



WINNEBAGO COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT & SUNNYVIEW EXPO CENTER MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING FAMILY

During the months of November and December families usually gather together to celebrate Holidays. Human families can be described as a tribe or a clan, with many other names depending on nationality. So what are animal families called?

Animal families, or collective names for groups of animals, are said to date back to medieval times, which may explain why some of these names can be strange, surprising or downright funny to us, such as an **unkindness of ravens**. In the spirit of the fanciful language used by our ancestors, more modern terms for animal groups can have a fun twist, like a **crash of rhinoceroses**.

Whether it is a group of mammals, birds or even insects, there is a unique collective noun to identify the specific group, although some of these names are rarely used. Most people are likely to use the general term **flock** for a group of eagles, rather than the proper term **convocation**. Still, it's good to know the correct collective noun, even if it's just to wow your friends. (continued on page 9)



The Trivia Challenge ends 11/16. (Pg. 5)

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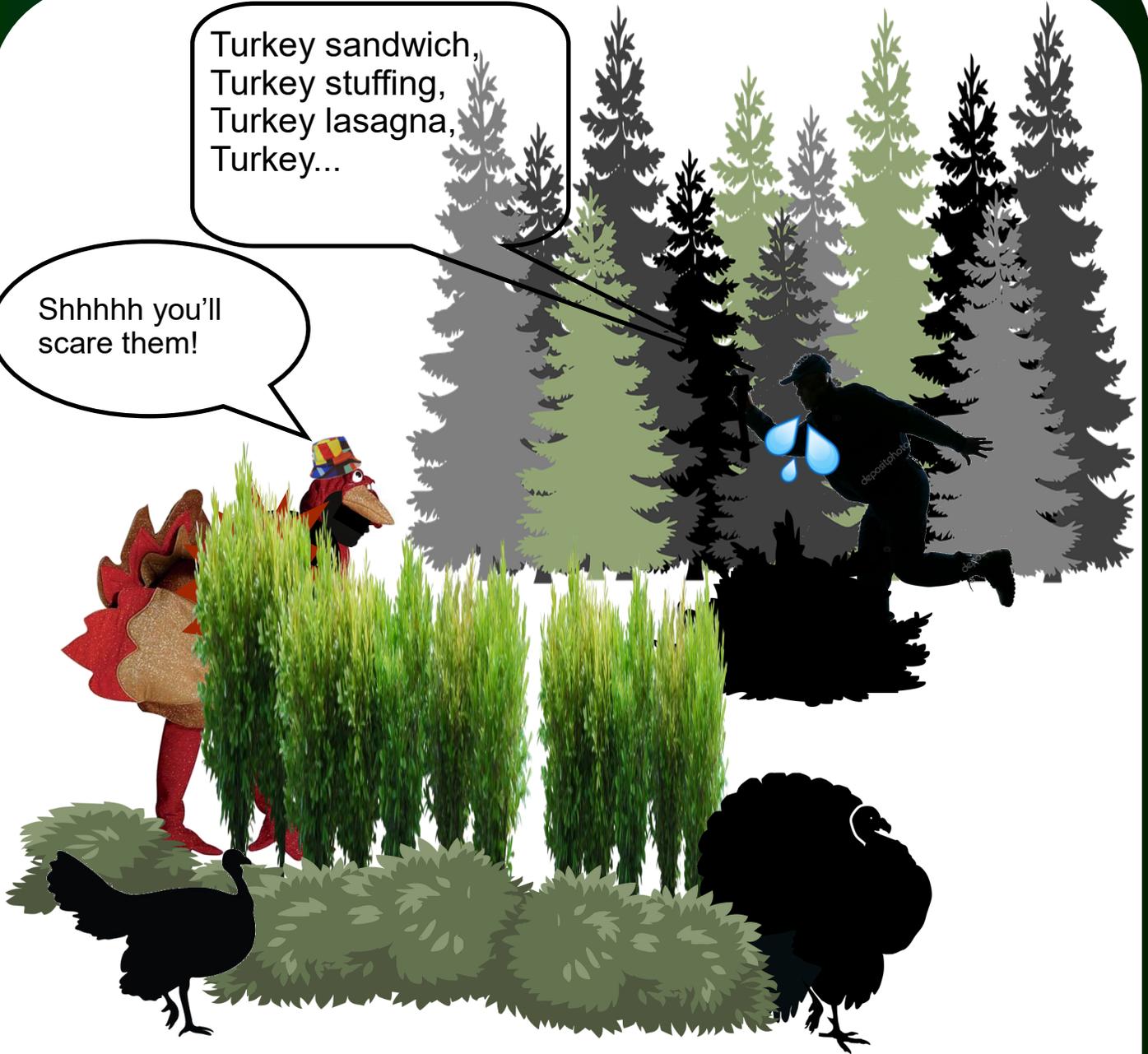
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@WinnCoParksExpo

