

Loonling Learning Fall 2022 class offerings

Berrien Springs Parent Partnership

Colleen & Tom Hurst
loonling.lc@gmail.com

Classes beginning week of Sept 11, 2022

Natural Acts, The fall nature and hiking class, Sunday afternoons

Natural Acts, Environmental studies and hiking.

Instructors: Colleen & Tom Hurst

Location: Various areas within 20 miles of Berrien Springs. Ages: 6 and up, must be good walkers.

Minimum 10, Maximum 16 students. Can adjust to accommodate families.

Time, Dates: Sunday afternoon 2:00 - 5:00PM.

Sept. 11, 18, Oct.2, 9, 23. With a chance for weather make up date.

Description: This is a class where families are introduced to local natural areas. We will meet at a different spot each time. Hikes will be less than 4 miles and will include nature, forestry, geology and history instruction. A snack will typically be included. This is designed as a family participation activity where a parent joins the hike. We will introduce hiking equipment, trail food and wilderness safety.

Younger children in carriers are OK. Sorry no strollers. Solid outdoor shoes are a must. We will send out specifics prior to the start of class. Emails will be sent out prior to each hike with instructions for location, parking, activities. We do need to be a bit weather flexible. Classes will not be held outside in dangerous conditions. We do have indoor nature activities available at a nearby school.

Our area is rich with many large parks and publicly accessible natural areas. From original forests to sand dunes and river walks. Berrien county is diverse. Past hikes have included. Love Creek, Ross Preserve, Warren Woods, Grande Meer, river valleys, orchards, lake shores, and farm activities. Colleen & Tom have been exploring the outdoors and guiding trips for schools, families, youth groups and conservation organizations for over 30 years. Allow us to share with you some of our local favorites. Detailed directions will be shared by email prior to each class.

Bicycle Mechanics for homeschool students.

Bicycle repair and rehabilitation.

Students may rehab their own bike or we have some available at low cost.

Instructor: Tom Hurst

Class time: Tuesday, 4:00 - 6:00 PM

First class September 13
Classes, Sept, 13, 20, 27. Oct, 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1,

Location: Cycle Re Cycle Bicycle Shop. 159 E. Napier, Benton Harbor, MI

Ages 10 and up, Ability to work independently required.

Minimum 6 students, Max 8 per section,

A program of Cycle Re Cycle. A non profit dedicated to improving the lives of Southwest Michigan residents by promoting bicycles and cycling throughout the community.

L'earn-A-Bike students spend time in the shop learning to rehabilitate bicycles and do basic repairs. As the class progresses, students will have the opportunity to select a bicycle to rehabilitate as their own or work on one from home.

Skills covered will include: Repairing and replacing tires, tubes and wheels, Brake maintenance, Drivetrain repairs and tuning, Adjusting proper fit, replacing and adjusting cables, replacing safety and comfort items, lubrication and bearing maintenance. At the conclusion of the class students should have the skills needed to maintain their own bicycle and assist others.

Beginning Woodworking

Instructor: Tom Hurst

Class Time: Monday 10:00 AM - 12:00 Section 1
 Monday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Section 2

Dates: Classes start Monday September 12 and continue for 8 weeks through October 31. With a make up day if needed November 7.

Location: St Joseph, Lincoln Senior Center, 3271 Lincoln Ave, St. Joseph, MI

Ages: 7 - 12 with a parent present. Designed as a parent and me class. Grandparents or assigned guardians are OK. One parent can represent multiple students.

Class size: Minimum 6 students maximum 10 students per section

This is a project based class designed for younger students. We will make small toys, furniture, wildlife related and kitchen items while learning basic craft skills. Projects will be adjusted to the experience and needs of the group. Open to any skill level. Class may be repeated. Parent participation is required. More experienced and older students should look at other classes.

Class will be held in the new St, Joseph Lincoln Senior Center Woodshop The shop is set aside for HomeSchool use by Tom on Monday and Tuesdays for Fall of 2022.. All materials are provided. Safety and expectations will be reviewed at the first class.

