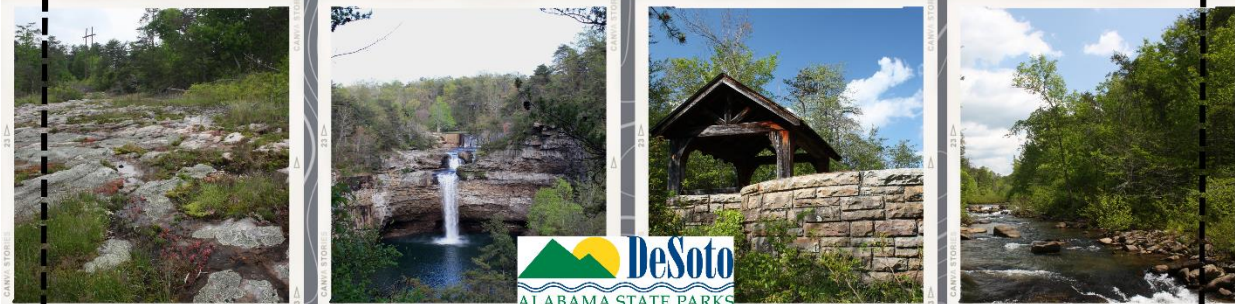


What's Happening in & around DeSoto State Park



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!

November 2023

Ceramic Ornament Workshop

JSU Field School

Join artist Jessica Haigh of Animal House Pottery for a Ceramic Ornament Workshop and create your own custom Christmas Ornament Set.

Students will learn how to handle the clay and the process of turning "dirt" into a beautiful ornament. Participants will receive the clay and supplies to make 6 – 8 Christmas ornaments each. Each ornament can be customized with all types of designs, shapes, and colors.

Once class is complete each ornament will go through a firing process and will be available for pickup by December 8th, right in time for Canyon Christmas. You will not be able to leave with your ornament set; however, once complete you will have a special Christmas ornament set that will last a lifetime with proper care.

Students of all ages are welcome! No refunds after November 6th. For questions, please email rmtaylor@jsu.edu or call 256-845-3548.

Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023

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

Time: 1 pm – 3 pm (CST)

Fee: \$35 per participant. Registration Required. No refunds after November 6th.

Register now:

https://secure.touchnet.net/C20901_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=229&SINGLESTORE=true&fbclid=IwAR3BTzyOLV-d4f9IA-fnEBPtsydBWaq88qVK8cqlkEeH2LUNI9aVQB5Ysh8

Blow Your Own Ornament

Orbix Hot Glass is a glass blowing studio and gallery on Lookout Mountain that offers fine decorative and functional glass, as well as very popular glass blowing classes. Design and literally "blow" your own ornament with the help of a glass artist.

Date: November 21st (9-4), 22nd(9-2), 24th(9-7), 25th(9-7) 2023

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

Fee: \$40.00 per ornament. Pre-registration required. When you reserve a spot, it is not for the full duration but for a slot within that time frame. At least 5 years and up.

Custom reservations can be made for groups anytime. More details:

www.orbixhotglass.com/events

Craft a Glass Bowl

Orbix Hot Glass is a glass blowing studio and gallery on Lookout Mountain that offers fine decorative and functional glass, as well as very popular glass blowing classes. Design and craft a small concave bowl with colors of your choice with the help of a glass artist.

Check out even more classes and info at www.orbixhotglass.com

Date: November 24, 2023

Time: 5:00 p.m.

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

Fee: \$95.00 per person. Pre-registration is required. Minimum age is 12 years old with parent.

More details: www.orbixhotglass.com/events

Hike with a Naturalist

Join JSU Field School staff to OptOutside this Black Friday and get moving after Thanksgiving. JSU Field School will lead a guided 1.5 mile hike on Bridge Trail. Hike from the Little River Canyon Center to Little River Falls and back. This is a moderately difficult hike with uneven and varying terrain.

Please wear footwear suitable for hiking, dress in layers, bring water, sun protection and a snack!

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 check with the Canyon Center.

Date: Friday, November 24, 2023

Time: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm (CST).

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

Fee: Free and open to everyone! For details, call the Canyon Center at 256-845-3548

Serious Skills Series: Stained Glass Mosaic Project

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

Learn the beautiful and ancient art of mosaics! DSP Staff will teach design, techniques, and the skills of class cutting, gluing, and grouting with special emphasis on safety. We will be working on 2 art projects that when finished will be on display in DeSoto State Park. Join in on the fun and create art to be enjoyed by others! If you don't wish to work with the glass, still feel free to stop by and check out our progress!

Date: Thursday, November 30, 2023

Time: 12:00-3:00 p.m. (CST)

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

Fee: Free and open to everyone. Ages 10 to adult. No-preregistration required. For any details email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

Pottery Wheel Workshop

Fort Payne, Alabama

Presented by Animal House Pottery, this hands-on workshop invites participants to explore the art of pottery on the wheel. During this single two-hour session at Studio 324, located in the rear of Boom Town Makers Market, participants will receive expert guidance in every step of the process.

