



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHICAGO WILDERNESS PARTNERS INVITE YOU TO

100 EVENTS TO STICK WITH NATURE

THIS JUNE IN THE CHICAGO REGION - *LEAVE NO CHILD INSIDE MONTH*

CHICAGO, IL – This June join Chicago Wilderness as we celebrate the world's oldest toy: the stick. Get sticky with us at nature centers, parks, and preserves – create stick and mud art, build forts, fish, hike, and take advantage of other fun activities, all while spending quality time outside with your family.

WHY WE LOVE THE STICK

- It was inducted to the [National Toy Hall of Fame in 2008](#).
- It's ubiquitous: we dare you to walk down the street without seeing one.
- It's versatile: a stick can be a fishing rod, a tool to draw in the sand, a pirate sword, a skewer for roasting marshmallows . . .
- It's the original construction material: think tepees and log cabins. It works just as well for backyard forts.
- It's free!

WHY KIDS SHOULD PLAY WITH STICKS

- Playing outside keeps kids active and healthy.
- Outdoor play stimulates creativity and problem-solving abilities.
- Exploring the outdoors is quality time for the whole family.
- It's free!

Throughout June, dozens of organizations are offering fun events with activities for children of all ages, many featuring the beloved stick. Most programs are free. **Join us at more than 100 events across Chicago region:**

CHICAGO & COOK COUNTY, IL

Throughout June, 8am-5pm, Stick with Nature, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington Hills, IL. <http://fpdcc.com/nature-centers/crabtree-nature-center/>

June 4, 10am-2pm, Nature is Accessible! Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs, IL. <http://fpdcc.com/events/>

June 7, 8am-3pm, Family Fishing Day, Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens, Palos Heights, IL. <http://www.lakekatherine.org/special-events.cfm>

June 7, 2014, 10am-4pm, World Environment Day, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL. <http://www.chicagobotanic.org/wed>

June 8, noon-4pm, Special family activities, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington Hills, IL. <http://fpdcc.com/nature-centers/crabtree-nature-center/>

June 8, 4-6pm, Canoeing, Skokie Lagoons. Register at <http://www.pdhp.org/index.aspx?page=85>

June 10, 10am-2pm, Live Healthy, Discover Nature, Daley Plaza, Chicago. <http://fpdcc.com/events/>

June 11, 4-8pm, Nature Obstacle Course & Archery Night, Eggers Woods, Chicago. Call 708-771-1010 to reserve your spot.

June 14, 11am-4pm, Fishing and nature exploration, Beaubien Woods, Chicago. Register at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/beaubien-woods-celebration-environmental-day-2014-tickets-11253099323>

June 27, 6:30-8:30pm, Dunes scavenger hunt and campfire, Grosse Point Lighthouse, Evanston, IL. Register at <http://www.cityofevanston.org/parks-recreation/ecology-center/>

June 27, 7:30-9pm, Campfire at the Cabin, Vera Meineke Nature Center at Spring Valley, Schaumburg, IL. <http://www.parkfun.com/spring-valley/events/2014/04/15/campfire-at-the-cabin>

June 28, 10am-4pm, Pioneer Day, The Grove National Historic Landmark, Glenview, IL. <http://www.glenviewparks.org/event/pioneer-day/>

DUPAGE COUNTY, IL

Throughout June, various days, self-guided prairie, wetland and garden tours, McDonald Farm, The Conservation Foundation, Naperville, IL. <http://www.theconservationfoundation.org/page.php?PageID=138>

June 3, 10, 17 and 24, 5-9pm, Twilight Tuesdays, Fullersburg Woods, Oak Brook, IL 60523. Call 630-850-8110 for more information.

June 7, 7:30-10am, Birding Field Trip, Springbrook Prairie, Naperville, IL. Call 630-933-7681.

June 8, 8-11am, Field Exploration, West Chicago Prairie, West Chicago, IL.
<http://www.dupageforest.com/Calendar.aspx?id=4678&startDate=6/8/2014%208:00:00%20AM>

June 8, 8am-12pm, Just for Kids Fishing Derby, Blackwell Forest Preserve, Warrenville, IL. <http://www.dupageforest.com/Calendar.aspx?id=4711&startDate=6/8/2014%208:00:00%20AM>

June 9, 16, 23 and 30, 10-11am, Children's Story Hour, Kline Creek Farm, West Chicago, IL.
<http://www.dupageforest.com/Calendar.aspx?eventLocation=Kline%20Creek%20Farm>

June 20, 5-7pm, Fishing Clinic for Beginners, St. James Farm, Warrenville, IL. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call 630-933-7248.

