

2024 Activity Descriptions

I'm a Bit of a Sew-it-all!

An introduction to basic sewing techniques, including threading the needle, and operating the sewing machine. Participants are provided with fabric, patterns, and other necessary materials to create their own tote bags and/or small projects. The instructors will guide the class through step-by-step instructions, demonstrating how to cut fabric, stitch seams, and add embellishments. As the participants work on their projects, they learn valuable skills such as measuring, pinning, and troubleshooting common sewing machine issues. By the end of the week, each participant should have a finished tote bag and/or small project and be equipped with a newfound confidence and enthusiasm for sewing.



INSTRUCTORS:
Frank Revesz &
Cassie Kreckel

String Art



Unleash your creativity and explore the fascinating world of string art! Whether you're a beginner or an experienced crafter looking to expand your skills, this class is perfect for anyone eager to explore the endless possibilities of string art. We will provide you with all the necessary tools. You'll start out the week by choosing one of our template pictures and a stained board. Next comes the hard part, choosing your string colors! By the end of the week, you'll have created your own unique string art piece to take home and display proudly.



INSTRUCTORS:
Jessica Stevens
Dave Shaver

Fired Up: Cooking and Baking Essentials



Learn the basics of meal preparation while making healthy, inexpensive meals. If you have never used a measuring cup or chopped vegetables, you will be in for a week of fun and education about using basic kitchen equipment, food safety, and creating meals on a budget.



INSTRUCTORS:
Jody Price & Jill
Ferraro

Another fun activity to take advantage of!



Pardon My Garden:

Create & take your own green environment!

INSTRUCTOR: Andrea Merovich

Gardens are no longer just an outdoor thing, bring your own garden indoors by creating a Terrarium full of rocks, moss and succulents. Learn the benefits of indoor plants and how to maintain them for years to come! You will also have an opportunity to do nature prints and rock painting. Surely, you will end this class with a green thumb!





Banners Of Expression

INSTRUCTORS:
Elyse Coldren
& Lori Hooper

Let your creativity go! Become part of Older Youth Retreat history by helping design and create the banner highlighting the theme of this year's retreat. In addition to working with your peers on this large scale banner, you'll also have the opportunity to work on your own art projects. NEW for this year: The finished banner will be raffled off at the end of week.

"It was exciting to see the retreat theme come through on the banner."
- Mike, Allegheny County



Improv

Do you like laughing? In this improv comedy class, you'll learn how to think on your feet and make comedy scenes out of nothing but a single word! Performing without a script can be intimidating, but with the right technique you can create hilarious characters and scenes like a pro.



INSTRUCTORS:
Tim McGeever,
Jen Schaupp, &
Amber Snyder



Another new and fun activity!

ALL STAR SPORTS EXPERIENCE

It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game. Take to the field and become an IL Retreat All Star in basketball, flag football, Ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, whiffle ball and many more. Learn what it means to be a team player as you strive for victory.

"I loved the cooperation, teamwork, and connections we made with one another."

We all just got along so well it was awesome. Best experience I had by far."

- Terry, Montgomery County



INSTRUCTOR:
Fritz Cadet

FIBER ARTS

The fiber arts crew is the group of almost 100 people who have been making blankets and quilts for the Older Youth at the retreat for four years. We all love to knit, crochet, or sew and we love to make these blankets! This year, the fiber arts activity will teach you the basics of crocheting so that you can make something for yourself!



You will learn many types of stitches and can use them to create a square to add to a blanket if you want! You will have all the tools you need and be able to choose from a wide variety of yarn to start your project - and you will take all of this with you once the retreat is over to keep creating!

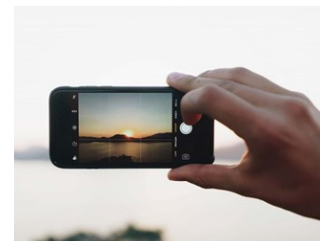
INSTRUCTORS:
Kathleen Swain
& Rachel Deitrich

photography

In a world of cellphones, Instagram, snapchat, and Facebook, we are constantly taking pictures of ourselves, our friends, and our world. In a time when everyone is constantly taking pictures, learn how to look your best and make others look their best even in shots taken just for fun.

In this session, we will learn the basics of how to set up a good picture, learn posing tips and how to make others feel comfortable in front of the camera, learn basic editing functions that can be used even on a cellphone, and explore how this fun hobby can turn into a profession. Any type of cell phone is great and an introduction to DSLR cameras will also be presented.

We will be taking pictures of each other as we learn the basics of photography!



INSTRUCTOR:
Julie Weimer