

CELEBRATE OAKtober WITH US!



BIRD WALK 16263

See how the diversity of birds changes from summer to fall on a naturalist-led hike. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register at the walk, online or at 630-850-8110.

Oct. 18 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. Fullersburg Woods

IN AND OUT: OAKS 16324

Explore the oak walls and floors of a century-old mansion, and learn why oaks are called “keystone” species on a walk through a savanna. (You might even meet a mythical forest creature along the way!) Then, enjoy white oak bark tea and acorn flour cookies. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Oct. 13 1 – 2:30 p.m. Mayslake

NUTS FOR NATURE 16400

Learn about the role squirrels play in replanting forests, and see if you have what it takes to be a squirrel survivor. Then, have a close encounter with Willowbrook’s largest resident squirrel: the woodchuck. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Oct. 12 1:30 – 3 p.m. Willowbrook

KAYAKING: OAK REFLECTIONS 16495

Enjoy the fall oaks from a different point of view as you learn paddling strokes and safety tips. Equipment provided. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 1 3 – 5 p.m. Herrick Lake
Oct. 12 9 – 11 a.m. Herrick Lake

FOREST HIKE 16253

Gear up to enjoy some healthy exercise with one of our naturalists as you walk 2 – 5 miles while exploring the wonders of the preserves. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register at the walk, online or at 630-850-8110.

Oct. 9 6:30 – 8 p.m. Oldfield Oaks

MINDFULNESS UNDER THE OAKS 16353

On a relaxing 1-mile stroll, learn why oaks are “keystone” species, and use them as guides as we reflect on personal keystone traits that carry us through our own environments. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at the walk, online or at 630-206-9566.

Oct. 12 1:30 – 3 p.m. Greene Valley

FALL OAK COLORS 16379

Celebrate OAKtober on a 30-minute covered wagon ride through one of the largest oak forests in DuPage. Rides start at noon, 12:45 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. Visit dupageforest.org for additional dates as the colors change. Register online or at 630-580-7025.

Oct. 12, 13, 19, Noon – 2 p.m. St. James Farm
20, 26 & 27

FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY: OAKS 16341

Spend part of the school holiday learning fun facts about oaks on a walk through a century-old oak savanna, and learn how to photograph these stately trees. Then, post your shots on Instagram. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Oct. 14 1:30 – 3 p.m. Mayslake

VOLUNTEER RESTORATION WORKDAY 16434

Help improve a woodland by collecting seeds or removing nonnative plants. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-206-9630 at least five days in advance (10 days by phone for groups of five or more).

Oct. 2 & 9	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Maple Grove
Oct. 4	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Blackwell
Oct. 5, 6, 20	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
& 26		
Oct. 6, 19, 20	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove
& 26		
Oct. 12	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial
Oct. 12	1 – 4 p.m.	Springbrook
Oct. 12	9 a.m. – Noon	St. James Farm
Oct. 19	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
Oct. 19	9 a.m. – Noon	Willowbrook



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WHAT IS OAKTOBER?

OAKtober is Illinois' month-long celebration of oak trees and the things that make them great. We love oaks here at the Forest Preserve District, so we're thrilled to be a part of it!

WHY OAKS?

Think of your favorite wild animals — white-tailed deer, woodpeckers, chickadees, white-footed mice, nuthatches, owls, squirrels. In one way or another they all depend on oaks for food or shelter. Over 500 different kinds of insects rely on the trees! (That's good news for the birds, frogs, squirrels and other animals that dine on insects.) Oaks also provide shade and soak up thousands of gallons of water during heavy rains.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PLANT OAKS IN MY TOWN?

As the county's oaks age (many are well over 100 years old), there aren't as many new ones to replace them. The Forest Preserve District creates areas where oaks can thrive, but the benefits of oaks don't stop at the property line. Oaks planted outside of the forest preserves extend the oak canopy into parks and backyards, giving wild animals that depend on the stately trees more places to live and dine.

HOW CAN I CELEBRATE OAKTOBER?

Whether you're ready to start planting or just want to spread the word, there are lots of ways you can be a part of OAKtober!

- Plant an oak in your yard this fall.
- Volunteer at an oak-recovery workday, and help remove invasive plants so oaks have space to grow.
- Hug an oak tree.
- Join a guided walk through an oak forest.
- Invite a local oak expert to talk at your next neighborhood or civic meeting.
- Encourage your town to plant oaks in picnic areas and parks.
- Find the largest oak in your neighborhood and share it with your friends on social media.
- Encourage classrooms to write essays or create posters on the importance of oaks.
- Sign up for one of the OAKtober programs on the flip side of this flyer.