Discover the intricacies of centering the clay and transforming it into a cylinder, bowl, or a unique creation of your own. Once your masterpiece takes shape, add those final

artistic touches. Participants will then have the opportunity to choose their preferred color glaze for the finishing touch.

On completion of the class, allow 2 to 3 weeks for the glazing and firing of your project.

Date: November 30, 2023

Where: Boom Town Maker's Market (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park)

Info: www.animalhousepotterycrafts.com

For wheel throwing classes, ages 10+ are recommended but younger children are welcome with an adult.

December 2023

Blow Your Own Ornament

Orbix Hot Glass is a glass blowing studio and gallery on Lookout Mountain that offers fine decorative and functional glass, as well as very popular glass blowing classes.

Design and literally "blow" your own ornament with the help of a glass artist.

Date: December 1st, 8th, 15th (9:00-7:00 CST)

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

Fee: \$40.00 per ornament. Pre-registration required. When you reserve a spot, it is not for the full duration but for a slot within that time frame. At least 5 years and up.

Custom reservations can be made for groups anytime. More details:

www.orbixhotglass.com/events

Blow Your Own Ornament

Orbix Hot Glass is a glass blowing studio and gallery on Lookout Mountain that offers fine decorative and functional glass, as well as very popular glass blowing classes.

Design and literally "blow" your own ornament with the help of a glass artist.

Date: Saturday 2nd, 9th, 16th (9-5pm CST)

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

Fee: \$40.00 per ornament. Pre-registration required. When you reserve a spot, it is not for the full duration but for a slot within that time frame. At least 5 years and up.

Custom reservations can be made for groups anytime. More details:

www.orbixhotglass.com/events

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

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

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

Date: Friday, December 1, 2023

Time: 2 class times available: 10:00-12:00 OR 1:00-3:00 pm (CST)

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

Fee: \$25.00 -includes all supplies. Class space is limited, pre-registration is required for attendance in this class. Sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/g/HRcbYF6NPY>
Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for more info.
Examples of April's work: www.facebook.com/Aprils-Woodburnings

Live Wreath Making Workshop

Little River Canyon Center

We invite you to enjoy the beauty and art of creating your own live evergreen Christmas wreath with wreath making master Sandi Wolf. Sandi walks you seamlessly through the process of beginning your wreath. Participants will be provided with all supplies starting with a basic frame and a variety of local foraged pines, magnolia, and various ornamental additions. Come connect, create, and find that extra dose of holiday cheer! No prior floral design experience needed. Classes are limited to 15 participants per class and cost \$40 per participant. No refunds available after November 20.

Date: December 2, 2023

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (CST).

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

Fee: Pre-registration required. \$40.00 per participant.

INFO:

https://secure.touchnet.net/C20901_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=235&SINGLESTORE=true

Volunteer Day: CCC Bridge Trail Work

Join DeSoto State Park staff for the CCC 'Unfinished Bridge' Trail Work Day, to work together to honor the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and embrace our servant hearts through community service.

The 'Unfinished Bridge' is a poignant reminder of the CCC's dedication to developing our state park. In the mid-1930s-early 1940s, they embarked on several stone projects in the DeSoto State Park area including this bridge over Morris Branch. Their vision was to connect DeSoto State Park to May's Gulf, now known as Little River Canyon, via a direct highway. Sadly, their noble mission was left incomplete when the CCC disbanded in 1942.

This historic bridge sits on state land within the Little River Wildlife Management Area, but the trail leading to it has fallen into disrepair over the years. Our mission is to revive this trail and ensure the bridge remains accessible and unspoiled.

The trail presents us with various challenges, from fallen trees to overgrown pine trees and brush. We'll work together to clear the path, making it safe and enjoyable for all who wish to experience this piece of history. Our long-term goal is to maintain the area by selectively removing smaller trees so that the bridge can be easily accessed and admired by generations to come.

Loppers will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis, but please bring your own gloves if you wish. Additionally, remember to pack bug spray, plenty of water/ sports drinks to stay hydrated, snacks/lunch, and wear appropriate footwear for the terrain. (moderate, uneven terrain)

Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Central Time

Where: Meet at DeSoto State Park's Lodge-Parking lot; Fort Payne, Alabama. Caravan to location

Pre-registration is appreciated so we know how many to expect. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for more info.

Sign up form: <https://forms.office.com/g/nrmgogqYdM>

Canyon Kids - Decomposers

Join us for a hands on adventure the 1st Thursday each month in 2023! Children (ages 3 years-3rd graders) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures!

In December we will be learning all about decomposers.

Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools.

Date: Thursday, December 7, 2023

Time: 10:30 am—11:30 am (CST)

Where: Little River Canyon Center

What to Bring: Please wear footwear suitable for hiking, bring water, and sun protection.

Free event. Registration strongly suggested. Limit 15 students.

For more details and for pre-registration, email rmtaylor@jsu.edu or call 256-845-3548.

<https://www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools>

Pottery Wheel Workshop

Fort Payne, Alabama

Presented by Animal House Pottery, this hands-on workshop invites participants to explore the art of pottery on the wheel. During this single two-hour session at Studio 324, located in the rear of Boom Town Makers Market, participants will receive expert guidance in every step of the process.

