

## **Itasca State Park – August Naturalist Programs**

### **Five Facts in Five Minutes: Loons**

**August 25, 2022, from 12:30-2:00 p.m.**

Near the Mississippi Headwaters (under the porch of the Mary Gibbs Mississippi Headwaters Center if raining)

Only have a minute to learn about Itasca State Park? Check out a unique feature at the naturalist station as you visit the Headwaters of the Mississippi River.

### **Jr. Naturalist: X Marks the Spot**

**Thursday, August 25, 2022, from 2- 2:45 p.m.**

Meet in Bear Paw Campground at the grassy area, lakeside (near the tiny log pump house and campsite #70 along the bike trail). Bring a blanket or lawn chair to sit on.

Kids, come follow the treasure map and see if X really does mark the spot! Explore different maps and see how they can lead you on your next adventure. Make and take home your very own treasure map and use a map to find hidden treasure.

### **Aiton Heights Fire Tower Hike**

**Friday, July 26, 2022, from 10 a.m.-noon**

Meet near the steps outside of Forest Inn

Come join us on a hike to the Aiton Heights Fire Tower. Learn about the forest and fire tower history in Itasca and enjoy the spectacular bird's-eye view of the park from the top of the 100-foot tower!

Notes: The hike is about 3 miles round trip and can be hilly at times. Bring water, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

### **Jr. Naturalist: Raptors**

**Friday, July 26, 2022, from 2-2:45 p.m.**

Meet at the council ring next to the Lakeside Museum in the picnic grounds

The bald eagle, red-tailed hawk, and osprey are just a few of the raptors you will see soaring through the park and swooping down to capture their prey. Come join the naturalists to learn about these magnificent birds and what makes them so unique!

### **Old Timer's Cabin and the Civilian Conservation Corp**

**Saturday, August 27, 2022, from 11 a.m.-Noon, come –and-go at your leisure**

Held at the Old Timer's Cabin, located along the boardwalk of Dr. Roberts Trail, below Douglas Lodge

Only 4 (massive) logs tall, learn more about this Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed building as well as what life was like in the CCC. Feel free to stop by at your leisure.

### **Mushrooms and the Forest Soil Network, Science in Nature Series**

**Saturday, August 27, 2022, from 1:30-3 p.m.**

Meet at the Biome Center, University of Minnesota Itasca Biological Station (*along Main Park Drive, watch for signs*)

Come walk the UofM Biological station and Bear Paw trail to the junction of Lake Itasca's North and East Arms. Dr. Jonathan Schilling from the University of Minnesota will share history of the Itasca Station and then lead a walk to Bear Paw point to find and identify mushrooms. He will discuss how networks of fungal mycelium mean life, death, and 'conversation' under your feet and in the trees. His science spans large networks and communities all the way down to the microscopic tips of fungal 'hyphae,' with the goal to uncover their secrets and share how they sustain themselves for centuries in forests.

Notes: Long pants and long socks recommended.

**Jr. Naturalist: Incredible Insects**

**Monday, August 29, 2022, from 2-2:30 p.m.**

Meet at the council ring next to the Lakeside Museum in the picnic grounds

There are nearly one million species of insects on planet Earth! Join a naturalist for a glimpse into the world of insects, a diverse group of bugs that come in all shapes and sizes.

**Life in the Dark**

**Monday, August 29, 2022, from 7:00-7:30 p.m.**

Meet outside of Forest Inn

Take a walk with a naturalist and learn about what comes out when the sun goes down.

**Signs of Changing Times**

**Tuesday, August 30, 2022, from 10:00-10:45 a.m.**

Meet at porch of Mary Gibbs Mississippi Headwaters Center

With fall quickly approaching, find out what clues we can look for to signify the end of summer and beginning of autumn.

**Circle Time Under the Pines: B is for Beavers**

**Tuesday, August 30, 2022, from 11-11:30 a.m.**

Meet by the lakeside Museum (Look for a large blanket underneath a big pine tree) in the picnic grounds (In between Lake Itasca and the picnic shelter)

Children 2-5 years old, come explore and have fun at Itasca as we learn about beavers through stories, songs, crafts, and outdoor discovery. NOTES: Adults must accompany children. *Consider bringing a picnic lunch and enjoying your noon meal at the park after the program.*

**Jr. Naturalist: Wolf, Coyote, or Fox? Who Knows!?**

**Tuesday, August 30, 2022, from 2:00-2:45 p.m.**

Meet outside of the Lakeside Museum at the Council Ring

Are you sure that you saw a coyote on the side of the road? Or could it be a wolf? If you would like to learn some tips on how to identify different Minnesota dogs, this is the program for you!