

The Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center offers recreational and educational programming for people of all ages. Along with daily, weekly and monthly events, the center offers specialized programs suitable for any nature enthusiast. Keep this schedule handy when you plan your next trip to the nature center. One of many fun and informative sessions is sure to interest you.

Daily

2 p.m.

"Critter Crunch" Animal Feeding

Friday – snake feeding

Saturday – fish feeding in the large aquarium

For the rest of the week, stop by to see which critter is having lunch.

Weekly

Friday, 3:45 p.m.

Nature Break – Join the staff for a 30-minute nature activity for 3- to 7-year-olds.

Saturday, 9 a.m.

Guided Hike – A member of the education staff will lead a hike. Dress for the weather and don't forget your camera.

Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon

Canoe and Kayak Program – Staff members will assist boaters on Wells Lake. A parent or guardian must accompany children. Participants are required to wear life jackets, which will be provided.

Saturday, 3 p.m.

Laser Shot – Sharpen your hunting skills with a computer program similar to a video game, complete with laser gun.

Sunday, 2:30 p.m.

Archery – A beginner's guide to archery. We provide bows, arrows, safety tips and instruction.



Nature Nights

Friday, May 12, 8 p.m.

Star Party – The Arkansas Oklahoma Astronomical Society is the host for an evening devoted to the night sky. Jupiter, Saturn and Mars might be visible.

Tuesday, May 16, 6 p.m.

Bowfishing – Practice your aim with underwater bowfishing targets in Wells Lake. All equipment is provided. All ages are welcome.

Friday, June 9, 6 p.m.

Butterflies of the Arkansas River Valley – Dr. Cliff Ivy will offer his presentation on the art and science of butterflies. The Arkansas River Valley is home to numerous colorful butterflies, including dainty skippers to large tiger swallowtails. Their occurrence, habits and identification will be featured.

Tuesday, June 13, 6 p.m.

Geocaching Basics – Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices in which participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates. Attend this program and learn how to get started geocaching with your family and friends.

Friday, July 14, 8:30 p.m.

Star Party – The Arkansas Oklahoma Astronomical Society is the host for an evening devoted to the night sky. Jupiter, Saturn and Mars might be visible.

Tuesday, July 18, 7 p.m.

Evening Canoes on Wells Lake – Staff members will assist boaters on Wells Lake. A parent or guardian must accompany children. Participants are required to wear life jackets, which are provided. This activity is weather permitting.

Friday, Aug. 11, 6 p.m.

Back to School Bash – Ready to go back to school? Kids of all ages are invited. Students will get the chance to create nature related projects including a wildlife journal, backpack tags and wildlife notebook dividers.

Tuesday, Aug. 15, 6 p.m.

Orienteering – Learn how to successfully navigate in the outdoors by use of compass and maps. We will also teach participants primitive fire-making skills.



Summer Special Programs

Thursday, June 8 - Friday, Aug. 11

Thursdays, 9 a.m.

Fishing – Join educators at Wells Lake for fishing tips. Cane poles or rod and reel, tackle and bait will be supplied.

Thursdays, 11 a.m.

Animal Hour – Learn about native animals as we offer a different animal-based program each week.

Fridays, 9 a.m.

Outdoor Shooting Skills – All ages are invited to take part in weekly shooting activities. Learn basic safety and shooting techniques. We'll provide all the equipment. Individual activities are staff and weather permitting.

Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon

Canoe and Kayak Program – Staff members will assist boaters on Wells Lake. A parent or guardian must accompany children. Participants are required to wear life jackets, which will be provided.

Canoes and kayaks are available to check out from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday.

Other Special Programs

Saturday, May 27, 8 a.m.

Annual Commissary Kiwanis Fishing Derby – Youth ages 2-15 are invited. Check-in begins at 8 a.m.; weigh-in is at 11 a.m.

Tuesday, May 30 and Wednesday, May 31, 9 a.m.

Canoe Fishing on Torraine Lake – Everyone will get to try fishing out of canoes, with an emphasis on fishing for crappie with artificial bait. We will supply all the canoes, life jackets, fishing poles and tackle. Open to ages 10 and above, but anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a participating adult. Registration is required.

Saturday, June 10 and Saturday July 1, 1 p.m.

Snakes of Arkansas – Local reptile enthusiasts Jeremy Sloan and Brad Birchfield will present a family-oriented live snake demonstration.

Tuesday, June 13, 9 a.m.

Canoeing the Arkansas River Water Trail – Educators will be on hand to assist participants at the Powers Port Access to the 2.5 mile stretch of the Arkansas River Water Trail. We will provide the canoes, paddles, life jackets and basic instruction. Open to ages 10 and above, but anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a participating adult. Registration is required.

Tuesday, June 20, 6 p.m.

Conservation Experiences of the African Safari – Joe Viljoen, world-renown conservationist, author, nature preserve owner, safari leader and speaker from South Africa, will discuss international conservation. Viljoen has spent his life spreading awareness of conservation through education. He also will discuss photography safaris throughout Africa.

Tuesday, June 27, 9 a.m.

Family Recreational Day on the River – This is a family-oriented, half day of activities on the Arkansas River, with time on the Education Barge, time for canoeing on a tributary and even fishing. Registration is required. At least one child must attend with each family registered; children must be supervised.

Summer Youth Workshops

Art Workshops

Ages 6-9: 9:30-11 a.m.

Ages 10-13: noon-1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 11 Bird Mosaics

Tuesday, July 25 Acrylic Nature Painting

Wednesday, July 26 Nature Printmaking

Kiddy Kamps

Wednesday, June 14, 9-11 a.m. "F" is for Fish

Wednesday, July 5, 9-11 a.m. "M" is for Mammals

Wednesday, Aug. 2, 9-11 a.m. "S" is for Snakes

Bring your little ones (ages 4-7) for a 2-hour mini-day camp.

A responsible parent or adult is required to stay on the premises. Registration is required.

Education Barge Tours

Call the nature center, 479-452-3993, or visit the website, www.rivervalleynaturecenter.com, for specific dates and times of the following summer barge tours:

Boat Tour of the Arkansas River Take a 1- to 2-hour tour along the Arkansas River. Learn about river navigation, boating safety and see the sights the river has to offer. Registration is required.

Lock and Dam Boat Tour Take a 1- to 2-hour tour along the Arkansas River. Learn about river navigation and the lock and dam system. This boat ride will include a look at Lock and Dam 13 and barge traffic. Registration is required.

Hunter Education Course

Saturday, Aug. 26, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

The course teaches fundamentals of safe and responsible hunting, is free and open to all ages. Anyone born after 1968 must complete a hunter education course and carry a valid hunter education card to legally hunt in Arkansas. Register at <https://register-ed.com>.

Boating Education Course

Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Saturday, June 17, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Monday, July 24 and Tuesday, July 25, 6-9 p.m.

Attendance both nights is required to pass the course.

The course teaches fundamentals of safe and responsible boating. It's free and open to all ages. Anyone born after 1985 must pass the course and carry a valid boating education card to legally operate a motorboat powered by an engine of 10 hp or more (including personal watercraft) in Arkansas. Register at <https://register-ed.com>.

Hours of Operation

Tuesday-Saturday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m.

Closed Mondays and major holidays

Closed Easter Sunday, April 16

Admission is free



Janet Huckabee
Arkansas River Valley Nature Center

8300 Wells Lake Road

Fort Smith, AR 72916

479-452-3993

www.rivervalleynaturecenter.com

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Program Schedule



May-August 2017