



DeSoto State Park and park partners like Little River Canyon National Preserve, Jacksonville State University Field School, Little River Arts Council and more, team up to bring you many fun events throughout the year.

Campfire Talks, Classes, Demonstrations, Guided Interpretive or Fitness Hikes, Tours, Outdoor Adventures, Workshops.....topics covering art, science, nature, and much more!

DeSoto State Park also adds community events such as classes, festivals, workshops, local craft shows, etc to our calendar so that we can help our guests and visitors make their visit to Lookout Mountain, Alabama even more memorable.

For more events on Lookout Mountain, see www.discoverlookoutmountain.com



Alabama State Parks, a division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, operates and maintains 21 parks encompassing approximately 48,000 acres of land and water. These parks rely on visitor fees and the support of other partners like local communities to fund the majority of their operations.

For more information on Alabama State Parks, visit www.alapark.com



DeSoto State Park's Campfire Talk Series

Campfire Talks are a series of educational & entertaining programs located in the great outdoors. Campfire programs are held almost every Friday & Saturday evening (May –October) in DeSoto's James L. Wynn Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. All programs are open & free to everyone. *Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable chair if you wish. In case of bad weather, programs are moved inside.*

Serious Skills Series

Hosted by DeSoto State Park. The Serious Skills series is a variety of classes and workshops that provide opportunities to discover a hidden talent or learn a new skill for personal enrichment. Classes are open to local residents, overnight guests and park visitors.



DeSoto State Park challenges you to become a DeSoto State Park Trail Trekker!

Hike the designated 23 miles of trails in DeSoto, (whether on your own or in a group, no time limit) and collect your prize, a Trail Trekkers Patch. Just log your hikes in the Trail Trekker log and record the date for each trail listed. Sign completed form and turn in to DeSoto State Park Country Store or Lodge to receive your patch!

This hike series is designed for those that prefer some company out on the trails with experienced park staff or volunteers. Each month there will be a different hike so you can start marking them off towards your patch!

MORE 2024 EVENTS TO BE ADDED!

MARCH

Lost Falls 10K / Half Marathon / 50K

DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

From the same directors of Eagle Ridge, Grand Viduta Stage Race, Wade Mountain & Wild Thangs Trail Series, River Monster Trail Run, & the Cathedral Caverns Trail Run.

Running Lane Events present the Lost Falls 10K / Half Marathon / 50K

The race is capped at 300 runners. All runners who sign up will receive a t-shirt, and finisher medal as well as a hot meal post race.

Date: March 2, 2024

Where: Desoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Registration: https://ultrasignup.com/register.aspx?did=107154&fbclid=IwAR2_d6EBN-QToLW3rzdgmvid-dfbW8y3lEylUgkhPU-ExStm4EPQNcL6zzo

More info: www.facebook.com/RunningLaneEvents/

Canyon Kids-Jr Adventures-Birding 101

JSU Field School

Join JSU Field School staff for a hands on adventure the 1st Thursday each month in 2024! Children (ages 3 years-3rd graders) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures!

In March our theme is Birding 101! Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools.

Date: Thursday, March 7, 2024

Time: 10:30 am—11:15 am (CST)

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park).

What to Bring: Please dress in layers appropriate for the weather and wear footwear suitable for hiking. Free event. Registration required. More info: www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Serious Skills Series: The Art of Woodburning- Make Your Own Souvenir Ornaments

Hosted by DeSoto State Park. The Serious Skills series is a variety of classes and workshops that provide opportunities to discover a hidden talent or learn a new skill for personal enrichment. Classes are open to local residents, overnight guests, and park visitors.

Pyrography or woodburning is the art of decorating wood or other materials, the term meaning “writing with fire” dating back to the 17th century. Participants in this class will learn the basic techniques of decorative wood burning from artist April Blanks, and will work on their own souvenir ornament designs of scenes in DeSoto State Park and different Christmas designs. Practice basic techniques using a pen-like burning tool and paint. This class is for ages 14 to adult.

Date: March 15, 2024

Time: 2 class times available: 10:00-12:00 OR 12:30-2:30 pm (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne, Alabama (Location disclosed at time of registration)

Fee: \$25.00 -includes all supplies. Class space is limited, pre-registration is required for attendance in this class.

Sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/g/Cgud7E8bSd> Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for more info.

Examples of April's work: www.facebook.com/Aprils-Woodburnings

Wild About Bears!

Did you know that in Alabama, the yearly cycle for black bears starts in February? This is the time when the female bears, known as sows, give birth to their adorable cubs snug inside their cozy dens. Black bears are native to Alabama and their population is on the rise. Historically found in the southwest area of the state, bears have also been migrating into northeast Alabama from northwest Georgia over recent years. Following in their wake are myths, tall tales, and misconceptions. Join Beth Sewell from JSU Field School to delve deeper into the world of bears, discover if they hibernate or not, and what to do to live with bears in your community.

Date: March 15, 2024 Time: 10:00 a.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. CCC Pavilion in Picnic Area, across from DeSoto's Country Store & Information Center

Fee: Free & open to everyone. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details.

Trail Trekker Hike: Neverland Loop

About the hike: Will be hiking on the Never-neverland/Vizneyland trails, as well as the Dark Side trail for a longer hike which will be approximately 7 miles round trip, moderate. Trail weaves thru hardwood forest with sandstone outcroppings, streams, wetlands, and an old homeplace along the trail.

