

# Big Break

## NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2017

### NATURALIST PROGRAMS

Programs meet at the Visitor Center unless otherwise noted.

Big Break Visitor Center is open Wednesday - Sunday from 10am-4pm, (510) 544-3050.

#### DELTA DISCOVERIES

**11am-2pm, Every Sat & Sun**

Discover the wonders of the Delta through hands on arts and crafts activities! Each week we will explore different wetland wonders.

#### TESTING THE WATER

**9-10am, Every Sat & Sun**

Track the health of the Delta! Using state of the art instruments, we'll test for dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, and more. Our results go into a regional database for use by researchers, scientists and water managers.

#### COFFEE TALK & DELTA NEWS

**8:30-9am, Wed, Nov 1**

**8:30-9am, Wed, Dec 6**

From tunnels to research projects, farming to fish stocks, the Delta is always in the news. Stop by the Visitor Center on the FIRST Wednesday of each month for coffee and discussion of science and events shaping the region.

#### MACRO MAYHEM

**2-3pm, Sun, Nov 26**

Explore the incredible world of water bugs! Let's collect and identify some plankton and macroinvertebrates to discover their important role in the wetland ecosystem.

#### BIG BREAK HISTORY

**2-3pm, Sat, Nov 4**

Explore the past's presence while we follow the shoreline's timeline: river to wetland, homeland to farmland, and flood to park.

#### ADVENTURES IN DELTA ETHNOBOTANY

**9-11:30am, Sat, Dec 2**

Discover the ancient uses of local wetland plants as we put our crafting skills to use. We'll make dogbane cordage and simple tule projects.

#### BIG BREAK LITTLES

**10-11am, Mon, Nov 6**

**10-11am, Tue, Nov 21**

**10-11am, Mon, Dec 4**

**10-11am, Mon, Dec 18**

Bring the little ones out to discover nature. November welcomes a change in seasons. In December, we'll discover how animals stay warm. Parent/caregiver participation required. 1-5 yrs.

#### DASHING DRAGONFLIES

**2-3pm, Sat, Dec 2**

From darners to skimmers, many dragonflies grace our waters and skies. Come learn the lifecycle & lifestyles of these shoreline marvels.

#### MARSH CREEK SALMON STROLL

**Creekside Park**

**1:30-4pm, Sat, Dec 2**

For eons, chinook salmon have traveled through the Delta and up freshwater streams to complete their life cycle. Follow the path of salmon to a spawning area along Marsh Creek. 1.2 miles. **Meet at Creekside Park in Oakley.**

#### FALL FOLIAGE

**2-3pm, Sun, Nov 12**

Take in the Delta's delightful colors of fall and learn about the trees in our park.

#### REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

**2-3pm, Sat, Nov 18**

Come find fun ways to reuse common household items, as well as some hints for recycling and reducing waste.

#### SCATOLOGY

**9-11am, Sat, Nov 18**

Become a poopologist today as we explore the fascinating world of scat and figure out who did that doo-doo! We'll take a short walk to discover signs left behind.

#### NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT

**10am-1pm, Mon, Nov 20**

Get ready for self-guided adventure! You'll be following clues and searching high and low for objects hidden in our great outdoors. Drop in anytime between 10am to 1pm.

#### ALMOST WINTER CAMPFIRE

**3:30-6:30pm, Sun, Dec 10**

Winter means night comes early and the sky shines bright. We'll explore the wonders of the galaxy with activities, a campfire and s'mores of course!

#### ARACHNID ADVENTURES

**2-3pm, Sun, Dec 10**

Our eight-legged residents are prowling the park for food! Drop by to learn about spiders and join us in fun arachnid activities!

