

September 11, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

Outdoor Initiatives schedule for September and October

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board's Outdoor Initiatives offers a variety of outdoor and nature-based programs throughout early fall for youth, families and adults, including:

Outdoor Initiatives Open House

Check out Outdoor Initiatives programs featuring displays, demonstrations, and activities. Find out about upcoming archery, bat flights, camping, canoeing, caving, geocaching, hunter safety, kayaking, Little Critters, long boarding, nature hikes, winter outdoor safety and preparedness, SUP and other Outdoor Initiatives programs. Dutch Oven Cookery samples alone are worth the trip!

Sequiota Park 833-8647

Age: All ages

Date: Sun., Sept. 15 and 22

Time: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Fee: Free

NEW! Long Boarding Clinics

Brush up on or learn basic hands-on Long Boarding. This is a great individual activity designed for beginner and intermediate levels. Equipment provided. Registration required one week in advance.

Various Greenway Trails- Call for details 833-8647

Age: Beginners 9-15 yrs.

Date: Sept. 22 & Oct. 13

Time: Sun., 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Age: Intermediate 10-16 yrs.

Date: Oct. 19

Time: Sat., 1-3 p.m.

Age: Families 9 yrs. and up

Date: Oct. 19

Time: Sat., 9-11 a.m.

Fee: \$20/Person or 2/\$30

Camp Ritter Family – Group Camping

Camp out at beautiful Ritter Springs Park in your own camper, trailer, RV or tent.

Includes bat and cave awareness, canoeing or kayaking, catch & release fishing, Dutch Oven lunch on Sat., night hikes, and more. Attend in Sept. and Oct. or schedule your own group camping weekend. Registration required one week in advance.

Ritter Springs Park 833-8647

Age: All ages

Date: Oct. 4-6, & Oct. 25-27

Time: Fri., 5-6 p.m., to Sun. Noon

Fee: \$10/Person
\$25/Group of 3-4
Free/6 & under

Kayaking & Hybrid Clinics

Basic kayaking skills and open water safety under the direction of a Small Watercraft and Open Water Safety Instructor. Learn about the different types of kayaks and kayak hybrids, types of paddles, and boating laws. Registration required by 5 p.m. the Tues. before.

James River Water Trail Southwood Access on Lake Springfield 833-8647

Age: 10 yrs. and up

Date: Sept. 29

Time: Sat., Noon-3 p.m.

Sun., 1-4 p.m.

Fee: \$25/Kayak (1 person)

\$35/Tandem Kayak (2 person)

Canoeing & Water Safety Clinics

Basic canoeing skills and open water safety under the direction of a Small Watercraft and Open Water Safety Instructor. Learn paddle strokes, how to enter and exit a canoe, what to do if you tip over, how to load a canoe, and more. Registration required by 5 p.m. the Tues. before.

James River Water Trail's Southwood Access on Lake Springfield 833-8647

Age: All ages

(15 yrs. & under with an adult)

Date: Sun., Oct. 6, & Oct. 20

Time: 1-4 p.m.

Fee: \$35/Canoe (2-4 people)

Bat Flights

Basic information on Big Brown Bats, Gray Bats, Little Brown Bats, Tri-Colored Bats and the potential to observe the twilight flight of Endangered Gray Bats from Sequiota Cave. Arrive 45 mins. before darkness.

Sequiota Cave-833-8647

Age: All ages

Date: Sept. 15- Oct. 6

Time: Sun. at Twilight

Fee: Free

Giboney Cave Tours

Explore the myths, facts and history of Doling Park's Giboney Cave. Shoes may get muddy on Walking Tours. You will get very muddy and wet on the in-depth Tunnel Tours. All tours subject to bats and weather. Register on-site.

Giboney Cave-Doling Park 833-8647

Age: 6 yrs. and up (6-11 yrs. with adult)

Date: Sat, Sept. 29; Sun., Oct. 12; Sat., Oct. 27

Time: Sat. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Sun. 1-4:30 p.m.