Date: 3/16/2024

Time: 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store on County Road 89. will caravan to Lost Falls Trailhead.

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of hike. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

Wild About Bears!

JSU Field School

Join JSU Field School Staff for Wild about black Bears in Alabama

From 10:30 – 11:15 Outdoor story time and activity featuring bears. This program is designed for children 10 and under, but all are welcome. This activity is outside with a short walk. Feel free to bring a picnic blanket or camping chair. Weather permitting.

1:30 for an educational program about these amazing animals.

Date: March 19, 2024

Time: 10:30-2:30 pm (CST)

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park).

Fee: Free & open to everyone. No registration required. More info: www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Family Dog Day

JSU Field School

Bring your dog and join JSU Field School staff for a wagging good time! Join us from 10:30 - 11:15 for a guided scent trail hike with your dog and see what can find on the trail! Hike will be on the Path to Learning trail that is roughly 0.5 miles. Hike is listed as easy, however, terrain is rough and uneven.

The scent trail will be open until 3:00 pm if you want to take a self-guided hike. Test your dog's agility in a self-guided obstacle course for dogs that will be open throughout the day as well.

Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Time: 10:30 a.m. (CST)

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park).

Fee: Free & open to everyone. No registration required. More info: www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Art in Nature

JSU Field School

Save the date! More info to come

Join JSU Field Schools during Spring Break to look for art in nature! Storytime/craft, Nature Journaling for kids, and more

Date: March 21, 2024

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park)

www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools www.jsu.edu/epic/EventCC.html

Canyon Campout for Women

Women- join staff from the JSU Field School and Desoto State Park on a weekend adventure for women. This will be an intro to tent camping, at an easy-going pace. This is an ideal adventure for women who want to explore Little River Canyon National Preserve.

Combine stunning scenery with an easy, comfortable camping experience. This event was designed by women for women to learn about camping while appreciating nature and building community with likeminded women. Join us for activities such as hiking, nature journaling, outdoor yoga, and outdoor cooking. Our private campground includes warm showers and flush toilets. All meals will be provided. Enjoy hot coffee or tea each morning and a Dutch-oven cooking demonstration and workshop for lunch.

Want to come, but don't have any camping supplies? No problem. Please let us know if you need to borrow any gear, and we should be able accommodate you.

Who: Women ages fourteen years of age and older. Participants under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

Date: Friday, March 22 to Saturday, March 23, 2024. Check in will begin at 3pm on Friday, March 22.

Where: Little River Canyon National Preserve (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park)

Fee: \$75 per person (Covers all fees for workshops and classes and three meals). Registration is required for this event. Space is limited. No refunds after March 8, 2024.

What to Bring: Participants can bring their own camping equipment

(tent, sleeping bag, or sleeping hammock). Please let us know if you don't have these items and we should be able to lend you some for the weekend.

Register now:

https://secure.touchnet.net/C20901_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=251&SINGLESTOR E=true

Dutch Oven Cooking Demo 101

Hosted by JSU Field Schools demos will be happening throughout the day, presented by DeSoto State Park Naturalist Brittney Hughes.

Dutch ovens have been in use for hundreds of years; especially when our country was expanding and families were on the move. Unable to bring their large cook stoves with them, women learned how to cook entire meals from stews & soups to bread & desserts, in their Dutch ovens. Learn the basics about Dutch ovens, how to clean & care for your cookware, AND cook (& eat!) dinner & dessert at the same time!

This is a demonstration so you can swing by anytime, & the best time is when food is just coming off the fire. Drop in whenever you like & check out the food!

Date: March 23, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center (10 miles from DeSoto State Park)

Fee: Free & open to everyone. For any info, contact the Canyon Center at 256.845-3548

Family Dog Day

JSU Field School

Bring your dog and join JSU Field School staff for a wagging good time! Join us from 10:30 - 11:15 for a guided scent trail hike with your dog and see what can find on the trail! Hike will be on the Path to Learning trail that is roughly 0.5 miles. Hike is listed as easy, however, terrain is rough and uneven.

The scent trail will be open until 3:00 pm if you want to take a self-guided hike. Test your dog's agility in a self-guided obstacle course for dogs that will be open throughout the day as well.

Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Time: 10:30 a.m. (CST)

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park).

Fee: Free & open to everyone. No registration required. More info: www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Canyon Kids – Young Explorers - Ages 7 to 12 years old

JSU Field School

Join JSU Field School staff for hands on adventure learning the 4th Thursday of February, March, April, and May of 2024! Children ages 7 to 12 years old will want to attend ALL of these hands-on adventures! To creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools.

Info on Full semester:

Thursday, March 28, 2024 – Art in Nature

Thursday, April 25, 2024 – Things that Fly & Things that Fall Thursday, May 23, 2024 – Birding for Kids

Time: 10:30 am–12:00 pm (CST)

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park).

What to Bring: Please dress in layers appropriate for the weather and wear footwear suitable for hiking. Free event. Registration required. More info: www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Wild About Bears!

JSU Field School

Join JSU Field School Staff for Wild About Bears and celebrate Spring Break at the Little River Canyon Center!

From 10:30 – 11:15 Outdoor story time and activity featuring bears. This program is designed for children 10 and under, but all are welcome. This activity is outside with a short walk. Feel free to bring a picnic blanket or camping chair. Weather permitting.

