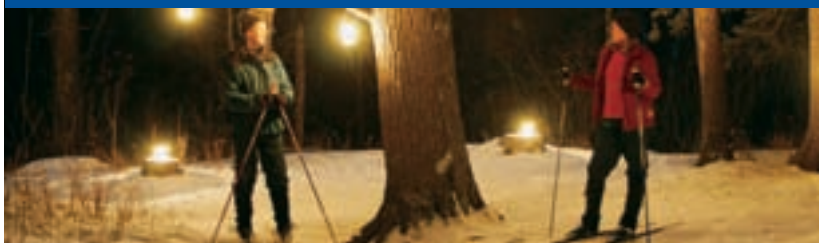
Saturday, Jan. 23

1–2:30 p.m.



Learning to Snowshoe

Snowshoeing is easy, fun, and a great way to enjoy the outdoors! Learn about snowshoe styles, accessories, and etiquette, then go on a short, guided snowshoe walk through a cedar grove. Use our snowshoes or bring your own. Registration required. Call 218-834-3855. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet in the Visitor Center Theater.



Gooseberry Falls State Park

continued

Saturday, Feb. 20 6–8:30 p.m.

Candlelight Ski, Snowshoe, and Walk

Take a half-mile walk along a candle-lit trail to see the Upper Falls covered in ice or explore candle-lit ski and snowshoe trails. Do all three if you're up to it! A hot beverage and a fire to warm your fingers and toes will await your return. Ski passes, required for skiers age 16 or older, can be purchased at the park (see page 28 for more information).



Hayes Lake State Park

218-425-7504

Saturday, Jan. 16 1–3:30 p.m.

Snowshoeing in the Park

Spend the afternoon snowshoeing at Hayes Lake State Park. Follow the existing snowshoe trails or blaze your own trail. Call ahead to reserve a pair of snowshoes (free) if you don't have your own. Basic instruction provided by park staff. Meet at the park headquarters shop.

Saturdays, Feb. 6 and 20 6:30–10 p.m.

Candlelight Ski

Experience the pine forest and our 1.25-mile candle-lit ski trail, along with roaring campfires, hot cider, and cocoa. Bring your own skis and depart from the beach parking area. Ski passes, required for skiers age 16 or older, can be purchased at the park (see page 28 for more information).

Saturday, Feb. 27 9–11 a.m.

R ***Kids' Ice-fishing Clinic***

Learn how to fish through the ice, make your own jiggle stick, and test it out on the lake. You may even win a prize! Clinic is limited to 20 children in first grade or older. Registration required. Call 218-425-7504.

Saturday, Feb. 27 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Wannaska Lions Fishing Derby

This all-day family event on beautiful Hayes Lake includes prizes for the biggest fish provided by the Wannaska Lions Club. The Friends of Hayes Lake State Park will provide lunch for a fee, with all proceeds going to future Friends projects.





Itasca State Park

218-266-2100

Saturdays, Jan. 23 and Feb. 20

5-7:30 p.m.

Lantern-lit Ski and Snowshoe

Ski or snowshoe by the light of kerosene lanterns and the moon. The trail follows the Many Lakes Road (South Entrance). Parking available at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center.

Saturday, March 20

11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Think Spring! Activity Day

Celebrate the spring equinox with a variety of activities, from making bird feeders to identifying trees without leaves to learning about the upcoming migration of many different birds and insects. Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center.



Jay Cooke State Park

218-384-4610

Saturday, Nov. 14

1-2:30 p.m.

R Making Tracks

Learn about the animal tracks you will encounter this winter and how animals travel through the snow. Make an animal track craft to take home. Registration required. Call 218-384-4610.

Saturdays, Jan. 16 and 30

1-2:30 p.m.

Discover Winter Snowshoe Hikes

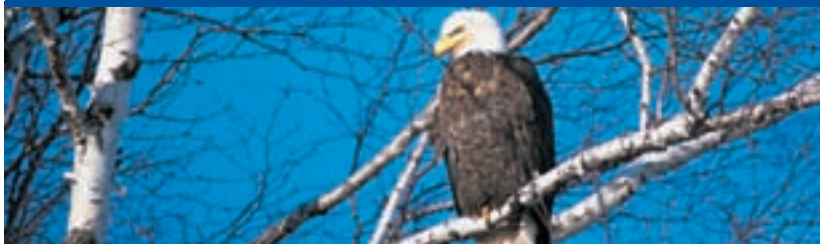
After some "how-to-snowshoe" basics, we'll head into the woods to see which critters we can spot this week. Child and adult snowshoes are available (free). To reserve a pair, call 218-384-4610. Meet at the River Inn Visitor Center.