Full Details will be in a pre class parent letter.

Woodworking , ages 10 and up

Instructor: Tom Hurst

Class Time: Monday 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Section 1
Tuesday 9:45 AM - 11:45 PM Section 2

Dates: Classes start September 12 or 13 and continue for 8 weeks through October 31. With a make up day if needed November 7.

Location: St Joseph, Lincoln Senior Center, 3271 Lincoln Ave, St. Joseph, MI

Ages: 10 and up with a parent or guardian present for students under 12.

Class size: Minimum 6 students maximum 8 students per section.

This is a more intensive project based class but still appropriate for the beginner. Students will use hand and power tools to make a variety of projects. Cutting boards, rolling pins, food tongs, platters, small bowls, spatulas, spoons. General woodturning on the lathes, pens, Christmas items, stools, and other items by group consensus. Materials are provided. Expect students to complete quality projects that will be used in your homes for years. Great gift making class.

Class will be held in the new St, Joseph Lincoln Senior Center Woodshop The shop is set aside for Homeschool use by Tom on Monday and Tuesdays for Fall of 2022.

Full Details will be in a pre class parent letter.

Bushcraft Basics.

Instructors: Colleen & Tom Hurst.

Class time. . Thursday Sept, 8 6:00 PM. Required pre-trip orientation. Location TBD based on group size.

Trip Dates. Friday Sept. 23, 4:00 PM - Sunday, Sept 25, 11:00AM

Trip Location: Central Lake, Michigan. 240 Miles North of Berrien Springs
Ages. 8 and up. To accommodate families. Target age 10 and up.
Minimum 10 students, maximum 24.
Parent or guardian participation is required. See details below.
Parent/adult fee \$ 50.00

A 2 night wilderness camping class on property owned by Colleen & Tom.

This property is in rural Antrim County consisting of forest and sustainable agriculture farms. 80 Acres of mixed hardwoods and pine with small conservation crop plantings scattered about. Students will camp in a location they select, prepare their meals with guidance, learn to construct shelters with native materials, use basic tools safely, campfire safety and cooking, basic orienteering, sanitation and first aid. First night will be spent in a tent or our 24' yurt with the option to sleep in a self made shelter on night 2. This program is designed to develop confidence in an off grid situation.

This is rustic. Water and pit toilets are available, everything else is carried in or created from the land. As this is private property, we can build shelters, dig holes and travel where we wish. The trip is timed to avoid major insect issues, likely to have cooler temperature and long enough daylight for activities.

Logistics:

Pre-trip class will go over food, safety, tools, sleeping arrangements, gear provided by you or borrowed from our inventory. Families are encouraged and students can be represented and transported by another adult. You will drive to the site, about 4 hours north, parking near the road, camping is not near your car. We have wheelbarrows, truck and tractor if needed for gear movement.

Arrive by 4:00 on Friday afternoon, 2 nights camping on site. Depart Sunday mid day. Cell phones work sporadically. Texts are usually OK. Emergency phone available.

Cooking will be a mix of open fire and camp stove depending on conditions. We will provide First night dinner and Saturday morning breakfast. You will bring your groups food for the other 3 meals. Details and planning at pre-trip.

Topics/activities

Fire building and safety, Cooking on an open fire.

Selecting a safe camping spot, sleep systems.

Bushcraft. Building shelters, minimal impact camping, safe tool use, protecting food supplies.

Orienteering: Using a compass, reading landforms. Finding your way, reading maps and aerial photos.

Sanitation: preventing food borne illness, hygiene, safe waste management.

First aid: First preventing injuries, 2nd dealing with minor injuries and health issues in the field.

Weather: Understanding impacts of less than ideal weather.

Background. Colleen and Tom have been leading wilderness trips and experiences for many years. The purchase of this property will now allow us to teach and share wilderness skills not possible on public land, without reservations and avoiding weekend crowds. We have a pole barn and 24' Yurt for weather issues, Solar powered charging systems, well and irrigation.