1:30 for an educational program about these amazing animals.

Date: March 28, 2024

Time: 10:30-2:30 pm (CST)

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park).

Fee: Free & open to everyone. No registration required. More info: www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Intro to Watercolor Class

JSU Field School

Join Bryce Lafferty for an Intro to Watercolor Class at the Little River Canyon Center. Ages 8 and up are welcome to participate in this one-hour class. No experience necessary.

Bryce is an award-winning artist, and his work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in museums and galleries in the United States and in Japan. He is Department Head and Full Professor in the Department of Art and Design at Jacksonville State University. Limited availability.

Date: March 28, 2024

Time: 1:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park)

Register now:

https://secure.touchnet.net/C20901_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=253&SINGLESTORE=true&fbclid=IwAR2ZQyC9gHP6KNLQRDQTgV73ynjdwFZCRZTiUwNGOP82DPBiILcEyQPofrA

Early Spring Hike

Join DeSoto State Park Staff on a moderate meandering hike along the West Fork of Little River to see what species of plants is starting to grow and bloom after a long winter season. We will learn some natural history of the plants, and some medicinal and historical uses as well. About the hike: the trail will be moderate, rugged terrain over approx. 2 miles. We will utilize the DeSoto Scout trail & green trail for this hike.

Date: 3/30/2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store on County Road 89. Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of hike. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

Serious Skills Series: Leaf Pounding Class

Hosted by DeSoto State Park. The Serious Skills series is a variety of classes and workshops that provide opportunities to discover a hidden talent or learn a new skill for personal enrichment. Classes are open to local residents, overnight guests, and park visitors.

Leaf pounding is a simple, stunning technique, historically used by Native American women to decorate fabric. Pounding with a rock or a hammer transfers the natural dyes of a leaf to fabric while retaining the design of the original leaf. In this class, join DeSoto State Park Naturalist Brittney Hughes on a quick walk to ID leaves that can be used for leaf pounding, then get a chance to unleash your creativity to make a beautiful and unique piece of fabric to take home. Participants can also bring their own fabric like t-shirts, handkerchiefs, pillowcases, etc. as long as it is 100% cotton. This class is for ages 8 to adult.

Date: March 30, 2024

Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne, Alabama. Picnic Area Across Road from Country Store on County Road 89

Fee: \$10.00 -includes all supplies. Class space is limited, pre-registration is required for attendance in this class. Pre-registration:

<https://alapark.itinio.com/register/DSP-SSS-LeafPounding>

This class will be held outside under a covered pavilion, be prepared for whatever weather conditions are present. For any questions, email Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov

Pottery 101 Workshop

JSU Field School

Join artist Jessica Haigh of Animal House Pottery for this ceramic hand-building class, learning the process of turning "dirt" into the ceramic pieces we know and use today.

Create your own wind chime, small bowl, or "poof pot" (small dish). Each piece can be customized with all types of designs, shapes, and colors. Once class is completed all work will go through a firing process and will be available for pickup by mid-April. You will not be able to leave with your pottery; however, once completed your pieces can last a lifetime with proper care. Students as young as 4 years old and up are welcome with an adult!

Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024

Time: 1 pm – 3 pm

Location: JSU's Little River Canyon Center (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park)

Price: \$35 per participant Refunds: No refunds after March 22, 2024 Supplies: All supplies will be provided.

**** You must click "Submit Order" to complete registration. You will be emailed a confirmation. If you do not receive an email confirmation, please call the Canyon Center, 256-845-3548 or email [Rebekah, rmtaylor@jsu.edu](mailto:Rebekah.rmtaylor@jsu.edu).****

Register here:

https://secure.touchnet.net/C20901_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=258&SINGLESTOR E=true&fbclid=IwAR12rSHqOZhaoYcHaF7kUXya6bxlqDLfsqC6NQnrYoJHzTbXCgnqDxl3_9g

APRIL

Nature Journal Journey Hike

Join naturalists and artists for this creative nature observation hike, combining art & nature! The focus of this nature walk is to reflect your observations of nature using a personal journaling style.....in many different ways! Learn how to keep your own nature journal while strolling along trails in DeSoto State Park. Will hike in about 1/2 mile to the West Fork of Little River and hang out for a while working on our nature journals with provided materials. For ages 8 to adult, we encourage all ages to join!

About the hike: the hike is considered moderate, because of the uneven, rocky terrain. Total 1 1/2 mile loop.

What to bring: Backpack with plenty of water, and a lunch or snacks. Closed-toed shoes. A favorite journal if you have one, and we will supply watercolor paper, watercolor pencils, clipboards, etc. Bring something to sit on if you prefer.

Date: Thursday, April 4, 2024

Time: 10:00-12:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Lodge

Fee: \$500 -includes all supplies. Class space is limited to 10, pre-registration is required for attendance in this class. Pre-registration: <https://reserve.alapark.com/register/DSP-Journal-Journey>

Due to the nature of this hike, rain or high winds will reschedule this hike

Snake Tales

Did you know that from the northern mountains to the sandy shores, Alabama is home to over fifty species of snakes? Despite being vital to our state's ecosystem, these scaly creatures are often misunderstood and feared. Join DeSoto State Park Naturalist Brittney Hughes along with a few scaly creature teachers to turn fears into fascination.

