

Cub Scout and Boy Scout Programs



Tamarack Nature Center

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

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.

Scheduling Process

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.

Fees

Tamarack's basic fee is \$72 for up to 12 scouts, \$6 for each additional scout. Programs requiring extensive supplies or equipment will list a rental or materials fee by the program descriptions that follow.

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.

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.

Snack Alert: The ABC's of snacking at Tamarack

Hungry kids can't concentrate, so please feel free to bring a light snack for your group to eat here!

- A. If you plan a snack, let the scheduler know so we can arrange space at the outdoor pavilion or indoor lobby/classroom.
- B. Snack time is not included in your program time so be sure to allow an extra 20 minutes before or after your program.
- C. Help your scouts keep our environment clean by collecting trash and recycling glass, aluminum and HDPE #1 & 2 plastics in the receptacles available for that purpose. Non-meat food waste can be composted.

Wolf Level

The following Wolf and Bear programs are offered year round. Programs are 2 hours in length.

Achievement #7: Your Living World

Energy powers our world — find out where it comes from, how we use it, and how we can use it more efficiently. Do an experiment to show how we can help stop water pollution. We'll explore garbage and make our own recycled paper to take home. Combine this with a service project in spring, summer or fall. (Targeted requirement: c, d, e, f)

Elective #10: American Indian Lore

Explore Dakota and Ojibway traditions: the stories they told, the animals they hunted and the foods they gathered. You will erect a real tipi, hike to survive, make a *makuk* or *parfleche* and write your own history using pictographs. (Targeted requirements: a, d, e, f)

Elective #13: Birds

Find out how you can identify birds in your yard, play a feeding game, hike to look for birds outside and make a simple birdfeeder to take home. Please bring one mayonnaise jar, milk carton or large soda bottle per scout. (Targeted requirements: a, b, c, d, e)

Bear Level

Achievement #5: Sharing your world with Wildlife

\$2 additional materials fee

NOTE: It is suggested that scouts prepare a poster of a local wildlife species they have researched before they visit to Tamarack.

Meet our wood turtle and play a game to demonstrate the special challenges they face. Make a simple suet feeder to take home and hike to look for Tamarack's wildlife. (Targeted requirements: b, d, e)

Elective #2: Weather

\$2 additional materials fee

How's the weather today? Study the sky, make tools to measure the wind and rain, and learn how to use them to make your own weather forecast. Can you beat the professionals? (Targeted requirements: a, b, c, d, e, f)

Bear Level *(continued)*

The following Bear and Webelos programs are offered year round. Programs are 2 hours in length.

Elective #15: Soil and Water Conservation

What's in that dirt? Find out as we take a close look at the soil under our feet and discover how plants, soil, water and fire work together to create a prairie, woodland or marsh. (Targeted requirements: a, b, c, d, e)

Elective #24: American Indian Life Program

Explore Dakota and Ojibway traditions: the games they played, the stories they told, the animals they hunted and the foods they gathered. You will erect a real tipi, make a *makuk*, and hike to test your survival skills. (Targeted requirements: a, b, e, f)

Webelos Level

Forester Badge

Discover the forest from the ground up! Scouts will learn to use a key to identify trees, unravel a tree ring story and play a game to demonstrate how a tree grows. Be prepared for surprises as you learn just how useful a tree can be, and hike through the forest to practice your new skills. (Targeted requirements: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9)

Naturalist Badge

Choose a focus:

- A. **Birds:** Learn to think like a naturalist! Learn to identify native birds, play a migration game and meet a live kestrel, then hike to look for wild birds. (Targeted requirements: 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9)
- B. **Wetlands:** Learn to think like a naturalist! Hike to the pond to see if you can catch the baby damselflies! Meet a live turtle and salamander, and play a food web game. (Targeted requirements 4, 8, 9, 10, 11)

Geologist Badge

\$1 additional materials fee

Did you know that each person in the U.S. uses 20 tons of rock and minerals a year? Boys will explore the building to discover how that is possible, perform fun and edible experiments to show how rocks and minerals form (along with fossils, mountains and volcanos!), and practice some beginning mineral ID. A short hike concludes the program. *Geology ROCKS!* (Targeted requirements: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

World Conservation Badge

Call us to discuss options for a conservation project for your den or pack that fulfills requirements for the *World Conservation Badge*. Depending on the season, projects may include trash pick up, trail maintenance, habitat restoration or ecological monitoring.

Boy Scout Merit Badges

A merit badge counselor is available for *Environmental Science*, *Bird Lore*, *Oceanography and Forestry* merit badges; please contact the center for more information.

Discovery kits

Tamarack Discovery Kits are available for your use year round! Use the kit to facilitate a nature hike 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.

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 (for example: driver's license or a set of keys).

Public Programs

Tamarack provides a wealth of *Public Programs* to meet the interests of a wide audience. Scout groups are encouraged to participate. Sample topics include apple cidering, maple syruping, bird banding and astronomy. Costs vary. Call Tamarack at 651-407-5350 to request a public program brochure or visit our website: www.co.ramsey.mn.us/parks/tamarack.

Recreational Programs

Orienteering

Tamarack's permanent orienteering course was developed in cooperation with the Minnesota Orienteering Club. Our staff can teach your scouts this vital outdoor skill. Maps are also available for sale, or as part of a rental packet that includes supplies to teach your scouts yourself.

Beginning Orienteering Class 2 hours

Getting lost can be scary and dangerous! We can teach your scouts the basic skills of reading and orienting an orienteering map. The goal is to find your way through the woods and fields safely and to find control points, in order, before the clock runs out!

Self-guided Orienteering Packages

Individual rental: \$2 <i>(one map, compass and punch card)</i>	Orienteering maps: \$4
Group rental: \$20 <i>(set of directions with ten maps, compasses, air horn and punch cards)</i>	Punch cards: 4 for \$1

Snowshoe Tracks

2 hours

All Ages

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."

Fee: \$6/person (\$72 minimum) + \$5/person snowshoe rental

Nordic Ski Basics

2 hours

Ages: 3rd grade - Adult

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.

Fee: \$6/person (\$72 minimum) + \$5/person ski rental

Ski Alone

2 hours

Ages: 3rd grade - Adult

Bring your group in to try their hand at skiing. Organized groups may take advantage of a discounted ski rate. If available, a naturalist will give a brief introduction on proper cross-country ski form before you hit the trails. Minimum group size of 12 to take advantage of this program.

Fee: \$5/person for 2 hour rental