Picture Yourself in Winnebago County Parks & Sunnyview Expo Center!

Turkey sandwich,
Turkey stuffing,
Turkey lasagna,
Turkey...

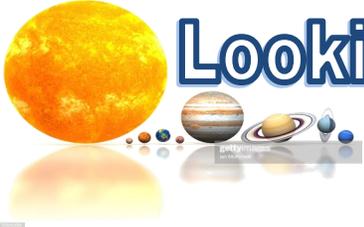
Shhhhh you'll
scare them!



Listen for the whole story.



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Looking Up

- **November 10 - Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation.** The planet Mercury reaches its greatest western elongation of 19.1 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the morning sky. Look for the planet low in the eastern sky just before sunrise.

- **November 11, 12 - Northern Taurids Meteor Shower.** The Northern Taurids is a long-running minor meteor shower producing only about 5-10 meteors per hour. This shower is, however, famous for producing a higher than normal percentage of bright fireballs. The Northern Taurids is produced by dust grains left behind by Asteroid 2004 TG10. The shower runs annually from October 20 to December 10. It peaks this year on the night of the 11th and morning of the 12th. The thin crescent moon will not be much of a problem this year, leaving dark skies for what could be a really good show.

Best viewing will be just after midnight from a dark location far away from city lights. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Taurus, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

- **November 15 - New Moon.** The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.

- **November 16, 17 - Leonids Meteor Shower.** The Leonids is an average shower, producing up to 15 meteors per hour at its peak. This shower is unique in that it has a cyclonic peak about every 33 years where hundreds of meteors per hour can be seen. The last of these occurred in 2001. The Leonids is produced by dust grains left behind by comet Tempel-Tuttle, which was discovered in 1865. The shower runs annually from November 6-30. It peaks this year on the night of the 16th and morning of the 17th. The crescent moon will set early in the

evening leaving dark skies for what should be an excellent show. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Leo, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

- **November 30 - Full Moon.** The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Beaver Moon because this was the time of year to set the beaver traps before the swamps and rivers froze. It has also been known as the Frosty Moon and the Dark Moon.

- **November 30 Penumbral Lunar Eclipse.** A penumbral lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes through the Earth's partial shadow, or penumbra. During this type of eclipse the Moon will darken slightly but not completely. The eclipse will be visible throughout most of North America, the Pacific Ocean, and northeastern Asia including Japan.



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COVID-19
UPDATE

Schedule of Events

No events are taking place on County properties during the months of **NOVEMBER & DECEMBER** due to **COVID 19**.

Event scheduling and shelter reservations for 2021 may look different because of precautions due to the pandemic. Info will be shared on Facebook when decisions about 2021 are made.



Please don't pick the wild flowers they need their seed pods for next year's blooms. We know they look pretty in bouquets, but they do more good in the park, providing for next year's flowers and food for birds and small mammals throughout the winter months.

This and that...

