

## 10 winter activities to do with your family over break

1. **Observe birds** from your window or on a walk around your neighborhood. What do you see? What wintertime behaviors do you observe? Try to identify them using the Audubon Bird Guide app (it's free!)
2. **Go animal tracking!** Look for animal tracks, sources of food, scat, and building materials to figure out what animals could live near you. After you finish, weave together a story of all of the clues you saw. What did the animals near you do today?
3. Put on your warmest coat, make some hot chocolate and **lay out under the stars!** Download a free star viewing app (like Google Sky Map or SkyView) to learn the constellations in the night sky.
4. Help your local pollinators get ready spring by **building homes for burrowing insects!** Drill different sized holes into spare pieces of wood. Holes should be 3-6 inches deep and between  $\frac{3}{32}$  and  $\frac{3}{8}$  inches in diameter.
5. Make a **winter weed bouquet!** Collect the dried out remains of your favorite flowers and make an earthy bouquet for your dinner table. When you have finished with it, shake the seeds out of the seed heads and sprinkle them on the ground outside.
6. Go on a **twig hunt!** Winter twigs show promise of spring, if you look very carefully. How many different looking twigs can you find?
7. Make a **sound map!** Find a sunny spot to sit for a little while and close your eyes. Listen for a few minutes to all of the sounds that surround you. Map them out by drawing who made the sound and where it came from relative to you.
8. While out on a walk, collect some pinecones. Attract birds to your home by making a simple **pinecone feeder.** Cover your pinecone in nut butter or lard and then roll it in seeds. Tie some yarn to the top of the cone and hang it outside!
9. Design your own **bird nest!** Collect your nest-building materials outside and find a good nest site. Can you build a nest for a tiny bird? A huge bird? Will this nest protect your eggs from predators and weather?
10. On extra chilly days, bundle up and **make interesting ice sculptures by blowing soap bubbles** into the frosty air, making unique patterns and designs. You can make your own bubbly solution by mixing water and dish soap. Add a little bit of corn syrup and sugar to help the crystallization process and make more stable bubbles.