Friday, Feb. 12

6-9 p.m.

Candlelight Ski and Snowshoe

Cross-country ski or snowshoe miles of candle-lit trails, then join us by the fire for refreshments. Meet at the River Inn Visitor Center. Ski passes, required for skiers age 16 or older, can be purchased at the park (see page 28 for more information). Snowshoes are available to rent (\$6/day). To reserve a pair, call 218-384-4610.



Bill Rogers



Lake Bemidji State Park

218-308-2328 or 218-308-2300

Saturday, Dec. 19

10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Annual Winter Bird Count

Help document the birds that winter in the park by counting them as you travel through hardwood and pine forests on foot or skis, depending on snow conditions. Open to all ages and birding abilities. Bring your binoculars and field guides. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, Dec. 26

6–9 p.m.

Candlelight Ski

Tour the park trails by the warm glow of candlelight. Up to 5K of easy and intermediate groomed ski trails will be lit for this magical night of skiing. Along the trail, stop to warm up by the fire and roast marshmallows. Return to the Visitor Center for additional refreshments and maybe even some musical entertainment. This event is hosted by the Bemidji Area Cross Country Ski Club and Lake Bemidji State Park. Check current trail conditions at mndnr.gov.

Thursdays; Jan. 14 and 28;

Feb. 11 and 25

1:30–3 p.m.

Snowshoeing for Fun

A great way to stay active in the winter is to go snowshoeing. If you have never tried snowshoeing, this is your chance. We'll visit a different area of the park and explore progressively more challenging trails each time. To reserve snowshoes (free for use during the program), call 218-308-2300. Meet at the park office.

Saturday, Jan. 30

7–8:30 p.m.



Keep Winter White—Full Moon Snowshoe Walk

This snowshoe outing will take you through the shadows of a winter night and highlight what can be done to minimize our carbon footprint. Registration required. Call 218-308-2300.

Sunday, Feb. 14

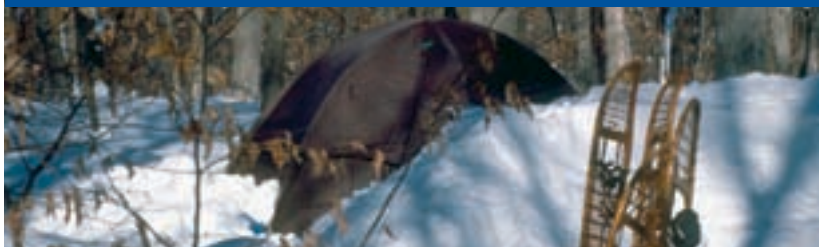
noon–3 p.m.



Berrmidji Kids' Ice Fishing

Kids ages eight to 15 can join the park naturalist for an afternoon of perch fishing on Lake Bemidji. Anglers 18 and older do not need a license if they are accompanied by a child younger than 16 and are actively participating in Take-A-Kid Ice Fishing Weekend.





Lake Bemidji State Park

continued

Friday, Feb. 26 (call for time)

R *Winter Camping*

F Discover the challenge and joy of winter camping while taking a night snowshoe walk and sleeping out in a quinzee, a comfortable winter shelter. This program is for beginners and will provide basic winter camping skills. There is a \$15 participation fee to cover meal costs. Registration required. Call the park office at 218-308-2300.

Wednesdays; March 31; April 7 and 14 7-9 p.m.

R *Beginning Bird Watching*

This three-session program will introduce the basics of bird identification, field guides, and binoculars. It will also include a field trip to watch the spring "booming" ritual of sharp-tail grouse. Registration required. Call 218-308-2300.



Lake Bronson State Park

218-754-2200

Saturday, Jan. 9, and Sunday, Jan. 10 noon-4 p.m.
Registration required by Monday, Dec. 7

R *Snowshoe Lacing*

F Sit by the fireplace and lace your own Ojibwe-style snowshoes in this two-day workshop. You can then use your newly constructed snowshoes at our candlelight events. Program fee is \$75. Call 218-754-2200 before Dec. 7 to register and order your size of snowshoes. Class size limited to 12.

