

RICHARD BONG STATE RECREATION AREA SEPTEMBER 2026 EVENTS

FRI
SEP
4

Orienteering Basics 3:30 –4:30 p.m.

Meet at the Visitor Center. Learn to use a compass and practice your skills with our Naturalist. This program is best suited for ages 7 and older due to the math involved. Children younger than 7 may be successful with 1:1 help from an adult. Use your skills throughout the rest of the weekend to complete the self-guided Labor Day Orienteering Challenge!

Weekend
SEP
4-7

Labor Day Orienteering Challenge Self-Guided

Stop by the Visitor Center or Entrance Station during our open hours to pick up a compass, instructions, and a set of mysterious clues! Follow the clues to find a box with a special prize and log book to record your adventure! If you get stuck—stop back for clues or final coordinates! Please return all compasses when you are done.

THU
SEP
10

KNEE HIGH NATURALIST SEED SAFARI! 10–11:30 a.m.

Bring your 3 to 5 year old and enjoy a morning of child-centered nature exploration! Meet at Shelter 1.

SAT
SEP
12

Birdwatching Basics 7:30–9 a.m.

Meet at the observation deck near Parking Lot F. Borrow our binoculars and scopes to practice bird spotting and get a closer look! Learn basic bird watching and identification tips. Field guides will be available to borrow during this event as well!

SAT
SEP
12

Skull and Fur ID 1-3 p.m.

Meet at the Visitor Center to learn all about mammals here at Richard Bong State Rec Area. Test your skills identifying skulls and furs. Learn how to find animal signs! Drop in anytime during the program. Meet at the picnic tables behind Visitor Center.

SAT
SEP
19

NASA'S ANNUAL FALL ASTRONOMY DAY 1-3 p.m. Solar Observation 6-10 p.m. Moon & Night Sky Observation

1-3 PM Solar Observing

Meet in the parking lot near Shelter 2. Safely observe sun spots and solar flares through a special telescope! Learn about the solar system and take a "solar system hike" to help understand the relative distance between objects in our solar system.

6-10 PM Telescope Clinic and Moon & Night Sky Observation

Meet at Parking Lot F. Meet with our local astronomy club to learn to use telescopes to observe the moon and stars! Bring your own scopes or take a peek through the powerful ones brought by our astronomy club! Information and resources about the moon and night sky will be available!

FRI
SEP
25

Sandhills at Sunset 6:30 –8 p.m.

Meet at the Observation Deck near Parking Lot F to view the sunset and sandhill cranes! Learn about these special avian species and watch as they fly into the refuge for the evening as the sun sets. Binoculars and scopes available to borrow during this event.

SAT
SEP
26

Weaving with Nature 1-2:30 p.m.

Meet at the picnic tables behind the Visitor Center to create a unique craft with objects found in nature. Use cardboard looms and yarn to weave in freeform, incorporating natural objects.



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

The Wisconsin Master Naturalist program is a network of well-informed volunteers dedicated to conservation service, leadership, and lifelong learning. The [Master Naturalist training](#) provides 40 hours of education in a variety of natural history topics and Master Naturalist service areas. Through expert-led trainings, Master Naturalists are equipped to address challenges facing the state by making positive impacts through stewardship, citizen science, and educational activities.

Schedule

Monday, September 21st: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
* Richard Bong State Recreation Area

Thursday, September 24th: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
* Richard Bong State Recreation Area

Monday, September 28th: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
* Richard Bong State Recreation Area

Monday, October 5th: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
* Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit

Thursday, October 8th: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
* Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit

Monday, October 12th: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
* Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit

REGISTER HERE!



<https://wimasternaturalist.org/training/volunteer-training/southeastwisconsin/>

STAY UP TO DATE

FIND THE CALENDER OF EVENTS ONLINE AT:

**BONG
NATURALIST
ASSOCIATION**



SCAN ME



<https://bongnaturalistassociation.org/>

PARK INFORMATION

Richard Bong State Recreation Area

26313 Burlington Road
Kansasville, WI 53139

Program Information & Accommodations:

Natural Resources Educator: Emily Cole

Emily.Cole@wisconsin.gov

Bong Naturalist Association: Friend's Group

BongNaturalistAssociation@gmail.com

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

RICHARD BONG STATE RECREATION AREA

SEPTEMBER 2026



NATURE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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