

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



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.



October 2019



Serious Skills Series: Archery

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.

Archery is the art, practice, and skill of shooting arrows with the use of a bow. Historically it has been used for hunting and combat and has been around for many years. Archery is also a sport that is becoming increasingly popular as an outdoor recreation activity.

Join DeSoto State Park staff for an opportunity to learn archery safety & techniques. Activity is suitable for those who have never shot a bow, or for those with some previous experience.

Date: Saturday, October 5, 2019

Time: Class times at 10:00 am & 11:00 am

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Picnic Area (Across the road from DSP's Country Store on County Road 89)

Fee: Free & open to the public. Pre-registration is NOT required, the public is more than welcome to come at any time. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details

Plant Discovery Hike

DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Join naturalist Robert Wilson "The Traveling Herbalist" from Seven Pines Survival for an experiential journey within the forest, taking in every opportunity to learn more about the natural world. On this meandering hike Robert will identify many native plants of the southern Appalachians and will be teaching you how to recognize the natives found in the park. Journey though out DeSoto State Park to see what can be seen along the trail.

Easy to moderate meandering hike. As with all outdoor events, if it is stormy or very poor trail conditions, the hike may be cancelled. If the weather is questionable, please call ahead to make sure the hike is a go.

Date: Saturday, October 5, 2019

Time: 9:00 am (CST)

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

Fee: Free and open to everyone! Have questions? Email Robert at sps@sevenpinessurvival.com or Call 209-559-0040
www.sevenpinessurvival.com/desoto-state-park

8th Annual Canyon Half Marathon

The Little River Canyon Center will host its eighth annual "Little River Half Marathon." This certified 13.1 mile course follows the rim of the canyon before winding its way through the area's beautiful farm country. The half marathon will feature water stations, music, ample law enforcement, shirts, trophies, finishing metals, and much more. Proceeds go to outdoor education programs and local conservation efforts at Little River Canyon National Preserve.

Date: Saturday, October 5, 2019

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

Time: 8:00 am (CST) (256)845-3548

Fee: pre-registration required; Info: www.jsu.edu/epic/canyoncenter/little-river-canyon-half-marathon.html



Serious Skills Series: Making Outdoor Lotion

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.

Join Robert Wilson "The Traveling Herbalist" from Seven Pines Survival for a class on making your own outdoor lotion to help protect you from the sun, insects, and poison ivy made from different types of wild plants that can be harvested throughout the year. We will go over the plants, how to harvest them ethically, what they are used for, and how to process them to add to our lotion. You will get to take home some for yourself and learn how to make this for yourself or to sell to others.

Date: Sunday, October 6, 2019

Time: 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

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

Fee: \$20.00 per person. Pre-registration is required. Call 256.997.5025 or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov to sign up or for more info.

About Seven Pine Survival www.sevenpinessurvival.com/desoto-state-park



Campfire Talk: Traditional Southern Cooking

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the Great Outdoors!

Campfire Talks are a series of educational & entertaining programs located in the great outdoors. Campfire programs are held many Friday & Saturday evening (May – October) in DeSoto State Park.

There's just something about Southern food. As cliché as it may sound, there's an innate sense of character and soul to it. Authentic Southern cooking is as diverse and multicultural as the regions in the South and the families who live there. Southern cooks have always creatively drawn upon the mix of cultures that compose the South, starting with Native Americans, Europeans and Africans.

Come help food enthusiast (he likes to eat) Dr. Kelly Gregg in an exploration of the "Where?", "When?", "Who?" and "What?" of Southern Cooking. Bring your ideas and opinions and together we'll have some fun talking about what makes "real" Southern Food.

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Friday, October 11, 2019

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground, next to campsite 93. Gate will open 30 minutes before program starts. (Held in nature center in case of inclement weather)
Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages! For details, 256.997.5025 or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov



Campfire Talk: Corn~A truly a-maizing Plant!

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors! Campfire Talks are a series of educational & entertaining programs located in the great outdoors. Campfire programs are held many Friday & Saturday evenings (May –October) in DeSoto State Park.

Join geographer Kelly Gregg in a casual discussion of the origins of Native American corn, how it shaped American culture and cuisine, and how it went on to help feed the world!" Free & open to the public, bring the family along for fresh popcorn!

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: October 12, 2019

Time: 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground (next to site 93, gate will open to the public)

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Call 256.997.5025 OR email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for details.