Learn about the different snake species of NE Alabama, both venomous and nonvenomous. Plus, gain valuable knowledge on how to tell the difference between the two.

Date: Saturday, April 6, 2024

Time: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Benefield Nature Center next to the Country Store on Co. Rd. 89

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no pre-registration required. For any info, email Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov

Plant Discovery Hike-Spring Blooms

Join DeSoto State Park Staff for a meandering journey within the forest, taking in every opportunity to learn more about the natural world. On this hike we will identify many native plants of the southern Appalachians and will be teaching you how to recognize the species found in the park. Scout out rare, beautiful plants and wondrous rock formations among the natural clearings dotting Lookout Mountain's porous cap. Bring a notebook/camera if you wish and discover what can be seen along the trails. About the hike: Approx. 1 1/2 miles round trip, utilizing red trail & blue trail moderate due to slightly rocky terrain.

Date: 4/6/2024

Time: 1:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store on County Road 89

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of hike. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

Fly Fishing 101 Workshop

JSU's Little River Canyon Center is excited to offer the workshop, Fly Fishing 101. Join Dr. Tim Lindblom to learn the basics to get started on your own fly-fishing adventures! He will discuss gear selection, knots, fly selection, and casting instructions. Participants will get hands-on experience and the opportunity to make that first catch. Ages 14 and over are welcome.

Date: Sunday, April 7, 2024

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne, AL (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park)

Time: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm (CST)

Fee: \$75 per participant, or \$35 for JSU students with student ID. Pre-registration required, limited spaces available.

What to Bring: Please bring water, sun protection and a snack. All equipment will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own.

Register today -

https://secure.touchnet.net/C20901_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=256&SINGLESTOR E=true

Solar Eclipse Viewing Party

Come view the 2024 Solar Eclipse with the JSU Field School. Learn about the science behind solar eclipses through STEM activities and crafts. Enjoy music, snacks, and more. We'll have eclipse viewing glasses for, while supplies last. Watch the total eclipse live broadcast Through the Eyes of NASA in English and Spanish. You don't want to miss this amazing event! The Canyon Center will be open from 12/noon to 4pm for this event.

Date: Monday, April 8, 2024

Time: 12:30pm to 3:30pm (CST)

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne, AL (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park)

Fee: Free and open to the public. No registration necessary. <https://www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools>

Trail Trekker Hike: Gilliam Loop

About the hike: We will be hiking from the Lodge to Gilliam trailhead along the Green trail, then on the Gilliam Loop Trail/Chalet Trail back to the Lodge. Mileage is approximately 4.8 miles round trip, moderate along rocky terrain. No major inclines.

Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Lodge

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of hike. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

Serious Skills Series: Mosaic Bee Watering Station

The Serious Skills series is a variety of classes and workshops that provide opportunities to discover a hidden talent or learn a new skill for personal enrichment. Classes are open to local residents, overnight guests and park visitors.

Learn the beautiful and ancient art of mosaics! DSP Staff will teach design, techniques, and the skills of class cutting, gluing, and grouting with special emphasis on safety. Participants will mosaic a wide, shallow tray for use as a watering station for bees & other pollinators. Not only will this project be

beautiful, but it will also serve as a crucial and safe water source for our important pollinator allies. Ages 8 to adult.

Date: Friday, April 12, 2024

Time: 10:00 am-3:00 pm (will break for lunch)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, AL. Nature Center next to DeSoto's Country Store & Information Center on Co. Rd. 89

Fee: \$45.00 -includes all supplies. Class space is limited to 10, pre-registration is required for attendance in this class. Pre-registration: <https://reserve.alapark.com/register/DSP-SSS-MosaicTray>

Landscaping with Native Plants

Landscaping with native plants is sometimes called “naturescaping.” Native doesn’t have to mean wild, though! You can have a garden that is just as refined and glamorous as anyone else’s. Even though it is made up of native plants, the design is up to you. Many species of birds, pollinating bees and insects, butterflies and moths rely on our landscapes for homes, nest material, protection and food, so come and learn about our native wildflowers, trees, grasses and shrubs and how they play a key role in our ecosystem. Learn how to enhance your landscaping skills while promoting biodiversity!

Will include presentation & a meandering walk-about to see native plants around the park.

Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024

Time: 2:00-5:00 p.m.

DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne, Alabama. Benefield Nature Center, next to the Country Store & Information Center

Fee: Free & open to everyone. RSVP is appreciated so we know how many to expect or in case of cancellation. RSVP here: <https://forms.office.com/g/m3pYXh5JTa>

Trail Trekker Hike: Waterfall Hike

Join DeSoto State Park staff & volunteers for a fun day of hiking through-out the park to see some of DeSoto's waterfalls, big & small. See Lost Falls, Laurel Falls, Indian Falls, & more water features like Laurel Creek & the West Fork of Little River. About the hike: the trail will be moderate, rugged terrain over approx. 3 miles. We will utilize the orange and blue trails for this hike.

Date: 4/18/2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store on County Road 89 Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at

256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of hike. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

Serious Skills Series: The Art of Woodburning- Make Your Own Souvenir Ornament

Hosted by DeSoto State Park. The Serious Skills series is a variety of classes and workshops that provide opportunities to discover a hidden talent or learn a new skill for personal enrichment. Classes are open to local residents, overnight guests, and park visitors.

