

March 17, 2014

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Outdoor Initiatives program schedule for March, April and May**

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

#### **Archery Clinic**

Try Archery for the first time or brush up on your skills with National Archery in Schools Program instructors. Registration required by the prior Tuesday evening.

Valley Water Mill Park 833-8923

Age: 8 yrs. & up

Date: March 29, April 27

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

Fee: \$5/Person

#### **Archery Tournament**

Put your eagle-eye archery shooting skills to the test in this tournament with National Archery in Schools Program instructors. Youth and adult divisions. Prizes awarded.

Registration required by the prior Tuesday.

Valley Water Mill Park 833-8923

Age: Youth: 9 -15 yrs., Adult: 16 yrs. & up

Date: March 29, April 27

Time: Sat. 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Fee: \$5/10 shots

#### **Backpacking Cooking Clinic**

Learn how to cook healthy meals while backpacking or just camping. Includes packing, setting up camp kitchen and hands-on cooking with fun and easy recipes. Registration required one week in advance.

Valley Water Mill Park 833-8923

Age: 11 yrs. & up

Date: March 29

Time: 11 a.m. -1 p.m.

Date: May 31

Time: 9-11 a.m.

Fee: \$15/Person

#### **NEW! Basic Camp Cookery Clinics**

Learn or brush up on basic camping cooking skills, including foil-pack and one-pot meals. Participants will prepare, cook, and consume sample items. Registration is required by the Tues. prior.

Outdoor Initiatives/Valley Water Mill Park 833-8923

Age: 11 yrs. and up

Date: May 31

Time: 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Fee: \$15/Person

Include the "Backpacking Cooking Clinic" for \$5 more

### **Camp Challenge Trips**

Start planning now for June, July and August. Three-day, two-night trip camps to include adventure, outdoor knowledge and skills. Registration required one-week before each trip. Space is limited, so register early.

Outdoor Initiatives 833-8923

Age: 9 -15 yrs.

Dates:

- June 24-26 Ha Ha Tonka
- July 8-10 Bennett Springs
- July 22-24 Johnson Shut-Ins
- Aug 5-7 Paddy Creek

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

Fee: \$90/Person; 2/\$150

### **Camp Ritter Family – Group Camping Weekend**

Camp out at beautiful Ritter Springs Park in your own camper, trailer or tent. Includes canoeing or kayaking, catch & release fishing, Dutch Oven cooking clinic and lunch, geocaching, hiking and more. Registration required one week in advance.

Ritter Springs Park 833-8923

Age: All ages

Dates: April 25-27, May 16-17

Time: Fri., 4:30 p.m.- Sun., 11 a.m.

Fee: \$10/Person/Night; \$10/Day Visitor; 6 yrs. and under are free

### **WOW National Outdoor Recreation & Conservation School**

Designed to teach participants how to enjoy a wide range of outdoor recreation activities while practicing personal safety and outdoor responsibility. Each WOW course includes an outdoor skill, conservation, safety and ethics component. Registration required. Great for families, individuals and groups!

Ritter Springs Park [registration@wondersofwildlife.org](mailto:registration@wondersofwildlife.org)

Age: All ages

Date: April 11-12

Time: Fri. afternoon -Sat. afternoon

Fee: \$30/Person or \$60/Family of 4

### **Bat and Cave Awareness**

Basic bat and cave awareness. Dates are subject to weather and bat migration.

Sequiota Cave, 833-8923

Age: All ages

Date: March 22

Time: Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Fee: Free

### **Sequiota Cave Boat Tours**

Slowly paddle through Sequiota Cave learning its myths, facts and history. A great experience for the young and young-at-heart. Includes bat and cave and awareness. All tours subject to bats and weather. Registration on-site starting at 9:30 a.m. each date. Space is limited.

Sequoiota Park 833-8923

Age: 6 yrs. - Adult.