Saturday, Jan. 30 6-9 p.m.

Candlelight Ski

Ski approximately one mile through forest and prairie by the light of luminaries and see the historic observation tower by the glow of a frosty moon. When you are done, enjoy refreshments beside the toasty fireplace. Start and end at the Victor Johnson Visitor Center. Ski passes, required for skiers age 16 or older, can be purchased at the park (see page 28 for more information). Bring your own skis.

Sunday, Feb. 7 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

R *Fishing Derby*

Join us for the annual fishing event sponsored by the Lion's Club. Come as a contestant or spectator and see what the lake has to offer for monster pike and walleye. Refreshments will be available. Register at the Victor Johnson Visitor Center.



Lake Bronson State Park

continued

Saturday, Feb. 13 1-4:30 p.m.
Registration required by Monday, Feb. 8



Take-A-Kid Ice Fishing Clinic



Start your afternoon with an indoor presentation on ice-fishing safety, gear, and techniques. Then warm up with coffee and hot cocoa before heading out on the ice to reel in a large walleye. Kids will make their own jiggle sticks, which they can take home. Registration required. Call 218-754-2200. Anglers 18 and older do not need a license if they are accompanied by a child younger than 16 and are actively participating in Take-A-Kid Ice Fishing Weekend.

Saturday, Feb. 20 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Candlelight Snowshoe

Snowshoe along the north shore of Lake Bronson on an easy, 1.5-mile trail that passes two historic buildings. Warm up at the Victor Johnson Visitor Center with hot drinks and snacks. Snowshoes will be available for rent (\$6/day).

Saturday, March 13 1-3 p.m.
Animal Tracks

Ever wonder what made those animal tracks in the snow? Following a short, highly interactive presentation, make your own plaster critter tracks, then go outside to see some four-legged wildlife. Dress for the weather and bring your snow boots. Meet at the Victor Johnson Visitor Center.

Saturday, March 27 1-3 p.m.
The Annual Spring (Bird) Dance

Learn about sharp-tailed grouse and their annual courtship performance on their dancing grounds, or *leks*. Also, be the first to reserve your spot in a viewing blind, where you can witness the dance for yourself in April. Meet at the Victor Johnson Visitor Center.



Lake Carlos State Park

320-852-7200

Saturdays, Jan. 23 and Feb. 27 10 a.m.-noon



Guided Snowshoe Hike

Learn to snowshoe while looking for animal signs on a guided hike with the park ranger. Learn about the different styles of snowshoes before heading out on the trail. Registration required. Call 320-852-7200. Snowshoe rentals available (\$6/day).



Lake Carlos State Park

continued

Saturdays, Jan. 23 and Feb. 27 6–9 p.m.

Candlelight Ski and Snowshoe

Ski or snowshoe by moonlight along the candle-lit trails of Lake Carlos. Warm up by the wood stove and enjoy refreshments afterward in the shelter. Ski passes, required for skiers age 16 or older, can be purchased at the park (see page 28 for more information). Bring your own skis. Snowshoe rentals available (\$6/day).

Saturday, Feb. 13 1–4:30 p.m.

Registration required by Feb. 8



Take-A-Kid Ice Fishing Clinic



Bundle up the kids to participate in Take-A-Kid Ice Fishing Weekend. Inside the warming shelter, presentations will be given on ice-fishing safety, gear, and techniques. Kids can make a jiggle stick to use and take home. Anglers 18 and older do not need a license if they are accompanied by a child younger than 16 and are actively participating in Take-A-Kid Ice Fishing Weekend. Registration required. Call 320-852-7200.



Lake Maria State Park

763-878-2325

Saturday, Nov. 14 10–11 a.m.



Junior Naturalist Beaver Hike

See how the “busy” beaver prepares for the winter and learn how other animals in the park adapt to winter. Registration required. Call 763-878-2325.

Saturday, Jan. 16 10 a.m.–3 p.m.



Winter Fun Day

Our annual Winter Fun Day provides an opportunity to enjoy guided snowshoe hikes, dog-sled demonstrations, ice skating, skiing, winter camping demonstrations, music, and refreshments. Registration required. Call 763-878-2325.



Lake Maria State Park

continued

Saturday, Feb. 13

6-9 p.m.



