

**PINEY RUN RECREATION AND  
CONSERVATION COUNCIL**

**30 Martz Road, Sykesville MD 21784      Nature Center: (410) 795-6043**

March 11, 2024



The Piney Run Recreation and Conservation Council is dedicated to supporting Piney Run Park and Nature Center. With the focus on conservation and environmental education, many programs and activities held throughout the year are promoted and offered by the Piney Run Council. Income from these programs and events as well as Nature Center memberships helps the Council provide support for our resident critters, exhibits, the Piney Run Summer Nature Camp, college scholarships (see below) and kayaking instruction as well as other programs, projects and activities to benefit the Park and Nature Center and for the enjoyment of our visitors.

Our new Park Naturalist, Basil Levesque, has been very busy researching the habitat requirements for each of our resident critters and with the Council's financial support, has been upgrading those exhibits for the benefit of our critters. And with a grant from MAEOE, Basil and the park staff are building a new enclosure for our black rat snake, Kaa, which will be in the Nature Center Children's Room. The Council also has an [Amazon Wish List](#) of items we need that can be purchased and donated to help offset our animal care expenses.

The council was able to host numerous fundraising activities and events last year and will continue doing so this year. We appreciate all who attended our 3rd annual **Piney Run Park Fall Festival** last Fall despite the uncooperative weather. **This year's Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of October 13<sup>th</sup>.** Our upcoming Council events include our **Spring Fever Coffeehouse** on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> with the Koons' family musical band, WHIRLIGIG; an **Apple Basket Basketweaving Class** on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>; and our **Celebrate Spring Event and Spring Perennial Swap** both on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. More information about our Council events can be found on the [Friends of Piney Run Park & Nature Center Facebook page](#).

Since park programs thrive on new ideas, input from additional people is always welcome and encouraged by the Council. All Council meetings are open to the public. Any member of the Nature Center is automatically a member of the Council, but must attend two Council meetings within the previous 12 months (and be 18 years of age) in order to vote at these meetings. Council meetings are held bi-monthly on the 3rd Thursday in January, March, May, July, September, and November at 6:30 p.m. typically in the Piney Run Nature Center. At these meetings updates from Park Staff and Council members are presented and discussed, decisions are made about fundraising events, and how membership and fundraising money is spent for the benefit of the Park and Nature Center. If you are interested in additional information about the Council, please contact the Council Treasurer, Renee Schoff, via email ([PineyRunParkCouncilTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:PineyRunParkCouncilTreasurer@gmail.com)) or call the Nature Center at 410-795-6043.

Nature Center memberships, park passes, pavilion rentals and registrations for County-sponsored Carroll County Recreation & Parks programs can be purchased on the County's RecDesk website: <https://ccrec.recdesk.com/Community/Home>. (Park Entrance Fee is still applicable for Nature Center members.)

We thank you for your support of Piney Run Park, the Piney Run Nature Center and the Piney Run Recreation and Conservation Council and hope to see you frequently throughout the year.



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Below are the upcoming Council fundraising events and activities being planned for 2024 as of March 2024. All Council proceeds are used to support the Piney Run Nature Center, Piney Run Park and the community. Discounts are offered to Nature Center members for some programs. More 2024 events may be added and/or this schedule may change.

- [\*\*Nature Center Memberships\*\*](#) – available at [ccrec.recdesk.com](http://ccrec.recdesk.com); valid for the calendar year
- [\*\*Adopt A Critter Memberships\*\*](#) – available at [ccrec.recdesk.com](http://ccrec.recdesk.com); valid for the calendar year
- **Piney Run Park Aviary Donations** – Piney Run’s raptors are enjoying their new home – the new Piney Run Park Aviary! Please help support this project with your donation to the **Piney Run Park Aviary** on [GoFundMe.com](http://GoFundMe.com).
- **Cabin Fever Crafts Show** – Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> 10am–4pm
- **Spring Fever Coffee House** – Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 7pm-9pm
- **Kayaking at Piney Run Park** – Various guided kayaking programs are listed in the program guides ([ccrecpark.org](http://ccrecpark.org)). Please contact the Nature Center at (410) 795-6043 to schedule a private group paddle or for more information.
- **Basket Weaving Class with Partnership Crafts by Joan Betzold** – Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 9am-3pm
- **Celebrate Spring Event** – Craft Show, Free crafts, Nature hikes – Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> 11am-4pm
- **Spring Perennial Swap** – Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> 1pm-3pm
- **Bake Table at the Sasquatch Saturday Event** – Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> 11am-3pm
- **“Members Only” Event** – Summer/Fall (date TBD)
- **Summer/Fall Coffeehouse** - TBD
- **Summer/Fall Basket Raffle** – September/October
- **Fall Perennial Swap** – Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> 1pm – 3pm on the Nature Center patio
- **4<sup>th</sup> Annual FALL FESTIVAL** – **Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 10am - 4pm** (rain date Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>). Live music, craft & food vendors, scarecrow making, onsite & to-go crafts and much more!
- **Winter Paint Class** – Date TBD
- **Adult Holiday Workshop** – Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 10am–12pm and 1pm–3pm
- **Children’s Holiday Workshop** – Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-6pm and Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm

Information about these and other Council events can be found on the [Friends of Piney Run Park & Nature Center](#) Facebook page. Piney Run Park information is available at [pineyrunpark.org](http://pineyrunpark.org).

