

Winter 2015-16

December–January–February

Nature Center

Monday – Friday
7:45 am – 4:30 pm

Saturdays
9 am – 2 pm

Closed Sundays

Hiking Trails

6 am – 8 pm daily

Phone

414.527.0232

Address

6141 N. Hopkins Street
Milwaukee, WI 53209
1 block west of
Sherman Blvd.

Websites

[dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/
name/havenwoods/](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/havenwoods/)
www.friendsofhavenwoods.org

Friends of Havenwoods

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Havenwoods State Forest

As the earth revolves around the sun, our view of the stars changes. Winter skies bring us brilliant stars and fascinating constellations!

Exploring Nature in the City

Away from the brightest lights of the city, you can find a great hunter, his hunting dogs, and the Winter Circle.

The Winter Circle

Six of the brightest stars of winter form a large circle in the sky. To find the circle of stars, face south and look for the three equally-spaced stars in Orion's belt. His foot, represented by the star Rigel, is near the circle's bottom. Moving counterclockwise, look for Sirius, Procyon, Pollux, Capella, and Aldebaran. Betelgeuse is inside the circle, above Orion's belt.

Pollux

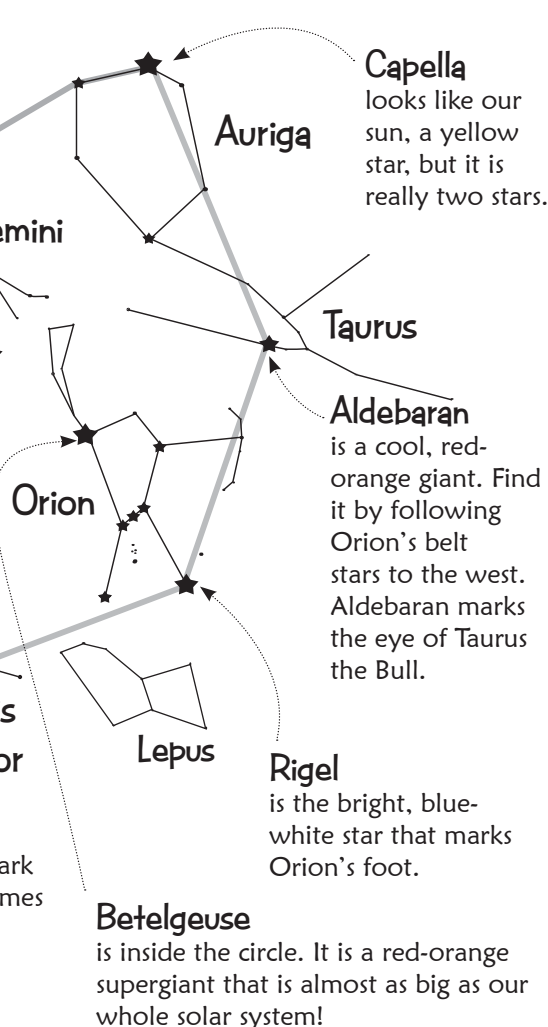
is the brighter of the two stars that make up the Gemini twins. Find it by continuing an imaginary line drawn from Rigel through Betelgeuse. Pollux is a red-orange giant star.

Procyon

glows yellow-white. Find it by drawing a line through Orion's shoulders and extending it to the east.

Sirius

is the brightest star in our sky. It is also one of the closest. You can find it by drawing a line through Orion's belt and extending it to the east. In a dark sky, it appears bluish white, sometimes twinkling with the colors of the rainbow.



Capella

looks like our sun, a yellow star, but it is really two stars.

Aldebaran

is a cool, red-orange giant. Find it by following Orion's belt stars to the west. Aldebaran marks the eye of Taurus the Bull.

Rigel

is the bright, blue-white star that marks Orion's foot.

Betelgeuse

is inside the circle. It is a red-orange supergiant that is almost as big as our whole solar system!

The Great Winter Hunt

At the bottom of the Winter Circle, you will find Orion the Hunter, setting out with his two hunting dogs, Canis Major and Canis Minor. With his bow in hand, he is chasing after Lepus the Hare (a faint constellation south of Orion). Suddenly, he sees Taurus the Bull charging at him, and he must raise his club to defend himself.

Family Nature Hikes

Spend an hour with a naturalist on a family-friendly hike. We'll use magnifiers, binoculars, super-duper outdoor lookers, or other exploring tools to discover what's happening in nature.



Winter Birds

December 5, 10:30 – 11:30 am
(Saturday)

Winter is a great time to go bird watching, with leafless trees and a snowy landscape making it easier to find the birds. Dress warmly as we will spend most of the time outside looking for sparrows, juncos, hawks, and owls. We have binoculars you can borrow.

Animal Signs in Snow

January 2, 10:30 – 11:30 am
(Saturday)

Havenwoods is home to many wild animals. Become a nature detective, looking for clues that these animals leave behind. We'll spend part of the time on an animal scavenger hunt. We have snowshoes you can use.

