



DeSoto State Park and park partners like Little River Canyon National Preserve, Jacksonville State University Field School, Little River Arts Council, Seven Pines Survival and more, team up to bring you many fun events throughout the year.

Campfire Talks, Classes, Demonstrations, Guided Interpretive or Fitness Hikes, Tours, Outdoor Adventures, Workshops.....topics covering art, science, nature, and much more!

Most programs are free or charge a small supply fee.

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

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



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

February 2020

Canyon Kids-Canyon Animals

Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Your children (ages 3 years-4th graders) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures! Pre-registration is required by the Monday prior to the program by calling Niki Wayner at 256-845-3548. Limited to 15 children per class.

Date: Friday, February 7, 2020

Time: 9:00 am—10:00 am (CST)

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

Fee: \$5; call 256-845-3548 for more details www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Craft Your Own Paperweight

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. This class is designed for those who really just want see what molten glass is all about - feel the heat, gather from the furnace, sculpt the glass into you own design. It is ultimately about the experience, some experimentation and a couple nice paperweights to take home or to the office to show your friends. Check out even more classes and info at www.orbixhotglass.com.

Date: February 8, 2020

Time: 9:00 am

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

Fee: \$145.00. Pre-registration required, class size is limited to 4. Minimum age is 13 years old with parent Custom reservations can be made for groups anytime. Call 256.523.3188 or email info@orbixhotglass.com for details.

Longleaf Pine Needle Basketry Class

Learn the basics of pine needle basketry, an old craft with a long history.

Join artist Brittney Hughes to learn the basic steps to making a coiled basket from longleaf pine needles. Each participant will learn the basic skills of pine needle basketry and take home their very own creation.

The art of coiling baskets is universally common to indigenous peoples. Coiling is the technique of creating baskets and art from pine needles and was a part of pre-Columbian Native American crafts. Today, pine needle baskets and art are made primarily for decorative purposes.

All materials (pine needles, thread, and small center for basket) will be furnished. Class is for ages 10 and up.

When: Saturday, February 8, 2020

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

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

Fee: \$25 supply fee- Supply fee due day of class

Pre-registration required; class number is limited to 12. To register and for details, 256-997-5025 or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

Ranger-led Hikes: Beaver Pond Trail

Little River Canyon National Preserve

What's a National Preserve? How does it differ from a National Park or National Monument? What's the difference between wilderness and Wilderness? Find out the answers while enjoying the beautiful Beaver Pond Trail

The Beaver Pond Trail is a 1.5 mile moderately difficult trail (exposed roots, rocks, portion of wet trail and footbridges across streams) through the woods above the canyon rim. Dogs on a leash are 100% welcome to participate on the hikes and can even earn a Little River Canyon National Preserve BARK Ranger dog tag for their pup(s)!

What to Bring: water and sturdy, close-toed shoes. Weather dependent

Date: Saturday, February 8, 2020

Time: 2:00 PM (plan for 2 hours)

Where: Little River Canyon National Preserve, Fort Payne, AL. Beaver Pond Trail parking lot on Highway 176/Little River Canyon Rim Parkway

Fee: Free, & open to everyone. Pre-registration not required, contact Little River Canyon for any details: (256) 845-9605 www.facebook.com/lirinps/



Civilian Conservation Corps History Hike: The CCC Quarry

DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne, Alabama

The Civilian Conservation Corps was one of the better known and most successful of the New Deal programs following the Great Depression; one that did a lot of good for forests, recreation, and the men for whom it provided short-term jobs. Between 1933 and 1942, an average of 30 camps operated across Alabama. CCC boys helped fight fires, reforest lands, protect the state's then newly acquired national forests and build roads and recreational facilities in Alabama State Parks.

In celebration of DeSoto State Park's 81st Anniversary of its dedication day in 1939, join DSP Staff & volunteers on a moderate hike to the CCC Quarry. Learn how the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the original structures that you can still see in the park today. Moderate hike along mountainous terrain, some rocky terrain. Approximately 2 miles round trip

Date: February 8, 2020

Time: 1:00-3:00 pm (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at Country Store & Information Center on County Road 89

Fee: Free and open to everyone. For details, contact Brittney Hughes at (Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov)

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)

Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Directions to Desoto State Park:

Using a GPS or Phone to navigate to Desoto State Park can be unreliable. Please see www.alapark.com/DSP-Plan-Your-Trip for a print-out PDF file of directions to DSP.

Dutch Oven Campfire Cooking Demo

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 10:00 am, located at JSU's Little River Canyon Center. This is a demonstration, so the best part is when food is just coming off the fire- drop in whenever you like & check out the food! Taught by DeSoto State Park Naturalist Brittney Hughes.

Date: Sunday, February 9, 2020

Time: 10 am-Until the food runs out

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

Fee: Free, call 256-845-3548 for more details

www.jsu.edu/epic/canyoncenter/

Blow Your Own Ornament

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

Date: February 15, 2020

Time: 9:00am -4:00 pm

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

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

Ranger-led Hikes: Road 1

Little River Canyon National Preserve

Yellowhammers, Indian Hens, and ghosts of the woods – discover some of the winter wildlife of Little River Canyon and how their stories tie into the culture and traditions of the area.

4 mile moderate hike along Road 1 in Little River Canyon. Dogs on a leash are 100% welcome to participate on the hikes and can even earn a Little River Canyon National Preserve BARK Ranger dog tag for their pup(s)! What to Bring: water and sturdy, close-toed shoes. Weather dependent

Date: Saturday, February 15, 2020

Time: 10:00 AM (plan for 2+ hours)

Where: Little River Canyon National Preserve, Fort Payne, AL. Meet at the Hunter Check Station on Cherokee County Road 103.

