

OUTDOOR TEACHER RETREAT, SUN., DEC. 4, 2022

Robinson Nature Center

Columbia, MD



SCHEDULE

time	activity	location
8:30-8:45 a.m.	Arrival, registration, and networking	Auditorium
8:45-9 a.m.	Opening Gathering with gratitude	Mezzanine Patio
9-10:30 a.m.	Winter Solstice Activities to Warm Your Heart, Lida Lawrence, The Waldorf School of Baltimore	Mezzanine Patio
10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.	Morning Workshops (choose from below) (A) Creative Arts Inspired by Winter, Robinson Nature Center Early Childhood Team (B) Birds in Winter, Heather Quinn of Hummingbird Hill Nature Preschool and Lisa Poe of Little Bugs Nature Preschool	Mezzanine Patio/Trails and Auditorium S Mezzanine Patio/Trail and Auditorium N
12-12:30 p.m.	Lunch	Auditorium and throughout grounds/building
12:30-2 p.m.	Afternoon Workshops (choose from below) (A) Nature Play in Winter, Lida Lawrence, The Waldorf School of Baltimore (B) Maple Sugaring for Early Childhood Educators, Stephanie Holzman, Irvine Nature Center	Trails/Nature Place and Auditorium N Trails/Mezzanine Patio and Auditorium S
2:15-3:45 p.m.	Warm Up for Winter, Monica Wiedel-Lubinski, ERAFANS	Mezzanine Patio
3:45-4 p.m.	Closing with program evaluation and PD certificate	Auditorium

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WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

The following descriptions provide an overview of what you can expect to learn during each session. Presenters may adjust content based on the experiences and questions asked by attendees. Questions are encouraged!

Winter Solstice Activities to Warm Your Heart

Spending time outside in nature offers a host of social, mental, and academic outcomes for your students that they can benefit from year-round, even in winter. It's never too cold to get outside. Gear up and spend time outside as we share ideas, activities, tips, and tools to extend successful outdoor learning during the winter months.

Creative Nature Arts Inspired by Winter

Explore creativity in the winter landscape and learn about how you can plan for art projects outdoors, even in chilly temperatures! From snow inspired process art to icy mandalas, Robinson's Early Childhood Team will leave you with easy and fun ideas to take back to your indoor or outdoor classroom.

Birds in Winter

In winter, the colder weather makes it harder for birds to find food. In this workshop, you will learn about the species that "winter over" in Central Maryland, surviving the snow and cold. Heather Quinn (Hummingbird Hill Nature Preschool) and Lisa Poe (Little Bugs Nature Preschool) of Nature Learning Collective are sure to turn you into a "bird nerd" while they share fun facts and hands-on woodworking and bird feeding activities to help birds in winter. You will walk away with a flock of ideas to facilitate bird lessons in your program. (nut-free ideas due to prevalent allergies)

Maple Sugaring for Early Childhood Educators

Even as icy temperatures persist, the trees prepare for spring. Join Naturalist Stephanie Holzman to learn how to recognize maple trees in winter. We'll also examine useful tools to use and hear other great tips for tapping trees, collecting sap, and boiling it down to a sweet treat.

Nature Play in Winter

There's more to winter nature play than sledding and snowmen! Being outdoors in winter offers opportunities for dramatic and imaginative play, games, and so much more. Lida Lawrence will guide you through different ways to engage in play this winter, and encourage you to play a bit yourself!

Warm Up for Winter

There is nothing more important than keeping your students warm during winter outdoor adventures. Join Monica Wiedel-Lubinski around the campfire to discuss your strategies for staying warm in the cold, student and teacher gear, and share some songs and stories to keep spirits high!