# Big Break NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2017

## BIRDING BASICS FOR BEGINNERS

9-11:30am, Sat, Dec 16

Want to try birding, but find it intimidating? We'll learn some basics while spying on aerial raptors, dabbling ducks and warbling songbirds. Bring binoculars. Field guides optional, loaners available. 2+ miles. 12yrs +

## MIGRATORY BIRDS

2-3pm, Sat, Dec 16

Explore the travels of our winged visitors. View birds in the park that pass through and also call this place home. We'll scan land, water and sky for migrants and residents alike.

## WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

4:30-6:30pm, Thu, Dec 21

Solstice! The shortest day - and longest night of the year! Celebrate this annual milestone as we watch the sun set, peruse twilight trails and gather together with simple instruments to call back the sun.

## AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT WEEK- PARK 1

**Big Break Regional Trail: Jordan Lane**

8-10:30am, Sat, Dec 23

PARK 2

**Big Break Visitor Center**

12-2pm, Sat, Dec 23

Beginning through advanced birders are welcome on this annual citizen science blitz week expedition to document EVERY bird seen or heard! Bring binoculars, scopes, apps, field guides. Note special meeting place.

## SCAT TRACK FEVER

2-3pm, Sat, Dec 23

Come discover what animals roam our wetlands! Become a Big Break detective by examining clues left behind by the animals hidden amongst the trees and tules.

## MAMMALS OF THE MARSH

2-3pm, Sat, Dec 30

Discover some of the Delta's furry cuties: river otters, beavers, minks, and more. Explore their similarities, differences, and adaptations to the unique habitat they call home.

## REGISTRATION REQUIRED PROGRAMS

### PATH OF SALMON BIKE RIDE

9am-2pm, Sat, Nov 25 #18819

For eons, Chinook salmon have traveled through the Delta and up area streams to complete their life cycle. Grab your wheels and lunch to peddle up Marsh Creek to a spawning area. 13+ miles, flat. Loaner bikes available upon request. Biking experience required. **Registration Required. Fee: \$21(non-res. \$24)**

### GIRL SCOUT- ANIMAL HABITATS

3:30-4:30pm, Wed, Nov 29 #19152

Juniors, take steps to earn your Animal Habitats badge. We'll investigate animal habitats. Daisies, Brownies, Cadettes and Seniors are welcome to participate. Adult participation required. **Registration Required.**

### GIRL SCOUT- OUTDOOR ADVENTURER

3:30-4:30pm, Wed, Dec 13 #19150

Juniors, take steps to earn your Outdoor Adventurer badge. We'll explore nature and play outdoor games. Daisies, Brownies, Cadettes and Seniors are welcome to participate. Adult participation and **Registration Required.**

### NEW YEAR'S EVE SANDHILL CRANE FLY-IN

**Cosumnes River Preserve**

2-6pm, Sun, Dec 31 #19156

The Cosumnes River hosts one of the great migratory spectacles along the Pacific Flyway. Spend the afternoon viewing waterfowl and raptors before observing the evening fly-in at sunset and moonrise.

**Registration Required.**

### THURSDAY BIRDING: RAPTOR BASELINE

**Marsh Creek: Cypress Staging Area**

9-11:30am, Thu, Dec 28 #19145

The morning (eastern) side of Mount Diablo hosts a magnificent array of birds of prey; hawks, falcons, eagles. Help us document their variety and numbers in this fun, social, citizen science research project. No experience necessary. **Registration required.**

### BIRDING BY KAYAK

11:30-2pm, Sat Dec 9 #19077

What better way to see birds than by kayaking on the wondrous waters of the Delta? We'll begin with dry land instruction, then paddle our stable craft on a group exploration. Adult participation required for ages 8-17yrs. **Registration Required.**

### DELTA SUNSET PADDLE

3:30-6pm, Sat Dec 9 #19076

As the sun dips low over the Delta waters, we'll wend our way through the Big Break twilight in our steady and stable kayaks. We'll begin with dry land instruction. Adult participation req. for ages 8-17yrs. **Registration Required.**

**To register for a program please  
call 888-327-2757 option 2  
or visit [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org)**