Fee: Free, & open to everyone. Pre-registration not required, contact Little River Canyon for any details: (256) 845-9605 www.facebook.com/lirinps



Trail Trekker Hike Series: Neverland Loop Trail

DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne, Alabama

Can you say "I Hiked Them All"? DeSoto State Park challenges you to become a DeSoto State Park Trail Trekker! Hike the designated 22 miles of trails in DeSoto, (whether on your own or in a group, no time limit) and collect your prize, a Trail Trekkers Patch. Just log your hikes in the Trail Trekker log and record the date for each trail listed. Sign completed form and turn in to DeSoto State Park Country Store or Lodge to receive your patch!

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

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

Date: February 15, 2020

Time: 10:00 am-1:00pm (central time zone)

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

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

For listing of all hikes planned so far, see www.alapark.com/parks/desoto-state-park/hiking

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

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

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

Directions to Desoto State Park:

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

Yoga on the Stage

Fort Payne Opera House-Hosted by Landmarks of Dekalb Inc.

Better your mind and body while appreciating your local history on the stage of the 130 year old Fort Payne Opera House. Instructor Destin Padgett will lead participants through a one-hour class to help reach your specific yoga + fitness goals. Class dates/times are subject to change with instructor's schedule. Spaces are limited, sign up today!

Date: February 17, 2020

Time: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

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

Fee: \$8 per class for Landmarks of DeKalb members, and \$10 per class for nonmembers. For more information or to reserve your space call 256/845/6888 or email to landmarksdekalb@bellsouth.net

Become a member of Landmarks for \$25 a year and help to "save our history for future generations."
www.landmarksdekalbal.org

Tumbler Glassblowing Class

Orbix Hot Glass

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. This introductory glassblowing class teaches many fundamentals through the process of making a small tumbler (cup). Plenty of hands-on experience from choosing colors, gathering, paddling, blowing and shaping is gained in this four hour experience.

Class size is maximum of four students so everyone has adequate time at the bench working. Some safety material is provided before the class for you to review. Please join us for some in-depth discovery.

Date: February 22, 2020

Time: 9:00 am

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

Cost – \$145. 2-4 students. Minimum age is 13 years old with parent.

Call 256.523.3188 or email info@orbixhotglass.com for more information or to make a reservation. Reservations and full payment required.

Ranger-led Hikes: Path to Learning

Little River Canyon National Preserve

Coexistence between people and nature - delve into the importance of wildlife and responsible stewardship of our public lands and beyond

.5 mile easy hike on the Path to Learning trail behind the Little River Canyon Center

Dogs on a leash are 100% welcome to participate on the hikes and can even earn a Little River Canyon National Preserve BARK Ranger dog tag for their pup(s)!

What to Bring: water and sturdy, close-toed shoes. Weather dependent

Date: Saturday, February 22, 2020

Time: 2:00 PM (plan for 45 min)

Where: Little River Canyon National Preserve, Fort Payne, AL. Meet at JSU's Little River Canyon Center Front Desk

Fee: Free, & open to everyone. Pre-registration not required, contact Little River Canyon for any details: (256) 845-9605
www.facebook.com/lirinps/

Canyon Concerts: Winter Jazz Dinner Show

Featuring TAD of Jazz Live in Concert

Date: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2020

Time: Doors open @ 6:00 Show begins @ 7:00

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center-Little River Canyon National Preserve

Fee: Tickets \$50 in advance Reservations must be made by February, 19th. Sponsor a table of 8 for \$350

For more info call (256) 845-3548 Buy your tickets today at www.canyonconcerts.com

Hike with a Naturalist Series

JSU Field School

Join the JSU Field School staff on these monthly hikes as we hit the trail and explore Little River Canyon National Preserve. Trails will be determined and announced closer to time and hike time will be dependent on trail (stay tuned to FB for further details)

Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). 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 check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: February 24, 2020

Time: 9:00 am

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

For details contact 256-845-3548 (Niki or Beth) www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Yoga on the Stage

Fort Payne Opera House-Hosted by Landmarks of Dekalb Inc.

Better your mind and body while appreciating your local history on the stage of the 130 year old Fort Payne Opera House. Instructor Destin Padgett will lead participants through a one-hour class to help reach your specific yoga + fitness goals. Class dates/times are subject to change with instructor's schedule. Spaces are limited, sign up today!

Date: February 24, 2020

Time: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

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

Fee: \$8 per class for Landmarks of DeKalb members, and \$10 per class for nonmembers. For more information or to reserve your space call 256/845/6888 or email to landmarksdekalb@bellsouth.net

Become a member of Landmarks for \$25 a year and help to "save our history for future generations."
www.landmarksdekalbal.org

Ranger-led Hikes: Eberhart Trail

Little River Canyon National Preserve

Descend below the canyon rim and learn about the rich history of Little River Canyon

1.5-mile strenuous hike to the bottom of the canyon on old roadbed with switchbacks, elevation gain coming out

What to Bring: water, snacks, and sturdy, close-toed shoes. Weather dependent

Date: Saturday, February 29, 2020

Time: 10:00 AM (plan for 1.5 hours)

Where: Little River Canyon National Preserve, Fort Payne, AL. Meet at Eberhart Point parking lot on Highway 176/Little River Canyon Rim Parkway.

Fee: Free, & open to everyone. Pre-registration not required, contact Little River Canyon for any details: (256) 845-9605 www.facebook.com/lirinps

Sculpt Your Own Flower Class

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. Have you ever wanted to actually sit at the gaffer bench and feel what it is like to shape hot glass? In this class, it's all about a hands-on experience in a safe and fun atmosphere with a final product we know you will love. After watching us shape glass into a flower, it's your turn to sit at the bench to a sculpt your own from an array of colors. Our artists are there to step in and lend a hand or guide you as you shape the glass.

Check out even more classes and info at www.orbixhotglass.com Classes have a minimum of 3 people and a maximum of 5. Class is about an hour in length.

Date: February 29, 2020

Time: 10:30 OR 12:30

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

Fee: \$75.00 per person. Minimum age is 13 & up. Pre-registration is required. Custom reservations can be made for groups anytime. Call 256.523.3188 for details.

