WinterFest 2026

Saturday, January 17

In Russell Woods at the NREC

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ~Schedule~

At the end of the gravel road

9 A.M. ~ BIRD BEHAVIORS AND IDENTIFICATION

Learn simple techniques for identifying birds as you watch our feeding station from inside the Natural Resource Center.

10 A.M. ~ FAMILY HIKE

Join a U of I Extension staff member on an guided hike through Russell Woods. Meet outside in front of Natural Resource Center.

11 A.M. ~ SNACK AND LUNCH SERVICE BEGINS

Available for purchase from Genoa Prairie Gems 4-H Club

11:15 A.M. ~ BECOME A NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER

Master Naturalist, Ann Shult, shares how you can take part in "capturing" tiny nature with your phone's camera. River Room.

10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

~ CRAFTS AND FACE PAINTING

Volunteers will assist with three winter crafts. Choose a nature design to have painted on face or hand.

~ UN-NATURAL NATURE TRAIL

Take a short hike on the paved path and find pictures along the way.

~ DIGITAL SCAVENGER HUNT

How many items from our list can you "shoot" with your phone or camera? Find them inside and outside the Center.

12 NOON ~ CHILDREN'S STORY TIME

Have a seat in the Little Seeds Library while we share a story.

1 P.M. ~ TEST YOUR NATURE KNOWLEDGE

A fun, live program for all ages presented by our Master Naturalist volunteers . River Room.

2 P.M. ~ FAMILY HIKE

Join a U of I Extension staff member on a guided hike through Russell Woods. Meet outside by campfire.

