

RICHARD BONG STATE RECREATION AREA JULY 2025 EVENTS

Friday
July
4

SOCIAL BONFIRE
7:30 – 9 p.m.

Meet at the fire ring near Shelter 1 and for a fun bonfire in the park! Meet other campers, roast marshmallows, and enjoy a beautiful evening filled with conversation and music! Meet at 7:30 p.m. to help build the fire. Marshmallows will be provided, but please feel free to bring your own drinks

Saturday
July
5

ANIMAL ENCOUNTER
10 – 11 a.m.

Learn all about reptiles and amphibians and meet a few special animal ambassadors up close! Learn about each animals' unique feeding habits and watch them in action! Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday
July
5

1 - 3 p.m. SOLAR OBSERVATION
9 - 11 p.m. NIGHT SKY OBSERVATION

Celebrate the sky at Richard Bong State Recreation Area! Bring your telescope or binoculars and learn how to focus and calibrate. View sun spots, solar flares and in the evening discover the wonders of the ever changing night sky!

1-3 p.m. Solar Observation Meet in the Nature Explore Classroom Parking Lot (Near Shelter 2).

9– 11 p.m. Night Sky :Meet in Parking Lot F.

Saturday
July
12

BUTTERFLY HIKE
10-11:30 a.m.

Enjoy a butterfly walk in the park with one of our knowledgeable butterfly volunteers! Stroll through the park and practice identifying some of the incredible butterflies that utilize Richard Bong SRA's beautiful prairies and woodlands. Meet at the Visitor Center, but be prepared to drive to another location, and remember to bring a water bottle. Plan to hike around 2-3 miles.

Saturday
July
12

BATS & BULLFROGS HIKE
8:45–10 p.m.

Meet at the Visitor Center and be prepared to hike around 3 miles. Learn to listen for frogs and other nighttime creatures. Learn how biologists study bat echolocation and practice some acoustic monitoring. Red flashlights, long pants, and bug spray are recommended, some red flashlights will be available to borrow.

Thursday
July
17

KNEE HIGH NATURALIST
10-11:30 a.m.

SCALES & SLIME: Meet at Shelter 1 with your 3 to 5-year-old and enjoy learning all about reptiles and amphibians! Enjoy a story, craft and hike with your Knee High Naturalist! You may get to meet some special scaly friends! If you have a large group or need special accommodations, please call 262-818-1712.

Friday
July
18

POND PEEKING
10–11 a.m.

Get ready to get your feet wet and explore the world of freshwater macroinvertebrates! Scoop for dragon and damselfly larvae and learn about the unique life cycles that our wetlands support. Try out our field microscopes and practice using and kid-friendly dichotomous key! Meet by the boat launch on Vern Wolf Lake.

Saturday
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19

CONCERT IN THE PARK:
SPIRITUAL CURRENTS BY RYAN MEISEL
7–8:30 p.m.

Music and storytelling in a relaxed setting creates an enjoyable experience for all. Ryan Meisel's Spiritual Currents blends Indigenous world music with his background in jazz. Interactive drum circles are usually added-on. Meet at the amphitheater. Funding for this performance is provided by the Bong Naturalist Association.

Saturday
July
26

ANIMAL ENCOUNTER
2 – 3 p.m.

Learn all about reptiles and amphibians and meet a few special animal ambassadors up close! Learn about each animals' unique feeding habits and watch them in action! Meet at the Visitor Center.

Thursday
July
31

NATURE EXPLORE FAMILY CLUB
10–11:30 a.m.

KNOW A TREE: Choose a tree in the area that you think is interesting. Use your senses to get to know your tree: look closely, touch, listen and smell. Observe the tree seeds. Nature Explore Family Club at Bong is for 5-10 year old children and an adult to enjoy outdoor experiences. The activities will connect families with the outdoors and each other, while introducing them to a variety of natural spaces. Siblings are welcome to attend. Meet at the picnic tables behind the Visitor Center.

Field Trips and Group Programming!

Philosophy

We offer a variety of programming and often work with the requesting organization to create a program that best suits their needs and participants. Our lessons are based on nature exploration, inquiry led science and child centered learning.

Available Topics

Topics are not limited to the following, please reach out to: Emily.Cole@wisconsin.gov

Wetland Ecosystems:

Pond peeking, invertebrate life cycles and amphibian life cycles.

How To Stay Found:

Beginner compass skills, camping, hiking and outdoor education

Reptile Life and Habits:

Pond peeking, reptile identification and characteristics

Prairie Plants:

Prairie ecosystems, plant identification, biodiversity and pollinators

Early Wisconsin Land and Life, Champion Tree Trail and Rhodes Family Homestead

Foundation:

Land succession and observation, early Wisconsin pioneers and land use, guided visit the Rhodes family foundation and Champion Tree Trail.

CHECK OUT THE GIFT SHOP

Want to represent Richard Bong State Recreation Area?

Visit the gift shop, located in Molinaro Visitor Center! We have t-shirts, hats, stickers, patches and more!

Check out our online store for more selections and personalized items!

<https://bongrecreation.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>

FIND US HERE

Richard Bong State Recreation Area

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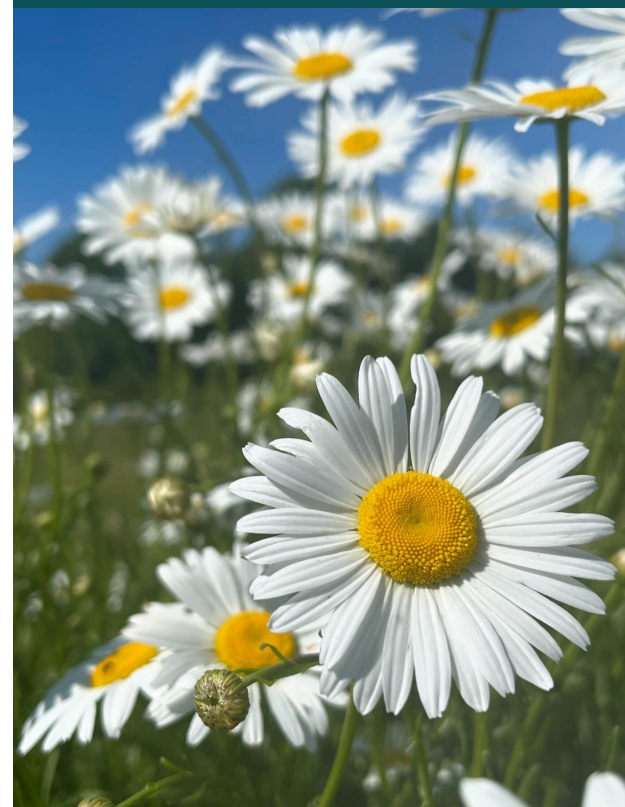
Bong Naturalist Association

Website: <https://bongnaturalistassociation.org/>

Email: bongnaturalistassociation@gmail.com

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July 2025



NATURE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Vehicle admission pass or daily entrance fee required unless otherwise noted.