

June 14, 2013

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Outdoor Initiatives schedule for June-August**

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

#### **Backpacking Cooking Clinic**

Learn how to cook while backpacking. Includes packing, setting up camp kitchen and hands-on cooking with fun and easy recipes. Register by the Tuesday before.

Valley Water Mill Park 833-8647

Age: 11 yrs. and up

Date: Aug. 3

Time: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Fee: \$15/Person; 2 for \$20

#### **Bat & Cave Awareness**

Learn about basic bat and cave awareness at Sequiota Cave.

Sequoiota Park 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 Park 833-8647

Age: All ages

Date: Aug. 17, Aug. 24

Time: 45-minutes prior to darkness

Fee: Free

#### **Camp Challenge Trip Camp to Ozark National Scenic Riverways**

Youth two-night supervised tent camping trip. Depart from Tom Watkins Center. Includes Alley Springs and Mill, Jacks Fork or Current River, Round Springs and Cave, creek wading and water activities. Tents and equipment, meals, snacks, transportation and showers are all provided. Register a week in advance.

Outdoor Initiatives 833-8647

Age: 9 – 15 yrs.

Date: July 23 – 25

Time: Tues., 7:30 a.m. – Thurs., 5:30 p.m.

Fee: \$75

#### **Camp Challenge Trip Camp to Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park**

Youth two-night supervised tent camping trip. Depart from Tom Watkins Center. Includes Canyon Gorge, creek wading and water chutes, Elephant Rocks State Park, Fort Davidson Civil War Historic Site and Taum Sauk. Tents and equipment, meals, snacks, transportation and showers are all provided. Register a week in advance.

Outdoor Initiatives 833-8647

Age: 9 – 15 yrs.

Date: July 9-11

Time: Tues., 7:30 a.m. – Thurs., 5:30 p.m.

Fee: \$75

### **Canoe Clinic - Float**

Float part of the James River Water Trail on your own or with a guide for basic hands-on canoeing skills, safety, and survival. Register by the Tuesday before.

Lake Springfield Southwood Access 833-8647

Age: 11 yrs. and up

Date: June 30

Time: 1 – 4 p.m.

Fee: \$15/Person or  
\$30/Canoe

### **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.

Doling Park 833-8647

Age: 6 yrs. and up

Date: June 15, Aug. 3

Time: Sat.: 11 a.m. – 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

### **Kayak or Canoe Float Trip**

Spend a relaxing afternoon floating the lower James River. Float on your own or with the guide. Great for couples, families, groups. Transportation included. Register by Tuesday before.

Depart from Valley Water Mill Park 833-8647

Age: All ages

Date: Canoeing: July 6

Kayaking: July 20

Time: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Fee: \$20/Person or \$35/Canoe;

\$30/ Single Kayak; \$35/Tandem Kayak

### **Little Critter "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. Register by noon Friday before.

Outdoor Initiatives 833-8647

Age: 3 – 5 yrs. (with an adult)

Date: August 15: Valley Water Mill Park- meet at Outdoor Initiative Office.

Time: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Fee: \$2/Child, \$1 each/3 or more children

### **PaddleBoard/Kayak instruction**

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

Register by Tuesday before.

Lake Springfield Southwood Access 833-8647

Age: 11 yrs. and up

Date: June 22, July 28, Aug. 18

Time: 1 – 4 p.m.

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

### **Science of the Outdoors!**

New for 2013! Discovery Center of the Ozarks partners with Outdoor Initiatives for two science-oriented camping adventures! Campers spend Monday at the Discovery Center, exploring wilderness safety, an ecosystem overview and some of the science they may encounter on the trip. Tuesday morning, campers and staff are whisked off to a 3-day, 2-night adventure with outdoor exploration and scientific interpretation, including stargazing, kayaking, geology, plant identification, animal track identification and more! Fee includes transportation, tents and equipment, T-shirt and most meals (students must bring a sack lunch Monday and Tuesday.) Space is limited—register at least one week in advance.

Discovery Center 862-9910 x706 or [www.discoverycenter.org](http://www.discoverycenter.org).

Age: 9 – 13 yrs.

Fee: \$160 Discovery Center members /\$185 non-members

### **Ha Ha Tonka State Park**

Camp/Dutch Oven cookery, canoeing or kayaking, geocaching, castle ruins, karst and springs environmental education, nature center, hiking and camping.

Date: June 24 – 27, register by June 19.

Time: Mon., 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.; and Tues., 7:30 a.m. – Thurs. 5:30 p.m.

### **Prairie State Park**

Bison, elk and deer study, camp/Dutch Oven cookery, nature center, prairie life, stargazing, hiking and camping.

Date: Aug. 5 – 8, register by July 29.

Time: Mon., 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.; and Tues., 7:30 a.m. – Thurs. 5:30 p.m.

### **Day Trips**

All trips include 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. All return times are estimated.

Outdoor Initiatives 833-8647

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

**Arkansas Boston Mountains, Arkansas Tourism Center, Boxley Elk Valley, Buffalo River and Pruitt Landing, Arkansas Wildlife or Ponca Elk Center, Erbie Homestead, Steel Creek View and Scenic Point**

Date: June 22:

Time: 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Fee: \$20/Person or 2/\$35

**Oklahoma Will Rogers Western Museum**

Explore Will Roger's life, movies and the western theme of the time period.

Date: August 3

Time: 7:30 a.m. – 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Fee: \$20/Person or 2/\$35

**Paddy Creek Recreation & Wilderness Area**

Explore and hike and prepared to get wet — trails are in creek at times.

Date: August 11

Time: 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Fee: \$20/Person or 2/\$25

**Wilson's Creek National Battlefield**

Tour the museum and explore the National Battlefield.

Date: August 25

Time: 1 – 6 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.