June 21, 11:30am-1:30pm, Nature Walk, St. James Farm, Warrenville, IL. Call 630-933-7248 for more information.

June 24, 10-11:30am, Archery, Churchill Woods, Glen Ellyn, IL. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call 630-933-7248.

June 28, 1pm-4pm, Animal track program and walk, Jurica-Suchy Nature Museum, Birck Hall of Science, Lisle, IL. Register ahead at <http://www.ben.edu/museum/museum-news.cfm>

KANE COUNTY, IL

June 13, 10:30-11am, Story Time, Creek Bend Nature Center, LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve, Saint Charles, IL. Registration is required; call 630-444-3190 or email programs@kaneforest.com.

June 28, 9:30-11am, Damsels, Dragons & Darners, Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve, Saint Charles, IL. <http://www.kaneforest.com/natureprograms/family.aspx>

June 29, 9am-Noon, Hooked on Fishing, Oakhurst Forest Preserve, Aurora, IL.
http://forestpreserve.countyofkane.org/Press%20Releases/HookedOnFishing_may14.pdf

KENDALL COUNTY, IL

June 28, 10am-noon, Every Stick is Unique! Hoover Forest Preserve, Yorkville, IL.
<http://www.co.kendall.il.us/forest-preserve/>

LAKE COUNTY, IL

June 3, 3pm, Playdate with Nature, Independence Grove Boat Launch, Libertyville, IL.
http://www.lcfdp.org/calendar/index.cfm?fuseaction=calendar.viewDetail&object_id=41025

June 8, 2pm-5pm, Greenbelt Cultural Center, 1215 Green Bay Road, North Chicago, IL. Learn about the environment, nature, and healthy lifestyles at the Kids Nature FunFest in North Chicago, which this year will feature the stick, and the many ways in which it can be used for fun and creativity.
Free. http://www.lcfdp.org/calendar/index.cfm?fuseaction=calendar.viewDetail&object_id=41052

June 13, 8-9pm, Nature at night, Millard Park, Highland Park, IL.
<http://www.pdhp.org/index.aspx?page=85>

June 15, 3-7pm, Father's Day family activities, Heller Nature Center, Highland Park, IL. Registration required. <http://www.pdhp.org/index.aspx?page=85>

June 20, 7-9pm, Nature at night, Greenbelt Cultural Center, North Chicago, IL.
http://www.lcfdp.org/calendar/index.cfm?fuseaction=calendar.viewDetail&object_id=41033

June 23, 10am, Chickadee wonder walk, Bowen Park, Waukegan, IL.
<http://www.waukeganparks.org/events/events.htm>

June 25, 5-7pm, Bilingual nature hikes, Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve, Lake Forest, IL. <http://www.brushwoodcenter.org/bilingual-hikes.html>

June 28, 9-10am, Bilingual nature hikes, Greenbelt Forest Preserve, North Chicago, IL, and 4:00-5:00pm, Lakewood Forest Preserve in Wauconda, IL.
<http://www.brushwoodcenter.org/bilingual-hikes.html>

MCHENRY COUNTY, IL

Saturdays in June, 2-3:30pm, Celebrate salamanders, Lost Valley Visitor Center, Ringwood, IL. <http://www.mccdistrict.org/web/special-events.htm#>

June 7, noon-3:30pm, Family fishing, McHenry Dam, south of McHenry, IL.
<http://www.friendsofvolobog.org/Up-coming%20Programs.htm>

June 7, 9am – Noon, Hooked on Fishing, Rush Creek Conservation Area, Harvard, IL.
And **June 8**, 9am - Noon, The Hollows, 3804 U.S. Highway 14, Cary, IL.
www.mccdistrct.org

June 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2–3:30 pm Lost Valley Venture, Lost Valley Visitor Center in Glacial Park, Ringwood, IL. www.mccdistrct.org

June 11, 10–11:30am, Nature’s Play Time for children 0-5, The Hollows Conservation Area, Cary, IL. Register by June 7. www.mccdistrct.org

June 14, 2:30–3:30pm, Nature learning and play for youth 6-13 at Harrison Benwell Conservation Area, Wonder Lake, IL. Register by June 10. www.mccdistrct.org

June 22, 2-6pm, Hikes, games, crafts, food and family activities in English and Spanish at Rush Creek Conservation Area, Harvard, IL. www.mccdistrct.org

WILL COUNTY, IL

June 7, Noon-3pm, Junior Ecologists Club, Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve. Call 708-747-6320 at least two days prior to the program. Map at <http://ow.ly/xsu4A>.

