

Cornell University

Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Monroe County

2449 Saint Paul Blvd  
Rochester, NY 14617  
p.585.753.2550 f.585.753.2560  
monroe@cornell.edu  
monroe.cce.cornell.edu

**For Immediate Release:**

February 8, 2024

**For more information, contact:**

Rachel DeVona  
4-H Educator  
585.753.2576  
rad346@cornell.edu

**Follow the Winter Wizard!  
Monroe County 4-H Youth Development Promoting Active Living and Learning  
Throughout the Winter**

Monroe County 4-H Youth Development has launched **Follow the Winter Wizard**, an outdoor interactive challenge that encourages families to experience winter via outdoor explorations and activities in Monroe County Parks.

Youth participants are the wizard's apprentices, completing spells from the wizard's spellbook, in hopes of finding the Winter Wizard before the Sorcerer of Spring arrives and melts the wizard's winter charms away.

Geared for families or groups with children ages 5 - 19, **Follow the Winter Wizard** invites youth to complete at least six outdoor activities in Monroe County Parks by March 21st, 2024. Please register for this seasonal event [here](#).

Youth who complete the challenge can enter to win grand prizes! Prizes include gift cards to Wegmans, ice rink skate passes, board games or gift cards from Just Games, and gift boxes from Bristol Hills Lavender Farm. To be entered in the prize drawing, youth can submit their spell book sheet with photo evidence of completed spells to monroe4h@cornell.edu, or parents can share photos of each completed spell on social media, tagging @monroe4H on Instagram, or Monroe County 4-H Youth Development on Facebook, using the hashtag #followthewinterwizard.

Monroe County 4-H will host two free guided winter walks that offer participants opportunities to complete two of the activities, or spells, in the spellbook.

Thursday, February 22: **Be a Birdwatcher** at Mendon Ponds Park. Meet at 11AM at the entrance of Wild Wings, 27 Pond Road, Honeoye Falls, NY, 14472. Register [here](#) to participate.

Friday, February 23: **Shelter Building Workshop** at Mendon Ponds Park. Meet at 10AM at 95 Douglas Road, Honeoye Falls, NY, 14472. Register [here](#) to participate.

"Time spent playing outdoors is just about the best classroom a child can ask for!" said 4-H educator Rachel DeVona. "Our county parks offer not only a beautiful year round landscape to appreciate, but also lifelong lessons that one can carry with them as they engage with nature throughout the years."-

For full information, including the Follow the Winter Wizard registration link, contact info, and helpful resources, visit [Cornell Cooperative Extension | Winter Wizard 2024](#). Hard copies of the Spell Book can be found at the CCE-Monroe Office, 2449 St. Paul Blvd. The office is open Monday through Friday, 9AM to 3PM.

*The Monroe County 4-H Program is offered through Cornell Cooperative Extension to the youth of Monroe County. 4-H is a worldwide youth development program open to all youth ages 5 to 19, who want to have fun, learn new skills, and explore the world. In return, youth who participate in 4-H find a supportive environment and opportunities for hands-on or "experiential" learning about topics that spark their interest.*

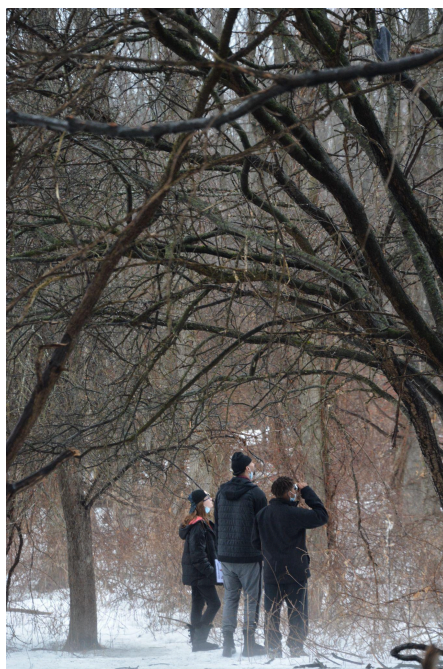


Photo from 2022 Winter Birdwatching 4-H Event

<###>

*Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities*

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.