



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Celebrate the Magic of Autumn at
the Third Annual Hallo-Week at Ijams**

(KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, 10/6/25)—As the leaves begin to turn and the air grows crisp, Ijams Nature Center invites the community to step into a season of enchantment, wonder, and fun during the third annual **Hallo-Week at Ijams**. From **Oct. 21 to Oct. 30**, Ijams will host a wide variety of festive, family-friendly programs from haunted hikes and nocturnal paddles to spooky stories and trick-or-treat adventures in an enchanted forest.

Hallo-Week is designed to combine nature, imagination, and community to celebrate the season. Whether you're a lifelong nature lover or simply seeking autumn excitement, there's something for every age and interest.

Tickets & Registration

Each event requires its own ticket, and spots are limited. To view the full schedule and event descriptions, and to purchase tickets, please visit ijams.org/hallo-week-at-ijams.

Featured Events

Oct. 21 - Spooky Poetry Slam (7:00-9:00 p.m.)

Join the Knoxville Poetry Slam and Ijams for a hauntingly fun night of haikus, poems, sonnets, and more at the Spooky Poetry Slam!

Oct. 22 - Welcome Home: Celebrating the Ijams Bat House (6:00-8:00 p.m.)

Celebrate the newest pad on the block, the Ijams Bat House! Groups will take a short, guided walk to reach the bat house atop the former Mead's Quarry lime kilns and enjoy a program there. This new structure has the capacity to house a colony of more than 100,000 Mexican free-tailed bats!

Oct. 23 - A Haunted History of Ijams Hike (7:00-9:00 p.m.)

Every landscape carries its stories, and some are darker than others. Step into the shadows of Ijams for a guided hike that blends natural beauty with spine-tingling history.

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Oct. 23 - Evening Paddle (6:30-8:30 p.m.)

Get ready for a relaxed trip on the Tennessee River under the beautiful night sky! Join Ijams naturalists for this two-hour, guided paddle to uncover the secrets of the Tennessee River after dark and learn about the sky while searching for plants, animals, and geologic features.

Oct. 24 - Spooky Trivia (7:00-9:00 p.m.)

Join Ijams for a trivia night inspired by the spookiness of the Halloween season. From deadly fungi and chilling folklore to creepy crawlies and creatures of the night, you won't believe what's out there.

Oct. 25 - Ijams Enchanted Forest (3:00-8:00 p.m.)

Dress up in your costume and get ready for a night of tricks and (lots of) treats in the Ijams Enchanted Forest! You'll enjoy seasonal crafts, games, and activities; meet some animal ambassadors; and nab some tasty treats!

Oct. 26 - Fall Foliage Hike (1:00-2:30 p.m.)

Enjoy the changing colors of nature with an Ijams naturalist this fall! You'll discover the secrets of autumn, identifying and learning about various wildflowers, birds, and other organisms that emerge during this bustling season.

Oct. 26 - A Haunted History of Ijams Hike (2:00-4:00 p.m.)

Every landscape carries its stories, and some are darker than others. Step into the shadows of Ijams for a guided hike that blends natural beauty with spine-tingling history.

Oct. 28 - A Night of Scary Stories (7:00-8:30 p.m.)

Enjoy an evening of scary, silly, and haunted tales told by members of the Smoky Mountain Storytellers Association!

Oct. 29 - Spooky Night Bike (6:30-8:30 p.m.)

Experience the natural wonders of Knoxville's Will Skelton Greenway by biking through Ijams, Island Home Park, and Forks of the River Wildlife Management Area. You'll learn the history of Island Home and the Tennessee River, and observe flora and fauna at stops along the way.

Oct. 30 - Ijams After Dark (7:30-9:30 p.m.)

Discover Ijams after dark during this experiential adventure! You'll meet one of Ijams' nocturnal animal ambassadors before taking a fun-filled, guided night hike on the trails to witness and identify moths and other critters attracted to black light stations.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2025, Ijams Nature Center is a 320-acre nonprofit educational center in the heart of Knoxville and serves visitors of all ages, stages, and abilities. Its mission is to encourage stewardship of the natural world by providing an urban greenspace for people to learn about and enjoy the outdoors through engaging experiences. Ijams features 14 miles of hiking and mixed-use trails, a public access river dock, swimming, boating, biking, and so much more. Hundreds of world-class educational programs and events are coordinated and offered annually. Ijams' grounds and trails are open every day from 8:00 AM until dusk. For more information, visit ijams.org or call 865-577-4717.

All photos courtesy of Ijams Nature Center.



Autumn is a time of change and movement. The hooded warbler is a long-distance migrant that stops in East Tennessee on its way to winter in Central and South America. This individual was caught at the Ijams bird banding station.



Completed in 2025, the Ijams bat house is expected to attract a large colony of more than 100,000 Mexican free-tailed bats!



The Ijams Enchanted Forest will welcome families and children to enjoy seasonal crafts, games, and activities; meet Ijams' animal ambassadors; and explore the magic of the forest Oct. 25.



Whether paddling on the water or hiking the trails, spending time at Ijams after dark offers opportunities to explore and learn about the night sky while searching for plants, animals, and geologic features.