June 11, 10-11:30am, Nature Play Day, Plum Creek Nature Center, Beecher, IL.
<http://www.reconnectwithnature.org/calendar/events/6-11-2014/Nature-Play-Day-F2012>

June 14, 10-4pm, Island Rendezvous, Isle a la Cache Museum, Romeoville, IL.
<http://www.reconnectwithnature.org/information/island-rendezvous-2014.asp>

June 18, 1-3pm, Discovery Isle, Isle a la Cache Museum, Romeoville, IL.
<http://www.reconnectwithnature.org/calendar/events/6-18-2014/Discovery-Isle-S2014>

LAKE AND PORTER COUNTIES, IN

Throughout June, 9am – 4pm, family activities, Paul H. Douglas Center, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. <http://ow.ly/xpgTr>

Throughout June, Junior Ranger Program, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.
<http://ow.ly/xpgTr>

Sundays in June, 1pm-3pm, Kids Rule! Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center. <http://ow.ly/xpgTr>

June 8, 15, 22, 29, 1-3pm, Miller Woods Hike, Paul H. Douglas Center, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. <http://ow.ly/xpgTr>

June 7, 10:30am-12:30pm, Butterfly & Insect Hike, Taltree Arboretum & Gardens, Valparaiso, IN. <http://www.taltree.org/event/butterflies-hike/>

June 9, 10am, Feed the Birds. Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 10, 3pm, Owl Puke 101! Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 13, 10am, Oh Deer! Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 14, 11am-4pm, Get Outdoors Day, Dunes Learning Center, Chesterton, IN.
<http://www.duneslearningcenter.org/events/>

June 14, Fort Building Contest! Paul Douglas Center for Environmental Education, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. <http://ow.ly/xpgTr>

June 14, 10am Tree ID Spree, Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 14, 3pm, Stories in the Sand, Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 15, 10 am, Breakfast with the Birds and Dad! Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 16, 3pm, Fire on the Prairie! Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 16, 3pm, Squirrels Gone Wild! Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 15, 22, 29, 12-3pm, Pinhook Bog Open House, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.
<http://ow.ly/xpgTr> .

June 17, 24, 10am Toddler Fitness Hour!
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 17, 3pm, Mudbug Plunge! Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 18, 3pm Makin' Tracks! Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 20, 3pm, Critter Feeding Time, Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 20, 7:30pm, Campground Crafts, Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 21, 10am Wetland Safari, Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 21, 3pm Astro Crafts, Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 22, 10am The Incredible Journey, Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 23, 10am Feed the Birds, Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 24, 3pm, Nature Stories and Tall Tales, Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 25, 10am, Dunes Trivia Hike, Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 26, 3pm, Nature Craft Hour, Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 27, 10am, Scatology, Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 28, 3pm, Stories in the Sand, Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

June 29, 3pm, Snakes Alive, Indiana Dunes State Park.
http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Dunes_June.pdf

WISCONSIN

June 7-8, Free fishing in Wisconsin! Details at <http://ow.ly/xxuAM>.

We are adding events each week! For a complete, current list of June events throughout the region, visit www.chicagowilderness.org or visit us on Pinterest at www.pinterest.com/kidsoutside.

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THE OUTDOOR BILL OF RIGHTS

We believe every child has the right to:

1. Camp under the stars
2. Catch and release fish, frogs and insects
3. Celebrate heritage
4. Climb a tree (the source of the stick!)
5. Discover prairies, dunes, forests, savannas, and wetlands
6. Explore nature in neighborhoods and cities
7. Follow a trail
8. Learn to swim
9. Plant a flower
10. Play in the mud

CHICAGO WILDERNESS

Chicago Wilderness is a regional alliance that connects people and nature. We are more than 300 organizations working together to restore local nature and improve the quality of life for all who live here, by protecting the lands and waters on which we all depend. The four key initiatives of Chicago Wilderness—to restore the health of local nature, promote green infrastructure, mitigate climate change, and to leave no child inside—reflect our commitment to using science and emerging knowledge, as well as a collaborative approach to conservation, to benefit all the region’s residents. For more information, visit www.chicagowilderness.org.