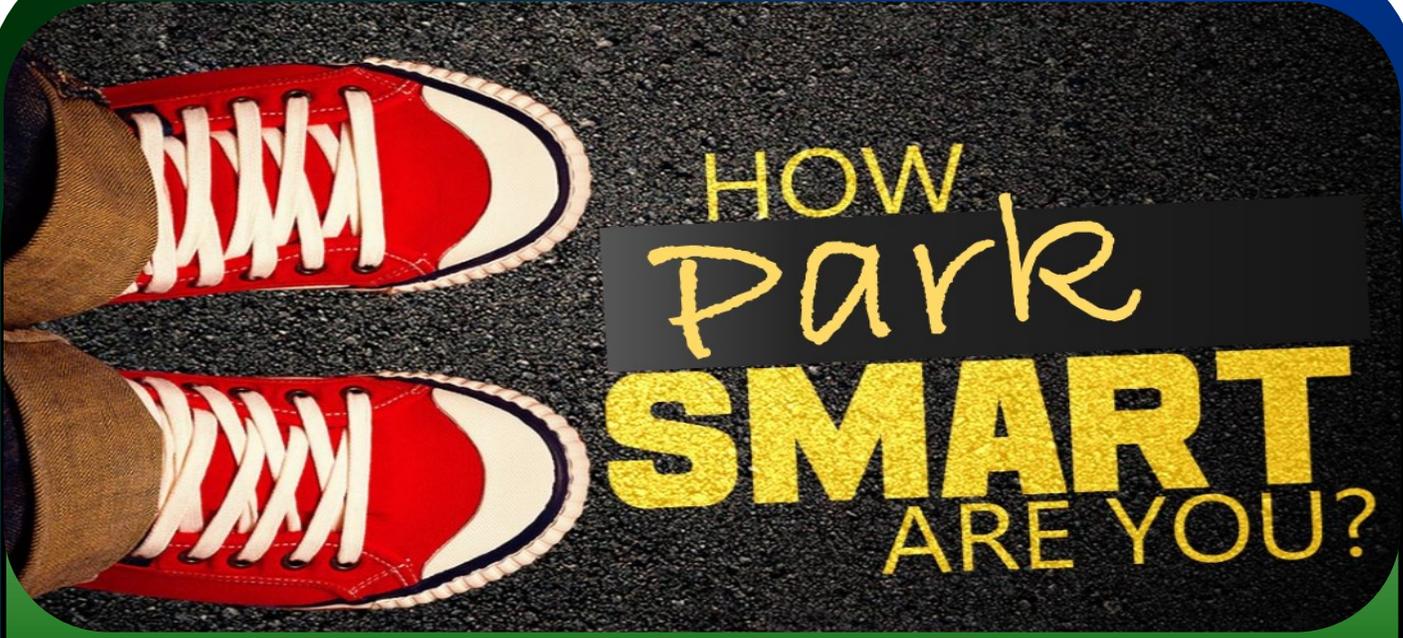
There is no mention of November in any of Shakespeare's works.



After 37 plays and 154 sonnets, the greatest writer in English literature did not once mention the month of 'November' in any of his works.

Good to know.

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THE TRIVIA CHALLENGE IS ON!

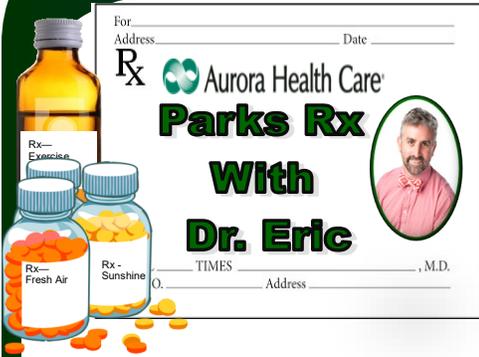


Play on Facebook
[@WinnCoParksExpo](#)

Questions will be posted at 12:30 p.m. daily on Facebook, and announced during the noon hour on WVBO 103.9. You can post your answers daily or save them all until the end of the challenge and send them in then.

**The Challenge ends Nov. 16
and consists of 59 daily questions.**

Picture Yourself in Winnebago County Parks & Sunnyview Expo Center!



Greetings,

It is Dr Eric Smiltneek again. I hope everyone enjoyed Asylum Point Park, which I prescribed in October. The fall colors were great and we had a lot of fun walking and paddling near the lake. The kayaking definitely stretched out my stiff shoulder.

November is the month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving, a holiday of reflection and connection. My park prescription for this important month is Lasley Point Archaeology Site. Lasley Point was formerly home to a large Oneota village. The Oneota were an indigenous people that lived in this area from 1200-1500

A.D.. This area is hidden just north of Winneconne High School and west of Hwy M. It consists of a several trail loops that wander through woods and prairie land. The trails are a flat grade that I enjoyed on a family outing with people ranging from age 7 to 70. The trails are nice for a hike in fall or cross country skiing if it snows.

