



DeSoto State Park and park partners like Little River Canyon National Preserve, Jacksonville State University Field School, Little River Arts Council, Seven Pines Survival 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!

Most programs are free or charge a small supply fee.

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](http://www.discoverlookoutmountain.com)



Alabama State Parks, a division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, operates and maintains 22 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.

### 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.



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# December 2019

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## Serious Skills Series: Art of Woodburning-DeSoto Falls 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 and painting designs from artist April Blanks, and will work on making a ornament featuring DeSoto State Park's DeSoto Falls. This class is for ages 14 to adult.

Date: December 7, 2019

Time: 2 class times to choose from: 10:00-12:00 pm OR 1:00-3:00 pm

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

Fee: \$25.00 -includes all supplies. Workshop space is limited to 10, pre-registration is required for attendance in this class. Call 256.997.5025 or email

[Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov) to sign up or for more info.

Examples of April's work:

[www.facebook.com/april.blanks.3/media\\_set?set=a.890856767625243&type=3](http://www.facebook.com/april.blanks.3/media_set?set=a.890856767625243&type=3)

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## Trail Trekker Hike Series: DeSoto Scout Trail Section

DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne, Alabama

Can you say "I Hiked Them All"? DeSoto State Park challenges you to become a DeSoto State Park Trail Trekker! Hike the designated 22 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!

DeSoto Scout Trail Section (From Lodge to DST exit 2, come back CCC road) -Hike is approximately 5 miles round trip, moderate to strenuous along rocky mountainous terrain.

Date: December 7, 2019

Time: 10:00 am-3:00 pm (central time zone)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store & Information Center

Fee: Free and open to everyone, no pre-registration required.

For listing of all hikes planned so far, see [www.alapark.com/parks/desoto-state-park/hiking](http://www.alapark.com/parks/desoto-state-park/hiking)

Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks/lunch, hiking poles/staff/lightweight hammock(optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended)

WEATHER: Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather. As with all outdoor events, if it is stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel. If the weather is questionable, please call the park before you leave home to check if the hike is still on (256.845.0051)

Please note: Hike conditions will be posted the day before the hike on DeSoto's Facebook page

Directions to Desoto State Park:

Using a GPS or Phone to navigate to Desoto State Park can be unreliable. Please see our website for driving directions: [www.alapark.com/sites/default/files/2019-03/DSP%20Revised%20Driving%20Directions.pdf](http://www.alapark.com/sites/default/files/2019-03/DSP%20Revised%20Driving%20Directions.pdf)

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## **Canyon Christmas**

Hosted by JSU Field Schools

An annual tradition to celebrate the season that is filled with holiday spirit and activities including Christmas arts and crafts, a gift shop, a visit with Santa, and more!

Date: Saturday, December 7, 2019

Time: 1 pm- 3 pm (CST)

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

Fee: Most activities are free...call 256-845-3548 for more details/ schedule  
[www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools](http://www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools)

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## **Blow Your Own Ornament**

Orbix Hot Glass is a glass blowing studio and gallery on Lookout Mountain that offers fine decorative and functional glass, as well as very popular glass blowing classes. Design and literally "blow" your own ornament with the help of a glass artist. Check out even more classes and info at [www.orbixhotglass.com](http://www.orbixhotglass.com).

Date: Saturday, December 7, 2019

Time: 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Where: Orbix Hot Glass in Fort Payne, Alabama (within 30 minutes of DeSoto State Park)

Fee: \$38.00 per ornament. No pre-registration required. At least 5 years and up. Custom reservations can be made for groups anytime. Call 256.523.3188 or email [info@orbixhotglass.com](mailto:info@orbixhotglass.com) for details.

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## **Wool Needle Felting Class**

Hosted by Moon Lake Community Library

Menlo fiber artist Pamela Moniz will teach a beginner's needle felting class on December 7 from 1 until 4 p.m. at Moon Lake Community Library in Mentone.

This class will introduce you to the art of needle felting with wool. You will start with a pre-made base and learn how to build a unique character face with expressive features. For those interested in learning to create larger character dolls, this is a great beginner class.

Date: Saturday, December 7, 2019

Time: 1:00-4:00 pm

Where: Moon Lake Community Library (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park)

Address: 4607 AL-117, Mentone, AL 35984

Fee: The \$35 class fee includes all supplies needed, including needles and a foam base that can be reused for future needle felting projects, as well as sufficient wool to complete your project. This fun class fosters imagination and humor as these little creatures come to life.

The class is limited to 10 participants, so pre-registration is requiring by contacting Pamela at 240-426-8317 or pamelammoniz@gmail.com. Bring a friend and receive a \$5.00 discount.



## Merrityme Artisan Market

Mentone, Alabama

Hosted by Little River Arts Council and Moon Lake Baptist Church. All proceeds to benefit Moon Lake Elementary School

Shoppers can browse unique and one-of-a-kind gifts by local artisans, listen to music, & visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Free gift wrapping available. Stop by, get some gift-shopping in, and support your local artists and makers!

Date: December 13th & 14th, 2019

Time: 10am-4pm each day

Where: Moon Lake Baptist Church- Inside Arlene Fowler Youth Center (4671 AL-117, Mentone, AL 35984) Within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park

Info: Entry to market is free & open to everyone. [www.littleriverartscouncil.org](http://www.littleriverartscouncil.org)

## 2020 Calendar of Events TBA



For even more fun local events in Alabama State Parks, see [www.Alapark.com/Events](http://www.Alapark.com/Events)

DeSoto State Park~Fort Payne, Alabama  
#desotostatepark



## **Contacts for event planning/programs:**

<b>DeSoto State Park</b>	256.997.5025	Brittney M. Hughes <a href="mailto:Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov">Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov</a> <a href="http://www.Alapark.com/DeSotoresort">www.Alapark.com/DeSotoresort</a>
<b>JSU Field Schools</b>	256.845.3548	Niki Wayner <a href="mailto:fieldschool@jsu.edu">fieldschool@jsu.edu</a> <a href="http://www.jsu.edu/epic/field_schools/">www.jsu.edu/epic/field_schools/</a>
<b>Little River Canyon National Preserve</b>	256.845.9605	<a href="http://www.nps.gov/liri/index.htm">www.nps.gov/liri/index.htm</a>
<b>Russell Cave National Monument</b>	256.495.2672	Mary Dawson <a href="http://www.nps.gov/ruca">www.nps.gov/ruca</a>
<b>Seven Pines Survival</b>		Robert Wilson <a href="http://www.sevenpinessurvival.com">www.sevenpinessurvival.com</a>