

John Boyd Thacher State Park

Winter 2025 Programs




First Day Hike

Tuesday, December 31st, 10-11:30am, 1:00-2:30pm
Wednesday, January 1st 10-11:30 am, 1:00-2:30pm
Explore Thacher Park on a winter wonderland hike! Then, warm up by the fire. Dress appropriately for conditions. Prepare to bring snowshoes/traction aids if conditions warrant. There may be a limited amount of snowshoes available. Inclement weather (such as high winds, snow/ice or extreme cold) may postpone this event. Hikes will leave from the Hop Field Warming Hut and the Thacher Visitor Center. Call to inquire about pets.

Registration required. Call 518-872-0800.

Knee High Naturalists

Thursday, January 2nd, 16th*meet at Hop Field
Thursday, February 13th & 27th from 10-11am
Meet at the Nature Center  Accessible Program
Explore the outdoors with our Knee-High Naturalists series! Best suited for children ages 3-5 accompanied by an adult. Each session will explore a different theme - activities may include crafts, games, storybook readings, or a kid-friendly nature walk. **Registration required. Call 518-872-0800.**

Caves & Karst

Saturday, January 4th & 18th, 9:30-11:30am
Meet at the Thacher Visitor Center
Discover the development of Thacher Park's unique landscapes as we observe limestone layers, resurging underground streams, and an active sinkhole! Each participant will follow the group leader in their own vehicle as we caravan to different sites.


Registration Encouraged. Call 518-872-0800.

Drop-in Geology and Fossils

Saturday, January 11th, 1:30pm-3:30pm
Meet at the Visitor Center  Accessible Program
Drop in anytime between 1:30pm-3:30pm to visit the fossil table and learn about local geology with geology educator Mike Nardacci.

No registration is required.

Thistles, Teasels, and More

Sunday, January 12th, 11:00am-2:00pm  Accessible Program
Meet at the Nature Center Ages 18+.
Join artist Diane Steele in this introduction to watercolor techniques and painting. All supplies will be provided. \$30.00 per person cash due upon arrival. Please bring a lunch. We will break for lunch at noon.


Registration required. Call 518-872-0800.

Winter Tree Identification

Saturday, January 18th from 10:00am-12:00pm
Meet at the Hop Field Warming Hut
Join us for an informative hike and learn how to identify trees in the winter. Participants will explore the trails around Hop Field, observe the local trees and learn some tricks to identify trees when they don't have their leaves. Come connect with nature and appreciate our local plants.


Registration required. Call 518-872-0800.

Jeanne Robert Foster Performed by Eileen Egan

Mack Saturday, January 18th 1:00-2:30pm Snow date February 1st.
Meet at the Visitor Center Ages 12+  Accessible Program
Come journey back in time! Meet Jeanne Robert Foster and her Adirondack neighbors of yesterday. Eileen Egan Mack portrays the Adirondack born writer in this one-person show through stories, readings and songs.

Registration encouraged. Call 518-872-0800.

La Hora del Cuento Bilingüe Bilingual Story Hour

Sunday, January 19th and Sunday, February 16th
from 10:30-11:30am  Accessible Program
For children ages 0-8 with their families.
Understanding of Spanish or English not necessary. Learn what words mean in either language, and read some new books with Project Growing Minds!

Registration required. Call 518-872-0800.



Scan here to sign up for our monthly program email.

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Fireside Story Series: Mary Murphy

Saturday, January 25th, 1:00-2:00 pm

Gather at the Hop Field warming hut for some hot chocolate and storytelling by Mary Murphy. Also a writer, Mary Murphy has performed at the National Storytelling Festival and was recently featured on PBS's Stories From the Stage! This is a great way to warm up and relax after enjoying the trails at Hop Field!

No registration required.

Chasing Frozen Water - Snowshoe Hike

Saturday, February 1st, 10:00am-12:00pm

Meet at the Hop Field Warming Hut

Learn how water shapes the landscape of Thacher Park, how our wetland habitats adapt to frigid temperatures, and try to catch a glimpse of glittering icicles on this 1.8-mile guided hike. We will snowshoe if the weather permits.

Registration required. Call 518-872-0800.

Spring Amphibian Migration Volunteer Training

Tuesday, February 4th from 6:30-7:30pm

Meet at the Nature Center or join virtually  Accessible Program

The amphibians who call Thacher Park home need your help! This training will go over data collection procedures for DEC data sheets and the basics for assisting amphibians on their journey to their spring breeding grounds.

Registration required. Call 518-872-0800.

Thompson's Lake Ice Fishing Competition

Saturday, February 8th

Join us for our annual Ice Fishing Contest on Thompson's Lake (weather dependent- 8 inches of ice required)! Registration is from 6:00am to 9:00am at Thompson's Lake Campground. Fishing and measurements continue until 1 pm. Cash prizes for the longest fish in trout, pickerel, and perch categories. \$10.00 registration fee, kids under 12 years fish for free. **Call the campground office at (518) 872-1674 for additional information and to check on weather conditions for the event.**

A Day to Play with Paint

Meet at the Thacher Nature Center  Accessible Program

Sunday, February 9th from 1:00-3:00pm Ages 16+

Join artist Diane Steele for an afternoon of abstract acrylic painting using mediums, gelli plates, and metallic paints. This is a fun chance to try something different and share your results. All supplies will be provided. \$20.00 per person cash due upon arrival.

Registration required. Call 518-872-0800.

Observe the Planets & Stars

Saturday, February 15th, 6:30-9:00pm. Rain date March 1st.

Meet at the Thacher Visitor Center  Accessible Program

Join Dudley Observatory astronomer Dr. Mindy Townsend from 6:30-7 for a brief presentation in the Helderberg Room. Then head outside for a night of stargazing and planet observations. Use binoculars to see Venus, and the Pleiades and observe Mars, the Orion Nebula, and Jupiter through telescopes. Stop by the Helderberg Room from 7-9pm for hot chocolate and hands-on astronomy activities. **No registration required. Drop-ins are welcome.**

Snow Much Fun! Play Day

Saturday, February 22nd, 11:00am-2:00pm

Meet at the Nature Center

Stop by anytime from 11am-2pm for some snowy winter fun activities like snowshoeing, an outdoor scavenger hunt, snow painting, s'mores, storytelling and more! Then, come inside and warm up with some hot chocolate.

No registration is required. Drop-ins welcome.

Snow Shoe Rentals Available

at the Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center

Tuesday-Sunday 9:00am-4:00pm

Call 518-872-0800 for more information.



Thacher State Park



@ThacherNatureCenter



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
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