While both skiing and hiking are great activities for cardiovascular health, we will focus on hiking as it is a little early for snow. While you can walk many places, there is something different about a walk in the woods. The Japanese actually use wooded spaces in a type a therapy called Shinrin-Yoku or Forest Bathing. Forest Bathing does not involve a physical bathing (so you can keep your clothes on in November), but instead bathing your senses in the connection with the natural world. Forest bathing has been shown to improve your immune system, your cardiovascular health and reduce

stress. These are all things that would help for surviving the final months of 2020.

Although on my walk through the woods did not lead to a discovery of any physical Oneota artifacts, I did discover a calming spirit for which I am thankful. My prescription for November is forest bathing at least once a week in a place like Lasley Point Archaeology Site.



You can take your favorite country station with you thanks to our mobile app. It's free in the app store for both Apple and Android. Plus, right from the app you can make a request, call the station, see your favorite on-air personalities and even win stuff! Or you can stream us! Just ask your smart device! If you own an Amazon smart speaker, like the Echo or Echo Dot, here are a few ways

you can listen! First, you will need to enable our Skill by asking your device to "Enable the **Nash Fm Wisconsin** skill." The second way is to visit the Skills section of your device's app and search for **NashFM Wisconsin**. After you have enabled the skill, you can listen anytime, anywhere, just by asking your Alexa or other smart device to "Open **NashFM**"





Spotlight On

2020 VISION

Hiking during hunting season: how to stay safe

By [dcltadmin](#) | November 18, 2019
<https://www.doorcountylandtrust.org/hiking-during-hunting-season-how-to-stay-safe/>

Hikers should keep the following in mind during the state's major hunting seasons:

1. Know the season

Hunting seasons vary by county and weapon permitted. To get specific seasons check the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Season Dates at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/>

Firearm season for white-tailed deer, in particular, is when hikers should be on high alert, since it's when the greatest number of hunters are active. Wild turkey season in the spring also tends to see a flurry of hunting activity.

2. Know the rules and reasons

Hunters help keep the number of deer in balance with their habitat, aiding in a more diverse and healthy ecosystem. The nine-day gun deer hunting season is the most popular hunting season.

3. Wear bright colors

For your safety, consider fall, winter and early spring "Blaze Orange Season"—wear blaze orange (or other bright colors) from October through April when you and your pet are on the trails. Wearing a blaze-orange-colored vest, hat, or pack cover is one of the most important things you can do to stay visible to hunters. It's what hunters themselves wear for safety during deer gun season. If you don't have any of these (although you should if you're doing fall/winter hiking) make sure you wear bright colors and steer clear of earth tones. Avoid wearing white, because it resembles the rear of a white-tailed deer.

4. Hike during mid-day

Go during mid-day when there should be less activity. Hunters are most active during dawn and dusk. It's best to avoid being in hunting areas during sunrise and sunset since you'll be less visible in the dim light. If you must be out at those times, use a headlamp or flashlight and wear reflective material.

5. Make some noise

Going outside may be about getting some peace and quiet, but hunting season isn't the time to amble quietly down the trail. Talk with your

companions, whistle, do your best Freddie Mercury impression. And if you hear shooting, try shouting to notify hunters of your presence.

6. Protect your dog

The safest place for pets during hunting season is inside. That being said, you can take steps to keep your dog safer when hiking. Dogs should always be on leashes, regardless of the season. This is especially important during hunting seasons. Plus, you know those blaze-orange vests mentioned earlier? They make those for dogs and horses, too.

Visit the Wisconsin DNR's [Hunting and Trapping in State Parks](#) page for more information and for hunting and trapping maps for each state park.