Feeding Backyard Wildlife

Swing by and create a snack for your wild neighbors! With just pipe cleaners and Cheerios, you can design a fun and funky feeder to delight the birds and squirrels that share your backyard jungle. All materials are provided (this activity is peanut free)

Date: February 29, 2020

Time: 11:00-2:00 pm (CST) Stop by anytime!

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Country Store & Information Center on Co. Rd. 89

Fee: Free and open to everyone, Great for all ages! No pre-registration required. For details, call 256.997.5025 or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

March 2020

Waterfalls Hike and Van Tour

Join JSU Field School and Desoto State Park staff on a tour exploring Little River Canyon National Preserve and Desoto State Park waterfalls. Easy to moderate hikes on rocky dirt trails. Will see some well-known waterfalls as well as some

hidden treasures. Trip is dependent on water level. Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather. We will be stopping at DeSoto State Park's restaurant or please bring lunch.

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 park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Where: Little River Canyon and Desoto State Park. Meet at JSU's Little River Canyon Center. (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park)

Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (CST); JSU Van shuttle for tour

Fee: \$25 per person; pre-registration is required by March 2, 2020 by calling Niki Wayner at 256-845-3548 (Limit 9 participants)

Canyon Kids: Discovery Hike

JSU Field Schools

Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Your children (ages 3 years-3rd graders) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures!

Date: Friday, March 6, 2020

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

Time: 9:00 am-10:00 am (CST)

Pre-registration required, for more details and for pre-registration call 256-845-3548 or email jwayner@jsu.edu Limit 15 students www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Take a Hike: Waterfalls Tour & Easy Hike

Join JSU Field School and Desoto State Park staff on a tour exploring Little River Canyon National Preserve and Desoto State Park waterfalls. Easy to moderate hikes on rocky dirt trails. Will see some well-known waterfalls as well as some hidden treasures. Trip is dependent on water level. Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather. We will be stopping at DeSoto State Park's restaurant or please bring lunch.

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 park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: Saturday, March 7, 2020

Where: Little River Canyon and Desoto State Park. Meet at JSU's Little River Canyon Center.

Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (CST); JSU Van shuttle for tour

Fee: \$25 per person; pre-registration is required by March 5, 2020 by calling 256-845-3548 (Limit 9 participants)

Yoga on the Stage

Fort Payne Opera House-Hosted by Landmarks of Dekalb Inc.

Better your mind and body while appreciating your local history on the stage of the 130 year old Fort Payne Opera House. Instructor Destin Padgett will lead participants through a one-hour class to help reach your specific yoga + fitness goals. Class dates/times are subject to change with instructor's schedule. Spaces are limited, sign up today!

Date: March 9, 2020

Time: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

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

Fee: \$8 per class for Landmarks of DeKalb members, and \$10 per class for nonmembers. For more information or to reserve your space call 256/845/6888 or email to landmarksdekalb@bellsouth.net

Become a member of Landmarks for \$25 a year and help to "save our history for future generations."
www.landmarksdekalbal.org



LRAC Membership Social & Open House

Little River Arts Council-Mentone, Alabama

Join us at our annual Membership Social and Open House on Saturday, March 14, from 5–7:30 p.m. at DeSoto State Park's Lodge! We'll gather in the historic dining room (featuring the beautiful stonework laid by the men of the CCC in the 1930s). The fireplace will be lit and the outside deck will be heated. Hors d'oeuvres will be served, and a cash bar will be available. The full dinner menu and salad bar will be available for purchase.

We will briefly review our activities of 2019 and discuss our plans for 2020. Several artists will demonstrate their skills throughout the evening, and live music will be performed. This event is open to all. We look forward to socializing with our members, as well as with those interested in learning more about the Arts Council!

Date: March 14, 2020

Time: 5:00–7:30 p.m

Where: DeSoto State Park Lodge-1299 Blalock Drive, Fort Payne, AL.

Info: Email info@littleriverartscouncil.org or go to www.littleriverartscouncil.org/events



Trail Trekker Hike Series: Waterfall Hike

DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne, Alabama

Can you say "I Hiked Them All"? DeSoto State Park challenges you to become a DeSoto State Park Trail Trekker! Hike the designated 22 miles of trails in DeSoto, (whether on your own or in a group, no time limit) and collect your prize, a Trail Trekkers Patch. Just log your hikes in the Trail Trekker log and record the date for each trail listed. Sign completed form and turn in to DeSoto State Park Country Store or Lodge to receive your patch!

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

Join DeSoto State Park & JSU Field School Staff for a fun day of hiking thought-out the park to see some of DeSoto's waterfalls, big & small. See Lost Falls, Laurel Falls, Indian Falls, & more water features like Laurel Creek & the West Fork of Little River. Come on out and burn those calories while enjoying the Great Outdoors!

The trail will be moderate, rugged terrain over approx. 5 to 6 miles. We will utilize the white, silver, & orange trails for this hike.

Date: March 14, 2020

Time: 10:00 am- 3:00 pm (Central Time Zone)

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

Fee: Free and open to everyone, no pre-registration required. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for details

For listing of all hikes planned so far, see www.alapark.com/parks/desoto-state-park/hiking

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

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

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

Directions to Desoto State Park:

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



Trail Trekker Hike Series: DeSoto Scout Trail

Can you say "I Hiked Them All"? DeSoto State Park challenges you to become a DeSoto State Park Trail Trekker! Hike the designated 22 miles of trails in DeSoto, (whether on your own or in a group, no time limit) and collect your prize, a Trail Trekkers Patch. Just log your hikes in the Trail Trekker log and record the date for each trail listed. Sign completed form and turn in to DeSoto State Park Country Store or Lodge to receive your patch!

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

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

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2020

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

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

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

For listing of all hikes planned so far, see www.alapark.com/parks/desoto-state-park/hiking

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

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

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

Directions to Desoto State Park:

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

Season of Spring: Plants and their Remedies

JSU Field Schools

Join Field School Instructor, Donna Smith, for our Spring class in the Seasonal Wellness Series. For the beginner to the experienced, this series will assist you in learning more about our native plants, their many uses, and seasonal preparation of your herbal medicine garden.