**Council Officers:**

Colleen Winters, President    Rita Jacobs, Vice President    Claude Hoerner, Secretary  
Renee Schoff, Treasurer

**Park Management:** Gina Porter, Park Superintendent



The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact The Department of Citizen Services, 410.386.3600 or 1.888.302.8978 or MD Relay 7-1-1/1.800.735.2258 as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.



# ADOPT A CRITTER



Sponsored by the Piney Run Recreation & Conservation Council

The Piney Run Nature Center's live animal residents require constant care. You can help support the critters in general or sponsor a particular animal by purchasing a 2024 Piney Run Park **Adopt A Critter Membership** which will help support our critters for an entire year! Each sponsor will be mailed a certificate and photo of the critter they are sponsoring; and will be invited to schedule a private session with the naturalist and their sponsored critter for their family's own personal encounter by calling the Nature Center at 410-795-6043.

## Critters in need of sponsors include:

Species	Name
American Toads:	Bonnie and Clyde
Barred Owl:	Ally
Black Rat Snake:	Kaa
Common Watersnake:	Alyster
Corn Snake:	Phoenix
Crested Gecko:	Alvin
Diamondback Terrapin:	Blossom
Eastern Box Turtles:	Boris and Claire
Eastern Screech Owls:	Rusty and Rudy
King Snake:	Elvis
Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches:	You pick the names
Musk Turtle:	Stinky
Red-Eared Slider:	Gus
Red-Shouldered Hawk:	Loki
Red-Tailed Hawk:	Handsome
Tarantula:	Bitsy



The fee for each membership is only \$30. What a great gift idea for any nature lover!

**Adopt A Critter Memberships** can be purchased online at the Carroll County Recreation & Parks Program Registration sight or by scanning the QR code above:

<https://ccrec.recdesk.com/Community/Membership/Detail?membershipId=3041>

Questions? Please call the Nature Center at 410-795-6043



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30 Martz Road  
Sykesville, Maryland 21784  
(410) 795-6043  
[PineyRunParkCouncilTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:PineyRunParkCouncilTreasurer@gmail.com)



### **Scholarship Program Information**

In alignment with the Piney Run Recreation and Conservation Council's strong belief in education, two \$1,500 scholarships have been created to help students with college education related expenses.

#### **Eligibility**

- Applicant must be a member, a child of a member, or under guardianship of a member of the Piney Run Nature Center.
- Applicant must be a full-time student taking undergraduate courses or in the final year of high school and planning to enroll in a full-time course of study at an accredited college or university recognized by the [U.S. Department of Education](#) in the current year.
- The same individual cannot win this scholarship in two consecutive years.
- Applicant must have a non-related adult sponsor - who is not an employee at Piney Run Park - provide a letter of recommendation or complete the Applicant Appraisal section of the application.
- A minimum grade point average (or equivalent) of 2.5 (on a scale of 4.0) – official transcript required.

#### **Requirements Checklist – Each qualified student must submit the following items:**

- Scholarship Application:** Complete and sign the Scholarship Application.
- Transcript and Scores (official transcripts must be in original sealed envelopes):**
  - High school student applicants should deliver the Transcript Section to the school's principal or guidance counselor to complete, sign, and return to the applicant in a sealed envelope, along with an official transcript.
  - College student applicants need to provide an official college transcript.
- Recommendation/Appraisal:**
  - Obtain a letter of recommendation from a non-related adult appraiser (one who is not an employee at Piney Run Park, such as a high school or college counselor or advisor, instructor, professional person, or supervisor).
  - Or have non-related appraiser complete the Applicant Appraisal section of the application.
- Written statement:** Prepare a statement explaining why the scholarship is deserved and how it will help. Consider explaining how you became interested in nature, why your intended major is important to you, describing your experiences or involvement with Piney Run Park and/or sharing how this scholarship will help improve your financial situation. (No more than one typewritten double-spaced page.)
- Return** all of the above in a single envelope (Transcript and Letter of Recommendation/Applicant Appraisal sections must be in their own sealed envelopes) postmarked no later than April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to:  
Piney Run Recreation and Conservation Council  
Attn: Scholarship Review Committee  
30 Martz Road  
Sykesville, MD 21784

Any questions may be e-mailed to [PineyRunParkCouncilTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:PineyRunParkCouncilTreasurer@gmail.com).

#### **Selection Process**

The Piney Run Recreation and Conservation Council Scholarship Committee has the sole responsibility for selecting award recipients on behalf of the Council, based on a combination of factors. Once the initial academic requirements are met, the student's involvement with Piney Run Park, school, community and environmental activities, work experience, the statement submitted by the student, and appraisal (by the adult sponsor) will be considered.