Pyrography or woodburning is the art of decorating wood or other materials, the term meaning “writing with fire” dating back to the 17th century. Participants in this class will learn the basic techniques of decorative wood burning from artist April Blanks, and will work on their own souvenir ornament designs of scenes in DeSoto State Park and different designs. Practice basic techniques using a pen-like burning tool and paint. This class is for ages 14 to adult.

Date: April 19, 2024

Time: 2 class times available: 10:00-12:00 OR 12:30-2:30 pm (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne, Alabama. Benefield Interpretive Center next to Country Store on County Road 89

Fee: \$25.00 -includes all supplies. Class space is limited, pre-registration is required for attendance in this class. Sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/g/9mLJVYLM2D>

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for more info.

Examples of April's work: www.facebook.com/Aprils-Woodburnings

Outdoor Observations Hike

Have you ever seen a plant, mushroom, or critter and wondered what it was? Especially in the Spring there are some cool things to see, so join DeSoto State Park staff to discover what can be observed & recorded using iNaturalist! iNaturalist is a free app that can be used to record observations of all sorts of things – plants, animals, and even fungi. Learn how to use the simple app to help contribute to park species lists and about species seen in the park. About the hike: Moderate hike along mountainous terrain, some rocky terrain. Approximately 2 miles round trip.

Date: Friday, April 19, 2024

Time: 10:00-11:30 a.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store on County Road 89.

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of walk. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

Earth Fest 2024

Celebrate Earth Day with the JSU Field School at the JSU Little River Canyon Center. Guided hikes, food, crafts, live animal programs and more! live music from Dad Company & Jess Goggans. All activities are free.

Schedule TBA

Date: Saturday, April 20, 2024

Time: 10:00 am–3:00 pm (CST)

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park)

Fee: Earth Day is free & open to public

For more information on all events, please visit www.jsu.edu/epic/EventCC.html

Creative Spirit Nature Art Workshop

Explore your wild creativity and discover the ancient art of crafting with nature as your muse! For thousands of years, humans have been creating art through nature. Our ancestors' sacred relationship with the natural world prompted them to express themselves thru the materials around them, in all seasons.

In this workshop, participants will create works of art using a variety of natural materials, using materials like clay, leaves, acorns, pinecones, etc. Nature Journaling supplies will also be available to create your own unique memory of your day in DeSoto State Park. (Bring your favorite journal if you wish) Activities like leaf pounding, leaf rubbings, clay leaf imprints, cordage, etc. If weather permits, will go on a short jaunt into the park near the Nature Center as well.

Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Location disclosed at time of registration.

Fee: \$30.00. Ages 8 to adult. Pre-registration required by April 19th. All supplies provided.

Sign up here: <https://reserve.alapark.com/register/DSP-Creative-Spirit-Art>

Canyon Kids – Young Explorers - Ages 7 to 12 years old

JSU Field School

Join JSU Field School staff for hands on adventure learning the 4th Thursday of February, March, April, and May of 2024! Children ages 7 to 12 years old will want to attend ALL of these hands-on adventures! To creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools.

Info on Full semester:

Thursday, April 25, 2024 – Things that Fly & Things that Fall Thursday, May 23, 2024 – Birding for Kids

Time: 10:30 am–12:00 pm (CST)

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park).

What to Bring: Please dress in layers appropriate for the weather and wear footwear suitable for hiking. Free event. Registration required. More info: www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

MAY

32nd Annual Wildflower Saturday

Weekend of Friday, May 3rd & Saturday 4th, 2024

Wildflower Saturday is an annual event held in DeSoto State Park atop Lookout Mountain in Fort Payne, Alabama, always the first Saturday of May

Springtime at DeSoto State Park is truly beautiful, with wildflowers & trees blooming around every corner. Join DeSoto State Park staff & guest speakers for a wonderful weekend of learning about the many species of blooming plants found on Lookout Mountain. Choose to stay the whole weekend, or just come for the day to enjoy the hikes and programs.

Weekend starts off with a welcome social and guest speaker program on Friday night, a day full of hikes to choose from and a guest speaker on Saturday night.

www.alapark.com/DSP-Wildflower-Saturday

#Hike24in24AL Sandstone Glade Hike

A glade is an open area where the bedrock is at or near the surface, and where soils are so thin, trees and shrubs find it difficult to grow, yet you'll find thriving, rare and unique plant communities that depend on the chemistry and conditions the environments provide. Learn about this unique environment and explore the glades in DeSoto State Park. Scout out rare, beautiful plants and wondrous rock formations among the natural clearings dotting Lookout Mountain's porous cap. About the hike: Moderate hike along rocky terrain. Approximately 1.10 miles round trip

Date: 5/11/2024

Time: 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store on County Road 89

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of hike. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

Serious Skills Series: Mosaic Bee Watering Station

The Serious Skills series is a variety of classes and workshops that provide opportunities to discover a hidden talent or learn a new skill for personal enrichment. Classes are open to local residents, overnight guests and park visitors.

Learn the beautiful and ancient art of mosaics! DSP Staff will teach design, techniques, and the skills of class cutting, gluing, and grouting with special emphasis on safety. Participants will mosaic a wide, shallow tray for use as a watering station for bees & other pollinators. Not only will this project be beautiful, but it will also serve as a crucial and safe water source for our important pollinator allies. Ages 8 to adult.