When: Saturday, March 21, 2020

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

Time: 9 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (CST)

Fee: \$25 supply fee, pre-registration required by calling 256-845-3548 or email jwayner@jsu.edu .Limit 20 students (ages 14 and up) Note: Be sure to bring your lunch for the day, since lunch is not provided.

www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Yoga on the Stage

Fort Payne Opera House-Hosted by Landmarks of Dekalb Inc.

Better your mind and body while appreciating your local history on the stage of the 130 year old Fort Payne Opera House. Instructor Destin Padgett will lead participants through a one-hour class to help reach your specific yoga + fitness goals. Class dates/times are subject to change with instructor's schedule. Spaces are limited, sign up today!

Date: March 23, 2020

Time: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

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

Fee: \$8 per class for Landmarks of DeKalb members, and \$10 per class for nonmembers. For more information or to reserve your space call 256/845/6888 or email to landmarksdekalb@bellsouth.net

Become a member of Landmarks for \$25 a year and help to "save our history for future generations."
www.landmarksdekalbal.org

Hernando's Adventure Storytime Hike

Join Park Ranger Michael Langston on a hike along the Azalea Cascade Interpretive Trail in DeSoto State Park. Hike along and stop at points along the trail to hear the tale of a little raccoon named Hernando. Hernando is a little on the lazy side...and he gets left behind while his mother and siblings are off hunting for food. He awakens some time later to find himself alone...and hungry...and not really sure what to do!

About the book: Hernando's Adventure is a short book for children in which the ways of the woods are explained so that kids from pre-school to elementary school can understand them.

About the hike: Trail is approx. .7 of a mile long on slightly rocky terrain (not suitable for strollers) Bring snacks/drinks/daypack if you wish.

Date: March 28, 2020

Time: 12:00 noon

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store & Information Center on Co. Rd. 89

Fee: Free, open to all age children & their family. No-pre registration required. For any details email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov



Serious Skills Series: Art of Woodburning-Country Magnets

Hosted by DeSoto State Park

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

Pyrography or woodburning is the art of decorating wood or other materials, the term meaning "writing with fire" dating back to the 17th century. Participants in this class will learn the basic techniques of decorative wood burning and painting designs from artist April Blanks, and will work on their choice of designs for 3 magnets to take home. This class is for ages 14 to adult.

Date: March 28, 2020

Time: 10:00-12:00 am and 1:00-3:00 pm (2 class times to choose from)

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

Fee: \$25.00 -includes all supplies. Workshop space is limited to 10, pre-registration is required for attendance in this class. Call 256.997.5025 or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov to sign up or for more info.

Examples of April's work: www.facebook.com/Aprils-Woodburnings-310733302340332/

Hike with a Naturalist Series

JSU Field School

Join the JSU Field School staff on these monthly hikes as we hit the trail and explore Little River Canyon National Preserve. Trails will be determined and announced closer to time and hike time will be dependent on trail (stay tuned to FB for further details)

Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). 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 check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: March 30, 2020

Time: 9:00 am

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

For details contact 256-845-3548 (Niki or Beth) www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Spring Break Camp-JSU Field Schools

Has your child ever wanted to learn more about being outdoors? This class presented by Robert Wilson of Seven Pines Survival is perfect for them! The Spring Break: Survival Adventure for children ages 9- 13 years of age is a five day class focused on keeping you safe in the woods. Topics include:

- 1) Introduction to survival/Building your own survival kit
- 2) Core Temper Control
- 3) Shelters-from a survival kit and primitive
- 4) Fire Safety and fire building
- 5) Water- how to collect safely and how to purify it
- 6) Navigation-how to use a compass and read basic maps
- 7) Methods to prevent yourself from getting lost and how to evaluate your area
- 8) Food-what you can and cannot eat, how to find food and what to do with it

We don't provide meals for this adventure, so we would ask for you to pack 2 snacks and a lunch for your kids' days out. Don't forget a water bottle filled with water and also bring sun and bug screen. Proper clothes: we would suggest pants and hiking boots, hat if they wish, and some gloves if they want. We will be tramping around in long grass, briars, and mud (aka having a blast!) This camp will also focus on nature and art, just like all of JSU Field School camps!

Dates: Spring Break, March 23-27, 2020

Time: 8 am drop off-3 pm pick up

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

Fee: \$200 per child, pre-registration required, for more details and for pre-registration call 256-845-3548 or email jwayner@jsu.edu Limit 10 students (minimum of 5) www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Nature's Classroom: Plants

JSU Field Schools

Are you ready to take the classroom outside beyond the typical 4 walls? This class series is designed for the home schooling family. This program is 8 weeks long and will meet on the same day at the same time every week (for the entire day). To get the most out of this series, you should attend every class. Each week will build off of the previous week's lessons. This class is designed for the family (ages 6 and up). This series will focus on plant education and also some wildcrafting. This is a must have class if you want to learn to forage from the landscape for both medicinal and edible use. This a great class for kids: draw, write, build your own journal for plant identification, and build your own herbariums. Extra information is also provided each week so that the parents can go home and reinforce/ further instruct on that week's lesson material. Every Monday from March 30 to May 18, 2020

Dates: March 30th, April 6th, April 13th, April 20th, May 4th, May 11th, May 18th

Time: 9:30 am- 3:00 pm

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

Fee: \$200 per family for the full 8 weeks, pre-registration required, for more details and for pre-registration contact Robert Wilson at Seven Pines Survival (sps@sevenpinessurvival.com). Must have a minimum of 3 families for this class. www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

April 2020

Canyon Kids: Primitive Skills

JSU Field Schools

Canyon Kids-Primitive Skills

Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools and Seven Pines Survival. Your children (ages 3 years-3rd graders) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures!

Date: Friday, April 3, 2020

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

Time: 9:00 am-10:00 am (CST)

Pre-registration required, for more details and for pre-registration call 256-845-3548 or email jwayner@jsu.edu Limit 15 students. www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Early Spring Hike in DeSoto State Park

One of the most beautiful times of the year at DeSoto State Park! Join DSP Staff on a moderate meandering hike along the Little River trail to see what species of plants is starting to grow and bloom after a long winter season. We will learn some natural history of the plants, and some medicinal and historical uses as well.

