

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!

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 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



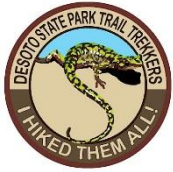
Campfire Talks are a series of educational & entertaining programs located in the great outdoors. Campfire programs are held almost every Friday & Saturday evening (May –October) in DeSoto's James L. Wynn Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. All programs are open & free to everyone. *Seating is 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 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!

Due to the Covid19 pandemic please note that events & programs are subject to change

July 2022

Miller's Bend Paddle Shack-

Miller's Bend Paddle Shack in DeSoto Falls Picnic Area will be open this weekend, to help you begin your scenic kayak trip up the West Fork of Little River.

Rent sit-on-top kayaks to enjoy a peaceful flatwater paddle on Little River overlooking beautiful DeSoto Falls. Your adventure can be up to 4 miles round trip, or as long as you want to make it!

Paddle trips are perfect for individuals or groups. Life vests & paddles are provided.

Boat Shack Hours: Saturday & Sunday 10:00-6:00 pm (CST).

Kayaks are also available by reservation Monday-Friday: Appointment only, \$50 Minimum. Must call 24 Hours ahead and depends on staff availability.

Location: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. DeSoto Falls Picnic Area, 7 miles from the main park area of DeSoto State Park. Coordinates: 34.549124, -85.589668.

Fee: Single sit-on-top kayak: \$15.00 per hour. Tandem sit-on-top kayak: \$25.00 per hour. Corcl's: \$10 per hour.

Call DeSoto State Park's Lodge for info-256.845.5380 www.alapark.com/kayak-little-river

Zipline Aerial Adventures

DeSoto State Park has partnered with Screaming Eagle Ziplines and Aerial Adventures to offer a sky trail in the trees. Get a bird's eye view of the forest floor below and of the unusual rock formations. All adventure seekers will have great views and a fun and exhilarating aerial challenge.

Make some special memories & enjoy a real adventure!

Must wear a closed toed shoe to participate on the aerial adventure tours.

Open 7 days a week

Where: DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne. Country Store & Information Center- On County Road 89 (DeKalb County)
Fee: \$59.00 plus tax . Ages 6 to adult. Minimum weight: 40 lbs, Max weights: Girls 250 lbs and under. Guys 285 lbs and under.
For more details/tour times, see zipline staff in DeSoto's Country Store or email info@desotoziplines.com
Call Screaming Eagle for reservations: 256-886-3761

Yoga on the Mountain: Dusk to Dark Yoga

DeSoto Falls Picnic Area

Want to end your day in a positive way? Enjoy a yoga class along the banks of Little River, as the sun goes down and the moon comes up. Experience the peace & quiet of the gloaming-time as yoga instructor Destin Padgett guides you with relaxing, alignment-based poses. Perfect for those beginning their yoga practice or for those wanting to try something new! Classes are open to local residents and park visitors alike. No pre-registration required!

Date: July 8, 2022

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne, Alabama. DeSoto Fall Picnic area, 7 miles from the main park area. Coordinates: 34.549124, -85.589668

Fee: 5.00 per participant per class (cash or checks) \$4.00 parking fee to park in picnic area. Bring mat/towel & water if you wish. If weather is questionable- check with DSP Lodge before coming: 256.845.5380. See www.alapark.com/DSP-Yoga for class dates

Campfire Talk: A Crash Course in Alabama Botany for Rockhounds

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the Great Outdoors! Campfire Talks are a series of educational & entertaining programs located outside in DeSoto State Park. Campfire programs are held many Friday & Saturday evening (June –October) in our large campfire ring inside the improved campground. Talks are for all ages, & open to everyone!

Alabama is often regarded as one of the most biologically diverse states, ranking #4 in the nation. Geology and biota have an inherent relationship, and biodiversity is no different--it a direct function of the state's exceptional geologic diversity. Take a tour of Alabama's most unexpected and peculiar habitats and learn about the rocky rules that govern our plant life. Join guest Naturalist Noah Yawn for this interesting talk, and see examples of petrified wood, agates, some really cool fossils, & more!

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

Date: Friday, July 8, 2022

Time: 8:00 pm

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground (In case of inclement weather will be located in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area)

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no pre-registration required. For any details about the talk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

Campfire Talk: The Wonders of Carnivorous Plants in the Southeast

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the Great Outdoors! Campfire Talks are a series of educational & entertaining programs located outside in DeSoto State Park. Campfire programs are held many Friday & Saturday evening (June –October) in our large campfire ring inside the improved campground. Talks are for all ages, & open to everyone!

Chances are, you've heard of Venus' Flytraps, but how about vibrantly colorful pitcher plants, sticky tentacle-covered sundews, or those that could even be called "living flypaper"? Alabama and the broader Southeastern USA is a global hotspot for carnivorous plants, many found nowhere else in the world. Join guest Naturalist Noah Yawn for an exciting tour of what might be the most iconic and captivating group of plants: the kind that eats bugs. See examples of different types of plants & even dissect some to see what type of bugs they eat.

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

Date: Saturday, July 9, 2022

Time: 8:00 pm

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground (In case of inclement weather will be located in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area)

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no pre-registration required. For any details about the talk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

MUSIC FOR THE PEOPLE Summer Music Series: Black Sedan Band

Mentone, Alabama. Sponsored by Little River Arts Council, made possible in part by the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

BIO: Black Sedan is a Birmingham, Alabama based party/dance band that covers a wide range of songs and genres from the 70s, 80s, 90s, and some current pop tunes. The band is composed of six very talented and professional musicians: lead guitar, bass guitar, percussion, keyboards, saxophone/flute, and a soulful lead vocalist/front man/entertainer whose shows are high energy, interactive and engaging. Bring your own chair or blanket to enjoy the show & enjoy some food from Fontastic Food Truck.

Date: July 9, 2022

Times: 7:00-10:00 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! www.littleriverartscouncil.org

<https://blacksedanband.com/about-the-band>

Meandering Moonlight Paddle Trip

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. Weight limits: 300 pounds for singles & 450 for tandems. Ages 8 to adult.

What to bring: Appropriate clothing for weather (you may get wet), headlamp or flashlight, bug spray, snacks, and drinking water.

Date: Saturday, July 9, 2022

Time: 7:00 pm-10:00 pm

Where: DeSoto Falls Picnic Area-Miller's Bend Paddle Shack (about 7 miles from main park area of DeSoto State Park)

Fee: \$30.00 for single kayak rental (2 person-tandem kayaks are available on a limited basis for \$50.00)

Pre-registration closes July 5, 2022 – at 5:00 p.m. To register, email

Paige.Norsworthy@dcnr.alabama.gov. **PLEASE provide date of paddle, a phone number; indicate number of boats and what type (single/tandem) requested for the trip.

You will be contacted by phone and payment will be required at time of registration**
www.alapark.com/kayak-little-river

Park After Dark-Night Walk

DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Join naturalists Jamie Rogers & Brittney Hughes 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 walk!

On this 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 walk from the DeSoto State Park Lodge-short distance, terrain will be a mix of asphalt and dirt road, closed toed shoes are preferred.

Bring a small flashlight or headlamp if you wish (red light preferred) or there will be some flashlights available first come-first served. Please no dogs, as our nighttime friends can be shy.

Date: Friday, July 15, 2022

Time: 9:00 pm

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

Fee: Free and open to everyone. No pre-registration required; This hike may be

cancelled in case of rain. For any details about the walk, email

Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

'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 16, 2022

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!). Pre-registration is required, required by no later than July 11th. Please email

Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov to register or for any details.

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 (skipping September for Boom Days Festival). Music across the street from DeKalb Theatre and food vendors.

Date: July 16, 2022

Time: 5:00-9:00 pm

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

Free & open to everyone. For current info see

www.facebook.com/3rdSaturdayFortPayneAl

Campfire Talk: Turtles of Alabama

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the Great Outdoors! Campfire Talks are a series of educational & entertaining programs located outside in DeSoto State Park. Campfire programs are held many Friday & Saturday evening (June –October) in our large campfire ring inside the improved campground. Talks are for all ages, & open to everyone!

Alabama is a powerhouse of turtle diversity, boasting more turtle species than any other state in the U.S. (and more than most countries!). In this talk, Dr. Grover Brown from Jacksonville State University will explore why Alabama has such diversity and highlight the fascinating ecology and biology of some species that you can find in your backyard. Come & learn how some studies of turtles have contributed to modern medicine and even space exploration.

Date: July 16, 2022

Time: 8:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground (In case of inclement weather will be located in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area) Campground gates will open 30 minutes before program.

Fee: Free and open to everyone, no pre-registration required; For any details about the talk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

Birding 101 Hike

DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

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 Jacksonville State University's Grover Brown for an early morning hike on the boardwalk and along some of the trails around Azalea Cascade. There are approximately 430 species of birds that call Alabama home, so we hope to see some of our feathered friends and learn how to identify them based on sight and sound. Discover how to use current technology to become a better birder.

Prior birding experience is not necessary, just have your eyes and ears ready for lots of bird activity!

Feel free to bring binoculars.

Date: Sunday July 17, 2022

Time: 7:30 a.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at the Talmadge Butler Boardwalk Trail on County Road 89

Fee: Free, no pre-registration required. Great for all ages! For any details about the hike, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

Yoga Walk-Dusk to Dark

DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Experience yoga while enjoying the beauty that is Desoto State Park. Walk along the park's boardwalk trail, following Laurel Creek. Listen to the sounds of Azalea Cascade as instructor Destin Padgett guides you in slow & easy yoga poses.

What to know: Yoga poses are alignment based which makes them perfect for those beginning or continuing their yoga practice. Bring a yoga mat or towel, water & snack. About the walk: The boardwalk trail is ADA-accessible 1,000-foot-long boardwalk with benches along the way. The walk is considered easy, ending at a large platform overlooking Azalea Cascade.

Date: July 20, 2022

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at the Talmadge Butler Boardwalk Trailhead on Co. Rd. 89

Fee: \$5.00 per person (cash or check). Pre-registration is required, so we know how many to expect. Hike is open to ages 8 to adult. Email

Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for more info or to pre-register. If weather is questionable- check with DSP Lodge before coming: 256.845.5380.
See www.alapark.com/DSP-Yoga for class dates

Campfire Talk: Scales and Tails

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the Great Outdoors! Campfire Talks are a series of educational & entertaining programs located outside in DeSoto State Park. Campfire programs are held many Friday & Saturday evening (June –October) in our large campfire ring inside the improved campground. Talks are for all ages, & open to everyone!

From the depths of its rich soils to the heights of its blue skies, Alabama is home to a variety of slimy, scaly, feathered, and furry wild residents. Join Central District Naturalist Scottie Jackson as she introduces you to the Alabama animals who crawl, slither, climb, and fly across our wild spaces. Don't miss this opportunity for an up-close encounter with these amazing teacher creatures!

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

Date: Friday, July 22, 2022

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground (In case of inclement weather will be located in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area) Campground gates will open 30 minutes before program.

Fee: Free and open to everyone, no pre-registration required; For any details about the talk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

Simmer-Down Paddle Trip

DeSoto Falls Picnic Area-Alabama

DeSoto State Park staff offers this relaxing guided sunset paddle trip on the 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. Learn about this outstanding water source with its clear water, plant & animal life, and about the history of the area around DeSoto Falls in Dekalb County, Alabama.

What to know: This trip is approximately 4 miles round trip on flatwater, spans a 4-hour period and includes kayak & personal flotation device.

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

Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022

Time: 4:00 pm-8:00 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, -84.589668

Fee: \$30.00 for single kayak rental (tandem kayaks are available on a limited basis for \$50.00)

Pre-registration closes July 19th, 2022 – at 5:00 p.m. To register, email

Paige.Norsworthy@dcnr.alabama.gov. **PLEASE provide date of paddle, a phone number; indicate number of boats and what type (single/tandem) requested for the trip.

You will be contacted by phone and payment will be required at time of registration**
www.alapark.com/kayak-little-river

Peace of Mind Yoga Class

DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Join us for a fun yoga class in DeSoto State Park! Instructor Destin Padgett will guide participants with relaxing, alignment-based poses. Perfect for those beginning their yoga practice or for those wanting to try something new! Classes are open to local residents and park visitors alike. No pre-registration required!

Date: July 23, 2022

Time: 6:00 p.m.

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

Fee: 5.00 per participant per class (cash or checks) Bring mat or towel. See www.alapark.com/DSP-Yoga for more class dates.

Campfire Talk: Scales and Tails

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the Great Outdoors! Campfire Talks are a series of educational & entertaining programs located outside in DeSoto State Park. Campfire programs are held many Friday & Saturday evening (June –October) in our large campfire ring inside the improved campground. Talks are for all ages, & open to everyone!

From the depths of its rich soils to the heights of its blue skies, Alabama is home to a variety of slimy, scaly, feathered, and furry wild residents. Join Central District Naturalist Scottie Jackson as she introduces you to the Alabama animals who crawl, slither, climb, and fly across our wild spaces. Don't miss this opportunity for an up-close encounter with these amazing teacher creatures!

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

Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground (In case of inclement weather will be located in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area) Campground gates will open 30 minutes before program.

Fee: Free and open to everyone, no pre-registration required; For any details about the talk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

Serious Skills Series:

YES, I CAN! Canning Fruits & Vegetables Workshop

Learn all about home canning. This is a "hands on" workshop and at the end of the day students will leave with two jars of finished product, recipes, confidence and knowledge of how to can at home. Participants will be learning about canning jams, pickles, & other foods during this workshop. Instructor is Mary Alice Stout, who has canned and taught canning for over 60 years! Bring a paring knife and a brown bag lunch.

Workshop is limited to 10 participants. Open to all ages

Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022

Time: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Central time zone)

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

Fee: \$20 per person. Workshop is limited to 10, so pre-registration is required. For details or to pre-register for workshops, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

Serious Skills Series:

YES, I CAN! Pressure Canning Workshop

Learn all about home pressure canning. This is a "hands on" workshop and at the end of the day students will leave with two jars of finished product, recipes, confidence and knowledge of how to can food at home.

This class is for folks who have some experience in canning. If you would like to learn how to use your pressure canner, feel free to bring it and the directions. You will be taught how to use yours, as well as other pressure canners that will be at the class. This is a "hands on" workshop. At the end of the class you will leave with a jar of canned chicken and a jar of vegetable soup, recipes, confidence and knowledge of how to can food at home. Instructor is Mary Alice Stout, who has canned and taught canning for

over 60 years! Bring a paring knife and a brown bag lunch. Workshop is limited to 7 participants. Open to all ages.

Date: Sunday, July 24, 2022

Time: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Central time zone)

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

Fee: \$20 per person. Workshop is limited to 7, so pre-registration is required.

For details or to pre-register for workshops,
email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

Traditional Chair Weaving Workshop

Hosted by JSU Field Schools

The craft of chair seat weaving and chair caning has been practiced for centuries and is still a viable craft today, experienced all over the world. Only a few common tools are necessary to repair chair seats, making this a craft that nearly anyone can master with just a little patience and tenacity. Participants will discover how to weave a simple chair bottom, while learning the herringbone pattern using flat reed. Small ladderback chairs will be provided, as well as all tools & supplies.

This class is for ages 12 to adult (please no younger children for safety reasons)

What to Bring: Enthusiasm (all materials and tools needed to complete this project will be provided). Wear comfortable, casual clothing (this craft can get messy), and bring a sack lunch if you wish. This workshop emphasizes the use of hand tools, students should have moderate hand strength.

Date: July 30, 2022

Time: 10:00 – 4:00 (CST)

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center-Fort Payne, Alabama

Fee: \$150 supply fee. Pre-registration required by July 18th. Space is limited to 5 participants.

Pre-registration required by emailing Brittney Hughes (NOT via Facebook). For details and to pre-register email Southernchick888@hotmail.com

www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Campfire Talk: Black Bears in Alabama

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the Great Outdoors! Campfire Talks are a series of educational & entertaining programs located outside in DeSoto State Park. Campfire programs are held many Friday & Saturday evening (June –October) in our large campfire ring inside the improved campground. Talks are for all ages, & open to everyone!

Did you know Black Bears are Alabama's State Mammal? 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 Auburn University Researcher Hannah Leeper to learn more about bears, what we can do to prevent bears from becoming a nuisance and hear about current black bear research happening in Alabama.

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

Date: Saturday, July 30, 2022

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground (In case of inclement weather will be located in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area) Campground gates will open 30 minutes before program.

Fee: Free and open to everyone, no pre-registration required; For any details about the talk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

World's Longest Yard Sale

The World's Longest Yard Sale starts each year on the first Thursday in August and continues for 4 days (Thursday thru Sunday.)

Running from Gadsden, Alabama to West Unity, Ohio, this event allows you to travel more than 690-miles of scenic beauty and see tons of yard sales. Get started on your journey by traveling the 93-mile Lookout Mountain Parkway route from Gadsden, Alabama to Chattanooga, Tennessee for the most "scenic rural America" in the United States

A section of this popular annual event travels thru DeSoto State Park, so be sure to use the park as your base as you travel to see the sights! (reservations recommended early)

Dates: August 4-7, 2022

For more info, see: www.discoverlookoutmountain.com/yardsale.shtml OR www.127yardsale.com/

Yoga Walk-Dusk to Dark

DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Experience yoga while enjoying the beauty that is Desoto State Park. Walk along the park's boardwalk trail, following Laurel Creek. Listen to the sounds of Azalea Cascade as instructor Destin Padgett guides you in slow & easy yoga poses.

What to know: Yoga poses are alignment based which makes them perfect for those beginning or continuing their yoga practice. Bring a yoga mat or towel, water & snack.

About the walk: The boardwalk trail is ADA-accessible 1,000-foot-long boardwalk with benches along the way. The walk is considered easy, ending at a large platform overlooking Azalea Cascade.

Date: August 11, 2022

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at the Talmadge Butler Boardwalk Trailhead on Co. Rd. 89

Fee: \$5.00 per person (cash or check). Pre-registration is required, so we know how many to expect. Hike is open to ages 8 to adult. Email

Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for more info or to pre-register. If weather is questionable- check with DSP Lodge before coming: 256.845.5380.

See www.alapark.com/DSP-Yoga for class dates

Daybreak Flatwater Paddle Trip

DeSoto Falls Picnic Area-Alabama

DeSoto State Park staff offers this relaxing guided morning 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. Learn about this outstanding water source with its clear water, plant & animal life, and about the history of the area around DeSoto Falls in Dekalb County, Alabama.

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.

What to bring: Appropriate clothing, bug spray, snacks, and drinking water.

Date: Saturday, August 13, 2022

Time: 7:00 am-10:00 am

Where: DeSoto Falls Picnic Area-Miller's Bend Paddle Shack (about 7 miles from main park area of DeSoto State Park)

Fee: \$30.00 for single kayak rental (tandem kayaks are available on a limited basis for \$50.00)

Pre-registration closes August 9, 2022 – at 5:00 p.m. To register, email

Paige.Norsworthy@dcnr.alabama.gov. **PLEASE provide date of paddle, a phone

number; indicate number of boats and what type (single/tandem) requested for the trip. You will be contacted by phone and payment will be required at time of registration**
www.alapark.com/kayak-little-river

Peace of Mind Yoga Class

DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Join us for a fun yoga class in DeSoto State Park! Instructor Destin Padgett will guide participants with relaxing, alignment-based poses. Perfect for those beginning their yoga practice or for those wanting to try something new! Classes are open to local residents and park visitors alike. No pre-registration required!

Date: August 19, 2022

Time: 6:00 p.m.

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

Fee: 5.00 per participant per class (cash or checks) Bring mat or towel. See www.alapark.com/DSP-Yoga for more class dates.

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 (skipping September for Boom Days Festival). Music across the street from DeKalb Theatre and food vendors.

Date: August 20, 2022

Time: 5:00-9:00 pm

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

Free & open to everyone. For current info see www.facebook.com/3rdSaturdayFortPayneAl

MUSIC FOR THE PEOPLE Summer Music Series: Natti Love Joys

Mentone, Alabama. Sponsored by Little River Arts Council, made possible in part by the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

BIO: The Natti Love Joys, from Turtletown, TN, bring a reggae beat to Mentone. A crowd favorite at festivals and events, the Natti Love Joys have rocked the East Coast and beyond since 2003 with a blend of original roots rock reggae and classic Bob Marley covers. Lead singer Sonia Abel-Allen was part of the Love Joys, a popular all female roots reggae band that performed and recorded in the 1970s and '80s and had the hit song "All I Can Say." Bassist/vocalist Tony Allen is a former member of The Congos, another critically acclaimed reggae band. The Natti Love Joys are the hosts of the Camp Reggae Music Festival in Tennessee. The band has opened for Joan Jett, Three Dog Night, The Clash, The Ramones, and many more. Bring your own chair or blanket to enjoy the show & enjoy some food from Fontastic Food Truck.

Date: August 20, 2022

Times: 7:00-10:00 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! www.littleriverartscouncil.org
www.reverbNation.com/nattilovejoys

Peace of Mind Yoga Class

DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Join us for a fun yoga class in DeSoto State Park! Instructor Destin Padgett will guide participants with relaxing, alignment-based poses. Perfect for those beginning their

yoga practice or for those wanting to try something new! Classes are open to local residents and park visitors alike. No pre-registration required!

Date: August 26, 2022

Time: 6:00 p.m.

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

Fee: 5.00 per participant per class (cash or checks) Bring mat or towel. See

www.alapark.com/DSP-Yoga for more class dates.

September 2022

Campfire Talk: Sandstone Glades of Lookout Mountain

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

Campfire Talks are a series of educational & entertaining programs located outside in DeSoto State Park. Campfire programs are held many Friday & Saturday evening (June –October) in our large campfire ring inside the improved campground. Talks are for all ages, & open to everyone!

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.

Through hot and dry summers and cold and wet winters, beautiful and tough plants live on in these sunny and hostile islands of rock among the sea of shady forests.

Join naturalist Michelle Reynolds for a slideshow on sandstone glades of Lookout Mountain, Little River Canyon, and DeSoto State Park. Learn about this unique environment and the rare and beautiful plants that inhabit it.

Read about sandstone glades here: <https://www.alapark.com/sites/default/files/2020-03/Sandstone%20glades%20of%20Lookout%20Mountain%20Fall%202015%20Lookout%20Alabama.pdf>

Date: Friday, September 2, 2022

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground (In case of inclement weather will be located in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area) Campground gates will open 30 minutes before program.

Fee: Free and open to everyone, no pre-registration required; For any details about the talk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

Sandstone Glade Plant 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 with Naturalist Michelle Reynolds. 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 mountainous terrain, rocky terrain. Approximately 1.10 miles round trip

Date: Saturday, September 3, 2022

Time: 9:00 a.m.

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

Fee: Free, pre-registration is required so to know how many to expect. Hike is open to ages 6 to adult. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for more info or to pre-register.

Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks/lunch, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended) Trail may be wet. Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather.

WEATHER: As with all outdoor events, if it's raining/stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel. If the weather is questionable, please call the Park Lodge before leaving home (256.845.5380)

MUSIC FOR THE PEOPLE Summer Music Series: Lon Eldridge

Mentone, Alabama. Sponsored by Little River Arts Council, made possible in part by the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts

BIO: Red hot ragtime, blues, and swing from Chattanooga, Tennessee. Lon Eldridge is often said to have talent and style well beyond his years. His warm and infectious musicality is sure keep you tuned in throughout the night, coupling masterful fingerstyle guitar with clever, brilliant vocals. You'll swear there's more than one person playing on stage! Lon has toured both the USA and Europe, taking his unique blend of traditional pre-war blues, ragtime, and swing to whole new audiences. This is a show (and a moustache) you definitely don't want to miss!

Bring your own chair or blanket to enjoy the show & enjoy some food from Fontastic Food Truck.

Date: September 10, 2022

Times: 7:00-10:00 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! www.littleriverartscouncil.org

www.facebook.com/lon.eldridge

www.loneldridge.bandcamp.com

Boom Days Heritage Celebration

Boom Days Heritage Celebration honors Fort Payne's rich cultural past with events that tie the history to the present, great historical artifacts, and clothing at the Fort Payne Depot Museum, a miniatures railroad system in the original office of the Coal, and Iron Company, music covering all musical genres. City Park, once the front yard of the DeKalb Hotel with its 1889 Ginkgo trees, is filled with some of the finest arts and craftsmen in the region. There is a children's area, artist demonstrations, and a wine tasting. Boom Days begins on the third Friday of September each year and runs through Saturday ending with musical acts at the Rotary Pavilion.

Dates: September 16-17

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

For more info, see <https://boomdays.com/>

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. Ages 8 to adult

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. All equipment provided
Date: Saturday, September 17, 2022
Time: Class times start at 10:00 am, 11:00, & 12:00
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 of the posted times. Please note: archery may be postponed due to wet conditions. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details.

Campfire Talk: All About Geocaching

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the Great Outdoors! Campfire Talks are a series of educational & entertaining programs located outside in DeSoto State Park. Campfire programs are held many Friday & Saturday evening (June –October) in our large campfire ring inside the improved campground. Talks are for all ages, & open to everyone!

Need a reason to get outside as a family? Geocaching is a scavenger hunt where users with a GPS or smartphone search for a cache hidden at a specified location using published coordinates. Caches are hidden worldwide, and have even been placed on the International Space Station! Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location. Find out what geocaching is and how you do it yourself!

Guest Speaker: Ashley Peters from the AL Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (State Lands)

Date: Friday, September 30, 2022

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground (In case of inclement weather will be located in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area) Campground gates will open 30 minutes before program.

Fee: Free and open to everyone, no pre-registration required; For any details about the talk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

October 2022

Campfire Talk: Birds of Alabama

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the Great Outdoors! Campfire Talks are a series of educational & entertaining programs located outside in DeSoto State Park. Campfire programs are held many Friday & Saturday evening (June –October) in our large campfire ring inside the improved campground. Talks are for all ages, & open to everyone!

Bird watching has become a popular pastime for many people-not only do birds offer tremendous recreational, economic, and psychological benefit, they are often great indicators of environmental health. Over 400 species of birds are known to occur in Alabama. Of these, 141 species have been reported from DeSoto State Park, which is stop #47 on the North Alabama Birding Trail. Guest speaker Ashley Peters returns to showcase some of the resident species and some of the migrants that should be moving through our area on their Fall migration.

www.alabamabirdingtrails.com/trails/north-alabama/

Date: Saturday, October 1, 2022

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground (In case of inclement weather will be located in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area) Campground gates will open 30 minutes before program.

Fee: Free and open to everyone, no pre-registration required; For any details about the talk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

Meandering Moonlight Paddle Trip

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. Weight limits: 300 pounds for singles & 450 for tandems. Ages 8 to adult.

What to bring: Appropriate clothing for weather (you may get wet), headlamp or flashlight, bug spray, snacks, and drinking water.

Date: Sunday, October 9, 2022

Time: 7:00 pm-10:00 pm

Where: DeSoto Falls Picnic Area-Miller's Bend Paddle Shack (about 7 miles from main park area of DeSoto State Park)

Fee: \$30.00 for single kayak rental (2 person-tandem kayaks are available on a limited basis for \$50.00)

Pre-registration closes October 4, 2022 – at 5:00 p.m. To register, email

Paige.Norsworthy@dcnr.alabama.gov. **PLEASE provide date of paddle, a phone number; indicate number of boats and what type (single/tandem) requested for the trip. You will be contacted by phone and payment will be required at time of registration**

www.alapark.com/kayak-little-river

ColorFest 2022

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 will be filled with artists and craft makers offering their handmade creations. Admission is free.

Dates: Saturday, October 15-16, 2022

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

For any 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 (skipping September for Boom Days Festival). Music across the street from DeKalb Theatre and food vendors.

Date: October 15, 2022

Time: 5:00-9:00 pm

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

Free & open to everyone. For current info see www.facebook.com/3rdSaturdayFortPayneAl

Spookapalooza Spooktacular Campsite Contest 2022

Campers in DeSoto State Park have been decorating their campsites with Halloween decorations for years.....this year, there will be 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 30th 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 2022

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

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details.

Spookapalooza Pumpkin Carving Contest 2022

DeSoto State Park is glad to host the 11th 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 29 2022 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 30th 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 30th. Free and Open to all age.

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details.

November 2022

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 12 & 13, 2022 (Second weekend of November)

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

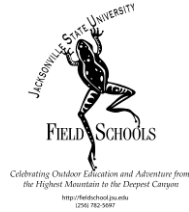
The market is held near DeSoto State Park's picnic area across from the Country Store on County Road 89. If the weather is chilly, market-goers can enjoy a blazing fire in the stone fireplace in the CCC pavilion. Bring your own camp chair to hang out a while and listen to the music. Dogs on a leash are 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.

Facebook page [#creativespiritmarket](#) [#desotostatepark](#) [#littleriverartscouncil](#)

www.littleriverartscouncil.org/creative-spirit-market.html

December 2022



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
Russell Cave National Monument	256.495.2672	Mary Dawson www.nps.gov/ruca