

Pheno-Fun Patch Program: Spring

Virtual Event

During the spring Pheno-Fun event, which will be hosted virtually by a DRIWR park ranger, attendees will be asked what signs they look for to indicate spring is coming.

After everyone shares their answers, we'll discuss key scientific details about spring, like:

Plant Growth

You'll learn the basic anatomy and life cycle of plants; how they're affected by season change; which plants grow in the spring; and how they make food and reproduce.

Bird Nests

You'll learn about different nest shapes; how they benefit different species of birds; what kinds of materials are used to make nests; and what a nest location says about a bird species.

On-Your-Own Activity

Grab your journal and pencil! Then, find a safe wooded area nearby where you can go on a walk and observe nature in the spring.

1. Take a few moments to sketch some of the newly emerging plant life and make notes of surrounding animal behavior.
 - Are birds singing?
 - Do you hear or see squirrels or chipmunks bounding through the woods?
2. Look out for some natural items you think would make a great bird's nest and bring them back with you.
3. Try making your own bird's nest!
 - Use the materials you collected on your Springtime Scavenger Hunt to build your own bird nest.



- Gather some random household items—like pipe cleaners, yarn, clothespins, toothpicks, popsicle sticks, etc—and wind them into your nest to strengthen it.

GSSEM-Sponsored Activity

Go on a Springtime Hike & Scavenger Hunt at Humbug Marsh in Trenton! A park ranger will guide you on the trail, so you'll have the perfect opportunity to practice plant identification—and possibly see different types of bird nests.

1. Grab a journal and pencil with you before you head out! Take a few moments to sketch some of the newly emerging plant life and make notes of surrounding animal behavior.
 - Are birds singing? Do you hear or see squirrels or chipmunks bounding through the woods as they search for food?
2. When you're done with the hike, you'll have the opportunity to make your own bird's nest using various materials supplied by USFWS and DRIWR.

Springtime Scavenger Hunt

Observation Checklist

- Find three different species of budding trees.
- Find lingering signs of winter.
- Find three different species of insects.
- Find a uniquely shaped rock.

Journal Checklist

Please note findings in your journal for the following:

- How many different flowers do you see? What color is the largest?
- How many different birdsongs can you hear?
- What's the youngest living thing you can find?
- Take a second to smell the earth. What type of aroma does it have? Do you detect different scents?
- Stop, close your eyes, and listen closely.
 - Do you hear running water? Where do you think it's coming from?
 - How many different sounds do you hear?
- Look for mud. Do you see any animal tracks? If so, which animal do you think they belong to?
- Do you see any insects? What do they look like? How do they move?
- Try to spot a worm. In inches, how long do you think it is?
- Find something you perceive as ugly. What makes its appearance unpleasant to you? How could you look at it differently for you to consider it beautiful?



List Five Things You Like About Spring

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Springtime Scavenger Hunt

Bonus Challenge: Try to Find These Organisms & Objects!



Bird nest



Pinecone



Bird



Blossom Tree



Bird House



Bee



Bird eggs



Snowdrops



Tulips



Daffodil



Twig



Buds



Willow buds



Snail



Grass



Butterfly