Wonderful views of the West Fork of Little River, Indian Falls, and Lodge Falls along the route. Will stop and eat at the Mountain Inn Restaurant in the park to eat lunch, then head back towards the Country Store. Approx. 2 miles round trip, moderate along rocky terrain.

Date: April 4, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at the Nature Center (Next to DeSoto's Country Store)

Fee: Free and open to everyone. No pre-registration required. For details, contact Brittney Hughes at (Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov)

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

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

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

Directions to Desoto State Park:

Using a GPS or Phone to navigate to Desoto State Park can be unreliable. Please see www.alapark.com/DSP-Plan-Your-Trip for a print-out PDF file of directions to DSP.

Third Saturday Sunset Cruise-In

Fort Payne, Alabama

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

Date: April 18, 2020

Time: 5:00-9:00 pm

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

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

Earth Fest 2020

JSU Field Schools

Celebrate Earth Day (Month) with the JSU Field School at the JSU Little River Canyon Center. Come learn about the amazing biodiversity of Alabama, see live animal shows, have your face painted, eat yummy food, meet Big Foot and Cocky (JSU's Mascot), kids- become a Junior Ranger, listen to local music, visit with artists, make arts and crafts, play games, and even join us for a hike. Call 256-845-3548 for official schedule (starting in April).

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2020

Time: 9:00 am—3:00 pm (CST)

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

Free & open to all. www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Spring Photography Workshop

JSU Field Schools

Photography Workshop

Join Fine Art Photographer John Dersham for a two-day seminar on how to improve your photography by learning tried and true compositional rules. In addition learn about lighting and strategies that will provide more visual impact to your pictures. Hikes are short and are easy to moderate (optional).

Date: Friday evening, April 24th and Saturday, April 25th, 2020

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

(Bring a day pack with lunch/drinks)

Fee: \$20 per person; pre-registration required; call 256-845-3548 for more details and to register (Limit 15)
www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Compass 101

Your compass does more than just point North! Come join Robert Wilson of Seven Pines Survival and JSU Field School Staff for the day as we teach you and your family some of the basic skills and uses of compasses. In this class, we will focus on maps and compass skills. What to bring: water bottle, snacks/lunch, notebook, pencil. What to wear: pants and closed toed shoes are recommended, a hat if desired, and bug repellent/ sunscreen. Space is limited! limited to 10

Date: April 25, 2020

Time: 9 am-4 pm

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

Fee: \$20, pre-registration required, for more details and for pre-registration contact Robert Wilson at Seven Pines Survival (sps@sevenpinesurvival.com) www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools



Serious Skills Series: Art of Woodburning- Southern Mason Jar

Hosted by DeSoto State Park

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

Pyrography or woodburning is the art of decorating wood or other materials, the term meaning "writing with fire" dating back to the 17th century. Participants in this class will learn the basic techniques of decorative wood burning and painting designs from artist April Blanks, and will work on an 8x10 piece featuring a mason jar with cotton bolls. This class is for ages 14 to adult.

Date: April 25, 2020

Time: 9:00 am-12:00 noon

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

Fee: \$25.00 -includes all supplies. Workshop space is limited to 10, pre-registration is required for attendance in this class. Call 256.997.5025 or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov to sign up or for more info.

Examples of April's work: www.facebook.com/Aprils-Woodburnings-310733302340332/

Hike with a Naturalist Series

JSU Field School

Join the JSU Field School staff on these monthly hikes as we hit the trail and explore Little River Canyon National Preserve. Trails will be determined and announced closer to time and hike time will be dependent on trail (stay tuned to FB for further details)

Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). 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 check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: April 27, 2020

Time: 9:00 am

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

For details contact 256-845-3548 (Niki or Beth) www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

May 2020

Canyon Kids-Plants

JSU Field School

Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Your children (ages 3 years-3rd graders) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures!

Date: Friday, May 1, 2020

Time: 9:00 am—10:00 am (CST)

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

Pre-registration required, for more details and for pre-registration call 256-845-3548 or email jwayner@jsu.edu Limit 15 students. www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

28th Annual Wildflower Saturday

Weekend of Friday, May 1st & Saturday 2nd, 2020

Wildflower Saturday is an annual event held in DeSoto State Park atop Lookout Mountain in Fort Payne, Alabama, always the first Saturday of May

Springtime at DeSoto State Park is truly beautiful, with wildflowers & trees blooming around every corner. Join DeSoto State Park staff & guest speakers for a wonderful weekend of learning about the many species of blooming plants found on Lookout Mountain. Choose to stay the whole weekend, or just come for the day to enjoy the hikes and programs.

Weekend starts off with a welcome social and guest speaker program on Friday night, a day full of hikes to choose from and a guest speaker on Saturday night.

Speakers to be announced

Dates: May 1st & 2nd 2020

Where: DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne, Alabama

Fee: Free & Open to everyone. No pre-registration required.

For more info, see www.alapark.com/DSP-Wildflower-Saturday

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, headlamp or flashlight, bug spray, snacks, and drinking water.

Date: May 9, 2020

Time: 7:00 pm-10:00 pm

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

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

Pre-registration closes May 7th -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 requested for the trip.

Mentone Rhododendron Festival

Mentone, AL

Savor North Alabama's Spring beauty and enjoy arts and crafts, food, live music and more! Mentone's Rhododendron Festival is held in May each year when the spectacular clusters of showy blooms are abundant. The plants typically can be seen around the third weekend in May, and the best place to view the blooms is on Little River above DeSoto Falls as well as around the mountaintop town. On Saturday and Sunday, Brow Park will be filled with artists and craft makers offering their handmade creations. Admission is free.

Date: May 16-17, 2020

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

Current info: www.facebook.com/MentoneAlabamaFestivals

Third Saturday Sunset Cruise-In

Fort Payne, Alabama

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

Date: May 16, 2020

Time: 5:00-9:00 pm

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

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

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.

