



WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

It's a Natural Partnership

The library has always encouraged its patrons to explore new worlds. The "newest" world is right in your own back yard, literally. The Westchester Public Library is thinking outside of the "library box" and expanding into the great outdoors. We are now loaning "Adventure Backpacks." To get you started, each of these backpacks contains county-wide maps and trail guides of the nearly 94,000 acres of forest preserves in Cook and DuPage counties. You will also find laminated pocket guides of the plants, birds and wildlife of Illinois, as well as two pair of binoculars, one for adults and one (Kidnoculars) for children. Once you have selected your destination(s), all you need to supply is the sun-screen, some water, good walking shoes and a spark of curiosity.

Our sturdy backpacks are just as appropriate for solo strolls in the prairie as they are for family outings to the Morton Arboretum. Perhaps you will want to start small. This is your opportunity to look closely at that curious plant in your yard. Pull out the binoculars, look at the handy guide, and voila--you now know the common and botanical names of the former mystery plant. Don't be surprised when you continue to identify other plants, then trees, and begin wondering what is that beautiful yellow songbird up in my *gleditsia triacanthos* (a.k.a. honey locust)? Soon thereafter you will want to expand beyond your address, so, visit the library's various gardens. There is an ever-changing prairie garden spreading across the front of the building. While you are enjoying the flora be sure to take a gander at the bird feeders on the west end of this garden. From late spring to early fall watch for the frequent ruby-throated visitors to our hummingbird feeder. For year round entertainment there is a seed feeder. Chickadees, wrens

and cardinals are frequent diners to this local attraction. To the west of the library are three discovery gardens, please explore. The first contains prairie plants native to the Westchester area, the second is filled with seasonings and herbs (not for consumption, though), and the third is brimming with butterfly attracting blooms. Take pleasure in the colorful array of plants that greet you. Look, smell, and breathe deep. While we request you sketch or take "only pictures" of plants elsewhere, we encourage you to pinch a leaf or flower off one of our plants in the discovery gardens. Take your sample into the children's department to have a really close look through one of our microscopes.

For the occasional inclement weather or when our Adventure Backpacks are checked out, we have a wonderful selection of nature books, such as Mike MacDonald's *My Journey into the Wilds of Chicago*, with vibrant color photos of nature's best. Maybe try a nature DVD. I recommend "Hummingbirds, Magic in the Air," or the PBS film, "An Original DUCKumentary." Explore, discover, enjoy!

Kris Jacobson is the Youth Services Manager

Food for Fines

In celebration of National Library Week, we will be accepting non perishable canned foods as credit toward payment of fines! **April 8 through 14**, each item will be worth up to \$1.00 in credit to be applied toward Westchester fines only. All donations will go to the **Westchester Food Pantry**, so no expired items will be accepted. If you're unsure what to give, just donate items that you would feed your own family.

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY



Wednesday Movies

May 2: The Parent Trap
May 9: Coco
May 16: Ferdinand
May 23: Spirited

6:00 pm

Creation Station

Maker and Crafting Time (for ages 9 and up)

Through April 27 ▪ Monday — Thursday ▪ 3:30 - 5:00 pm

A variety of maker and crafting supplies will be available each day!
Where will your imagination take you?

Illinois Bicentennial Programs

FORGOTTEN CHICAGO

Join us as **Jacob Kaplan** examines the overlooked history of Chicagoland—including **Westchester!** Using historic photos and maps, he will discuss everything from industrial and ethnic history to overlooked neighborhood architecture to retail relics and other oddities! He will also share advice for researching your own home and neighborhood! All attendees will have a chance to

WIN an official Bicentennial flag and other prizes!

SUNDAY, APRIL 8 @ 2:00 PM

Registration requested — contact Adult Dept (708) 562-3573

A Food Biography of Chicago, Illinois

Join us for *another* fantastic, fun, food-focused program! Using vivid details and stories of local restaurants and food, authors **Daniel Block** and **Howard Rosing** will reveal Chicago to be one of the foremost eating destinations in the entire country. As usual, we will also hold a raffle, and all attendees will have a chance to

WIN an official Bicentennial flag and other prizes! This event is sure to fill up fast!

SUNDAY, APRIL 29 @ 3:00 PM

Registration requested — contact Adult Dept (708) 562-3573



FOSSIL HIKE FIELD TRIP



We invite you to join us for a field trip to **Sagawau Environmental Learning Center** in Lemont for a morning hike through a fossil quarry. Meet at Westchester Library at 9:00 am, and a bus will take our group to the site where we will learn about the formation of Silurian Sea fossils, visit an ancient coral reef, and go on a 1-mile hike to the quarry. Be sure to bring your sun screen, a hat, and bottled water! This program is limited to 37 people only. Reservations must be secured with a deposit (\$5 per person), which will be fully-refunded on the day of the program. This is an all-ages event, but children must be accompanied by an adult. (The bus will return attendees to the Westchester Library no later than 1:00 pm.)

✓ **Registration and deposit are mandatory.**

SUNDAY, MAY 27 @ 9:00 AM

Contact (708) 562-3573 (ext 3)



WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY ▪ 10700 Canterbury Street ▪ Westchester, IL 60154

708-562-3573 ▪ TTY/TDD 708-562-9364 ▪ askus@westchesterpl.org ▪ www.westchesterpl.org

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 am-9:00 pm, Friday 9:30 am-6:00 pm, Saturday 9:30 am-5:00 pm, Sunday 1:00 pm-5:00 pm.

Library Director Fidencio Marbella ▪ Board of Trustees John Lamberti, president, Gerald Chenski, Demitrus Evans,

Jenice Hampton, Elizabeth Hunter, Janette Maldonado, and Fred Poppe ▪ Board Meetings on 4th Monday of every month.