

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge



JANUARY

BLACK POINT BUS TOUR

9AM - 11AM

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday

Join a knowledgeable refuge volunteer for a guided two hour tour in the Refuge Shuttle Bus for an opportunity to identify the variety of wildlife found on the refuge. Meet at the Refuge Visitor Center. Space is limited so please call (321) 861-0669 for reservations. Fee of \$5 per person, \$2.50 with senior or access pass.

TRASH BASH

Saturday, January 19th from 9AM - 11AM

Help make the refuge a more beautiful, cleaner place by joining us on the third Saturday of each month through March. Help clean up the refuge and make a safe space for wildlife. We will meet at the Bairs Cove boat ramp turn off. Grabbers, gloves, and trash bags will be provided.

Everyone welcome!

KID'S CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, January 5th from 9AM - 12PM

This free family event is a way for family to explore the outdoors and learn the basic of the Christmas Bird Count, an annual event created by the National Audubon Society to gather a census on the bird populations found in an area. Kids age 6 years old and up will work in teams to identify and count as many birds as they can with an experienced birder on the Refuge. Learn how to use binoculars in "Binocular Boot Camp" then end the day with free snacks and hot chocolate! No reservations necessary, but recommended to account for number of participants. Children must be accompanied by adults. This event will begin at the Visitor Information Center. Call the visitor center for more information at 321-861-0669.

EXTRA REFUGE CLEAN UP

Saturday, January 12th from 9AM

Help make the refuge a more beautiful, cleaner place by joining us. Help clean up the refuge and make a safe space for wildlife. We will meet at the Bairs Cove boat ramp turn off. Grabbers, gloves, and trash bags will be provided.

Everyone welcome!

ALL ABOUT ALLIGATORS

Tuesdays at 11AM and Thursdays at 12PM

Join us to explore the natural history and biology of this intriguing reptile. You will handle gator bio-facts and learn how you can estimate the size alligators that you see. Held in the auditorium of the refuge visitor center. **45 minutes**

CRUICKSHANK HIKE

Saturday, January 5th at 10AM

Join a ranger for a fast-paced hike of the 5-mile Cruickshank Trail. Bring water, closed toed shoes, and bug spray. Please meet at the refuge visitor center 30 minutes prior to the hike. Plan for a 2-3 hour hike.

ASK A BIRDER

Wednesdays from 10AM-12PM

Do you have a specific birding-related question? Maybe you want to see a certain bird or have a picture and need help identifying the species! If this is the case, then join us on Wednesdays at the Refuge visitor center front desk. A knowledgeable birder is ready to answer your questions!

BUTTERFLY SURVEY

Saturday, January 5th at 9AM

View a photo presentation to learn how to identify butterflies. Then, participate in a butterfly survey to collect data for North American Butterfly Count and Florida Butterfly Monitoring Network. Bring water, snacks, insect repellent and wear closed shoes and long pants. Meet in the auditorium of the refuge visitor center.

HOW HANDS CHANGED THE LAND

Wednesday, January 9th and 23rd at 10AM

Long before the Kennedy Space Center or Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge came to exist, wildlife and people alike called this place home. Learn about how as the land changed hands, hands changed the lands in this 45-minute auditorium talk.

FIRE PROGRAM

Wednesday, January 16th and 23rd at 2PM

Join a ranger to learn about fire ecology and the prescribed burning program on Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and its vital role in maintaining habitat for local wildlife. The program will be held in the auditorium of the refuge visitor center. **30 minutes**

WONDERS OF THE NIGHT SKY

Friday, January 18th starting at 6pm

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "Astronomy taught us our insignificance in Nature." Visit Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge to learn the important role of the establishment of the Kennedy Space Center and man's desire to go beyond and stories of the stars for a 45-minute presentation in the visitor center followed by night-sky viewing with a telescope.

BOBCAT CHAT

Tuesday, January 22nd and 29th at 1PM

Come learn about the refuge's only resident feline. This 40-minute presentation features pelts and everything you've ever wondered about this stealthy species. Join us for the program in the refuge visitor center. **45 minutes**

GUIDED BOARDWALK HIKE

Thursdays at 1PM

Sunday, January 27th at 1PM

Join us for a guided hike of the 1/4 mile boardwalk trail around the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center to learn about the local flora, fauna and history of the area. Please meet at the refuge visitor center. **45 minutes**

The refuge visitor center will be closed on Tuesday, January 1st.

The Visitor Center is open every day from 8 am to 4 pm.

Trails and wildlife drives open sunrise to sunset daily. For more information call 321-861-0669.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.