Nature at Night

February 6, 6 – 7 pm (Saturday)

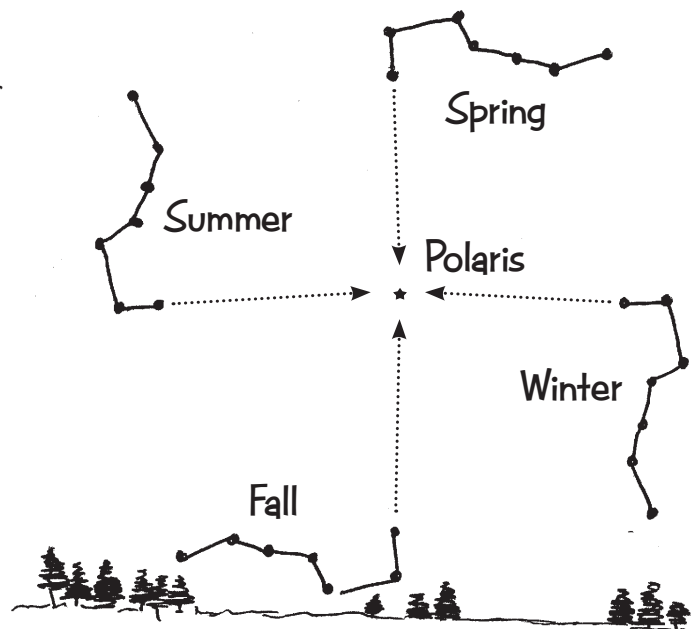
The Forest is a different place at night. Join us on a walk to find animals moving about, listen for their sounds, and check out some winter constellations. We'll end up inside with hot cocoa. Dress for the weather. We have snowshoes you can use.

Celestial Time Clock

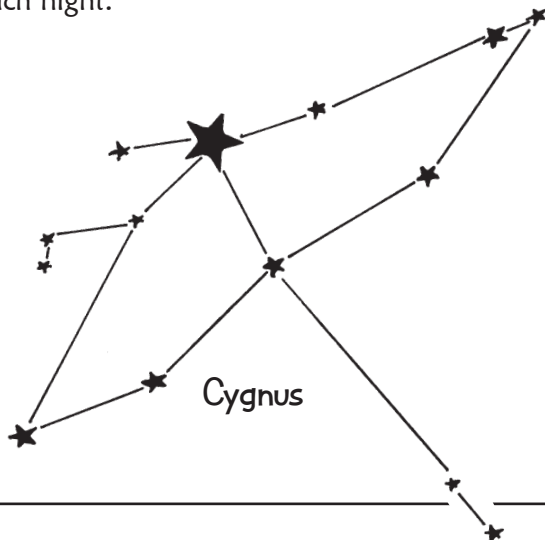
Some people mark the changing seasons by watching for the first snowflake, the first tulip, or the first changing leaf. You can also enjoy the changing seasons by watching the stars.

The Big Dipper appears to make a complete counterclockwise rotation around the North Star every day. Actually, it makes a complete rotation every 23 hours and 56 minutes, rising 4 minutes earlier each day. Those minutes add up over the course of a year so that a star rises at the same time on the same date each year. You can see this happening by looking at the stars every night at the same time. You will notice that they slowly tick counterclockwise, moving just a little bit each night.

Head out in the early evening to look for the Big Dipper. Remember that while it makes the full circle each night, it begins that circle at a different location each night.



The Big Dipper as it appears in the early evening sky.



Missing the Stars of Summer?

In addition to the stars looking different each night, we also get to see different stars each season. However, if you really miss the stars of summer, they will be there on clear and cold nights waiting for you.

To see Cygnus, the Swan (the constellation that contains the beautiful stars of the Northern Cross), you can get up at 5 am on February 1st, or you can just wait for summer when the Swan will take its turn dominating the night sky.

GO! Discover

Families, friends, and youth groups are invited to head over to Havenwoods on the second and/or third Saturdays of each month. Drop in any time between 9 am and 2 pm to discover something new about nature.



Winter Birds

December 12 & 19, 9 am – 2 pm
(Saturdays)

A lot of birds are “fair weather friends” in Wisconsin, but a surprising number tough it out in our winters. Drop in to find out how they are adapted to survive the snow and cold, make a bird feeder, and explore for birds on your own. We have binoculars you can borrow.

Animal Tracks

January 9 & 16, 9 am – 2 pm
(Saturdays)

Who left tracks in the snow? Drop in to learn how to identify tracks, walk like an animal, make note cards with tracks, and much more. Then grab a tracking handout and head outside to discover who’s been walking around Havenwoods.

Winter

Past Times

February 13 & 20, 9 am – 2 pm
(Saturdays)

What did people do in winter without smart phones, TVs, and video games? They made their own fun! Take a couple of steps back to life in the early 1900s. Play some games, make some toys, and head out on your own for a snowshoe walk. You can borrow snowshoes from us.

Adult Hikes & Workshops

Adults are invited to join a naturalist to learn something new!

Snow Trek

February 27, 10 – 11:30 am (Saturday)

Join the staff for an outdoor adventure. We’ll take a hike on snowshoes to enjoy the park and discover what’s happening in nature. Make sure to dress warmly; most of the time will be spent outside. We have snowshoes you can use.