Folkssport Valentine's Day Candlelight



Snowshoe and Walk



Folkssports are leisure-time activities for people of all ages, alone or in groups, with no competitive requirements but plenty of awards. This event, co-sponsored by NorthStar Trail Travelers and Friends of Lake Maria State Park, includes opportunities to walk scenic 1K and 4K candle-lit trails at your own pace for fun and fitness. Borrow snowshoes for free while supplies last. In case of poor weather, the alternate date is Saturday, Feb. 20. There is a \$2 participation fee. Register at the Trail Center.

Saturday, March 27

Sunday, March 28

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Maple-syruping Demonstration

Attend either of these programs to learn the basics of making maple syrup. Ongoing demonstrations will show how to select and tap maple trees and how to cook the sap to make syrup. Join us for this celebration of spring! Meet at the Trail Center.



Maplewood State Park

218-863-8383

Saturday, Feb. 20

5-8:30 p.m.

Candlelight Ski

Bring your own skis and explore the 1.2-mile candle-lit trail around Cataract Lake. The Friends of Maplewood State Park will provide hot drinks, chili, and a bonfire at the warming house. Ski passes, required for skiers age 16 or older, can be purchased at the park (see page 28 for more information).

Biomes:



Prairie



Deciduous



Coniferous



Aspen Parkland



Mille Lacs Kathio State Park

320-532-3523

Saturday, Jan. 2

1-2:30 p.m.

Introduction to Winter Camping

Learn how to stay warm and have fun while winter camping. Discussion will include clothing, shelters, sleeping gear, campfires, cooking, and more. Faculty and students from the Natural Resource program at Central Lakes College will share their knowledge and enthusiasm for winter camping during this special session designed for beginners. Meet at the Interpretive Center.

Saturday, Jan. 9

1-2:15 p.m.

R ***Snowshoeing for Beginners***

We begin inside the Interpretive Center with a brief talk about different types of snowshoes. We will then move outdoors for a how-to lesson and a snowshoe hike. Registration required and limited to 25. Snowshoes will be provided if you don't have your own. Call 320-532-3269 and leave your name, phone number and the number of people attending.

Saturday, Jan. 23

1-3:30 p.m.

R ***Beginner Cross-country Ski Lesson and Trail Tour***

Learn how to glide, pole, turn, and handle hills—all the basic skills you will need to enjoy traditional cross-country skiing. After a one-hour basic lesson, join the ski instructor and the park naturalist for a guided tour of the park's woodland trails. Bring your own skis or rent some at the park office (\$10/day for skis, boots, and poles) before meeting at the Interpretive Center. Registration required and limited to 25. Call 320-532-3269 and leave your name, phone number and the number of people attending.

Saturday, Jan. 30

6-10 p.m.

Candlelight Ski

Enjoy skiing by the light of the full moon with candle luminaries to help guide the way. Two separate trails are lit for this popular annual event. Refreshments will be served, and a shuttle bus will run continuously between the Trail Center and the Interpretive Center. Ski rental (\$10/day for skis, boots, and poles) is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Ski passes, required for skiers age 16 or older, can be purchased at the park (see page 28 for more information).



Mille Lacs Kathio State Park

continued

Saturday, Feb. 13

1-2:15 p.m.



Winter Geocaching Adventure for Beginners

Discover the fun of hunting for hidden treasure in the snow. After an indoor introduction to GPS (Global Positioning System) units and geocaching, we will put on snowshoes and go find some hidden caches. We will supply the snowshoes, along with a how-to-snowshoe lesson. Just dress warm, wear boots, and bring your own GPS unit or use one of ours. Registration required. Call 320-532-3269 and leave your name, phone number, and the number of people attending.

Saturday, Feb. 27

8-9:15 p.m.



Moonlight Snowshoeing

Enjoy an introduction to snowshoeing by the light of the moon. Following an indoor look at different types of snowshoes and a brief how-to-snowshoe lesson, we will go on a moonlight snowshoe hike. If you don't have snowshoes, we will supply them free for use during the program. Registration required and limited to 25. Call 320-532-3269 and leave your name, phone number, and the number of people attending. Meet at the Interpretive Center.



Nerstrand Big Woods State Park

507-333-4840

Saturday, Jan. 30

6-9 p.m.

Moonlight Ski/Walk

Join us for a magical night of skiing on trails lit by the warm glow of luminaries. Hot beverages to warm your fingers and toes will await your return at the Visitor Center. If there is no snow, the event will become a candlelight walk.