Not a morning person? No problem! Bring your thermos and we'll have some fresh coffee waiting for you.

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: May 23, 2020

Time: 7:00 am-10:00 am

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 May 21st-5:00 pm. To register, email: Paige.Norsworthy@dnr.alabama.gov. Please provide date of paddle, a phone number; indicate number of boats, and what type requested for the trip.



Trail Trekker Hike Series: Gilliam Loop Trail

DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne, Alabama

Can you say "I Hiked Them All"? DeSoto State Park challenges you to become a DeSoto State Park Trail Trekker! Hike the designated 22 miles of trails in DeSoto, (whether on your own or in a group, no time limit) and collect your prize, a Trail Trekkers Patch. Just log your hikes in the Trail Trekker log and record the date for each trail listed. Sign completed form and turn in to DeSoto State Park Country Store or Lodge to receive your patch!

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

Gilliam Loop Trail-Hike is approximately 3.2 miles round trip, moderate along mountainous terrain.

Date: May 23, 2020

Time: 1:00 pm-3:00pm (central time zone)

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

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

For listing of all hikes planned so far, see www.alapark.com/parks/desoto-state-park/hiking

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

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

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

Directions to Desoto State Park:

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

Civilian Conservation Corps History Hike:

The ‘Unfinished Bridge’

DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

The Civilian Conservation Corps was one of the better known and most successful of the New Deal programs following the Great Depression; one that did a lot of good for forests, recreation, and the men for whom it provided short-term jobs. Between 1933 and 1942, an average of 30 camps operated across Alabama. CCC boys helped fight fires, reforest lands, protect the state’s then newly acquired national forests and build roads and recreational facilities in Alabama State Parks.

In celebration of DeSoto State Park’s 81st Anniversary of its dedication day in 1939, join DSP Staff on a moderate hike to the Civilian Conservation Corp’s ‘unfinished’ Bridge. Learn the history of why the CCC left it standing and see several original structures. Moderate hike on Gilliam Loop Trail & old CCC roadbed. Approx. 4 miles round trip.

Date: Saturday, May 30, 2020

Time: 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. (Central Time Zone)

Where: Meet at DeSoto State Park’s Lodge Fort Payne, Alabama-. Will carpool short distance to Gillam Loop Trailhead and hike from there.

Fee: Free and open to everyone. For details, contact Brittney Hughes at (Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov)

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)

Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Directions to Desoto State Park:

Using a GPS or Phone to navigate to Desoto State Park can be unreliable. Please see www.alapark.com/DSP-Plan-Your-Trip for a print-out PDF file of directions to DSP.

June 2020

Canyon Kids Summer

JSU Field School

Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Your children (ages 3 years-3rd graders) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures! Pre-registration is required by the Monday prior to the program by calling 256-845-3548.

Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Time: 9:00 am—10:00 am (CST)

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

Pre-registration required, for more details and for pre-registration call 256-845-3548 or email jwayner@jsu.edu Limit 15 students www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools



Serious Skills Series: Art of Woodburning-DeSoto Falls

Hosted by DeSoto State Park

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

Pyrography or woodburning is the art of decorating wood or other materials, the term meaning “writing with fire” dating back to the 17th century. Participants in this class will learn the basic techniques of decorative wood burning and painting designs from artist April Blanks, and will work on making a piece featuring DeSoto State Park’s DeSoto Falls (some other design options may be available). This class is for ages 14 to adult.

Date: June 6, 2020

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

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

Fee: \$25.00 -includes all supplies. Workshop space is limited to 10, pre-registration is required for attendance in this class. Call 256.997.5025 or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov to sign up or for more info.

Examples of April’s work: www.facebook.com/Aprils-Woodburnings-310733302340332/

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, headlamp or flashlight, bug spray, snacks, and drinking water.

Date: June 6, 2020

Time: 7:00 pm-10:00 pm

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

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

Pre-registration closes June 4th 5:00pm. To register, email: Paige.Norsworthy@dcnr.alabama.gov. Please provide date of paddle, a phone number; indicate number of boats, and what type requested for the trip.

Canyon Kids Summer

JSU Field School

Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Your children (ages 3 years-3rd graders) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures! Pre-registration is required by the Monday prior to the program by calling 256-845-3548.

Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Time: 9:00 am—10:00 am (CST)

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

Pre-registration required, for more details and for pre-registration call 256-845-3548 or email jwayner@jsu.edu Limit 15 students www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Canyon Kids Summer

JSU Field School

Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Your children (ages 3 years-3rd graders) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures! Pre-registration is required by the Monday prior to the program by calling 256-845-3548.

Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Time: 9:00 am—10:00 am (CST)

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

Pre-registration required, for more details and for pre-registration call 256-845-3548 or email jwayner@jsu.edu Limit 15 students www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Third Saturday Sunset Cruise-In

Fort Payne, Alabama

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

Date: June 20, 2020

Time: 5:00-9:00 pm

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

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

Sunset 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: June 20, 2020

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 June 18th by 5:00 pm. To register, email: Paige.Norsworthy@dcnr.alabama.gov. Please provide date of paddle, a phone number; indicate number of boats, and what type requested for the trip.

Adventure Hike with Dad-DeSoto Falls Basin Hike

Father's Day 2020

Want to offer dad an experience for Father's Day this year? Set out on an adventure hike with dad to the bottom of one of Alabama's tallest waterfalls, DeSoto Falls! Make memories and get a selfie with dad to look back on the trip.

About the hike: Led by DeSoto State park staff, this hike is approximately 1.5 miles total but considered moderate to strenuous due to the mountainous terrain and elevation. Will be hiking on rocky terrain down to the West Fork of Little River and walking upstream to the view of DeSoto Falls.

Date: Saturday, June 21, 2020

Time: 2:00 pm

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto Falls Picnic Area (about 7 miles from main park area of DeSoto State Park) Coordinates: 34.549124, -85.589668.

Fee: Free, pre-registration is required so to 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.

