

August 06, 2013

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

## **Outdoor Initiatives schedule for August, September**

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

### **PaddleBoard/Kayak instruction**

Basic instruction in stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) or kayaking, then float on your own.

Register by Tuesday before.

Outdoor Initiatives at Valley Water Mill Park 833-8647

Age: 11 yrs. and up

Date: Aug. 18

Time: 1 – 4 p.m.

Fee: \$5/30 minutes, max. 2 hours

### **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. Groups of 10+ may register and pay in advance of tour date.

Giboney Cave-Doling Park 833-8647

Age: 6 yrs. and up

Date: Sept. 29,

Time: Sun. 1-4:30 p.m.

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

Tunnel Tour- \$5/Person; \$20/Family of 5

Advance Group Registration add \$2/Person

### **Day Trip to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield**

Tour the museum and explore the National Battlefield. Includes transportation and depart from the Springfield-Greene County Park Board's main office at 1923 N. Weller. Bring your own sack lunch, snacks and water. Don't forget your camera! Register by one week before trip.

Outdoor Initiatives 833-8647

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

Date: August 25

Time: 1 – 6 p.m.

Fee: Half-Day -\$10/Person

### **Bat & Cave Awareness**

Learn about basic bat and cave awareness at Sequiota Cave.

Sequiota Cave 833-8647

Age: All ages

Date: Aug. 24  
Time: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Fee: Free

### **Bat Flights**

Basic information on endangered Gray Bats, Big Brown Bats, Little Brown Bats, Tri-Colored Bats, and potential to observe the twilight flight from Sequiota Cave.  
Sequoiota Cave 833-8647  
Age: All ages  
Date: Aug. 17, Aug. 24, Sept. 8  
Time: Sun. at Twilight  
Fee: Free

### **Outdoor Days at Lake Springfield**

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board partners with Bass Pro Shops for two days of exciting outdoor recreation & adventure opportunities during the annual Outdoor Fitness Festival. Whether you're a seasoned outdoor enthusiast or a beginner, this event is for you. Sample 1840's life with demonstrations by the James River Mountain Man Rendezvous. Check out the latest in camping gear, including off-road and "green" products. Hands-on/assisted canoeing, kayaking and paddle boarding. Pontoon boat rides, fishing, trail walks and more. Activities hosted by Wonders of Wildlife, Missouri Department of Conservation and the Park Board's Outdoor Initiatives.  
Lake Springfield Boathouse 833-8647  
Age: All ages  
Date: Sept. 7-8  
Time: Sat., 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Sun., 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
Fee: Free

### **Camping Weekend at Lake Springfield**

Early fall camping during Outdoor Days at Lake Springfield. Camp out in your own camper or tent. Restrooms and water available. (Sorry, no camper hook-ups or showers.) Bring your own gear and food, concessions available. Activities include: campfire Saturday night, canoeing, crafts, hiking, kayaking, paddle boarding, primitive skills and more. Registration required by Sept. 3; on-site registration only if space is available.  
Lake Springfield Park 833-8647  
Age: All ages  
Date: Sept. 6-8  
Time: Fri., 4:30 p.m.- Sun., 3 p.m.  
Fee: Free

### **Open Canoe Sprint Race**

Teams of two race at Lake Springfield during Outdoor Days. Bring your own canoe or rent one. Prizes of Bass Pro Shops merchandise cards awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams!  
Lake Springfield Park 833-8647  
Age: 16 yrs. and up  
Date: Sat., Sept. 7  
Time: Registration 9 a.m.; Race 10 a.m.

Fee: \$20/Team  
\$10/Canoe rental (supplies limited)

### **Open Kayak Sprint Race**

Single-person competition at Lake Springfield during Outdoor Days. Bring your own kayak or rent one. Prizes of Bass Pro Shops merchandise cards awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams!

Lake Springfield Park 833-8647

Age: 16 yrs. and up

Date: Sat., Sept. 7

Time: Registration 9 a.m.; Race 11:30 a.m.

Fee: \$15/Person

\$10/Kayak rental (supplies limited)

### **Canoeing, Kayaking, Paddle Boarding**

Demonstrations and limited hands-on opportunities, as a part of Outdoor Days, in partnership with Safe Kids Coalition and the Park Board. Instructors and water safety staff on-site to assist you.

Lake Springfield Park 833-8647

Age: 7 yrs. and up (7-11 yrs. with adult only)

Date: Sept. 7-8

Time: Canoeing: Sat., 1-4 p.m.

Kayaking: Sun., 1-3 p.m.

Paddle Boarding: Sun., 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Fee: Free

### **Outdoor Initiatives Open House**

Check out Outdoor Initiatives Open House at Sequiota Park. 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!

Sequoiota Park 833-8647

Age: All ages

Date: Sun., Sept. 15 and Sun. Sept. 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.

Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park 833-8647

Age: Beginners 9-15 yrs.

Date: Sept. 22

Time: Sun., 1:30-3:30 p.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: Sept. 20-22

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. 14, Sept. 29

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

Sun., 1-4 p.m.

Fee: \$25/Kayak (1 person)

\$35/Tandem Kayak (2 person)

### **Cave & Cave Life Awareness**

Cave and cave life awareness displays, presentations, videos, and hand-outs.

Sequiota Park Pavilion 833-8647

Age: All ages

Date: Sun., Sept. 15 & 22

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

Fee: Free

### **Natural Wonders of Lost Hill**

A guided walk in Lost Hill Natural Resource Park, including: cave and karst features, fossils, glades and cactus, loosing streams, the "Cozy Cave Clubhouse" and Leave No Trace trail ethic. Registration required by 5 p.m. the Tues. before.

Lost Hill Park 833-8647

Age: 7 yrs. and up

Date: Sun., Sept. 15

Time: 9 a.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 & Sequiota Parks 833-8647

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

Date: Sept. 15: Sequiota Park-meet at Sequiota Pavilion

Sept. 29: Doling Park-meet at Giboney Cave

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

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

### **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 at Valley Water Mill Park 833-8647

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

Date: Thurs., Sept. 19

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

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

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

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

### **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

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

Fee: \$5/Person

### **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

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.