Old Mill State Park

Contact Lake Bronson State Park at 218-754-2200

Saturday, Dec. 5

1-5 p.m.

Wreath Making

Craft your own wreath or swag for Christmas with evergreen boughs supplied by the park. Bring a wire hanger to form the wreath and whatever holiday decorations you would like to add. Meet inside the toasty warm picnic shelter, where hot drinks and snacks will be available.





Old Mill State Park

continued

Saturday, Jan. 23

6-9 p.m.

Candlelight Snowshoe

Take a leisurely one-mile hike along the river and past the historic tower under a nearly full moon. Hear the call of a nearby great horned owl and see streams of moonlight as they cascade down through majestic pine trees to the powdery snow below. Snowshoes will be available for rent (\$6/day). Meet at the Picnic Shelter.

Saturday, Feb. 27

6:30-9:30 p.m.

Candlelight Ski

Experience Old Mill State Park by candlelight as you ski through the forest and view the river from above. The course (approximately one mile) will go through the historic Scotch pines and over both walking bridges. Hot drinks and snacks will be available in the Picnic Shelter. Bring your own skis. Ski passes, required for skiers age 16 or older, can be purchased at the park (see page 28 for more information).

Saturday, March 6

1-4 p.m.

Sleigh Rides

Ride on a horse-driven sleigh and see the snow-covered landscape in a whole new way. Teams of horses will loop around the park throughout the afternoon. Adults, kids, and families are all welcome.



Sibley State Park

320-354-2055

Saturdays; Jan. 9, 16, 23, and 30;

Feb. 6, 13, and 20

2-3:30 p.m.

R **Snowshoe Hiking**

Experience the fun and excitement of one of winter's easiest types of recreation to learn. Following a brief talk, you will take a beautiful and exhilarating winter hike. Snowshoes will be provided. Participants must be at least 10 years old. Reservations required. Call 320-354-2055.

Sunday, Jan. 17

2-3 p.m.

F **Kids' Ice Fishing**

Kids will learn all kinds of cool stuff about ice fishing and fish at this program, including tips on fishing tackle, tackle boxes, and fish identification. They will also make an ice-fishing jiggle stick to take home. Parents should accompany kids. Registration required. Call 320-354-2055. Fee is \$5/kid for program and jiggle stick.





Sibley State Park

continued

Thursdays, Jan. 28 and Feb. 25 7–8:30 p.m.

R *Moonlit Snowshoe Hike*

Enjoy an exhilarating evening of snowshoeing under the light of the moon. We will provide the snowshoes and the guide for this evening under the winter skies. Participants must be at least 10 years old. Registration required. Call 320-354-2002 or 320-354-2055.

Saturdays; March 13, 20, or 27 2–3 p.m.

R *Maple Syruping—From Tree to Taste*

Attend any one of these programs to learn about the springtime tradition of maple syruping, including the tools of the trade, sap collection, processing, and—best of all—tasting. Registration required. Call 320-354-2002 or 2055.



Split Rock Lighthouse State Park

218-226-6377

Friday, Nov. 6 3–5 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 7 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 8 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

General Call to All Stations

Amateur “ham” radio operators from Stillwater, Minn., will be talking with other “hams” around the country for this “Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald” event. Come watch, listen, or join the hams in communicating over the air. Visit the Trail Center and learn about the amateur radio hobby. For information, contact Dave Glas at dglas45@msn.com or 651-436-3334.

Tuesday, Nov. 10 noon–6 p.m.

F *Annual Edmund Fitzgerald Commemoration and Beacon Lighting*

Tours of the Split Rock Lighthouse will take place throughout the afternoon, and a memorable film about the Edmund Fitzgerald will be shown continuously in the Visitor Center. A ceremonial reading of lost crew members’ names will take place at 4:30 p.m. while a ship’s bell tolls. After the ceremony, the beacon will be lit and the lighthouse will reopen for tours. Cost is \$5/person (free for children five and under). For more information, visit mnhs.org.





Split Rock Lighthouse State Park

continued

Saturday, Dec. 26

10-11:30 a.m.

R *Introduction to Snowshoeing*

Join a park ranger for an introduction to the easy, fun-filled, and growing sport of snowshoeing. After learning about snowshoe styles, accessories, and etiquette, enjoy a short, guided snowshoe walk in the park. A limited number of adult- and child-size snowshoes are available for rent (\$6 for the day) or bring your own. Registration required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, Feb. 27

6-8:30 p.m.

