



Onondaga County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

Women In Nature

16th Annual



Outdoor Skills Workshop

May 4, 2024

More Information to Follow

Women In Nature (WIN) is a program of the *Onondaga County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs* (OCFSC). OCFSC's membership includes various hunting and fishing clubs, shooting sports groups, and local chapters of non-profit conservation organizations in Onondaga County and surrounding areas. OCFSC provides legislative representation, conservation education, public relations, and recreational information of particular interest to the sportsmen and sportswomen of Onondaga County. For more information visit our website: www.federationofsportsmen.com.

WIN's Mission is to:

- 1) Encourage women to enjoy the great outdoors through our annual Outdoor Skills Workshop as well as shooting, hunting, and fishing seminars and recreational outings.
- 2) Promote membership in the local conservation organizations that are members of the Onondaga County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

The WIN Outdoor Skills Workshop is an annual all-day workshop designed to give women a taste of many outdoor activities through its introductory classes in a comfortable and enjoyable atmosphere. We provide resources and “satellite” workshops during the year to encourage continuation of these activities. To receive notices of WIN events and & related activities visit our web site at <http://www.federationofsportsmen.com> or Facebook page Women In Nature OCFSC.

Registration Instructions – Please read carefully

To apply to register for the *OCFSC Women in Nature 15th Annual Outdoor Skills Workshop*:

1. Read all **Instructions (page 1-2)** and **Class Descriptions (page 3-4)**.
2. Completely fill out one *Registration Application* form per person (page 5). Be sure to include **area code** with your telephone number. Minors and their accompanying, participating adult need to fill in separate registration applications with the exact same class preferences listed, and the accompanying adult's name should be listed on the child's *Registration Application*. Indicate t-shirt size on each application.
3. Please choose 8 different classes that you are interested in on the Registration Application form. Out of your eight preferences, four will be assigned to you. We will do our best to put you in your top choice classes. Applicants who do not send complete forms will be asked for the missing information. The delay will result in their application being put further down on the acceptance list.
4. Review class descriptions carefully, and make note whether your chosen classes have specific requirements, such as binoculars, camera, etc. to participate.
5. **Firearms will be present on-site, therefore we require that ALL Outdoor Skills Workshop participants read and sign the *Firearms Policy Waiver and Liability Agreement (page 6 & 6A)*. For minors, parents/legal guardians must sign the *Youth Permission to Handle and Shoot Firearms form (page 7)*.**
6. Return completed forms (pages 5, 6 and 7) either attached to an email or by mail. (Email is preferred) **We are NOT accepting on-site registrations.**
 - Email address: womeninnature2023@gmail.com
 - Mailing address: **Women in Nature, P.O. Box 163, Manlius NY 13104-9998.**
 - *Registration Applications* **MUST be postmarked or emailed by March 12, 2023.**

Space is limited - *Registration Application* forms received after we reach full capacity will be placed on our *Waiting List*. Apply early to improve your chances of getting in. **Priority will be given to first-time participants.** Repeat participants will likely NOT be accepted unless they bring a first-time participant and indicate the name of new participant on their application form.

Groups. If you are coming with a group, please apply early, **AND INDICATE THE NAMES OF YOUR GROUP'S MEMBERS ON THE FRONT OF EACH OF YOUR APPLICATIONS.** We suggest you mail or email your forms together. We cannot guarantee same class placement for all members of your group. Minors will be assigned to the same classes as their accompanying adult.

Notification. If your application is accepted, you will receive a confirmation email (or phone call if you don't have email) with additional details about the day. If you cannot make it, please cancel ASAP by emailing womeninnature2023@gmail.com so that a woman on the waiting list can take your spot.

Information and FAQ

COST: All instruction, services, equipment, food and supplies are donated, which allows us to offer this workshop FREE of charge. (See SPONSORS below and in the printed program.)