Date: Saturday, May 18, 2024

Time: 1:00 pm-5:00 pm

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, AL. Nature Center next to DeSoto's Country Store & Information Center on Co. Rd. 89

Fee: \$45.00 -includes all supplies. Class space is limited to 10, pre-registration is required for attendance in this class. Pre-registration: <https://reserve.alapark.com/register/DSP-SSS-MosaicTray2>

Canyon Kids – Young Explorers - Ages 7 to 12 years old

JSU Field School

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Info on Full semester:

Thursday, May 23, 2024 – Birding for Kids Time: 10:30 am–12:00 pm (CST)

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park).

What to Bring: Please dress in layers appropriate for the weather and wear footwear suitable for hiking. Free event. Registration required. More info: www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

#Hike24in24AL Civilian Conservation Corps History Hike: The ‘Unfinished Bridges’

Join DSP Staff on a moderate hike to several Civilian Conservation Corp's ‘unfinished’ bridges built in the late 1930s.. Learn the history of why the CCC left them standing and see several original structures. About the hike: moderate hike on Gilliam Loop Trail & old CCC roadbed-Approx. 4.5 miles round trip.

Date: 5/25/2024

Time: 1:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Gilliam Loop Trailhead (past the Lodge on cabin road)

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of hike. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

JUNE

#Hike24in24AL

Trail Trekker Hike: DeSoto Scout Trail

The trail follows the West Fork of Little River and traverses a varied terrain of ridges, valleys, fern glades, rock formations, waterfalls, beside deep pools, riffles, through rhododendron tunnels, creek crossings,

swimming holes, and sandy stretches. About the hike: Hike is approximately 3.5 miles round trip, moderate to strenuous along rocky mountainous terrain with some slopes. We will go from Gilliam Loop Trailhead down Exit 1 and upstream to Indian Falls and back. Closed toed shoes are preferred.

Date: 6/1/2024

Time: 12:00-4:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Gilliam Loop Trailhead (past the Lodge on cabin road)

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of hike. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

'Creek Kids' Watershed Workshop

Learning about our water....not just for kids! Hosted by DeSoto State Park

Experience a view of Little River's watershed and how it connects to the rest of Alabama and our oceans. Many species of fish and aquatic invertebrates, including some types of crayfish, mussels, and snails, live only in Alabama. Participants of all ages will have a good chance of observing some species only found in certain Alabama streams & rivers; they will learn about the impacts of dams on waterways, & learn how pollution moves through aquatic environments.

We will take a short walk to Laurel Creek & the West Fork of Little River for a dip to a view native fish & invertebrates such as crayfish, mussels, and snails up close. A VERY fun way to explore and cool down at the same time!

This fun workshop is based on the 'Creek Kids' program, a partnership between the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division (WFF) and Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park.

Date: Saturday, June 15, 2024

Time: 10:00-3:00 p.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at the DeSoto State Park Nature Center on County Road 89. Participants should bring a lunch/snacks/water, clothes & footwear suitable for the river.

Fee: Free & open to everyone, kids to adults (we welcome all ages, with or without kids!). Pre-registration is required, required by no later than June 12th. Sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/g/edXyjswEfx>
Please email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details

#Hike24in24AL

Park After Dark-Night Hike

Join DeSoto State Park staff to get to know the park after dark! You never know what you can discover during the night; we will be using our senses to discover what can be seen, heard, or even smelled on this fun hike! About the hike: we will hike slowly on the orange trail from the campground, seeing what we can see and hearing what we can hear. Terrain is rocky and moderate, closed toed shoes are preferred.

Approx. 1 mile. More suitable for ages 8 to adult. Date: 6/22/2024

Time: 9:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store on County Road 89. Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of hike. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

JULY

#Hike24in24AL

Park After Dark-Night Walk

Join DeSoto State Park staff to get to know the park after dark! You never know what you can discover during the night; we will be using our senses to discover what can be seen, heard, or even smelled on this fun hike! About the walk: we will be on the cabin road & go to the frog pond, near DeSoto's South entrance. All ages welcome, children must be supervised. We will meet & walk from DeSoto State Park Lodge-short distance, terrain will be a mix of asphalt and dirt road, closed toed shoes are preferred.

Date: 7/20/2024 Time: 9:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Lodge

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of walk. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

#Hike24in24AL

Civilian Conservation Corps History Hike: Trailside Shelter Along Little River

Join DeSoto State Park Staff on a moderate hike to the trailside shelter located on the West Fork of Little River. Learn how the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the original structures built in the mid 1930s that you can still see in the park today. About the hike: moderate hike along rocky terrain.

Approximately 1.10 miles round trip. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store on County Road 89.

Date: 7/20/2024

Time: 12:00-2:30 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store on County Road 89. Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of walk. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

Creek Kids' Watershed Workshop

Learning about our water...not just for kids! Hosted by DeSoto State Park

Experience a view of Little River's watershed and how it connects to the rest of Alabama and our oceans. Many species of fish and aquatic invertebrates, including some types of crayfish, mussels, and snails, live only in Alabama. Participants of all ages will have a good chance of observing some species only found in certain Alabama streams & rivers; they will learn about the impacts of dams on waterways, & learn how pollution moves through aquatic environments.