Candlelight Snowshoe and Hike

Put on your snowshoes or boots and join us for a magical candle-lit night in the park. Trek along the shoreline and listen to the crashing waves or head into the woods to see the snow sparkle. Return to the cozy Trail Center and warm up next to the stove with a tasty hot beverage. A limited number of snowshoes are available for rent (\$6/day). Call the park to reserve a pair.



Upper Sioux Agency State Park

320-564-4777

Saturday, Jan. 30

1-4 p.m.

Sleigh Rides

Enjoy a horse-drawn sleigh ride around a 15- to 20-minute loop trail. Local team owners volunteer their time to provide sleigh rides near the Upper Sioux Agency historic site.



Whitewater State Park

507-932-3007

Saturday, Nov. 14

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

R *Tundra Swan Bus Trip*

F

Each November thousands of migrating tundra swans stop at the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge on their way to Chesapeake Bay. Join our naturalist-led bus tour to witness this spectacular annual event. Binoculars, spotting scopes, and hand-outs will be available. Registration required. Call 507-452-4232. A fee (TBD) will cover the bus and hot lunch.



Whitewater State Park

continued

Saturday, Dec. 5 1-3:30 p.m.

R *Caving Field Trip*

This is your chance to explore a small wild cave. After a slide show, we will drive to the cave, then walk, crawl, and slither into its passageways. Find out how caves form and how they relate to groundwater concerns. Bring flashlights and wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty. Registration required. Call 507-932-3007, extension 0.

Saturday, Dec. 12 1-2:30 p.m.

Winter Bird Feeding

Do you want to attract more birds to your feeders? Get tips from experts on bird food preferences, feeder types, and feeder placement. See lots of birds at Whitewater State Park's feeders. Meet in the Visitor Center, where hot beverages and treats will be available.

Saturday, Jan. 9 1-3 p.m.



How to Winter Trout Fish

(Participants will not be fishing during the activity)

Trout fishing in winter is different than in summer. Streams are different, and so are trout. DNR experts and winter fishing aficionados will provide tips on how to get the most out of your winter trout-fishing experiences. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Saturday, Jan. 23 1-3 p.m.

Historic Ice Harvesting Demonstration

A century ago, before rural electrification and refrigerators, ice was cut each winter to cool iceboxes in the coming year. After ice was cut, it was stored in icehouses insulated with sawdust. Discover this piece of the area's past as ice is cut and moved off Whitewater State Park's beach. Authentic tools such as ice saws and tongs will be used. Give it a try! Meet in the Visitor Center.

Fridays, Jan. 29 and Feb. 26 7-9 p.m.

R *Moonlight Snowshoeing*

Explore the quiet beauty of a winter night in the Whitewater River Valley. Under a nearly full moon, snowshoeing is a special treat. Short readings from Thoreau, Frost, and Leopold will add to the ambiance of this easy, half-mile snowshoe walk. Snowshoes are provided. Hot drinks and cookies will follow the outing. Registration required. Call 507-932-3007, extension 0.





Whitewater State Park

continued

Saturday, Feb. 20

1–3 p.m.

High-tech Treasure Hunt on Snowshoes

Want to look for hidden treasure while on snowshoes? This activity will introduce the use of GPS (Global Positioning System) units and the new sport of geocaching. If you have a GPS unit, bring it. If not, you can use one of ours. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Saturdays; March 13, 20, and 27

9:30–11:30 a.m.

or 1–3 p.m.

R It's Maple-syrup-making Time for the Whole Family

Join the park naturalist in Whitewater State Park's sugar bush! This demonstration (offered twice daily) will introduce you to the long history of making maple syrup and sugar as well as the equipment and procedures used. Participants will tap trees, gather and boil sap, and—best of all—taste pure maple syrup! Registration required. Call 507-932-3007, extension 0.



Wild River State Park

651-583-2925

Saturdays; Jan. 9, 16, and 23;

Feb. 6

2–3:30 p.m.

Beginner Snowshoe Hikes

One week we might visit a beaver pond and look for animal tracks, another we might snowshoe down a short slope to a hidden oak savanna. Basic instruction on how to snowshoe is included on these hikes. Snowshoes provided at no charge for ages 10 and up with advance reservations. Call 651-583-2925. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, Jan. 30

6–9 p.m.