Animal Families

Continued from page 1

We've gathered together a list of 60 groups of animals and their collective nouns - some animal groups can have more than one collective noun - that you may or may not have heard of. Whenever animals gather in groups, they are formally called:

Apes: a shrewdness



Badgers: a cete

Bats: a colony, cloud or camp

Bears: a sloth or sleuth

Bees: a swarm

Buffalo: a gang or obstinacy

Camels: a caravan

Cats: a clowder or glaring; Kittens: a litter or kindle; Wild cats: a destruction



Cobras: a quiver

Crocodiles: a bask

Crows: a murder

Dogs: a pack; Puppies: a litter

Donkeys: a drove

Eagles: a convocation

Collective Nouns For Mammals



Elephants: a parade



Elk: a gang or a herd

Falcons: a cast

Ferrets: a business

Fish: a school

Flamingos: a stand

Foxes: a skulk or leash

Frogs: an army



Geese: a gaggle

Giraffes: a tower

Gorillas: a band

Hippopotami: a bloat

Hyenas: a cackle

Jaguars: a shadow

Jellyfish: a smack

Kangaroos: a troop or mob

Lemurs: a conspiracy



Leopards: a leap

Lions: a pride



Moles: a labor

Monkeys: a barrel or troop

Mules: a pack

Otters: a family

Oxen: a team or yoke

Owls: a parliament

Parrots: a pandemonium

Pigs: a drift or drove (younger pigs), or a sounder or team (older pigs)

Porcupines: a prickle

Rabbits: a herd

Rats: a colony

Ravens: an unkindness

Rhinoceroses: a crash

Shark: a shiver

Skunk: a stench

Snakes: a nest

Squirrels: a dray or scurry

Stingrays: a fever

Swans: a bevy or game (if in flight: a wedge)

Tigers: an ambush or streak

Toads: a knot

Turkeys: a gang or rafter



Turtles: a bale or nest

Weasels: a colony, gang or pack

Whales: a pod, school, or gam

Wolves: a pack

Zebras: a zeal

Not only is it fun to say certain names for groups of animals, but it is interesting as well. The collective names given to groups of animals can be as unique as the animals themselves and highlight certain traits of that group. Remember that, and when you think of a group of **skunks** the word **stench** should immediately come to mind. Our list is by no means exhaustive, there are plenty to add to this list from around the world.



Cheryl Cirelli
B.A. English & Psychology
<https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/word-lists/list-of-names-for-groups-of-animals.html>

Many Animal Families can be found at Winnebago County Nature Preserves and along the many recreational trails throughout the Parks System.

Do animals have Holidays too?

Though animal families may not celebrate Holidays like humans do, they have Holidays named after them that humans can celebrate with them.

JAN 2 Happy Mew Year for Cats Day



JAN 5 National Bird Day

JAN 14 National Dress Up Your Pet Day

JAN 20 National Penguin Day



JAN 21 National Squirrel Appreciation Day

JAN 22 National Answer Your Cat's Questions Day



FEB 2 National Hedgehog Day



FEB 3 Doggy Date Night

FEB 3 National Golden Retriever Day

FEB 20 National Love Your Pet Day

FEB 22 National Walking the Dog Day

FEB 23 International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day

MAR 13 National K9 Veterans Day



MAR 16 National Panda Day

MAR 23 National Puppy Day

MAR 28 Respect Your Cat Day

APR 6 National Siamese Cat Day

APR 10 National Hug Your Dog Day

APR 11 National Pet Day

APR 21 National Bulldogs Are Beautiful Day

APR 29 International Guide Dog Day

JUN 4 National Hug Your Cat Day

JUN 20 Ugliest Dog Day

JUN 22 National Take Your Cat to Work Day

JUN 26 National Take Your Dog to Work Day

JUL 10 National Kitten Day



JUL 14 Cow Appreciation Day

JUL 15 National Pet Fire Safety Day

JUL 31 National Mutt Day

AUG 1 DOGust 1st: Universal Birthday for Shelter Dogs

AUG 5 Work Like a Dog Day

AUG 8 International Cat Day

AUG 10 National Spoil Your Dog Day

AUG 15 International Homeless Animals Day

AUG 17 National Black Cat Appreciation Day

AUG 22 National Take Your Cat to the Vet Day

AUG 26 National Dog Day

SEP 4 National Wildlife Day

SEP 17 National Pet Bird Day

SEP 19 National Meow Like a Pirate Day



SEP 23 National Dogs in Politics Day



SEP 26 National Bunny Day

OCT 1 National Black Dog Day

OCT 1 National Fire Pup Day

OCT 4 World Animal Day

OCT 16 Global Cat Day



OCT 16 National Feral Cat Day

OCT 20 International Sloth Day



OCT 21 National Reptile Awareness Day

OCT 26 National Pit Bull Awareness Day

NOV 1 National Cook For Your Pets Day

NOV 2 National Bison Day

DEC 9 National Llama Day

DEC 13 National Horse Day



WHERE DID ANIMAL

HOLIDAYS COME FROM?