Discover the intricacies of centering the clay and transforming it into a cylinder, bowl, or a unique creation of your own. Once your masterpiece takes shape, add those final artistic touches. Participants will then have the opportunity to choose their preferred color glaze for the finishing touch.

On completion of the class, allow 2 to 3 weeks for the glazing and firing of your project.

Date: December 7, 2023

Where: Boom Town Maker's Market (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park)

Info: www.animalhousepotterycrafts.com

For wheel throwing classes, ages 10+ are recommended but younger children are welcome with an adult.

Trail Trekker Hike Series: Green Trail & Gilliam Loop

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 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.

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

Date: December 8, 2023

Time: 11:00 am-3:00 p.m.

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

Fee: Free, pre-registration is appreciated so we know how many to expect. Hike is open to ages 10 to adult. Pre-registration form: <https://forms.office.com/g/hsQHxO6w9p>

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)
www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

Serious Skills Series: Nature's Elements in Metal Art Workshop

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.

Unleash your creativity as you design and create your own unique metal art piece inspired by the beauty of nature. Join artist Kevin Watson from Tintations for a fun workshop that utilizes reclaimed tin and barn wood. Make your own piece of art to hang at home or give to someone special. This class is for ages 14 to adult.

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

Date: December 9, 2023

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

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

Fee: \$40.00 includes all supplies. Class space is limited, pre-registration is required for attendance in this class.

To register, click the link below: <https://forms.office.com/g/TrpDjAEefD>

Examples of Kevin's work: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086570220853

Canyon Christmas

Hosted by JSU Field School

An annual tradition to celebrate the season that is filled with holiday spirit and activities including

Christmas arts and crafts, a gift shop, a visit with Santa, and more!

-Story Time at 11:00. Santa arrives at 11:15- Get your free picture made with Santa for the entire family.

Even your four legged fur babies are welcome, just make sure they are on a leash.

-That Puppet Guy's Christmas puppet show at 11:30 and 1:00.

- Meet the Canyon Center's "Teacher Creatures" and see what each animal will be getting for Christmas at 12:15. Come anytime from 11 am to 2 pm to hike the story book trail. Create special holiday crafts, enjoy a sweet treat and more throughout the event.

Date: Saturday, December 9, 2023

Time: 11:00am-2:00 pm (CST)

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

Fee: All activities are free and open to the public. Call the Little River Canyon Center, 256-845-3548 for more information.

Pottery Wheel Workshop

Fort Payne, Alabama

Presented by Animal House Pottery, this hands-on workshop invites participants to explore the art of pottery on the wheel. During this single two-hour session at Studio 324, located in the rear of Boom Town Makers Market, participants will receive expert guidance in every step of the process.

Discover the intricacies of centering the clay and transforming it into a cylinder, bowl, or a unique creation of your own. Once your masterpiece takes shape, add those final

artistic touches. Participants will then have the opportunity to choose their preferred color glaze for the finishing touch.

On completion of the class, allow 2 to 3 weeks for the glazing and firing of your project.

Date: December 14, 2023

Where: Boom Town Maker's Market (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park)

Info: www.animalhousepotterycrafts.com

For wheel throwing classes, ages 10+ are recommended but younger children are welcome with an adult.

Hike with a Naturalist

Join JSU Field School staff to hike the Powell Trail. This is 2-mile trail in the Little River Canyon National Preserve.

This hike is a strenuous 2-mile journey with varying and steep terrain into the canyon. Cell phones may have little to no reception. Please wear footwear suitable for hiking, dress in layers, bring water, hiking poles, sun protection and a snack!

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 check with the Canyon Center.

Date: Friday, December 15, 2023

Time: 10:30 am - 1:30 pm (CST).

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

Fee: Free and open to everyone! For details, call the Canyon Center at 256-845-3548

Pottery Wheel Workshop

Fort Payne, Alabama

Presented by Animal House Pottery, this hands-on workshop invites participants to explore the art of pottery on the wheel. During this single two-hour session at Studio 324, located in the rear of Boom Town Makers Market, participants will receive expert guidance in every step of the process.

Discover the intricacies of centering the clay and transforming it into a cylinder, bowl, or a unique creation of your own. Once your masterpiece takes shape, add those final artistic touches. Participants will then have the opportunity to choose their preferred color glaze for the finishing touch.

On completion of the class, allow 2 to 3 weeks for the glazing and firing of your project.

Date: December 21, 2023

Where: Boom Town Maker's Market (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park)

Info: www.animalhousepotterycrafts.com

For wheel throwing classes, ages 10+ are recommended but younger children are welcome with an adult.

Blow Your Own Ornament

Orbix Hot Glass is a glass blowing studio and gallery on Lookout Mountain that offers fine decorative and functional glass, as well as very popular glass blowing classes.

Design and literally "blow" your own ornament with the help of a glass artist.

Date: December 22, 2023 (9:00-2:00 CST)

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

Fee: \$40.00 per ornament. Pre-registration required. When you reserve a spot, it is not for the full duration but for a slot within that time frame. At least 5 years and up.

Custom reservations can be made for groups anytime. More details:

www.orbixhotglass.com/events



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