

## Kid-friendly things to do keep young fans coming back

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Many of them are the future birders, zoologists and conservationists of the world.

That's why the Waterfowl Festival works hard to make sure the next generation of wildlife and waterfowl enthusiasts have plenty to keep them involved in the Festival fun.

Throughout the Festival there are plenty of family-friendly events to keep kids of all ages engaged in the Festival. Nowhere is this truer than the Children's Activity Area, held at Easton Elementary School.

From the Horn Point Touch Tank where children can touch rockfish and crabs to the puppet shows offered by Blackwater Refuge, this venue provides its young visitors a chance to interact in new and fun ways with the natural world.

Some of the exhibits that Festival-goers can expect at this year's Children's Exhibits include the return of Environmental Concern's Wetland on Wheels trailer, a colorful, mural trailer where kids can go inside and learn about the wonders of wetlands, make a wetland charm and engage in other craft activities. The Ward Museum will once again provide youngsters with the fun activities, including soap carving, magnet painting and decoy shaping. Kids will be able to see and take their picture with Willa the Fox and Webster the Goose, the official Waterfowl Festival mascots. Saturday morning will be Ed Itter's popular miniature decoy painting workshop and exhibits from a variety of local conservation and wildlife organizations round out the roster of educational opportunities. Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge will also offer its puppet show at various times throughout the Festival.

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