MINORS: Minimum age to participate in this workshop is **12 years old**. Participants ages 12 to 17 **MUST** be accompanied by an adult at all times. Certain courses may have specific requirements for participation by minors, so **please read course descriptions carefully**, as well as the Participation Release statement on the registration form. The **WIN Firearms Policy (page 6)** and **Youth Permission to Handle and Shoot Firearms (page 7)** form should also be signed ahead of time by parents/legal guardians and mailed in with the *Registration Applications*. (See "INSTRUCTIONS" section above). Please submit ***Registration Applications*** from adults and minors together.

CHOOSING CLASSES: Class descriptions are listed on **pages 3-4** of this registration packet. Keep in mind that all classes are geared toward **beginners**. There will be four class sessions during the day, two in the morning and two in the afternoon. Not all classes will be offered at all sessions, and some classes are offered only as a double session. **Please read Class Descriptions carefully**, and understand the requirements. **Class content, instructors and schedule are subject to change prior to the day of the event.** Scheduling is done after we reach full capacity. We will have your schedule at check-in but not before.

CHECK- IN: Please arrive at Fayetteville-Manlius Outdoors Club in time to check-in between **8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.** on Saturday, **April 29, 2023**. (*Driving Directions* on page 8). At check-in, each participant will be given a program including a schedule of their classes and other events, a site map, and a complimentary t-shirt. *Because we have firearms on-site, **for safety reasons, all participants must sign acknowledgement of our firearms policy (see page 6-7) regardless of participation in shooting activities. This form must be submitted with registration forms.***

FOOD: Food and beverages are provided free of charge. A small, continental breakfast will be available in the morning before classes begin, and lunch will be provided at midday. **WE ARE NOT ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE SPECIAL DIETS, I.E. VEGETARIAN, GLUTEN-FREE, ETC. You may bring your own prepared lunch, snacks and non-alcoholic beverages.** Water, coffee, tea, and cocoa will be available throughout the day. We highly recommend that you bring water in a refillable bottle. We will also have some re-useable water bottles for sale and a drinking-water source.

THIS IS A NON-SMOKING EVENT.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: This event will take place in rain, snow or shine. This is an outdoor experience; participants should come prepared for the elements. Wear comfortable, sturdy weatherproof footwear (not sandals), dress in layers, bring sunscreen, insect repellent and rain or cold-weather outerwear. Bare feet or sandals are not allowed. The facility does have a heated building for meals and break times.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND LIABILITY: We ask that you **read thoroughly and sign the release section** of the *Registration Application* (page 5). Participating **minors must have their parent/legal guardian sign the form**. If minors are to be accompanied by an adult that is not their legal guardian, **please download and print the forms and have them signed by the parent or legal guardian ahead of time.**

GETTING THERE: Directions and a map to can be found on **page 8** of this *Registration Packet*. The location is Fayetteville-Manlius Outdoor Club, 4545 Whetstone Road, Manlius, NY 13104. We encourage you to carpool if attending with others. If you require Disability Parking access, please notify the parking attendant upon arrival.

RAFFLES: We will be holding a raffle to benefit the sponsorship of youths, ages 11 - 17, to the Department of Environmental Conservation Summer Youth Camp. Raffle prizes may include hunting and fishing trips, club memberships, various outdoor recreation equipment and related items. For scholarship information, visit our Facebook page, *Onondaga County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs*. We encourage you to bring some cash to support this worthy cause.

SPONSORS: This **Women in Nature** event is made possible by the support of the Onondaga County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and its members, various non-profit groups, local retail businesses, and individuals. **If you (or your place of business or organization) wish to donate to our event or place an advertisement in our event day program, please contact Ed Pugliese at pka7@aol.com or call 315-263-6699.** Donations and advertising support the WIN program and the raffle. A complete list of sponsors will be printed in our event day program. Major sponsors are listed on the t-shirt as well. We ask that you consider patronizing our sponsor businesses and consider membership in any of the Federation clubs.

