

DECORAH PARKS AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER 2024, JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2025

DECORAH PARKS & RECREATION OFFICE

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Web: <https://parks.decorahia.org>
Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 8am to 4pm

FULL-TIME STAFF

Marc Holtey,
Parks and Recreation Director
Mallory McArtor,
Supt. of Recreation & Business
Blake Moen,
Supt. of Recreation & Aquatics
Jon Geiger,
Supt. of Parks and Facilities
Scott Vande Krol,
Campground Superintendent
Corey Meyer,
Park Assistant
Logan Hahn,
Park Assistant

PARK-REC. BOARD

Rich Gaard, Chair
Benji Nichols, Vice Chair
Kathy Bakken
Brian Fuhrmann
Zach Kerndt



CANCELLATIONS DUE TO WEATHER will be announced on Facebook, & online at <https://parks.decorahia.org/cancellations>.

SPECIAL THANKS to Decorah Community Schools for providing the facilities necessary for many of our programs, to **Driftless Journal, Decorah Public Library,** and **KVIK** radio stations, decorahnews.com, decorahnow.com, **Winneshiek County Convention & Visitors Bureau,** and **Decorah Area Chamber of Commerce** for their promotion of Park-Rec. activities and events, and to our many sponsors and volunteers that help keep our participation fees affordable for all.

 **Like Decorah Parks & Recreation on Facebook**

 **Follow us on Twitter @DecorahParkRec**

 **Follow us on Instagram @decorahparksrecreation**

REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE ONLINE!

To register online, go to: <https://decorahparkrec.activityreg.com>

Only check or cash payments are accepted when registering in person at the Park-Rec. Office. Mail-in registrations must be paid by check only- no cash payments, please.



Credit and debit card payments are only accepted online.



For future reference, the tentative online release dates for our quarterly brochures are listed below.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Brochure</u>
August 15	Sept, Oct & Nov
November 15	Dec, Jan & Feb
February 14	Mar, Apr & May
May 1	June, July & Aug

HOLIDAY LIGHTS & MAGICAL NIGHTS

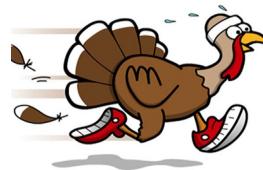


Helping Services for Northeast Iowa will present Decorah's annual holiday drive-through light show at Pulpit Rock Campground beginning Thanksgiving Day. Admission is through donations to Helping Services. **For more info visit**<https://www.helpingservices.org/holidaylights/>

FREE EVENT - TURKEY TROT

Thursday, November 28 thru Sunday, December 1

Run or walk the 5k or 1-mile loop that we have marked out in the Decorah Community Prairie anytime Thursday, November 28 thru Sunday, December 1. Submit your name using the form available Nov 28-Dec 1 at <https://parks.decorahia.org> and send a photo of you completing your turkey trot to decorahrec@gmail.com to be entered in a drawing to win a prize! This can be a fun challenge for individuals or for your entire household. The Decorah Community Prairie is located at the south end of Ohio Street (over the levy) in Decorah.



WAYSIDE ICE RINK

Carl Selland Wayside Park is located at the intersection of College Drive and 5th Avenue. The opening date of the ice rink is weather dependent. Once open for the season, the rink is always open for skating



DECORAH PARKS & RECREATION

RECREATION ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER 2024, JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2025

OPEN BASKETBALL

a free drop-in activity



Open basketball play for kids of all ages in the Carrie Lee Elementary Gym (enter east doors off of Winnebago Street) on **Sundays, November 10 thru February 23 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm**. All children in 4th grade and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Little Tykes hoops and basketballs will be available for younger kids, lowered hoops for those that are a little bit older, and regular 10 foot hoops for those in 4th grade and above.

Special open gym will also be available on no school days for kids in 5th thru 8th grade. A complete schedule is posted in the gym and online.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURERS

for grades K thru 2nd



Come right after school and participate in a variety of outdoor winter activities! This program will be held **Thursdays, January 9 thru January 30, 3:15 to 4:15pm**. Students will meet in the John Cline gym and then head outside. Participants should dress for the weather. This program will be held in the John Cline Gym if temperatures prevent us from going outside. This program is offered in partnership with Winneshiek County Conservation. Maximum of 20 participants.

FEE: \$24

DEADLINE: TUES, JAN 7

CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLINIC

Stay tuned for more info!

We are partnering with Winneshiek County Conservation and the Luther College Cross Country Ski Club to offer a cross country ski clinic. More information, including date and time, will be announced on our website (<https://parks.decorahia.org/>), and Facebook page as conditions become favorable for skiing.

BIDDY BASKETBALL

for ages 3 to 6 yrs



Participants will learn the basic fundamentals of basketball and enjoy actual team competition.

Teams are grouped according to age, and game rules are modified to accommodate the lower ages and skill levels. Small baskets, balls and fun teaching techniques are used with special emphasis on sportsmanship. Each Saturday consists of a skills session followed by a game.

This program meets in the Carrie Lee Elementary Gym on **Saturday mornings, January 18 thru February 8**. Shirts will be handed out by coaches on the first day of Bidy Basketball. Schedules will be sent out the week prior to the first day, and will be available for pick up in the Park-Rec Office by Thursday, January 16.

When registering, please indicate the league you are signing your child up for:

Pee Wee Coed (ages 3 & 4)

Kinder Coed (ages 5 & 6).

PARENTS: *Two volunteer coaches are needed for each team. Park-Rec. staff will also assist with this program. If you are willing to coach, please include your name and shirt size on your child's registration form.*

FEE: \$24 (includes shirt)

DEADLINE: WED, JAN 1

REINDEER WORKSHOP

for all ages!