Annual Candlelight Ski

Ski, snowshoe, or walk trails illuminated by candles; view a short program on the beauty of nature at the Visitor Center; and warm up at a bonfire on Amador Prairie. Begin at the Trail Center, where refreshments will be available. Call ahead (651-257-0685) to reserve rental skis (\$10/day for skis, boots, and poles) or snowshoes (\$6/day). This event is sponsored by the Friends of Wild River State Park. Ski passes, required for skiers age 16 or older, can be purchased at the park (see page 28 for more information).



Wild River State Park

continued

Saturdays, March 13 and 20 1-3 p.m.

R *Making Maple Syrup—Tapping Trees*

Registration required. Call 651-583-2925.

Observe or help with the annual tradition of tapping maple trees and boiling sap to make syrup. On March 13 and 20, an indoor program provides an introduction to the process of making syrup, followed by a car trip to the sugar bush to tap maples.

Saturdays, April 3 and 10 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

R *Making Maple Syrup—Boiling Sap*

Registration required. Call 651-583-2925.

Stop by anytime during these programs to see how clear maple sap (collected during the March 13 and 20 programs) is boiled over an outdoor cooker until it becomes sweet syrup.



William O'Brien State Park

651-433-0500

Thurs., Nov. 12 (for pre-registered students only); 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Mon., Nov. 16.; Tues, Nov. 17; Thurs., Nov. 19; 6:30–9 p.m.

Fri., Nov. 20 (time TBD)

R *Snowmobile Safety Class*

F

This class will teach kids age 11 and up and adults how to operate a snowmobile and earn their snowmobile safety certificate and patch. The riding portion of the class will be Nov. 20, with or without snow. Students are required to attend all five classes. Cost is \$15 per student. The class fills fast, so call 651-433-0500 to pre-register, then attend the registration night on Nov. 12 at the Visitor Center.

Sundays; Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31;

Feb. 7, 14, and 21

1-3 p.m.

R *St. Croix Valley Youth Ski Club*

William O'Brien State Park will be a host site for the St. Croix Valley Youth Ski Club, a volunteer organization that offers children ages three to 13 and their parents the opportunity to develop skills and enjoy cross-country skiing together. Participants will meet every Sunday for eight weeks, and they must have their own ski equipment. Cost is \$25/child (max. \$60/family). Ski swap is 1-2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15. Registration required. Contact John Dybvig at 651-439-1860 or john_dybvig@yahoo.com.

Biomes:



Prairie



Deciduous



Coniferous



Aspen Parkland



Jim Williams



William O'Brien State Park

continued

Sunday, Jan. 24 10:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. for adults and 11 a.m. for kids.

R **39th Annual Marine/O'Brien Cross-Country Ski Race**

Join us on this exciting race day in the park. With many age classes in classical or skate skiing, all abilities are welcome to participate. Adult races start at 10:30 a.m. Children's races start at 1 p.m.

Saturday, March 20 1–2 p.m.

Bluebird Workshop

Richard Hjort will offer tips on how to bring Eastern bluebirds to your backyard and how to establish your own bluebird trail. Construction plans for building your own bluebird nest box will be available after the program. The Friends of William O'Brien State Park will also sell bluebird nest box kits (\$15). To reserve one, call 651-433-0500.

Thurs., March 25 (for pre-registered students only); 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Every Mon., Tues., and Thurs., March 29–April 15; 6:30–9 p.m.

Saturday, April 17 (time TBD)

R **Firearms Safety: Hunter Education**

F This class, for students age 11 and up, will cover the safe use of firearms, wildlife management, basic survival, and much more. A parent or guardian must attend registration night with students under age 18. Students are required to attend all classes in order to receive their firearms safety certificate. The field and shooting range day will be April 17. Cost is \$15 per student. Call 651-433-0500 to pre-register, then attend the registration night on March 25 at the Visitor Center.



Zippel Bay State Park

218-783-6252

Wednesday, Dec. 30; Friday, Jan. 29; and Saturday, Feb. 27 5–8 p.m.

Candlelight Ski

Luminaria will line trails starting at the residence behind the contact station. If the sky is clear, other trails will be skiable by moonlight. The local ski group sponsors a potluck beginning at 5 p.m. to which all are welcome. Ski passes, required for skiers age 16 or older, can be purchased at the park (see page 28 for more information). Bring your own skis.