QUESTIONS? Email womeninnature2023@gmail.com

Class Descriptions

- 1) **Axe Throwing** – This ancient woodsman’s skill is fun! Learn proper techniques for throwing an axe at a wooden butt. Hand-eye coordination, strength and upper body coordination are developed in this unique skill. Axes will be provided.
- 2) **Beginning Archery** - Learn about the different types of archery equipment, bow and arrow terminology, safety, and proper shooting form. Participants will have the opportunity to shoot with equipment provided.
- 3) **Birding Basics** - Open your eyes to the world of birds. This course will take you through basic bird-watching skills such as bird silhouette and field mark identification, identifying the “usual suspects” through sight and sound, and how to use binoculars and a spotting scope. **If you have binoculars, please bring them with you.**
- 4) **Crossbow Basics** – Planning for hunting or just target shooting? Join us for the opportunity to learn how to fit a crossbow, care for your bow, and safely see how easy it is to shoot and hit your target!
- 5) **Fishing 101** (DOUBLE SESSION) - Participants will learn about basic freshwater fishing techniques and gear that will help them become skilled anglers. Topics will include tackle basics, knot tying, spin-casting, bait-casting, NY State fishing regulations, safety on the water, and much more. You will have time to try your new skills on the water. **Fishing license is not required for this course.**
- 6) **Fly-Fishing** – (DOUBLE SESSION) Learn how to fly cast, how to choose the necessary gear to be able to safely and comfortably fly-fish the rivers and streams of Central New York. Each participant will be given artificial flies to try out their new fly-rod casting skills on the water. **Fishing license is not required for this course.**
- 7) **Intro to Competitive Shooting/Taking the Fear out of Shooting Sports** One of the fastest rising sports in the US today is recreational and competitive shooting. Adult and Youth shooting leagues and matches are springing up all over. New shooters are excited to get out and test their skills against the clock and others. If you are looking to do the same, or just learn how to handle your firearm in a non-judgmental environment that’s all about firearm safety, then this is for you. In this class you learn first gun safety, what to expect at your first match, safety rules at matches, and range commands. You will then have a live fire portion of the class where you will have the opportunity to actually shoot some assorted targets including: a plate rack, steel gongs, a bullseye target, and a dueling tree. In which you will be shooting a .22 rifle. **Firearms Policy waiver and agreement and, if applicable, a Youth Permission to Handle and Shoot form, are included (pages 6-7 in this registration packet for signatures before the event date. Mail-in signed forms with your registration.**
- 8) **Map and Compass** – Don’t get lost! Learn the basic skills for navigating in the wilderness without a GPS. Maps and compasses will be provided.

List of Classes continued on next page!

- 9) **Nature Journaling** – "Most people are on the world, not in it and have no conscious sympathy or relationship to anything about them (John Muir). Nature journaling is a combination of capturing images found in nature and writing about one's thoughts and observations in the field. Take up nature journaling and you can learn more about nature and yourself while adding a fun dimension to your outdoor experience. In this class you will learn the fundamentals of Journaling, practice basic drawing skills, and make your own first nature journal.
- 10) **Rifle Shooting** - Learn the art of stationary firing and the thrill of that first bulls-eye! Our course instructor brings years of experience and knowledge to this program. Firearms safety, range rules, holding, aiming and firing positions will be covered in this course. **A Firearms Policy waiver and agreement and, if applicable, a Youth Permission to Handle and Shoot form, are included (pages 6-7) in this registration packet for signatures before the event date. Be sure to mail-in signed forms with your registration.**
- 11) **Shotgun Shooting** – This is a great opportunity for first-timers to get instruction from an experienced team of shooters. Firearms safety, shooting fundamentals, and a great experience await! **A Firearms Policy waiver and agreement and, if applicable, a Youth Permission to Handle and Shoot form, are included (pages 6-7) in this registration packet for signatures before the event date. Mail-in signed forms with your registration.**
- 12) **Wild Game Cooking** - Cooking wild game should not be different than cooking any other meal. With the correct handling and preparation, wild game can make an exceptional and easy meal. This hands-on session will cover some of the basics of what to do with your harvest from the field to the dinner plate. Participants will help prepare and sample the food.