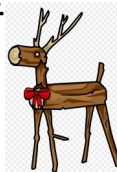
Join us for an evening of reindeer making, led by Decorah Parks & Recreation staff. This workshop will take place on **Tuesday, December 10th** in the Decorah Park Shop (613 Park Street, next to Whalen Cabin). Time slots are available as:
6:30pm or 7:30pm

This event is limited to 20 reindeer.

Families or groups are welcome to attend as one to build a single reindeer.

FEE: \$10

DEADLINE: FRI, DEC 6



FLY FISHING WORKSHOP

for all ages – 12 & under must be accompanied by an adult

THE IOWA DRIFTLESS



CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED, DECORAH PARK-REC., and WINNESHIEK COUNTY

CONSERVATION will co-host this workshop on **Saturday, February 1 from 10:00 am to 12 noon** in the Decorah High School Gym. Local casting instructors will discuss equipment, demonstrate basic casts, and work with participants on their fly casting skills. Participants can watch experts and learn how to tie their favorite flies. This workshop is free and open to anglers of all ages and levels of experience. **This is a free event—no registration required—just show up!**

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOWLING

for grades 5th thru 8th



This program is held at King Pin Entertainment Center on **Saturdays, February 15 thru March 22 from 10:45am to 12:00pm**. Participants will receive instruction from members of the High School Bowling team and will bowl one to two games during each class.

FEE: \$48 (lane & shoe rental included)

DEADLINE: FRI, FEB 7

This program is limited to 32 participants.

ADULT REC VOLLEYBALL

a free drop-in activity

Recreational volleyball is held in the Carrie Lee Elementary Gym (enter through gym entrance off of Winnebago Street) on **Tuesdays, January 7 thru March 25 from 7:30 to 10:00 pm**. A schedule is posted in the gym and online.

RECREATION ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER 2024, JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2025

PICNIC SHELTER & WHALEN CABIN RESERVATIONS

2025 Whalen Cabin and picnic shelter reservation requests may be made beginning Thursday, January 2, at 8:00 am. Reservation requests on January 2 must be made by calling 563-382-4158 and leaving a message with your name, phone number, and the date, time and name of facility you are requesting to reserve. Phone calls and messages will be returned in the order they are received. Messages received before 8:00 am Thursday, January 2 will not be considered.

Whalen Cabin and picnic shelters in the Decorah Park System can be rented during the following time slots; 9am-2pm, 3pm-10pm or all day. The cost to rent Whalen Cabin for one time slot is \$60 and the cost to rent Whalen Cabin all day is \$84. The cost to rent a picnic shelter is \$12 per time slot and the cost to rent a picnic shelter all day is \$18.

Rental fees must be paid at least one week in advance of the reservation date. Fees are non-refundable unless cancelled two weeks in advance. The key for Whalen Cabin must be picked up and rental agreement signed by 4pm Thursday if a weekend rental and 24 hours in advance if renting Monday thru Friday.

Scout troops may use Whalen Cabin at no cost, however reservations must be made in advance. Picnic shelters not posted with a reserved sign may be used on a first come, first served basis.

CRAFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

for grades 1st thru 4th



Come and participate in a variety of winter crafts, just in time for the holidays! This program will be held in the Decorah City Council Chambers, **Tuesdays, November 26 thru December 17, 4:15 to 5:15pm.** Students will be able to create fun, unique projects to take home or give as gifts. All supplies are provided.

Maximum of 15 participants.

FEE: \$24

DEADLINE: WED, NOV 20

SUPERHERO SUNDAY

for all ages ~ children must be

accompanied by an adult



Sunday, February 2, from 12:00 to 2:00 pm, children (and adults) are invited to come dressed to impress as their favorite superhero and join us for this open house event in the Carrie Lee Gym. Superhero Sunday will feature games, crafts, and an opportunity to meet some of the local heroes who keep our town safe. **This is a free event—no registration required—just show up!**

NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH

a free event for families & adults



DECORAH PARKS & RECREATION, DECORAH BANK & TRUST, and GUNDERSEN HEALTH SYSTEM are hosting a New Year's Eve Bash at the Luther College Regents Center on Tuesday, December 31, from 5:30 to 9:30 pm. Open indoor swimming, track, tennis, racquetball, volleyball, basketball, pickleball and many other games will be available for all ages. There will also be a concession stand for you to purchase pizza, Gatorade, water and other food items

LETTERS TO SANTA

for all ages!

Children will have the opportunity to send letters to Santa at the North Pole beginning Monday, November 18th. Letters can be dropped in the special, [red mailbox](#) located inside of City Hall, outside the Park-Rec Office. Santa will reply with a letter mailed to your home. Please make sure to include your name and a return address. All letters to Santa must be dropped in the mailbox by Monday, December 16th to give Santa enough time to reply before Christmas!



WINTER BIRDING SERIES

NEW for 18+ adults!

Expand your knowledge of winter birding with Winneshiek County Conservation!

Thursdays 5:30- 6:30pm at the Courthouse Annex

January 30: Learn about identifying common winter birds in Winneshiek County

February 6: Best practices for feeding birds through the winter

February 13: Explore some of the most user-friendly bird-watching apps and learn how to use technology to contribute to global citizen science projects

No registration is required, it's free!

Youth are welcome but should be accompanied by an adult.



WINTER AND NATURE

for grades 3rd & 4th

Join us in learning about winter's amazing animals and nature features as we partner with Winneshiek County Conservation.

This program will be held **Tuesdays February 4 thru February 25, 4:00 to 5:00pm.** Students will meet at Whalen Cabin each week, venturing out into Phelps Parks to learn about all things winter!

This is an outdoor programs and participants should come dressed for the weather.

Maximum of 15 participants.

FEE: \$24

DEADLINE:

FRI, JAN 31