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

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

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

Directions to Desoto State Park:

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

Hernando's Adventure Storytime Hike

Join Park Ranger Michael Langston on a hike along the Azalea Cascade Interpretive Trail in DeSoto State Park. Hike along and stop at points along the trail to hear the tale of a little raccoon named Hernando. Hernando is a little on the lazy side...and he gets left behind while his mother and siblings are off hunting for food. He awakens some time later to find himself alone...and hungry...and not really sure what to do!

About the book: Hernando's Adventure is a short book for children in which the ways of the woods are explained so that kids from pre-school to elementary school can understand them.

About the hike: Trail is approx. .7 of a mile long on slightly rocky terrain (not suitable for strollers) Bring snacks/drinks/daypack if you wish.

Date: June 27, 2020

Time: 10:00 am

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store & Information Center on Co. Rd. 89

Fee: Free, open to all age children & their family. No-pre registration required. For any details email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov



Trail Trekker Hike Series: Along Little River

DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne, Alabama

Can you say "I Hiked Them All"? DeSoto State Park challenges you to become a DeSoto State Park Trail Trekker! Hike the designated 22 miles of trails in DeSoto, (whether on your own or in a group, no time limit) and collect your prize, a Trail Trekkers Patch. Just log your hikes in the Trail Trekker log and record the date for each trail listed. Sign completed form and turn in to DeSoto State Park Country Store or Lodge to receive your patch!

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

Aqua/Yellow Trail-Hike is approximately 1 1/2 miles round trip, moderate along rocky terrain.

Date June 27, 2020

Time: 1:00 pm

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

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

For listing of all hikes planned so far, see www.alapark.com/parks/desoto-state-park/hiking

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

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

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

Directions to Desoto State Park:

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

Hike with a Naturalist Series

JSU Field School

Join the JSU Field School staff on these monthly hikes as we hit the trail and explore Little River Canyon National Preserve. Trails will be determined and announced closer to time and hike time will be dependent on trail (stay tuned to FB for further details)

Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). 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 check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: June 29, 2020

Time: 9:00 am

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

For details contact 256-845-3548 (Niki or Beth) www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

July 2020

Canyon Kids Summer

JSU Field School

Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Your children (ages 3 years-3rd graders) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures! Pre-registration is required by the Monday prior to the program by calling 256-845-3548.

Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Time: 9:00 am—10:00 am (CST)

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

Pre-registration required, for more details and for pre-registration call 256-845-3548 or email jwayner@jsu.edu Limit 15 students www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

DeSoto State Park's Annual Independence Day events atop Lookout Mountain

This annual event is fun for both children & adults!

Celebrate Independence Day and enjoy good ol' fashioned fun at DeSoto State Park. Participate in the flag making contest, sit back & enjoy DeSoto's parade, & eat ice cream at the annual ice cream social.

Date: July 3rd & 4th 2020

Where: DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne, Alabama

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Events:

Flag-Making Contest

Make your own homemade flag to be judged in this fun contest. All ages are welcome to participate. Materials & flag-making rules will be available at the campground pavilion in the Improved Campground starting July 1st. Flags MUST be turned in no later than 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 4th to be judged. (Turn in flags at DeSoto's Nature Center) Examples of flags from year's past can be seen at the Nature Center. Free to participate and open to all ages!

Splish & Splash Pool Party

Join the fun at our 8th Annual Splish & Splash Pool Party! Cool off in our Olympic-size pool, play pool games, eat ice cream, & enter for door prizes!

\$1.00 per person-admission fee.

Friday, July 3, 2020 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Independence Day Parade

This annual event is fun for both children & adults! Decorate your vehicle to show your spirit!

Parade will start at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 4, 2020.

Begins at DeSoto's Park Headquarters & ends in DeSoto's Improved Campground in time for the Ice Cream Social. If you wish to ride along, meet at DeSoto's Park Headquarters at 2:30 pm. We would love to have you join us in celebrating our Country's Independence Day! Free to participate!

Ice Cream Social

Social starts at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 4th, located at the Campground Pavilion in DeSoto's Improved Campground. Sit around & relax, eat ice cream, & meet your fellow guests at DeSoto State Park. Flag-Making Contest winners will be announced at the Ice Cream Social.

You are welcome to bring your own favorite homemade ice cream recipe or other desserts to share with your fellow guests.

Bring your own comfortable camp chair as seating is limited. Free to participate, & open to everyone! Campground gate will be open for you.

Canyon Kids Summer

JSU Field School

Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Your children (ages 3 years-3rd graders) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures! Pre-registration is required by the Monday prior to the program by calling 256-845-3548.

Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2020

Time: 9:00 am—10:00 am (CST)

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

Pre-registration required, for more details and for pre-registration call 256-845-3548 or email jwayner@jsu.edu Limit 15 students www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Adventure Hike-DeSoto Falls Basin

DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Set out on an adventure hike with DeSoto State Park staff to the bottom of one of Alabama's tallest waterfalls, DeSoto Falls!

About the hike: This hike is approximately 1.5 miles total but considered moderate to strenuous due to the mountainous terrain and elevation. Will be hiking on rocky terrain down to the West Fork of Little River and walking upstream to the view of DeSoto Falls.

Date: July 11, 2020

Time: 10:00 am-12:30 noon

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto Falls Picnic Area (about 7 miles from main park area of DeSoto State Park) Coordinates: 34.549124, -85.589668.

Fee: Free, pre-registration is required so to 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.

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

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

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

Directions to Desoto State Park:

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

Hernando's Adventure Storytime Hike

Join Park Ranger Michael Langston on a hike along the Azalea Cascade Interpretive Trail in DeSoto State Park. Hike along and stop at points along the trail to hear the tale of a little raccoon named Hernando. Hernando is a little on the lazy side...and he gets left behind while his mother and siblings are off hunting for food. He awakens some time later to find himself alone...and hungry...and not really sure what to do!

About the book: Hernando's Adventure is a short book for children in which the ways of the woods are explained so that kids from pre-school to elementary school can understand them.

