



# 2024 Year-End Report

This year the Pigeon River Country Discovery Center continued to welcome visitors to our historic log cabin interpretive center. Here's a summary of fun and learning that took place this year in the heart of the Pigeon River Country State Forest (PRC).



A young visitor was delighted to see raptor feathers under magnification.



It takes great concentration to paint a birdhouse.



Pretending to be a mischievous bear getting into garbage during a kid-focused workshop.

## Kids

We are all about youth, at the Discovery Center, as they are the next generation stewards of the Pigeon River Country State Forest (PRC). New this year were workshops specifically designed for kids and families, as well as our traditional contingent of nature-based workshops.

## Learning

We had a line-up of eight free Community Event workshops in 2024 on subjects related to the PRC. Topics covered raptors, Hemingway's PRC experience, birds, astronomy, painting nature, mushrooming, elk and photography. As always, workshops were well attended.



A student and teacher spotted birds with binoculars outside of the Discovery Center.



Lots of mushrooms were found and identified during the "Mushroom Foray" workshop.



Participants learned a song about constellations during the "Astronomy Lore & Legends" workshop.



Updated Pigeon River Country maps are now available to order on-line, thanks to the Discovery Center's parent organization the Pigeon River Country Association. Order yours by scanning the QR code (left).

## Updated Maps

## More Info

To learn more about the Discovery Center & the Pigeon River Country State Forest, go to [pigeonriverdiscoverycenter.org](http://pigeonriverdiscoverycenter.org) or scan the QR code (right).

Find us on Facebook - "Pigeon River Country Discovery Center"



# Partners

We continue to be grateful for technical expertise and guidance from organizations such as the Dept. of Natural Resources, Huron Pines, Headwaters Land Conservancy, the Mich. Hemingway Society and so many others. We couldn't do this without your support.



Students at a "Family Fun Make & Take" workshop took time out to thank the Great Lakes Energy People Fund for a grant to pay for paint and other supplies.

# 2024 Stats

-  **1600 total visitors**
-  **17 programs held this season**
-  **9 youth-centered programs**
-  **Nearly 200 kids participated**
-  **Over 400 total participants**



# New in 2024

- ◆ Hosted a six-month "Master Naturalist" certification program through Michigan State University Extension.
- ◆ Held nine workshops designed especially for kids.
- ◆ Opened our "Theater in the Woods" stocked with short kid-friendly educational videos.



# Nature's Palette Exhibit



For the second year, students from the Vanderbilt Area School have graced our hallway with original nature-based artwork. Discovery Center visitors were asked to vote for their favorite in the show. Top vote getters will be announced in late 2024.

# Support Us

The Discovery Center is operated solely by volunteers, through donations and grants. Help us continue our programs and outreach.

To contribute, scan the QR code below or fill out the form and mail with your check to:

PRCA Discovery Center  
PO Box 122, Gaylord, MI 49734

Make check out to "PRCA Discovery Center"

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# Thank You Volunteers!

Our 50+ volunteers are the life-blood of the Discovery Center. They keep the Center open and pitch in at "work bees" to help maintain the building. Like to join our DC Crew? Fill out the volunteer form on our website to let us know your skills and interests.



**Thank you for your support!**

**Your gift is tax deductible.**