

INTRODUCTION TO BLUEBIRD MONITORING

“What are they doing in there?”

Have you ever wondered what goes on inside a birdhouse? Have you seen Bluebird boxes in County Parks? Would you like to set up a Bluebird box in your own yard, but are unsure of how to get started? Montgomery County Volunteer Bluebird Monitors are waiting to show off their Bluebird Trails. All Trails are in Montgomery County. Each Trail offers a unique habitat where interested individuals or families can accompany a Bluebird Monitor on a visit to their Trail. Monitors visit their nest boxes once a week, opening each box to check on the kind of bird using the box, number of eggs laid and how many baby birds grow up and leave the nest. Discover the combined joys of being outdoors, helping native birds and watching other wildlife. This opportunity is suitable for students and/or families. All participants must register with the M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks Department Volunteer website shown below. Montgomery County students will earn Service Learning hours. Visitors are welcome to come one time, or to follow a full cycle with the Monitor from nest building to fledging of baby birds. Bluebird boxes are monitored from late March to early September. See individual Bluebird Trail descriptions for specific details. All participants will need to bring sunscreen, a hat, bottled water & insect repellent. Don't forget your camera!

Seneca Creek Greenway Trail: 11 boxes, 2 hours

This set of Bluebird Boxes is for the rugged individual who can cross short sections of woods and fields on deer paths. Total hiking will cover about half a mile on natural surface trail, mowed fields and unmarked woods. Long pants and sturdy shoes (no shorts, sandals or flip flops!!!) are required. If you are willing to experience the wilder side of nature, this trail may reward you with views of deer, foxes, raccoons, woodpeckers, hawks and wildflowers. Minimum age for SSL is 14 unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. Families are welcome, but this trail is not suitable for children under 11. Meet at the Seneca Creek Greenway Trailhead at the intersection of Brink and Wightman Roads in Gaithersburg. Contact Bonnie at 301-216-0201 or BonnieLBell@hotmail.com

Model Airplane Park: 7 boxes, 1 ½ hours

These boxes are along the driveway leading to the Model Airplane Park near South Germantown Recreational Park. Access to the boxes requires walking through tall grass. Most boxes are within 20 feet of the road, but two are about 100 feet in. Insect repellent and long pants are recommended. The trail is in the 16200 block of Schaeffer Road, Boyds, about 0.2 miles from White Ground Road. Contact Stan Fisher at 301-972-3406 or sfisher44@verizon.net

Little Bennett Regional Park Golf Course: 6 boxes, 1 hour

These boxes are easily accessible, truly a "walk in the park," only in this case on the golf course. Monitor Ed Escalante checks these boxes on Monday morning. Minimum age for SSL is 15. Meet at the intersection of Lewisdale Road and Prescott Road, near the Little Bennett Golf Course sign in Clarksburg. Please contact Ed at 301-972-3241 or escalante@his.com

Register here, mentioning Student Bluebird Monitoring as the reason for registering:
<https://ec.volunteernow.com/recruiter/index.php?class=VolunteerLogin&recruiterID=1296>

Bluebird Monitors Volunteer Description:

http://www.montgomeryparks.org/team/documents/Bluebird_Monitor.pdf



Bluebird Nestling hoping for a meal.