

Girl Scout and Youth Group Programs



Tamarack Nature Center

5287 Otter Lake Road • White Bear Township, MN 55110

(651) 407-5350 • Fax (651) 407-5354

www.co.ramsey.mn.us/parks/tamarack

About Tamarack Nature Center

Tamarack Nature Center is a 320-acre Ramsey County nature preserve located within Bald Eagle - Otter Lake Regional Park in White Bear Township, MN. Tamarack Nature Center is dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding of our natural resources for future generations. We provide opportunities for outdoor recreation in a natural setting as well as quality environmental education experiences. The park contains extensive woodlands, wetlands and restored prairies for exploration.

Scout Badge Programs

Programs are designed to provide scouts with specialized natural history knowledge and hands-on experiences, but do not necessarily complete each badge. Often scouts need to do follow-up research or write about their experience. We suggest that all leaders have a review session at a future meeting to reinforce the badge requirements.

Scheduling Process

Programs are instructed by professional environmental educators. Call (651) 407-5350 to schedule a program for your troop. Please have tentative dates and times in mind. A minimum of 6 weeks advance reservation is recommended, as space is limited. Programs cannot be scheduled less than two weeks prior to programming date. Every effort will be made to accommodate your needs.

Chaperones

Tamarack requires at least two adult chaperones per group of 12 scouts; we do not charge a program fee for chaperones although equipment rental fees will apply.

Fees

Program Rate: \$72 minimum for up to 12 scouts

Additional students: \$6/scout

Equipment Rental (ski and snowshoe): \$5/person with program

Full payment is due two weeks prior to program. Check, cash, money order, Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted.

Fee does not include special materials or equipment rental. Additional will be noted if required.

Cancellations and Refunds

Tamarack Nature Center will refund the program fee, minus a \$25 processing fee, for scout groups cancelling at least one month prior to the date of program. No refunds will be given if cancellation is made less than one month prior to your party date.

Weather Policy

Nature doesn't stop when it rains and neither do we! Some of our best memories are shared during those unexpected moments. Please dress appropriately for the weather.

Except for cross-country ski and snowshoe classes, which require 8-10 inches of snowfall, Tamarack Nature Center usually does not cancel classes due to weather. Staff will modify a program as needed to keep children safe in stormy, icy or extremely cold weather.

Snack Alert — The ABC's of Snacking at Tamarack

- A. Your group may bring a snack and eat it at Tamarack. During good weather you may enjoy the picnic tables and outside lawn. During inclement weather you may take comfort in our lobby and warming room.
- B. Snack time is not included in your program time. Please request an additional 15 minutes when registering your group.
- C. Please take time to clean up after your group.

Building Hours

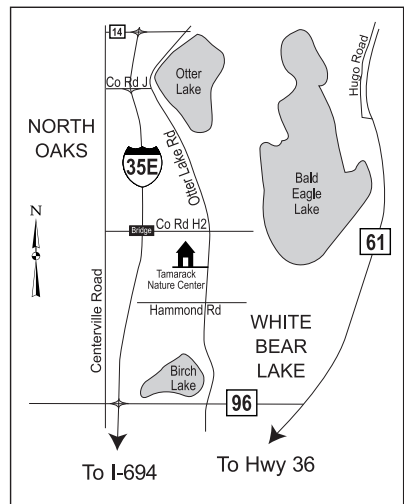
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 12 noon - 5:00 p.m.

Contact Us

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Phone: (651) 407-5350
Fax (651) 407-5354

tamarack@co.ramsey.mn.us
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Girl Scout Badge Programs

Brownie

The following Brownie Try-its are offered year round, unless otherwise indicated. Programs are 2 hours in length.

Earth and Sky

Explore the earth beneath your feet and the sky over your head for signs of life. Experiment with erosion, rocks and/or sunlight. (Activities vary with the weather and may include 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6)

Eco-Explorer

Use your senses as you go on a nature scavenger hunt! Explore animal habitats and find out what animals eat at Tamarack. Discover out what you can do to help wildlife at Tamarack Nature Center or at home. (Activities 1, 2, 4 and 6)

Watching Wildlife

What makes that animal special? Adaptations! Take a close look at some Tamarack animals, explore their homes and discover what “makes them tick”! Go for a hike to see how wild animals find their food and shelter. (Activities may include 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 plus animals 2 or 4)

Pond Study Kit

Fee: \$10/group

Do your own pond study in Tamarack Lake to satisfy requirement 8 of Water Fun (Junior) or requirement 5 of Water Everywhere (Brownie). A Pond Study Kit includes dippers, dish tubs, aquatic nets and pond field guides. A naturalist will give you a brief introduction on how to use the equipment to find and identify water critters. Replacement fees will apply for lost equipment. Dock capacity limited to 15/scouts and chaperones. Offered: Fall and Spring (Please call to reserve a time slot. Equipment is limited).