Did you know that animal holidays weren't created just to celebrate our beloved pets at home? According to Colleen Paige, who created some of America's very first animal holidays, they originally came about in order to "bring attention to the plight of animals

and encourage adoption." In 2004, she originated National Dog Day (falling on August 26) to draw attention to all the dogs waiting for their fur-ever homes and the employed pups who work tirelessly every day to keep us safe, happy, and healthy. After it rocketed to success, she spun it off into other holidays like National Puppy Day, National Mutt Day, and National Cat Day to celebrate all animals large and small.



She unwittingly started a holiday movement — and now we have holidays celebrating everything from loving cats to cold-blooded reptiles!

The Best Friends Dog Park located inside the Winnebago County Community Park is a great place to take your dog to celebrate! It's open all year 'round!



Beginner's Guide to Snowshoeing

What started thousands of years ago as an essential mode of winter transportation has evolved into a popular recreational activity. But if you've never done it before, you might ask, why go snowshoeing?

Here are a few reasons:

It's great winter exercise: If you're looking for a way to stay in shape even when the snow falls, snowshoeing is an excellent low-impact aerobic exercise. It lets you extend your hiking and running season and lets you enjoy solitude in areas that might be crowded in summer.

It's a great social activity: All ages and ability levels can enjoy the sport together.

It's inexpensive: If gear and lift-ticket prices for skiing and snowboarding give you pause, you'll be happy to know that snowshoeing is affordably priced. Your required gear includes snowshoes and appropriate attire; poles are also recommended, but not required.

It requires only a few basic techniques: Few outdoor activities are as beginner-friendly.

If you can walk, you can snowshoe. If you plan to venture off easy trails, you'll need to learn how to go up and down hills, traverse slopes, use your poles and how to get up after you fall in deep snow.

What You Need to Go Snowshoeing

Here are the basics for your first time snowshoeing:

- Get snowshoes that are right for your weight, the terrain and the snow conditions
- Wear warm, waterproof

boots

- Dress in layers with clothing that can handle cold, wet conditions

Bring adjustable poles with snow baskets (optional, but recommended)

How to Choose Snowshoes

If you're just getting into snowshoeing, renting gear is a great way to get started. The rental shop will set you up with snowshoes suitable to your weight and the conditions where you'll be snowshoeing.

If you're buying your first snowshoes, flat terrain snowshoes are a great first choice. These are entry-level models that also offer good value. They're designed for easy walking on flat to rolling terrain and are ideal for beginners or families.

Make sure you check the maximum recommended load for your snowshoes (your weight plus the weight of your pack filled with gear should not exceed the recommended load) and take into consideration the type of snow you'll be travelling on (powder snow requires snowshoes with a larger surface area to keep you floating on top of the snow).

How to Dress for Snowshoeing

Wear suitable boots and socks:

The good news is that snowshoes adjust to fit pretty much any type of boot or shoe. So, your main concern is to wear something that keeps your feet comfortably warm and dry. Insulated, waterproof winter boots with thick soles and rubber or leather uppers are ideal, but sturdy waterproof leather hiking boots can also work. Wool or synthetic socks that wick sweat are a

must—carry an extra pair in case yours get soaked.

Dress in (non-cotton) layers:

As always when exercising outdoors, dress in layers so you can adjust your clothing to suit your activity level and the weather. Avoid cotton because it can get soaked and chill you, and instead choose synthetics or wool styles because they wick moisture and retain warmth even when wet.

Note: Cross-country ski clothing is designed for aerobic winter activity, and can do double-duty as snowshoe clothing. In addition to your basic layers, Base, Mid and Outer, gaiters keep snow out of your boots.