Dog Daze

Little River Canyon Center-Fort Payne, Alabama

Bring your dogs and human family to this event where the Canyon Center staff features dog games, and presentations on all topics canine such as dog adoption, dog advocacy, service dogs, and much more! More details to come!

Date: Saturday, October 12, 2019

Time: 11:00-3:00 pm

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

Fee: Free; call 256-845-3548 for more details/schedule (Niki Wayner)

www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Serious Skills Series: Dutch Oven Campfire Cooking Demo

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.

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!

Starts around 4:00 p.m, located at the DeSoto State Park Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. This is a demonstration, so the best part is when food is just coming off the fire!

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish. Drop in whenever you like & check out the food!

Date: October 12, 2019

Time: 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground (gate will open to the public)

Fee: Free & open to everyone; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 for email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for details.

Women's Guided Backpacking Trip for Beginners

In DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Have you ever wanted to get into backpacking, but you were not sure where to start? If so, this trip has everything you need to get started-learn all you need to know so that you can head out on your own outdoor adventure! A Fall backpacking class just for women, and a great class for beginners/intermediate.

This class will center around teaching participants the basic skills need to backpack. This includes pitching and striking camp, fire craft, water processing, proper camping etiquettes, food & bear safety, and map reading basics. There are different sleeping options to try: tent, hammock, or shelter. Instructor will also demonstrate making your own backpacking food and cooking on the camp fire.

Hiking is moderate, about 4 1/2 miles round trip. Sign up for this fun trip soon!

Date: October 12th & 13th 2019 (1-night trip)

Time: check in 9 AM on 12th; check out the morning of October 13th

Where: DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Nature Center, next to the Country Store on County Road 89.

Cost: \$85.00 per person- includes all food & supplies.

Pre-registration is required, as class size is limited. Have questions? Call 209-559-0040 or Email Robert Wilson (Seven Pines Survival) for more details:

sps@sevenpinessurvival.com



Meandering Moonlight Guided Paddle

DeSoto Falls Picnic Area-Alabama

DeSoto State Park staff offers this relaxing guided moonlight paddle trip on scenic Little River. Enjoy the peace and quiet of nature as we paddle upstream on the 'coke bottle clear' waters of the West Fork of Little River. Enjoy this flatwater paddle as the sun goes down and the full moon comes up. Experience the peace & quiet of the gloaming-time!

What to know: This trip is approximately 4 miles round trip on flatwater, spans a 3 to 3 1/2-hour period and includes kayak, paddle, & personal flotation device. Groups are small and intimate and range from 2 to 10 participants. Weight limits: 300 pounds for singles & 450 for tandems

What to bring: headlamp or flashlight, bug spray, snacks, and drinking water.

Date: Sunday, October 13, 2019

Time: 7:00 pm-10:00 pm

Where: Meet at DeSoto Falls Picnic Area-Miller's Bend Paddle Shack (about 7 miles from main park area of DeSoto State Park) Coordinates: 34.549124, -85.589668.

Fee: \$25.00 for single kayak rental (tandem kayaks are available on a limited basis)

Pre-registration closes October 11th. call 256.997.5025(leave a voicemail) or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov to pre-register. Please indicate number of boats needed and what type.

Outdoor Classroom

With Seven Pines Survival

All ages and for the whole family, this is an outdoor adventure with learning, exploration, skills, and good fun outside. You can expect spending the day outside participating with nature and getting a chance to learn from the natural world and what it has to teach. You will learn hands-on skills to help you understand and inhabit the natural world around you. Meet other families with the same interests, share skills and stories, children will get to make new friends, learn important social skills, play outside, play games that encourage learning and using their senses as well with teamwork and communication skills. Parents will have a chance to meet and learn from other parents, learn how to do outdoor activities in a safe and productive way, and have the opportunity to pass on what they know to not only their kids but other families.

This event is organized by Seven Pines Survival with your teacher Robert Wilson “The Traveling Herbalist” which has been teaching outdoor, hands on and environmentally friendly educational skills to kids and families since 2014. Our practice with outdoor education and hands on teaching have led to a good partnership with multiple State Parks, Youth Organizations, schools, and other non-profits.

Date: October 15, 2019

Time: 9:00am – 1:00pm (4hrs)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Fee: \$5 for single child and parent or \$10 for the whole family. To pre-register, contact: Seven Pines Survival, Robert Wilson at sps@sevenpinessurvival.com or Call (209) 559 – 0040. Minimum class size required.