Date: March 22

Time: Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Fee: \$7/Adult; \$5/Kids 15 yrs. & under

### **Giboney Cave Tours**

Explore the myths, facts and history of Doling Park's Giboney Cave. Shoes may get muddy on Walking Tour. You will get very muddy and wet on the in-depth Tunnel Tours. Weekday school field trips available. Site is sanctioned by DESE, DNR, MDC, and the Missouri Heritage Foundation as an Outdoor - Underground Classroom. All tours subject to bats and weather. On-site registration.

Giboney Cave, Doling Park 833-8923

Age: 6 yrs. and up

Date: April 5, May 3

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

Fee:

- Walking Tour: \$4/person, \$12/Family 4
- Tunnel Tour: \$6/Person, \$20/Family 4

School trips: \$75 minimum

### **Dutch Oven Cooking**

Learn how to cook with or brush up on your Dutch Oven Cooking. Participants will prepare, cook and consume a delicious Dutch Oven meal. Registration required one week in advance.

Ritter Springs Park 833-8923

Age: 11 yrs. - Adult

Date: April 26

Time: Sat. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

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

### **Cold Water Canoeing Skills**

Basic cold water canoeing skills, including: dressing for the weather, loading and packing a canoe, safety skill if you tip over, and more. Registration required by the prior Tue. evening.

James River Water Trail's Southwood Access on Lake Springfield's south shore 833-8923

Age: 11 yrs. - Adult

Date: April 5, May 3

Time: Sat. 1 -4 p.m.

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

### **Canoe Float - Skills**

Float part of the James River Water Trail on your own or receive basic hands-on canoeing skills and safety. Choose 30-minutes or up to 3 hours. Registration is required

by the Tues. prior.  
Lake Springfield Southwood Access 833-8923  
Age: 11 yrs. and up  
Date: May 31  
Time: 1 – 4 p.m.  
Fee: \$5/Each 30 minutes of instruction

### **Geocaching**

Learn or brush up on basic geocaching skills, including: how to use a GPS / geocaching, what a cache is, how to create and hide a cache, required permits, travel bugs, and more. Registration required one week in advance.

Ritter Springs Park 833-8923

Age: 11 yrs. & up  
Date: April 26, May 17  
Time: Sat. 1:30-3:30 p.m.  
Fee: \$8/Person; 2/\$10

### **Bennett Springs & Ha Ha Tonka State Parks Day Trip**

Explore two of Missouri's most interesting state parks. Includes transportation from the Springfield-Greene County Park Board Office, 1923 N. Weller. Dress for the trail and weather; and bring your own lunch, snacks and water. Plan for a short restaurant stop on the way back. Registration required one week in advance.

Outdoor Initiatives 833-8923

Age: 11 yrs. & up  
Date: April 19  
Time: 8 a.m. 7 p.m.  
Fee: \$20/Person; 2/\$30

### **Outdoor Initiatives Open House**

Check out Outdoor Initiatives programs at Valley Water Mill Park with hikes, displays, and demonstrations. Learn more about archery, geocaching, camping, Family/Group Camps and Youth Trip Camps, backpacking cooking, basic camp cooking, Dutch oven cooking, nature hikes, canoeing, kayaking, standup paddleboarding, water rescue and other Outdoor Initiatives programs. Dutch Oven cookery samples alone are worth the trip!

Outdoor Initiatives/Valley Water Mill Park 833-8923

Age: All ages  
Date: May 4  
Time: Sun., 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
Fee: Free

### **Spring Nature Photo Contest**

Grab your camera, get out into the parks and enter our Spring Nature photo contest. Entries must be color photo prints including a spring nature scene taken in Springfield-Greene County Parks. All entries must include: photographer's name, age (if entering youth division) and address; contact e-mail and phone number; date and name of park where taken. Send entries to Outdoor Initiatives photo contest, c/o Springfield-Greene County Park Board, 1923 N Weller Ave., Springfield, MO 65803. Prizes awarded to the top winners in each division.

Valley Water Mill Park 833-8923

Age: Youth Div: Ages 10 - 15  
Adult Div: Ages 16 - Adult  
Date: Entry deadline May 20  
Fee: \$5/Entry

For more information on Outdoor Initiatives programs, call 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.