# Piney Run Recreation and Conservation Council

## Scholarship Program Application

If space in any section is inadequate, continue on another sheet and attach to application.

**Due Date: April 10, 2024**

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

Male

Female

Last Name First Name M.I. Date of Birth

Street Address Apt. City State Zip Telephone No.

Are you or your parent/guardian a member of the Piney Run Nature Center?  Yes  No Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Father's/Guardian Last Name First Name M.I.

Street Address Apt. City State Zip Telephone No.

If guardian, relationship to applicant:

Mother's/Guardian Last Name First Name M.I.

Street Address Apt. City State Zip Telephone No.

If guardian, relationship to applicant:

### HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

High School Name Principal Graduation Date (Mo/Yr)

School Address City State Zip Telephone No.

### COLLEGE INFORMATION

List the name of the college or university that you currently attend or plan to attend in the future. (If unknown, please list in order of preference the schools to which you have applied.) Use official school names – do not use abbreviations.

Current/Future	College/University	City	State
<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>			

Major or course of study Anticipated date of graduation (Month/Year)

## Piney Run Recreation and Conservation Council Scholarship Application

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

In the following sections, describe your (A) **school and community activities and volunteer work** (e.g., Piney Run Park, student government, sports, choir, hospital volunteer, Boy/Girl Scouts, etc.), noting all special awards, honors, and offices held, and (B) **paid work experience** during the past four years.

<b>A</b>	<b>Activities and Volunteer Work</b>	<b>Number of Years</b>	<b>Awards/Honors</b>	<b>Offices Held</b>
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<b>B</b>	<b>Paid Work – Employer</b>	<b>From (Mo/Yr)</b>	<b>To (Mo/Yr)</b>	<b>Hours/Week</b>	<b>Total Earnings</b>
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### OTHER AWARDS

List other scholarship awards you have applied for or been granted.

Scholarship Award	Amount	Status
	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Granted
	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Granted

### Application Checklist

This application for a scholarship becomes complete and valid only when you have returned the following in a **SINGLE ENVELOPE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024:**

- This completed and signed Scholarship Program Application
- The envelope containing the official transcript of grades (and the completed Transcript section for high school students)
- The envelope containing the letter of recommendation or the completed Applicant Appraisal section
- The statement explaining why the scholarship is deserved and how it will help. Consider explaining how you became interested in nature, why your intended major is important to you, describing your experiences or involvement with Piney Run Park and/or sharing how this scholarship will help improve your financial situation. (No more than one typewritten double-spaced page.) to:

Piney Run Recreation and Conservation Council  
Attn: Scholarship Review Committee  
30 Martz Road  
Sykesville, MD 21784

This application becomes the property of the Piney Run Recreation and Conservation Council.

### SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS

The Piney Run Recreation and Conservation Council Scholarship Committee members have the sole responsibility for selecting award recipients on behalf of the Piney Run Council, based on a combination of factors. Once the initial academic requirements are met, the student's involvement with Piney Run Park, school and community and environmental activities, work experience, the statement submitted by the student and appraisal (by the adult sponsor) will be considered.

### CERTIFICATION

All of the information on this form is true and complete to the best of our knowledge. If requested, we agree to give proof of the information given on this application. We realize that if proof is not submitted when requested, this application will not be considered valid.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature  
(if Applicant is a minor)

Date



## Piney Run Recreation and Conservation Council Scholarship Application

Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **APPLICANT APPRAISAL**

A non-related high school or college counselor, advisor, instructor, professional person or supervisor (not employed at Piney Run Park) must provide a letter of recommendation or complete this section.

You have been asked to provide a letter of recommendation or to complete this section of the scholarship application form to assist the Piney Run Recreation and Conservation Council with awarding our scholarships to the most-deserving qualified applicants.

If completing this form in lieu of a letter or recommendation, please give immediate and serious attention to the following statements. If you have additional comments, please attach a separate sheet.

**Please return the letter of recommendation or this completed form to the applicant in a sealed envelope.**

The applicant's choice of a post-secondary education program is

Extremely appropriate     Very appropriate     Moderately appropriate     Inappropriate

The applicant's achievements reflect his/her ability

Extremely well     Very well     Moderately well     Not well

The applicant's ability to set realistic and attainable goals is

Excellent     Good     Fair     Poor

The quality of the applicant's commitment to school and community is

Excellent     Good     Fair     Poor

The applicant is able to seek, find, and use learning resources

Extremely well     Very well     Moderately well     Not well

The applicant demonstrates curiosity and initiative

Extremely well     Very well     Moderately well     Not well

The applicant demonstrates good problem solving skills, follows through and completes tasks

Extremely well     Very well     Moderately well     Not well

The applicant's respect for self and others is

Excellent     Good     Fair     Poor

Appraiser's Signature

Date

Telephone No.

Appraiser's Name (please print or type)

Title/Affiliation

Appraiser's Address

City

State

Zip