What to bring: outdoor clothes (weather dependent), closed toe shoes, water bottle, snacks, lunch, and a blanket to sit on.

The Linger Longer Pop-Up Art Series: Eugenia Johnston Watercolor

Little River Arts Council will showcase a local artist at the Mentone Inn pavilion from May through October. Artists will be at the pavilion with art demonstrations and work for sale from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., but they are welcome to “linger longer” if they so choose.

About Eugenia: www.facebook.com/eugenia.johnston.art

Date: October 19, 2019

Time: 10:00-1:00 pm

Where: Linger Longer Pavilion-Behind Mentone Inn in Mentone, AL (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park) Address: 6139 AL-117, Mentone, AL 35984

Fee: Free & open to everyone! For any details, email: info@littleriverartscouncil.org
www.littleriverartscouncil.org

ColorFest 2019

Mentone, Alabama

Savor North Alabama's autumn beauty and enjoy arts and crafts, food, live music and more! Mentone has been a mountain getaway for tourists since the 1800s. In October, bright sunshine and clear mountain air makes Mentone a good base to see the fall colors surrounding these natural treasures. There are many other places and things to do, including visiting the local stores and eateries. On Saturday and Sunday, Brow Park & the site of the old Mentone Springs Hotel will be filled with artists and craft makers offering their handmade creations. Admission is free.

Dates: Saturday, October 19-20th, 2019

Where: Mentone, Alabama (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park)

For details, see www.facebook.com/MentoneAlabamaFestivals

Third Saturday Sunset Cruise-In

Fort Payne, Alabama

The Third Saturday Sunset Cruise-In is a great car show, featuring over 200 classic vehicles on display in Fort Payne's historic downtown district. This is a monthly event starting in April and ending in October. There is a kid zone in the City Park, music across the street from DeKalb Theatre and great food vendors.

Date: October 19, 2019

Time: 5:00-8:30 pm

Where: Downtown Fort Payne, Alabama (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park)

Free & open to everyone. Info: www.facebook.com/3rdSaturdayFortPayneAl/

Trail Trekker Hike Series: Blue & Orange Trails

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!

Blue & Orange Trails-Hike is approximately 3 miles round trip, moderate along mountainous terrain.

Date: October 20, 2019

Time: 10:00 am-12:00 noon (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

Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks/lunch, hiking poles/staff (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

Mentone Home Tour & Silent Auction

Hosted by Little River Arts Council

The tour showcases the community's natural beauty, while promoting local artists and highlighting the wide variety of architectural styles on Lookout Mountain. Artists will be set up at many of the houses with displays and items for sale.

Funds raised from the sale of tour wristbands and the concurrent silent auction allow the Arts Council to fund community art activities throughout the year, including the Summer Music for the People series, the Creative Spirit Market in November, and the Linger Longer Pop-Up Art Series. While buying your wristband, check out the silent auction of artwork by local artists and other donated items.

Date: October 26th & 27th, 2019

Times: 10 a.m.–4 p.m. on Saturday and 12–3 p.m. on Sunday

Where: Pick up passes at Mentone's new community building: 5951 AL Highway 117-Mentone, directly across from Mentone Town Hall.

Fee: Weekend passes for \$10 for LRAC members and \$12 for non-members. For any details, email: info@littleriverartscouncil.org or see www.littleriverartscouncil.org



Spookapalooza! in DeSoto State Park

Treats, Fun, & Games!

Join the staff and volunteers of Alabama State Parks, JSU Field Schools, & the National Park Service for a weekend of fun events guaranteed to run shivers up and down your spine! Trick or treating, live animals, storytelling,

and more are in store during this popular annual event. Grab your favorite costume, bring the family, and come stay with us!

All events are free to the public & great for all ages! More details to come.

Date: October 25th- 26th, 2019 (Halloween Weekend)

Where: DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne, Alabama

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/Spookapalooza-2019-DSP for complete details.

MORE DETAILS TO COME

Tentative schedule:

Friday, Oct. 25th-Campfire Talk, Improved Campground 7:00 pm

Saturday, Oct. 26th-Trick or Treating, Improved Campground 3:00-5:30 pm

Saturday, October 26, 2019-Campfire Talk, Improved Campground 7:00 pm



Spookapalooza Pumpkin Carving Contest

DeSoto State Park is glad to host the 8th 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 to be judged. Turn in at the Nature Center, next to the Country Store. Winners will be announced at the Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground, 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 26th

Where: DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne, Alabama.