We will take a short walk to Laurel Creek & the West Fork of Little River for a dip to a view native fish & invertebrates such as crayfish, mussels, and snails up close. A VERY fun way to explore and cool down at the same time!

This fun workshop is based on the 'Creek Kids' program, a partnership between the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division (WFF) and Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park.

Date: Saturday, July 27, 2024

Time: 10:00-3:00 p.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at the DeSoto State Park Nature Center on County Road 89. Participants should bring a lunch/snacks/water, clothes & footwear suitable for the river.

Fee: Free & open to everyone, kids to adults (we welcome all ages, with or without kids!). Pre-registration is required, required by no later than July 24th. Pre-register here: <https://forms.office.com/g/hA314KLnWE>

Please email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details

AUGUST

#Hike24in24AL

Birding 101 Walk

Have you always wanted to learn more of the basics of bird identification? Birding is an excellent way to explore and connect to nature in a new and different way. It is a great skill, a fun activity, and easy to learn. Join DeSoto State Park staff for an early morning walk on the boardwalk and along some of the trails around Azalea Cascade. Easy, staying on and near the boardwalk. ½ mile total.

Date: 8/3/2024

Time: 6:30 a.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at Boardwalk Trailhead on County Road 89.

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of walk. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

#Hike24in24AL

Park After Dark-Night Walk

Join DeSoto State Park staff to get to know the park after dark! You never know what you can discover during the night; we will be using our senses to discover what can be seen, heard, or even smelled on this fun hike! About the walk: we will be on the cabin road & go to the frog pond, near DeSoto's South entrance. All ages welcome, children must be supervised. We will meet & walk from DeSoto State Park Lodge-short distance, terrain will be a mix of asphalt and dirt road, closed toed shoes are preferred.

Date: 8/17/2024 Time: 9:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Lodge

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of walk. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

SEPTEMBER

#Hike24in24AL

Plant Discovery Hike-Fall Blooms

Join DeSoto State Park Staff for a meandering journey within the forest, taking in every opportunity to learn more about the natural world. On this hike we will identify many native plants of the southern Appalachians and will be teaching you how to recognize the species found in the park. Scout out rare, beautiful plants and wondrous rock formations among the natural clearings dotting Lookout Mountain's porous cap. Bring a notebook/camera if you wish and discover what can be seen along the trails. About the hike: Approx. 1 1/2 miles round trip, utilizing aqua trail & DeSoto Scout Trail. moderate due to slightly rocky terrain.

Date: 9/27/2024

Time: 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at Boardwalk Trailhead on County Road 89.

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of hike. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

#Hike24in24AL

National Public Lands Day: DeSoto Scout Trail

Join DeSoto State Park Staff on a beautiful outdoor adventure hike on the Desoto Scout Trail (DST). This hike is a challenging & steep 6.5 mile hike. The trail follows the West Fork of Little River and traverses a varied terrain of ridges, valleys, fern glades, rock formations, waterfalls, beside deep pools, riffles, through rhododendron tunnels, creek crossings, swimming holes, and sandy stretches. About the hike:

Approx 6.5 miles round trip, moderate to strenuous along rocky mountainous terrain. We will meet & start at DeSoto State Park Lodge, hike downstream to the backcountry trailhead off Road 5 in the Little River WMA (car caravan back to lodge)

Date: 9/28/2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at Lodge

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of hike. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

OCTOBER

#Hike24in24AL

Civilian Conservation Corps History Hike: The CCC Quarry

Join DeSoto State Park Staff on a moderate hike to the CCC Quarry from the 1930s. Learn how the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the original structures that you can still see in the park today. About the hike: Moderate hike along mountainous terrain, some rocky terrain. Approximately 2 miles round trip.

Date: 10/5/2024

Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store on County Road 89. Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of hike. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

#Hike24in24AL

Trail Trekker Hike: Gilliam Loop

About the hike: We will be hiking from the Lodge to Gilliam trailhead along the Green trail, then on the Gilliam Loop Trail/Chalet Trail back to the Lodge. Mileage is approximately 4.8 miles round trip, moderate along rocky terrain. No major inclines.

Date: 10/12/2024

Time: 1:00-5:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at Gilliam Loop Trailhead (past the Lodge on cabin road)

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of hike. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

Spookapalooza Pumpkin Carving Contest 2024

DeSoto State Park is glad to host the 14th Annual Spookapalooza Pumpkin Carving Contest! Entries will be judged on overall appearance, creativeness, neatness, and originality. Entries can have any theme or design, i.e., Halloween, nature, fall season, etc. All ages may enter contest.

Date: Entries must be turned in no later than 12:00 noon on Saturday, October 26th 2024 to be judged. Turn in at DeSoto's Country Store on County Road 89-table will be set up on porch. Winners will be announced on Sunday, October 27th via DeSoto's Facebook/Instagram(#desotostatepark)

Where: DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne, Alabama.

Entries may be picked up at the DSP Country Store on Sunday, October 27th. Free and Open to all ages. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details.

Spookapalooza Spooktacular Campsite Contest 2024

Campers in DeSoto State Park have been decorating their campsites with Halloween decorations for years.....now there is a campsite decorating contest! Decorate your site with the most original and creative Halloween décor you can find ... you might win a prize! The best decorated sites will win great prizes like free camping and more-there will be a 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winner, as well as Most Creative to boost that competitive spark!