About the hike: Trail is approx. .7 of a mile long on slightly rocky terrain (not suitable for strollers) Bring snacks/drinks/daypack if you wish.

Date: July 12, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store & Information Center on Co. Rd. 89

Fee: Free, open to all age children & their family. No-pre registration required. For any details email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

Canyon Kids Summer

JSU Field School

Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Your children (ages 3 years-3rd graders) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures! Pre-registration is required by the Monday prior to the program by calling 256-845-3548.

Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Time: 9:00 am—10:00 am (CST)

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

Pre-registration required, for more details and for pre-registration call 256-845-3548 or email jwayner@jsu.edu Limit 15 students www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Serious Skills Series:



YES, I CAN! Canning Fruits & Vegetables Workshop

Hosted by DeSoto State Park, the Serious Skills Series is a variety of classes & workshops of various subjects that provide opportunities to experience a new hidden talent or to learn a new skill for personal enjoyment. Classes are open to locals, overnight guests, & park visitors.

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 18, 2020

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. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for details/to pre-register.

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.

Not a morning person? No problem! Bring your thermos and we'll have some fresh coffee waiting for you.

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: July 18, 2020

Time: 7:00 am-10:00 am

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 16th by 5:00 pm. To register, email: Paige.Norsworthy@dnr.alabama.gov. Please provide date of paddle, a phone number; indicate number of boats, and what type requested for the trip.

Third Saturday Sunset Cruise-In

Fort Payne, Alabama

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

Date: July 18, 2020

Time: 5:00-9:00 pm

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

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

Serious Skills Series:



YES, I CAN! Pressure Canning Workshop

Hosted by DeSoto State Park, the Serious Skills Series is a variety of classes & workshops of various subjects that provide opportunities to experience a new hidden talent or to learn a new skill for personal enjoyment. Classes are open to locals, overnight guests, & park visitors.

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

Date: Sunday, July 19, 2020

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. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for details/to pre-register.



Campfire Talk: Owl Prowl

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 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.

Ever wonder whooo's going "hoot" in the night? Bring the whole flock and join naturalists Jamie Rogers & Brittney Hughes as we search for our resident owls. Your prowl will begin with learning how these amazing nocturnal predators are adapted to be stealthy at night or during the day, their habitats, and behaviors. After the program, choose to go on a night hike through the woods to listen for fascinating night sounds. (be sure to bring a flashlight/headlamp!)

Date: Friday, July 24, 2020

Time: 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground-Fort Payne, Alabama (In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center) After the program, the night hike will go from the Improved Campground to the Talmadge Butler Boardwalk Trail and back.

Fee: Free and open to everyone, Great for all ages! For details, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov



Serious Skills Series: The Art of Woodburning- Christmas in July

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 2 Christmas ornaments to practice basic techniques using a pen-like burning tool and paint. Christmas in July fun!

This class is for ages 14 to adult.

Date: July 25, 2020

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

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

Fee: \$25.00 -includes all supplies. Workshop space is limited to 10, pre-registration is required for attendance in this class. Call 256.997.5025 or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov to sign up or for more info.

Examples of April's work: www.facebook.com/Aprils-Woodburnings-310733302340332/

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!

All ages welcome, children must be supervised. We will walk from the DeSoto State Park Lodge to a small area called the frog pond-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 night time friends can be shy.

Date: Saturday, July 25, 2020

Time: 9:30 pm

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama-Meet in the DeSoto State Park Lodge Lobby

Fee: free and open to everyone. This hike may be cancelled in case of rain. Call 256.845.0051 for any info or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

Hike with a Naturalist Series

JSU Field School

Join the JSU Field School staff on these monthly hikes as we hit the trail and explore Little River Canyon National Preserve. Trails will be determined and announced closer to time and hike time will be dependent on trail (stay tuned to FB for further details)

Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). 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 check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: July 27, 2020

Time: 9:00 am

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

For details contact 256-845-3548 (Niki or Beth) www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Canyon Kids Summer

JSU Field School

Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Your children (ages 3 years-3rd graders) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures! Pre-registration is required by the Monday prior to the program by calling 256-845-3548.

Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Time: 9:00 am—10:00 am (CST)

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

Pre-registration required, for more details and for pre-registration call 256-845-3548 or email jwayner@jsu.edu Limit 15 students www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

August 2020

Hernando's Adventure Storytime Hike

Join Park Ranger Michael Langston on a hike along the Azalea Cascade Interpretive Trail in DeSoto State Park. Hike along and stop at points along the trail to hear the tale of a little raccoon named Hernando. Hernando is a little on the lazy side...and he gets left behind while his mother and siblings are off hunting for food. He awakens some time later to find himself alone...and hungry...and not really sure what to do!

About the book: Hernando's Adventure is a short book for children in which the ways of the woods are explained so that kids from pre-school to elementary school can understand them.

About the hike: Trail is approx. .7 of a mile long on slightly rocky terrain (not suitable for strollers) Bring snacks/drinks/daypack if you wish.

Date: August 1, 2020

Time: 9:00 am

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store & Information Center on Co. Rd. 89

Fee: Free, open to all age children & their family. No-pre registration required. For any details 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, headlamp or flashlight, bug spray, snacks, and drinking water.

Date: August 1, 2020

Time: 7:00 pm-10:00 pm

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

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

Pre-registration closes July 30th 5: 00 pm. To register, email: Paige.Norsworthy@dcnr.alabama.gov. Please provide date of paddle, a phone number; indicate number of boats, and what type requested for the trip.

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!

Dates: August 6-9, 2020

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

Longleaf Pine Needle Basketry Class

Learn the basics of pine needle basketry, an old craft with a long history.

Join artist Brittney Hughes to learn the basic steps to making a coiled basket from longleaf pine needles. Each participant will learn the basic skills of pine needle basketry and take home their very own creation.

The art of coiling baskets is universally common to indigenous peoples. Coiling is the technique of creating baskets and art from pine needles and was a part of pre-Columbian Native American crafts. