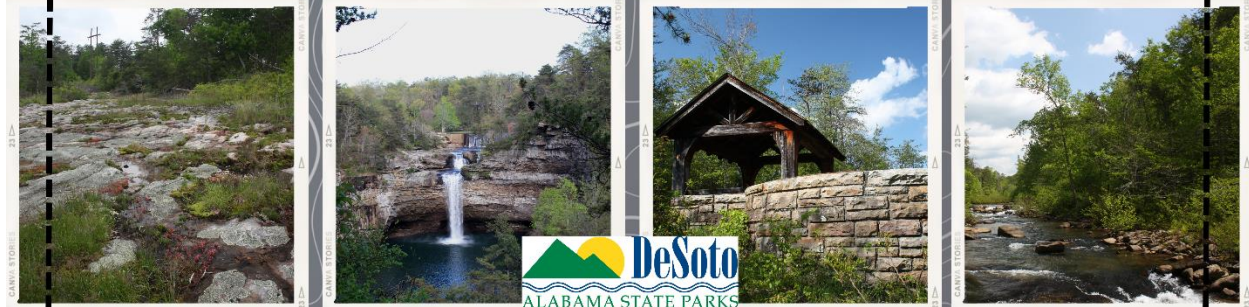


What's Happening in & around DeSoto State Park



DeSoto State Park and park partners like Little River Canyon National Preserve, Jacksonville State University Field School, Little River Arts Council and more, team up to bring you many fun events throughout the year. Campfire Talks, Classes, Demonstrations, Guided Interpretive or Fitness Hikes, Tours, Outdoor Adventures, Workshops.....topics covering art, science, nature, and much more!

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

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



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

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

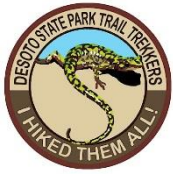
DeSoto State Park's Campfire Talk Series



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

Serious Skills Series

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



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

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

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

May 2023

Campfire Talk: Carnivorous Killer Plants

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.

'Feed Me Seymour!' Come on out to discover facts about these unusual plants that are carnivorous, meaning they digest insects and other organisms. They live in boggy, wet areas that are low in nutrients, and have evolved over time to eat prey to survive. People have long been drawn to these weird but lovable plants, enthralled by visions of man-eaters out of "Little Shop of Horrors." (no worries, none are big enough to eat humans.... yet)

Join DeSoto State Park Naturalist Brittney Hughes to explore the world of the Venus Fly Traps, Sundews, Bladderworts, Butterworts, & Pitcher Plants and how each one catches their prey. Additionally, she will have live plants & talk about the Green Pitcher Plant Project, a park effort to ensure Lookout Mountain's native, federally-listed endangered pitcher plant is protected and will thrive over many generations. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Friday, May 12, 2023

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)

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

May Plant Discovery Walk

DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Join DeSoto State Park Staff for a meandering walk in the park, taking in every opportunity to learn more about the natural world. On this walk we will identify many native blooming plants of the southern Appalachians and will be teaching you how to recognize the species found in the park. Bring a notebook/camera if you wish and discover what can be seen along the way. All ages welcome

About the walk: We will be walking from the Lodge to the H. Stanley Sims Native Plant Area, which is a short 1,000-yard loop. Easy terrain, approx. 1 mile total

Date: Friday, May 12, 2023

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

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

Fee: Free & open to everyone. Pre-registration is appreciated so we know how many to expect. Sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/g/P1ZNSSKjdG>

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)

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, under your own power & spans a 3 to 3 1/2-hour period. Includes kayak, paddle, & personal flotation device.

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

Date: May 13, 2023

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 May 10, 2023 - at 5:00 p.m. Pre-registration form:

<https://forms.office.com/g/a7YZCh60xv>

Yoga on the Mountain: Peace of Mind Yoga

DeSoto Falls Picnic Area

Enjoy a yoga class along the banks of Little River, in the DeSoto Falls Picnic Area.

Instructor Destin Padgett will guide 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: May 13, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.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. (card or cash) 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

Yoga on the Brow

Mentone, Alabama

Hosted by Soul Shine Yoga & Wellness Studio. Join in on a relaxing outdoor class under a pavilion in Mentone's Brow Park. Class is for all levels, just bring a mat and enjoy a morning flow to awaken the senses and energize the body. All levels

Date: May 13, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. (CST)

Where: Mentone, Alabama. Pavilion-Brow Park off of Cool Street. Donation/tips appreciated.

Info: www.facebook.com/Soul-Shine-Yoga-Wellness-Studio

Art Talks

Little River Arts Council presents an evening of art critique and discussion- this will be free to the public and open discussion is encouraged!

Art is meant to be seen, and discussed! If you are an artist or an art appreciator, this is an evening for you.

Leads another informal conversation about art, why we create it, and how it affects our lives. Mikel Yeakle is an art history buff whose knowledge and enthusiasm for art is engaging and delightful. Having worked as a professional artist all his adult life, Mikel has useful tips for anyone new to selling their work. All are invited to bring their artwork and share their process and inspirations. The conversation is open to anyone who is drawn to art (pun intended) not just creators of art.

Date: May 17, 2023 (Every third Wednesday)

Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: Moonlake Community Library, Address: 4607 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL 35984

Fee: free & open to all! www.littleriverartscouncil.org

#lrac #littleriverartscouncil #art #artdiscussion #arthistory #localartists #alabamaarts #mentone #critique #opendiscussion #mydekalb

Nature Journal Journey Hike

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

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

Date: May 18, 2023

Time: 12:00-3:00 pm

Where: DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Nature Center, next to the Country Store & Information Center off of Co. Rd. 89.

Fee: \$10 supply fee due the day of, and pre-registration is REQUIRED. Participants will receive a confirmation by email. Due to the nature of this hike, rain or high winds will reschedule this hike. Pre-register here: <https://forms.office.com/g/xQiePt23cR>

Plant Discovery Hike-May Blooms

DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Join DeSoto State Park Staff for a meandering journey within the forest, taking in every opportunity to learn more about the natural world. On this hike we will identify many native blooming plants of the southern Appalachians and will be teaching you how to

recognize the species found in the park. Bring a notebook/camera if you wish and discover what can be seen along the trails. All ages welcome

About the hike: This hike is approximately 1 1/2 miles round trip, moderate due to slightly rocky terrain.

Date: Friday, May 19, 2023

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

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Benefield Interpretive Center (Nature Center) on County Road 89.

Fee: Free & open to everyone. Pre-registration is appreciated so we know how many to expect. Sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/g/NuVaed15f5>

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. No age restrictions on this hike and well-behaved dogs are allowed on a leash at all times.

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)

Free Community Concert- Will Dooley and Company

Hosted by Little River Arts Council & the Mentone Inn

Will Dooley and Company returns to kick off LRAC's Music for the People Summer Concert Series as well as the Big Art Pop Up.

Enjoy Mentone at night-this free concert will be held at the Linger Longer Pavilion (behind the Mentone Inn in downtown Mentone). Some artists will be set up around the pavilion. Seating on the lawn is limited, so bring a chair or blanket to enjoy an evening under the stars! Food will be served by Fontastic Foods beginning at 5:00 p.m. until they run out. Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. is the Big Art Pop Up at the same location, where artists will exhibit and sell their work.

Date: Friday, May 19, 2023

Time: 7:00 – 10:00 pm

Where: 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/

Little River Canyon National Preserve Annual Bioblitz

Calling all photographers, botanists, birders, herpers, insect enthusiasts..... well, if you love nature, and you love Little River Canyon Preserve, then join us for the BioBlitz! Plan on coming out sometime from Friday, May 19th to Saturday, May 20th to help us document the flora and fauna of the park. Little River Canyon is a biological hotspot! It is home to roughly 50 species of reptiles and amphibians, 40 species of fish, over 145 species of birds, and many rare, threatened, or endangered species of plants. We want everyone to come out and help. We will be exploring the park with scientists, naturalists, students, and professors (oh my!) and the public is encouraged to join us. The public can explore, learn and become Citizen Scientists by helping to record the presence and distribution of our species. Tentative schedule:

May 19 - Bio Blitz

- 2pm – Hike with a Naturalist

- 6 pm – Venomous Snake Program with Alabama Herpetological Society at Canyon Center

- 7 pm – Little River Trivia

- 8 pm – Mothing at the Little River Canyon Center

May 20 – Bio Blitz

- 6 pm - Author Presentation & Book Signing – Frogs and Toads of Alabama by Craig Guyer and Mark Bailey at Canyon Center

Project is only open for 36 hours! The fun lasts from 12 pm Friday through 12 am Sunday.

Date: Friday, May 19th to Saturday May 20th

Where: Little River Canyon National Preserve, JSU's Little River Canyon Center on AL Hwy 35- (Within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park)

More info: www.facebook.com/events/3474256636224621?active_tab=about

www.inaturalist.org/projects/2023-little-river-canyon-national-preserve-bioblitz

Venomous Snakes with the Alabama Herpetological Society

JSU Field Schools-Part of Little River Canyon BioBlitz 2023

Alabama Herpetological Society will be presenting a fascinating program featuring Alabama's native venomous snakes. Whether you love them or hate them, get better acquainted with what species Alabama has and how they are a big part of our ecosystem. Intended for people of all ages to learn about our native snakes! Part of the Little River Canyon BioBlitz 2023. Be sure to join all the exciting BioBlitz 2023 activities over the weekend

Date: May 19, 2023

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center on AL Hwy 35- (Within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park)

Fee: Free & open to everyone! www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

www.facebook.com/Alabamaherpsociety

Frogs and Toads of Alabama

JSU Field Schools-Part of Little River Canyon BioBlitz 2023

Alabama is one of the most diverse states in North America. Learn more about the incredible biodiversity of the frogs and toads found here in Alabama. Join JSU Field School staff for a special presentation on the newly published book, Frogs and Toads of Alabama, by authors Craig Guyer and Mark Bailey as part of the Little River Canyon BioBlitz 2023. Be sure to join all the exciting BioBlitz 2023 activities!

Date: May 20, 2023

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center on AL Hwy 35- (Within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park)

Fee: Free & open to everyone! www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

The Big Art Pop Up

Mentone, Alabama

Hosted by Little River Arts Council & Mentone Inn

This fun event will showcase local artists & makers in a small-festival setting in beautiful Mentone, Alabama. Grab some good eats from the Fontastic Food Truck,

enjoy art demonstrations and browse through many original works of art on the grounds of the Mentone Inn.

Date: May 20, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: 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 artist sign up info, see www.littleriverartscouncil.org/events

Through the Loupe Hammock Hike

Join naturalists for this creative nature observation hike, combining art & nature! The focus of this nature walk is to reflect your observations of nature using a personal journaling style.....in many different ways! Learn how to keep your own nature journal while strolling along trails in DeSoto State Park. Will hike in approx. 1 ½ miles to 'the spot' where we will set up hammocks, relax & work on our nature journals with provided materials. After hanging out for a good while, we will hike back to the trailhead. For ages 8 to adult, we encourage all ages to join.

About the hike: the hike is considered moderate, with uneven, rocky terrain. Some slight uphills. 3 miles total

What to bring: Backpack with plenty of water, and a lunch or snacks. Closed-toed shoes. A favorite journal if you have one, and we will supply watercolor paper, watercolor pencils, clipboards, etc. We will supply the hammocks, or you can bring your own.

Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Time: 12:00-4:00 pm

Where: DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at Gilliam Loop Trailhead, which is off of Blalock Dr. past the DeSoto Lodge at end of cabin road.

Fee: \$10 supply fee due the day of, and pre-registration is REQUIRED. Participants will receive a confirmation by email. Due to the nature of this hike, rain or high winds will reschedule this hike. Pre-register here: <https://forms.office.com/g/xng0Ukqkr4>

Yoga on the Brow

Mentone, Alabama

Hosted by Soul Shine Yoga & Wellness Studio. Join in on a relaxing outdoor class under a pavilion in Mentone's Brow Park. Class is for all levels, just bring a mat and enjoy a morning flow to awaken the senses and energize the body. All levels

Date: May 27, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. (CST)

Where: Mentone, Alabama. Pavilion-Brow Park off of Cool Street. Donation/tips appreciated.

Info: www.facebook.com/Soul-Shine-Yoga-Wellness-Studio

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 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!

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. Campground gate will open before the talk begins.

Date: May 27, 2023

Time: 8:00 pm

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground next to site 93 (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

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 you can swing by anytime, & the best time 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: May 27, 2023

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

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground next to site 93 (gate will open to the public)

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



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	www.nps.gov/ruca