Winners will be announced on Sunday, October 27th via DeSoto's

Facebook/Instagram(#desotostatepark) Winners will be contacted via email or phone

Regulations: We ask that decor remains on the individual sites and does not bleed over into others sites, roadways, trails, etc. Décor must be completely removed from site at camper checkout-PLEASE no glitter/confetti, paint, toilet paper or other materials that cause damage to the park. Please help us observe Leave No Trace in the park where we can, especially with picking up litter.

Date: Halloween Weekend 2024

Where: DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne, Alabama. Improved Campground Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details.

NOVEMBER

#Hike24in24AL

Outdoor Observations Hike

Have you ever seen a plant, mushroom, or critter and wondered what it was? Even during the Winter there are some cool things to see, so join DeSoto State Park staff to discover what can be observed & recorded using iNaturalist, a free app that can be used to record observations of all sorts of things — plants, animals, and even fungi. Learn how to use the simple app to help contribute to park species lists and about species seen in the park. About the hike: Moderate hike along mountainous terrain, some rocky terrain. Approximately 2 miles round trip.

Date: 11/2/2024

Time: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store on County Road 89. Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of walk. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

9th Annual Creative Spirit Market

Hosted by DeSoto State Park & Little River Arts Council

Adding a new twist to a typical art fair, this event is designed as an open air showcase, with artist demonstrations, locally & regionally created fine & folk art, premium hand-crafted goods, & live acoustic music. Shoppers can browse and watch artists in their creative process, listen to music, plus purchase goods from fine and folk artists such as painters, potters, quilters, weavers & basket makers, fabric spinners, culinary artists and craftsmen. Some unique and one-of-a-kind gifts will be available for purchase. Stop by and get some early gift-shopping in!

Dates: November 9 & 10, 2024 (Second weekend of November) Times: 10:00 am-3:00 pm each day

The market is held near DeSoto State Park's picnic area across from the Country Store on County Road 89. If the weather is chilly, market-goers can enjoy a blazing fire in the stone fireplace in the CCC pavilion.

Bring your own camp chair to hang out a while and listen to the music. Dogs on a leash are allowed in the park.

There is limited parking in the picnic area, the tennis court area, and in front of the Country Store. If parking anywhere in the picnic area, a \$2 per vehicle fee applies. There is no fee to attend the open-air market. Rain or shine event. Call 256.997.5025 or email for more details. Artist Entry Info: www.littleriverartscouncil.org/artist-entry-form.html

Facebook page #creativespiritmarket #desotostatepark #littleriverartscouncil
www.littleriverartscouncil.org

#Hike24in24AL

Discovery Hike: Unveiling the Geological Wonders

During the Fall months, particularly along Laurel Creek, it's common for the waterfalls at DeSoto State Park to experience reduced flow or even dry up. Surprisingly, this dry spell enhances the hiking experience, providing a unique opportunity to observe the rocks beneath and the intricate markings etched on them over countless eons. Embark on this expedition with DSP staff to uncover the mysteries concealed within the rocks. About the hike: the trail will be moderate, rugged terrain over approx. 3 miles. We will utilize the orange and blue trails for this hike.

Date: 11/23/2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store on County Road 89. Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of walk. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

DECEMBER

#Hike24in24AL

Civilian Conservation Corps History Hike: Morris Branch Bridge

This incomplete bridge stands as a powerful testament to the commitment of the CCC in advancing the development of DeSoto State Park. Between the mid-1930s and early 1940s, the CCC undertook various stone projects in the park, including the construction of this bridge over Morris Branch. Their ambitious goal was to establish a direct highway connecting DeSoto State Park to May's Gulf, which is today recognized as Little River Canyon. Regrettably, their honorable mission was left unfinished when the CCC disbanded in 1942. Take the opportunity to accompany DeSoto State Park staff as they delve into the history and significance of this remarkable endeavor. About the hike: the trail will be moderate, no major inclines, approx. 2 1/2 miles total. Meet at DeSoto State Park Lodge and car caravan to the trailhead in the Little River WMA.

Date: 12/7/2024

Time: 10:00-12:30 p.m (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Lodge

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of walk. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

#Hike24in24AL

Adventure Hike-DeSoto Falls Basin

Set out on an adventure hike with DeSoto State Park staff to the bottom of one of Alabama's tallest waterfalls, DeSoto Falls! Learn about Little River, an outstanding water source with its clear water & plant & animal life. Discover the history of the area around DeSoto Falls in Dekalb County, Alabama. About the hike: This hike is approximately 1.5 miles total but considered moderate to strenuous due to the mountainous terrain and elevation. Will be hiking on rocky terrain down to the West Fork of Little River and walking upstream to the view of DeSoto Falls.

Date: 12/14/2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto falls Trailhead on County Road 613

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of hike. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking



For even more fun events, see

www.Alapark.com/Events

DeSoto State Park~Fort Payne, Alabama

#desotostatepark



Contacts for event planning/programs:

DeSoto State Park	256.997.5025	Brittney M. Hughes Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov www.Alapark.com/DeSotoresort
JSU Field Schools	256.845.3548	Rebekah Taylor or Beth Sewell fieldschool@jsu.edu www.jsu.edu/epic/field_schools/
Little River Canyon National Preserve	256.845.9605	www.nps.gov/liri/index.htm