All entries will be on display during DSP's Spookapalooza festivities.

Entries may be picked up at the DSP Country Store on Sunday, October 27th

Fee: Free and Open to all ages. Call 256.997.5025 for details

Trick or Treating

in DeSoto State Park's Improved Campground

Wear your favorite costume if you wish! Candy stations are located through-out the campground, where campers will be handing out candy. DeSoto State Park staff & volunteers will be at the campground pavilion with popcorn, candy, and prizes. Dress up your pets and bring them along! (Always on a leash) Parents must always accompany children.

PLEASE NOTE: In the Improved Campground, the upper & lower loop will be CLOSED TO VEHICLE TRAFFIC from 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Improved campground gates will open at 3:00 pm, no public entry will be allowed prior to 3:00 pm

Parking can be found at the campground bathhouses and along the roadsides in the campground. Please carpool if possible, parking is limited and this event has high visitation. Some parking can be found at the Country Store, and the campground accessed by the short trail behind the Country Store deck. Please be courteous and do not park vehicles on campsites.

Date: Saturday, October 26, 2019

Time: 3:00-5:30 pm (gates will only be open during this time)

Where: DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne, Alabama-Improved Campground.

November 2019



Little River Quilt of Color Paddle

DeSoto Falls Picnic Area-Alabama

DeSoto State Park staff offers this relaxing guided flatwater paddle on scenic Little River, all while surrounded by changing colors of fall foliage. Enjoy the peace and quiet of nature as we paddle upstream on the 'coke bottle clear' waters of the West Fork of Little River. The leaves will be turning, and this particular weekend in Autumn should be spectacular with color.

What to know: This trip is approximately 4 miles round trip on flatwater, spans a 3 to 3 1/2-hour period and includes kayak, paddle, & personal flotation device. Groups are small and intimate and range from 2 to 10 participants. Weight limits: 300 pounds for singles & 450 for tandems.

What to bring: Headlamp or flashlight, weather appropriate clothing, camera, snacks, drinking water etc.

Dates: Friday, November 1, 2019

Time: 2:00 pm-5:30 pm

Where: Meet at DeSoto Falls Picnic Area-Miller's Bend Paddle Shack (about 7 miles from main park area of DeSoto State Park) Coordinates: 34.549124, -85.589668.

Fee: \$25.00 for single kayak rental (tandem kayaks are available on a limited basis)

Pre-registration closes October 30th. Call 256.997.5025 (leave a voicemail) or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov to pre-register. Please leave a phone number, indicate number of boats and what type requested.

Trail Trekker Hike Series: Neverland Loop Trail

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!

Neverland Loop Trail -Hike is approximately 3 1/2 miles round trip, moderate along mountainous terrain.

Date: November 2, 2019

Time: 9:00 am-12:00 noon (central time zone)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store & Information Center, will caravan to Lost Falls Trailhead

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

Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks/lunch, hiking poles/staff (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



Little River Quilt of Color Paddle

DeSoto Falls Picnic Area-Alabama

DeSoto State Park staff offers this relaxing guided flatwater paddle on scenic Little River, all while surrounded by changing colors of fall foliage. Enjoy the peace and quiet of nature as we paddle upstream on the 'coke bottle clear' waters of the West Fork of Little River. The leaves will be turning, and this particular weekend in Autumn should be spectacular with color.

What to know: This trip is approximately 4 miles round trip on flatwater, spans a 3 to 3 1/2-hour period and includes kayak, paddle, & personal flotation device. Groups are small and intimate and range from 2 to 10 participants. Weight limits: 300 pounds for singles & 450 for tandems.

What to bring: Headlamp or flashlight, weather appropriate clothing, camera, snacks, drinking water etc.

Dates: Saturday, November 2, 2019

Time: 2:00 pm-5:30 pm

Where: Meet at DeSoto Falls Picnic Area-Miller's Bend Paddle Shack (about 7 miles from main park area of DeSoto State Park) Coordinates: 34.549124, -85.589668.

Fee: \$25.00 for single kayak rental (tandem kayaks are available on a limited basis)

Pre-registration closes October 30th. Call 256.997.5025 (leave a voicemail) or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov to pre-register. Please leave a phone number, indicate number of boats and what type requested.

