



Family Nature Challenge

Get out, explore nature as a family and win prizes! Inside, you will find a list of challenges to complete. Challenges have a point value, so the more you complete, the better chance you have to win!

- To participate, you must be 6-12 years old and complete as many challenges as you can within the time limit. To get credit for each challenge you must show the challenge to the Hidden Oaks Nature Center front desk and they will stamp your sheet.
- Challenge begins June 1 and ends September 30.
- Challenge points will be added up and prizes awarded accordingly.
- For prize information, please visit bolingbrookparks.org/naturechallenge.

1-POINT CHALLENGES

CHALLENGE: Build a Twig Tower

- Twigs are so versatile - you can use them to create all sorts of sculptures
- How tall can you make your tower?

To get your points take a picture next to your tower and show it to staff at the nature center.

CHALLENGE: Make a Bark Rubbing (or two or more).

Please Note: You will need some blank paper and a crayon. Examples of rubbings are in the nature center.

To get your points show your bark rubbing(s) to staff at the nature center.

CHALLENGE: Animal Tracks

Find an animal track, draw it below or take a photo and show to the staff at the nature center.

CHALLENGE: Follow Bees, Butterflies and Ants

- Where did they go? Did they go anywhere you didn't expect?
- Try and find out how many flowers a bee visits.

Write down your findings above and show it to the staff at the nature center.

FIVE-POINT CHALLENGES

CHALLENGE: Collect Natural Materials and Create a Nature Critter

Bring it in to the Nature Center to earn your points. Examples are located in the Nature Center.

CHALLENGE: Get your Hands Dirty and Make Muddy Creatures

- There's no limit to what you can create - let your imagination run wild.
- Make mud monsters and animals - the wackier the better.
- Use whatever you can find to add eyes, ears, a mouth - even wings - to your creation.

To get your points post a picture of your critter on the Hidden Oaks Facebook page and show your creature to staff to obtain your stamp. Examples are located in the nature center.

CHALLENGE: Mammoth Tracks

When did mammoths roam this area? Check out the mammoth sculpture onsite at Hidden Oaks.

Answer the question and take a photo of you by the mammoth. Post to the Hidden Oaks Facebook page for credit.

TEN-POINT CHALLENGES

CHALLENGE: *Build a Nest*

- Choose sticks in lots of different shapes and sizes that have fallen on the ground.
- Don't forget to add soft dead grass and feathers to sit on!
- Do you think any birds would be impressed with your nest?

To get your points post a picture of you in your nest on the Hidden Oaks Facebook Page and show it to the staff to obtain your stamp.

CHALLENGE: *Visit Hidden Lakes and Make a Boat from Leaves, Twigs, and Bark*

- Choose a piece of bark or curved leaf for the hull (bottom) of your boat.
- Use mud to attach a straight stick to the hull. This will be your mast.
- Thread a leaf or two onto the stick to make your sails.
- Choose one of the ponds to sail your boat on.

Experiment with leaves and bark from different trees - which tree makes the best boat? Next add cargo; load small pebbles. Nuts, or twigs onto your boat- does it still float, or does it sink?

Take a picture of your boat at Hidden Lakes, post to the Hidden Oaks Facebook page and show it to the staff to obtain your stamp.

CHALLENGE: *Visit Hidden Oaks Play Area and Build a Den*

(Use the sticks from the fort building area in the play area.)

- Use branches, leaves and twigs to build a sturdy, cozy den
- Remember that you need a good foundation before you start
- Can you build a den big enough for you and your friends?

Remember, never cut anything down or damage the wood to construct your den.

To get your points take a picture of you in your den and show it to staff at the nature center.

CHALLENGE: *Make a Woodland Inspired Wind Chime*

Collect a handful of long, straight sticks. Paint them or wrap yarn around them and hang them up.

- Try sticks of different shapes and sizes- do they sound different?
- What other instruments can you make? Set up your own woodland orchestra.

To get your points take a picture of your wind chimes and other instruments and show them to staff at the nature center.

TWENTY-FIVE POINT CHALLENGES

CHALLENGE: *Visit Hidden Oaks at Dusk*

- Head into the woods after dark - what can you see, hear, smell, and feel?
- Lots of animals/insects are active at night - how many can you spot?
- Use all your senses

To get your points draw (or take photos) what animals/insects you saw and show them to staff at the nature center.

CHALLENGE: *Fabulous Bird Feeder*

Recycle an old juice or milk carton and get creative. Use garden twine to secure your feeder somewhere the birds can reach it.

To get your points take a picture of your birdfeeder and show it to staff at the nature center.

CHALLENGE: *Go Fishing at Hidden Lakes*

Take a photo, post to the Hidden Oaks Facebook page and and show it to the staff to obtain your stamp.

CHALLENGE: *Register for any Summer Nature Program*

FINAL CHALLENGE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____



Where the fun is!