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**VISITORS WARMED DURING CANDLELIGHT SKI AT NEY NATURE CENTER DESPITE BITTER COLD**

**Henderson, MN:** Several first-time and experienced skiers participated in the Candlelight Ski at Ney Nature Center on the evening of February 12, 2016 despite the cold temperatures. Luminaries made from repurposed milk gallons lit up the prairie trail, creating a cozy atmosphere despite a temperature of 1°F. Visitors, particularly first-timers, took advantage of the center’s free skis to ski around the loop.

A young man who was trying cross-country skiing for the first time remarked that it was “very fun once you’re moving.” Another visitor exclaimed that the “weather was perfect once you got going.” Additionally, one group went around the loop three times because they were enjoying it so much.

When skiers had their fill outside, they migrated to warmer temperatures inside the Education Building where they enjoyed sipping on hot chocolate, conversing with each other, listening to live music courtesy of Laura Russell, and working on puzzles.

The Ney Nature Center is open for exploration sun up to sun down, but rental of free skis is available during open hours on Saturdays and Sundays from 12 to 4 pm. To improve experiences, the Ney Nature Center posts regular updates on its Facebook page when ski trails have been groomed. Snowshoes are also available to rent at $3.00/pair for members and $5.00/pair for non-members. Open hours continue through March.

**About the Ney Nature Center**: Conveniently located halfway between the Twin Cities and Mankato, the Ney Nature Center (NNC), which sits on the bluffs of the Minnesota River near Henderson, MN, is home to 446 acres of native prairie and woodlands.  This unique blend of biomes allows staff to educate youth and adults alike about the native plants and wildlife important to Southern Minnesota.  Visit [www.neycenter.org](http://www.neycenter.org) for more information and view a schedule of upcoming programs to attend.

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