

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Itasca State Park



MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

8 a.m. –3:30 p.m. **23rd Annual Itasca State Park Winter Bird Count**

Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center Lobby between 7:30 and 8 a.m. for assignment of count areas.

This holiday season take part in the annual winter bird count at Itasca State Park. This year marks the park's 23rd year of participation in the nation-wide Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Explore Itasca's count area in search of our winter bird residents. Stay a few hours or spend the whole day. Information collected is used to track migration patterns and changes in winter bird species abundance throughout North America. To learn more about this nation-wide bird survey go to: <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>

NOTES: Entire program is held outdoors. Dress warmly for outdoor winter conditions. Bring your lunch if staying for the entire day. The group will gather at the visitor center at Noon for a lunch break. For questions and further details, call 218-699-7259. If weather is bad, the alternate date will be Tuesday, December 18. Check with the park to confirm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

1–3 p.m. **First Day Hike: A Backcountry Exploration**

Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center.

Get your New Year's resolutions going on the first day of the New Year! Join us for an invigorating snowshoe hike as we explore the Dr. Roberts Trail.

Notes: Dress for being outdoors, bring along your snowshoes, water and sunglasses. A limited number of snowshoes are available at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center for use during the program and are first-come-first-serve. Please check out the snowshoes before the start of the hike. Route may change based on weather and snow conditions. Trail route will be selected based on snow conditions.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

5–7:30 p.m. **Itasca's Lantern Lit Snowshoe and Ski Event**

Start at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center

Visit Itasca and ski or snowshoe by the light of the moon and kerosene lanterns along the trail. Go at your own pace along the lantern lit route during this drop-in program. For added fun, bring along your s'mores fixings or hot dogs for cooking at the campfire.

NOTES: Limited snowshoes will be available on a first come-first served basis. Program is held outdoors. Dress warmly for outdoor winter conditions. If snow conditions are poor, the event will become a snow boot walk.

6–7:30 p.m. **Music Under the Pines: Lori Goulet Reich**

Start at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center

Warm up after the ski or snowshoe and enjoy an evening of music with Lori Goulet Reich. Performing the night of the Lantern Lit Snowshoe and Ski event, Lori will sing a variety of music best described as acoustic folk and alt-country flavored music. Lori also has played in various bands both classic rock and country, so come listen to a variety of well-known tunes.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

10:30–11:15 a.m. **Circle Time Under the Pines: N is for Night Creatures**
Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center Classroom (look for the big building under the big pine trees.)

Children 2-5 years old, come explore and have fun at Itasca as we learn about nature through stories, songs, crafts, and outdoor discovery. Bring your winter outdoor clothes (including snowpants and boots)... if weather permits, part of the program will be exploring the outdoors. NOTES: *Adults must accompany children. Consider bringing a picnic lunch and enjoying your noon meal around the fireplace in the visitor center lobby after the program.*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

10:30 a.m.–Noon **Get Outside and Snowshoe!**
Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center Classroom

Ever wanted to find a fun, winter activity that will get you outside? Enjoy the beauty of winter on snowshoes! This beginner's class will teach you the basics: the types of snowshoes, how to walk in snowshoes, and great places to visit in Itasca while wearing snowshoes. NOTES: Dress warmly and include snow boots. Part of the program will be outside on the trail trying out your new skills. *Call ahead at 218-699-7251 to reserve a pair of snowshoes or bring your own. The number of snowshoes available is limited. Outdoor portion of program is dependent on snowfall.*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

11 a.m.–1 p.m. **Old Time Logging Demo**
Location selected closer to the date.

Discover the history of early horse logging, an industry common to this area in the late 1800s. Watch lumberjacks fell trees with a 2-man cross-cut saw, buck the log into sections, skid and cross-haul logs onto a horse drawn sled. Members of the Lake Itasca Region Pioneer Farmers will be on hand to demonstrate these early logging methods. NOTES: Dress according to the weather. Program is held outside in the woods. Please be prepared with warm hats, gloves, snow pants and snow boots. Be prepared to walk/stand in deep snow. In case of poor weather, event will be cancelled. Duration of program is weather dependent.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

10:30–11:15 a.m. **Circle Time Under the Pines: S is for Snow**
Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center Classroom

See description from January 15 program.



If you need an accommodation, please contact the park at 218-699-7251, two weeks prior to the event.

mndnr.gov/events



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Saturday, February 16

5:30–8 p.m. **Itasca's Lantern Lit Snowshoe Event**

Start at the Mary Gibbs Mississippi Headwaters Center.

Come out and snowshoe by the light of the moon and the kerosene lanterns along the trail. Snowshoe at your own pace along the lantern lit route during this drop-in program. For added fun, bring along your s'mores fixings or hot dogs for cooking at the campfire.

NOTES: *Limited snowshoes will be available on a first come-first served basis. Program is held outdoors. Dress warmly for outdoor winter conditions. If snow conditions are poor, the event will become a snow boot walk.*

6:30–8 p.m. **Itasca's Music Under the Pines: Julie and Bill Kaiser**

Held in the Café at the Mary Gibbs Mississippi Headwaters Center.

From the north woods of Minnesota, Bill and Julie Kaiser will be performing the night of the Lantern Lit Snowshoe event. Bill and Julie's music has been described as acoustic 'folkgrass' with a mix of bluegrass, folk, and original. Warm up inside the Mary Gibbs Café and enjoy a wonderful night of music!

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

12:30–3:30 p.m. **'Spring' Snowshoe Hike: A Backcountry Exploration**

Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center

Get out and enjoy the last weeks of winter's snow as we move towards spring! Join us for an invigorating snowshoe hike as we explore the area around the Mississippi Headwaters. The hike will go along the Schoolcraft trail and out to Schoolcraft Island (conditions permitting). The first section of the hike will be easy. Notes: Dress for being outdoors, bring along your snowshoes, water and sunglasses. A limited number of snowshoes are available at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center for use during the program and are first-come-first-serve. Please check out the snowshoes before the start of the hike. Route may change based on weather and snow conditions. Trail route will be selected based on snow conditions.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

10:30–11:15 a.m. **Circle Time Under the Pines: A is for Animal Ears**

Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center Classroom (look for the big building under the big pine trees.)

Children 2-5 years old, come explore and have fun at Itasca as we learn about nature through stories, songs, crafts, and outdoor discovery. Bring your winter outdoor clothes (including snowpants and boots)... if weather permits, part of the program will be exploring the outdoors. NOTES: *Adults must accompany children. Consider bringing a picnic lunch and enjoying your noon meal around the fireplace in the visitor center lobby after the program.*



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