Where to Go Snowshoeing:

*J.P. Coughlin Nature Area
Waukau Creek Nature Area
Waukau Dam Mountain Bike Trail
Winnebago County
Community Park*

A note about snowshoeing etiquette:

Occasionally, you may find yourself sharing a trail with cross-country skiers, so make sure you walk single file and do NOT step on the ski tracks on those trails. Snowshoer missteps can also ruin the smooth skate-skiing surface in the center of trails, so walking at the outer edge of the trail is best. Skiers also have the right-of-way on trail systems because it's easier for a snowshoer to step off the trail safely than it is for a skier to stop or go around.

Try to avoid trails used by snowmobilers by reading trail markers carefully. If you do find

yourself on the same trail, snowmobilers (and snowmobile grooming machines on cross-country trails) have the right-of-way. Keep an eye out or listen for motorized vehicles headed your way. Simply move off trail to let them pass.

How to Snowshoe: Basic Techniques

How to Snowshoe on Flat Terrain

Walking on flat or rolling ground is fairly intuitive. Your stride should be wider than it is for hiking in order to avoid stepping on the insides of your snowshoe frames. Because of that, you may find your hips and groin muscles aching a bit after the first few times you snowshoe.

How to Snowshoe Uphill

As you ascend hills, you use your toe or instep crampons for traction. Always place your feet firmly on snow, poles in front of you. On crusty, hardpack snow, you probably won't be able to kick-step. Instead, you'll be relying on the traction of your snowshoe crampons or cleats, and your poles. Walk up the slope, but if it's too steep, try to find an easier traversing route.

How to Snowshoe Downhill

On descents, keep your poles planted in front of you, knees bent and relaxed, and your body weight slightly back. Walk smoothly and plant your heel first when you walk. Poles provide additional balance and control as you descend—just make sure you adjust them to be a little longer for your descent.

If you start to slip, just sit down.

How to Use Snowshoe Poles

While optional on flat terrain, poles come in handy on many

snowshoeing outings. They not only provide you better balance, they also help give your upper body a workout. Adjustable poles are best because they can be shortened for uphill travel or lengthened for descending.

To set your pole length for flat terrain, flip your pole upside-down and grab the pole just under the basket. Adjust the length until your elbow is at a right angle.

Put your hands up through the pole straps from below. This allows you to rely on the straps alone when you need to relax your grip in order to give your hands a brief rest.

How to Get Back Up After a Snowshoeing Fall

It doesn't happen a lot, but you can—and likely will—fall at some point when you go snowshoeing. This occurs most often on descents. When you feel yourself starting to fall, try to fall toward the uphill side if at all possible. Before you can get back up, you'll need to slip your hands out of the pole straps (if you have them) and shift around until your head is uphill, your feet are straight downhill and you're facing the slope with your knees pulled up close to your chest. Your goal is to press off the slope until you're upright on your knees; then you can shift your weight onto your snowshoes and stand all the way up.

If you have poles: Slide them under your chest, parallel to the slope, and then use them to press yourself up off the slope. If you fall in deep snow on flat terrain, you can make an "X" with your poles on the snow in front of you, then use the mid-

dle point as a brace while you push yourself up to a standing position.

If you don't have poles: Open up your hands and press down, which will likely create holes in the snow. Fill the holes with more snow, then press down into the same spots again. Repeat until you've built a solid base of compacted snow that you can use to press yourself up off of the slope.

Snowshoeing Safety Tips

Stay within the limits of your knowledge, conditioning, the environment and your gear. Use established trails. Regardless of your group's size, always leave your trip plan with a responsible person and let them know when you'll be back—and stick to your trip itinerary.

Here are additional tips:

Check your gear: Always come prepared with the appropriate gear.

Know the hazards: Be aware of your surroundings. Several hunting seasons, both gun and bow, take place during the winter months on land near or adjacent to trails.

Stay warm and dry: Know the signs of hypothermia so you can recognize them in yourself and members of your party.

Stay hydrated: It's as important to drink during cold-weather exercise as it is in summer.

Remember: Safety is your responsibility. Be sure you're practiced in proper techniques and safety requirements before you engage in any outdoor activity.

<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/snowshoeing-first-steps.html>



The end of Daylight Savings Time gives us more time to spend after dark viewing all the holiday lights with our families (and a beverage).

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OSHKOSH