Canyon Fest 11th Annual

Join JSU's Little River Canyon Center for this 11th annual celebration of nature! Enjoy live music, nature & arts activities, nature & arts demonstrations, great food, vendors, children's activities & fun at this festival designed to celebrate our natural world.

Date: Saturday, November 2, 2019

Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

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

Fee: No Fee; Donations welcome Call (256) 845-3548 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.

www.facebook.com/Little-River-Canyon-Center



Little River Quilt of Color Paddle

DeSoto Falls Picnic Area-Alabama

DeSoto State Park staff offers this relaxing guided flatwater paddle on scenic Little River, all while surrounded by changing colors of fall foliage. Enjoy the peace and quiet of nature as we paddle upstream on the 'coke bottle clear' waters of the West Fork of Little River. The leaves will be turning, and this particular weekend in Autumn should be spectacular with color.

What to know: This trip is approximately 4 miles round trip on flatwater, spans a 3 to 3 1/2-hour period and includes kayak, paddle, & personal flotation device. Groups are small and intimate and range from 2 to 10 participants. Weight limits: 300 pounds for singles & 450 for tandems.

What to bring: Headlamp or flashlight, weather appropriate clothing, camera, snacks, drinking water etc.

Dates: Sunday, November 3, 2019

Time: 2:00 pm-5:30 pm

Where: Meet at DeSoto Falls Picnic Area-Miller's Bend Paddle Shack (about 7 miles from main park area of DeSoto State Park) Coordinates: 34.549124, -85.589668.

Fee: \$25.00 for single kayak rental (tandem kayaks are available on a limited basis)

Pre-registration closes October 30th. Call 256.997.5025 (leave a voicemail) or email

Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov to pre-register. Please leave a phone number, indicate number of boats and what type requested.

Outdoor Classroom

With Seven Pines Survival

All ages and for the whole family, this is an outdoor adventure with learning, exploration, skills, and good fun outside. You can expect spending the day outside participating with nature and getting a chance to learn from the natural world and what it has to teach. You will learn hands-on skills to help you understand and inhabit the natural world around you. Meet other families with the same interests, share skills and stories, children will get to make new friends, learn important social skills, play outside, play games that encourage learning and using their senses as well with teamwork and communication skills. Parents will have a chance to meet and learn from other parents, learn how to do outdoor activities in a safe and productive way, and have the opportunity to pass on what they know to not only their kids but other families.

This event is organized by Seven Pines Survival with your teacher Robert Wilson "The Traveling Herbalist" which has been teaching outdoor, hands on and environmentally friendly educational skills to kids and families since 2014. Our practice with outdoor education and hands on teaching have led to a good partnership with multiple State Parks, Youth Organizations, schools, and other non-profits.

Date: November 6, 2019

Time: 9:00am – 1:00pm (4hrs)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Fee: \$5 for single child and parent or \$10 for the whole family. To pre-register, contact: Seven Pines Survival, Robert Wilson at sps@sevenpinessurvival.com or Call (209) 559 – 0040. Minimum class size required.

What to bring: outdoor clothes (weather dependent), closed toe shoes, water bottle, snacks, lunch, and a blanket to sit on.

Creative Spirit Market

Hosted by Little River Arts Council & DeSoto State Park

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, as well as interactive kid's art area. 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 9th-10th 2019 (Second weekend of November)

Times: 10:00 am-3:00 pm each day

Location: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Country Store/Picnic Area on County Road 89



Fee: Event is free & open to everyone. If parking in the picnic area, 2.00 per vehicle applies. Rain or shine event. www.littleriverartscouncil.org
FAQ: www.alapark.com/creative-spirit-market

Guided Backpacking Trip for Beginners

In DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Have you always wanted to get into backpacking? Here is a great way to start!

Learn all you need to know so that you can head out on your own outdoor adventure! A Fall backpacking class, and a great class for beginners/intermediate.

Topics to learn: backpacking essentials, camping items to choose and use, fire building, cooking, etiquettes, pitching and striking camp, setting up a tent or hammock, and more! Hiking is moderate, about a mile one-way to backpacking campsite. Sign up for this fun trip soon!

Date: November 16th-17th 2019 (1-night trip)

Time: check in 9 AM on 16th; check out the morning of November 17th

Where: DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Nature Center, next to the Country Store on County Road 89.

Cost: \$85.00 per person– includes all food & supplies.