Girl Scout Badge Programs

Junior

Earth Connections

Offered Fall and Spring

Juniors can improve their ecological observation skills with this program. Scouts will collect data, create a food chain and learn about succession in a study site at Tamarack. Scouts will also learn a habitat game that they can teach to another troop. (Activities may include 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 or 8).

Frosty Fun Badge

Offered December through February

Learn how to stay safe outdoors in Minnesota in the winter, and find out how our animal neighbors survive. Then become a nature detective as you hike to look for animal tracks and signs. Troops should complete Activity #1 before their visit. (Activities may include: 5, 6, 8, 10)

If snow conditions permit, snowshoeing may be included. (Activity 9)

Optional Snowshoe Rental Fee: \$5/person with program

Wildlife

Offered Fall and Spring

Here's your chance to "eat like a bird", find out what makes animals unique, take a close look at wildlife and draw a picture of your observations. Learn about wildlife dangers, as well as endangered wildlife in Minnesota and hike to test your ID skills. (May include requirements 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8) (9 by special request)

Rocks Rock

A rock, is a rock, is a rock. You might think so, but you'd be surprised! Discover different types of rocks and how they are formed and search the nature center for clues of geological events. Scouts will also investigate soil in depth, discover how fossils are formed and take a peek at some aerial photos. This program will cover activities 2-4, 8 and 9.

Sky Search/Starry Skies

Discover the wonder of a starry night and hear stories about the stars from around the world. Make and use a star finder, a mini star viewer and learn how a telescope works. Learn about the moon and why it changes phases. Then use your new skills outside under the starry skies! Program will continue, rain or shine, so dress for the weather. Please bring a grocery bag to carry troop projects home. Binoculars are useful if available.

Girl Scout Badge Programs

Cadette

(See also: Orienteering listed under Youth Programming on following page.)

All About Birds

Offered Year Round

Tamarack Nature Center is a great place to observe birds, both in their natural habitat and as preserved specimens. Girls learn to identify birds using a field guide, binoculars and their own field notes. They hike to observe bird behavior and song. Experiments allow them to test aerodynamic principles. Take the first steps toward becoming a bird expert! Each scout should bring a small notebook, binoculars and field guides if available. Completes Skill Builders 1, 2 & 3, partially completes Technology 1

Note: Public bird banding demonstrations are scheduled in spring. Call the nature center for more information. This activity completes Technology 2.

Wildlife

Offered Fall and Spring

Explore a study site at Tamarack to identify local plants and wildlife. Participate in a discussion on wildlife hazards and evaluate your "at home" practices to see what you can do to help. This program completes Skill Builders 1, 2, and 3, Service Project 4 and partially completes Skill Builders 4. Scouts will need to complete three activities on their own.

Discovery Kits

Offered Year Round

Tamarack Discovery Kits are available for your use year round!

Use the kit to facilitate a nature hike activity with your group. Kits include activity ideas, hand lenses, paper, crayons, bug boxes, thermometers and child-size binoculars. Large groups may use more than one kit. Kits are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Fee: A small donation will be accepted for the use of the Discovery Kit, and you will also be asked to leave an item of value as collateral while it is in use (driver's license or a set of keys).

Scout or Youth Group Programs

Recreational Programs

Orienteering

Offered March - December

Learn the basics of the adventurous sport of orienteering. Use a map, compass and pacing to “orienteer” your way around Tamarack.

Snowshoe Tracks

Offered December - February

Strap on a pair of snowshoes and explore the winter woods, lake and marsh. A naturalist will show you the secrets of the winter creatures and teach you how to use the “big feet.”

Optional \$5/person snowshoe rental

Nordic Ski Basics

Offered December - February

Step, kick and slide through the snow and have lots of skiing fun. A ski instructor will teach you the basics then review techniques through games and activities.

Optional \$5/person ski rental

Group Ski

Offered December - February

Bring your group in to try their hand at skiing. If available, a naturalist will give a brief introduction on proper cross-country ski form before you hit the trails.

Fee: \$10/person for 2 hour rental

Service Learning

Tamarack Nature Center welcomes groups wishing to assist with trail maintenance, habitat restoration and monitoring projects. Contact the center for more projects and information.