Snowshoes!

You can borrow snowshoes to use at Havenwoods any time there is enough snow on the ground and the nature center is open. Call for details.

Preschool Storytimes

We’ll use stories, crafts, and activities to explore a different topic each storytime. Preschool storytimes are for preschoolers, ages 3-5, and their parents, grandparents, or other adult. These programs are not for day care centers or organizations.

Raccoons: Masked Faces & Ringed Tails

December 8, 9:30 – 10:30 am
(Tuesday)

Raccoons wake up and search for breakfast after you go to bed. Find out about these nighttime neighbors.

Evergreen Magic

January 5, 9:30 – 10:30 am
(Tuesday)

During this season of tinsel and lights, explore the magic of real evergreens and their importance to nature. We’ll even decorate a tree just for the animals.

We Dig Groundhogs

February 2, 9:30 – 10:30 am
(Tuesday)

What animal digs big holes, eats all summer, and sleeps all winter? If you guessed a groundhog, you’re right! Come find out about these furry sleepers.

A Flurry of Snowflakes

December 22, 9:30 – 10:30 am
(Tuesday)

Snowflakes . . . falling all around. Snowflakes . . . falling to the ground. Winter can turn water into wonderful icy designs!

Follow My Footsteps

January 19, 9:30 – 10:30 am
(Tuesday)

Footprints tell us about what animals are doing. Come learn about animal tracks and find out “who went there.”

Turtle Time

February 16, 9:30 – 10:30 am
(Tuesday)

Can you imagine carrying your house everywhere you go? Come meet some turtles up close and imagine how they live and move.

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WI Dept. of Natural Resources
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Milwaukee, WI 53209

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Nature in Your Backyard

A long time ago, people didn't understand how or why the stars moved across the sky. Connecting stars into pictures helped people make sense of the night sky.

Go on a Bear Hunt

The Big Dipper is one of the easiest patterns to find. It is part of the constellation called Big Bear or Ursa Major. It is visible in our northern sky every night of the year.

Continue the Hunt

The library is full of books about stars. Here are some favorites:

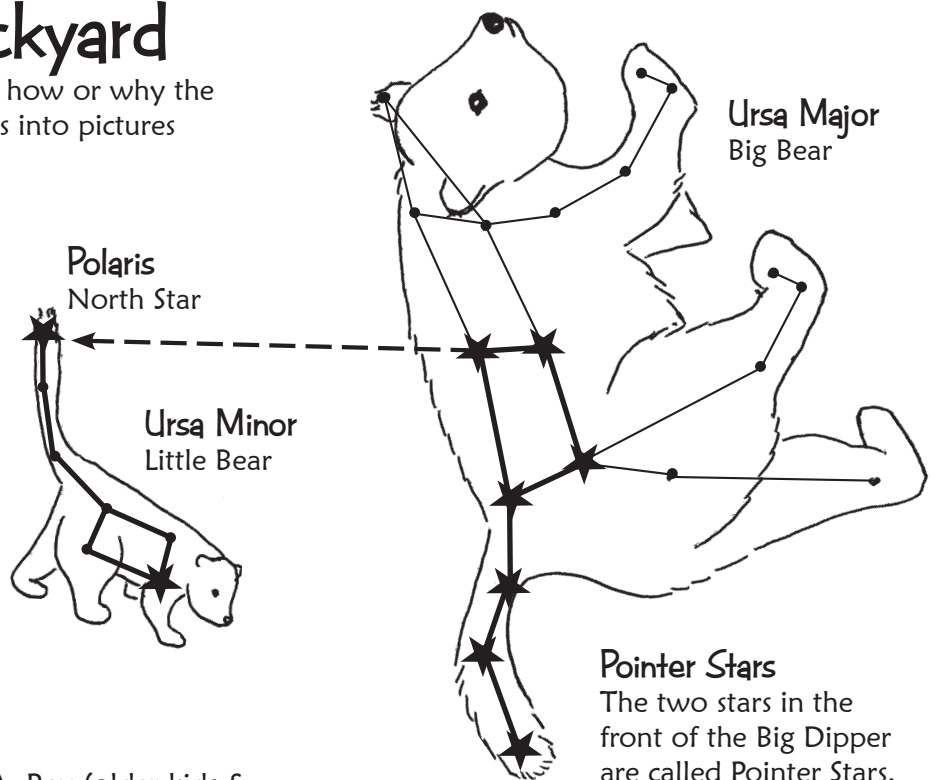
Child's Introduction to the Night Sky by Michael Driscoll (older kids & adults)

Discover the Stars by Richard Berry (older kids & adults)

Find the Constellations by H.A. Rey (kids)

The Stars: A New Way to See Them by H.A. Rey (older kids & adults)

And, check out **Evening Sky Maps** from skymaps.com. This free, monthly map helps skywatchers find stars, planets, and other cosmic features!



Pointer Stars

The two stars in the front of the Big Dipper are called Pointer Stars. Follow the dashed line in the drawing to see how they point the way to Polaris, the North Star.