Pre-registration is required, as class size is limited. Have questions? Call 209-559-0040 or Email Robert Wilson (seven Pines Survival) for more details:

sps@sevenpinessurvival.com

About Seven Pine Survival www.sevenpinessurvival.com/desoto-state-park

Fused Glass Jewelry Class

Hosted by JSU Field Schools

Learn the basics of creating your own fused glass jewelry. Create a gift for yourself or a holiday gift for a friend or family member! Join artist, Linda Munoz, to learn the basic steps to making a fused glass pendant. In this class, Linda will guide you to fuse pieces of glass together to create pendants. Each participant will learn the basic skills and take home their very own creations.

Linda Munoz has been working in the medium of glass since 1980 and has been teaching fused glass jewelry classes for over 15 years. Her work in glass mosaics can be seen at Camp McDowell, the United Nations Worship Center, Tuscaloosa, and many other locations. In 2014, Linda was one of four artists selected to make art awards for the 2014 Alabama Launchpad Innovation Awards Ceremony in Birmingham.

This class will meet on Saturday, November 16th beginning at 10 am and then on Sunday, you can return at 2 pm to attach the finishings and take your items home. If you are unable to return on Sunday, Linda will attach the finishings for you and you can pick up your items at a later date from the Canyon Center. Each participant will make 3-4 pendants by the end of the workshop. All materials will be furnished. Class is for ages 14 and up.

When: Saturday, November 16, 2019

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

Time: 10 am (CST)

Fee: \$50 per person

Pre-registration required by calling 256-845-3548 and speaking to Niki (Monday-Friday 8 am-2 pm); class number is limited to 10. For details, 256-845-3548 email jwayner@jsu.edu

Outdoor Classroom

With Seven Pines Survival

All ages and for the whole family, this is an outdoor adventure with learning, exploration, skills, and good fun outside. You can expect spending the day outside participating with nature and getting a chance to learn from the natural world and what it has to teach. You will learn hands-on skills to help you understand and inhabit the natural world around you. Meet other families with the same interests, share skills and stories, children will get to make new friends, learn important social skills, play outside, play games that encourage learning and using their senses as well with teamwork and communication skills. Parents will have a chance to meet and learn from other parents, learn how to do outdoor activities in a safe and productive way, and have the opportunity to pass on what they know to not only their kids but other families.

This event is organized by Seven Pines Survival with your teacher Robert Wilson “The Traveling Herbalist” which has been teaching outdoor, hands on and environmentally friendly educational skills to kids and families since 2014. Our practice with outdoor education and hands on teaching have led to a good partnership with multiple State Parks, Youth Organizations, schools, and other non-profits.

Date: November 20, 2019

Time: 9:00am – 1:00pm (4hrs)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Fee: \$5 for single child and parent or \$10 for the whole family. To pre-register, contact: Seven Pines Survival, Robert Wilson at sps@sevenpinessurvival.com or Call (209) 559 – 0040. Minimum class size required.

What to bring: outdoor clothes (weather dependent), closed toe shoes, water bottle, snacks, lunch, and a blanket to sit on.



Serious Skills Series: Art of Woodburning- Winter 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 Christmas ornaments to practice basic techniques using a pen-like burning tool and paint. This class is for ages 14 to adult

Date: Saturday, November 23, 2019

Time: 2 class times available: 10:00-12:00 noon 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 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

December 2019



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 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

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

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



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

Calling all Artisans!

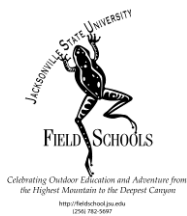
This is a perfect opportunity for artists to exhibit and sell their original works of art locally! It's time to show and sell the work that you've made this year, and what better place to do it than at Merrityme Artisan Market. We are inviting artists, musicians, craftsmen, and makers to join us for this fun event!

10x10 spaces are \$20 for both days. All of the proceeds from the booth fees will benefit Moon Lake Elementary School.

Entry info: www.littleriverartscouncil.org (events)

TBA





For even more fun local 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	Niki Wayner fieldschool@jsu.edu www.jsu.edu/epic/field_schools/
Little River Canyon National Preserve	256.845.9605	www.nps.gov/liri/index.htm

Russell Cave National Monument	256.495.2672	Mary Dawson www.nps.gov/ruca
Seven Pines Survival		Robert Wilson www.sevenpinessurvival.com