Fee: Walking Tour: \$3/Person or \$10/Family of 4

Tunnel Tour: \$5/Person or \$20/Family of 5

Cave & Cave Life Awareness

Cave and cave life awareness displays, presentations, videos, and hand-outs.
Sequoiota Park Pavilion 833-8647

Age: All ages

Date: Sun., Sept. 15 & 22

Time: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Fee: Free

Backpacking Cooking Clinics

Learn how to cook while backpacking. Includes packing, setting up camp kitchen and hands-on cooking with fun and easy recipes. Registration required one week in advance.
Outdoor Initiatives 833-8647

Age: 11 yrs. and up (15 yrs. & under with Adult)

Date: Thurs., Sept. 19; Sun., Oct. 20;

Time: Thurs: 6-8 p.m.;

Sun.: 10 a.m.-noon

Fee: \$15/Person; \$25/2 people

Dutch Oven Cooking Clinic

Learn the basics of the historical skill of Dutch Oven Cooking. Participants will prepare, cook and consume a delicious Dutch Oven meal. Registration required one week in advance.

Ritter Springs Park 833-8647

Age: 11 yrs. and up (15 yrs. & under with Adult)

Date: Sat., Sept. 21; Sat., Oct. 5; Sat., Oct. 26

Time: 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Fee: \$15/Person; \$25/2 people

Ritter's Ecology & Wildlife

A guided walk at Ritter Springs Park, including cave and bat awareness, endangered species, wildlife, glades and Leave No Trace trail ethics. Registration required by 5 p.m. the Thurs. before.

Ritter Springs Park 833-8647

Age: 7 yrs. and up

Date: Sun., Sept. 22

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Fee: Free

Little Critters "Walk-A-'Bout"

Designed to get kids outdoors and seeing, smelling and touching nature. Program includes short, easy walks with a guide and a take-home packet. Registration required by 5 p.m. the Tues. before.

Doling Park 833-8647

Age: 3-5 yrs. (with and adult)

Date: Sept. 29, Oct. 12: Doling Park-meet at Giboney Cave

Time: 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Fee: \$2/Child; \$1/Child-3 or more

Geocaching Clinic

Learn the hands-on adventure of Geocaching. Includes basic skills, guidelines and permits. Registration required by 5 p.m. the Tues. before.

Ritter Springs Park 833-8647

Age: 9 yrs. and up

Date: Sept. 21, Oct. 5 & Oct. 26

Time: Sat., 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Fee: \$5/Person

Day Trips

Visit State Parks and other natural areas with a group. All trips include transportation and depart from the Springfield-Greene County Park Board office at 1923 N. Weller. Bring your own sack lunch, snacks and water. Full-day groups will stop at a restaurant for supper. Registration required one week in advance.

Outdoor Initiatives 833-8647

Age: 9 yrs. and up (9-17 yrs. with an adult)

Paddy Creek Recreation & Wilderness Area Day Packing Trip

During this all-day trip, you may get wet, as we will explore and hike trails that are in the creek at times.

Date: Sat., Oct. 12

Time: 8:30 a.m. (all day)

Fee: \$15/Person, \$25/Two people

Ha Ha Tonka State Park

Cameras encouraged for the fall scenery. Be prepared for short guided hikes.

Date: Sun., Oct. 13

Time: 1-7 p.m.

Fee: \$10/Person

Arkansas Boston Mountains

Includes Arkansas Tourism Center, Boxley Elk Valley, Buffalo River and Pruitt Landing, Arkansas Wildlife or Ponca Elk Center, and Scenic Point.

Date: Sat., Oct. 19

Time: 7:30 a.m. (all day)

Fee: \$20/Person, \$35/Two people

Bennett Springs State Park

Cameras encouraged for the fall scenery. Be prepared for short guided hikes throughout the spring area and trout hatchery.

Date: Sun., Oct. 20

Time: 1-7 p.m.

Fee: \$10/Person

For more information on Outdoor Initiatives programs, call Melvin Johnson, Outdoor Initiatives Supervisor, at 417-833-8647. For media inquiries, call Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator for the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, at 417-874-2176 or 417-224-5510.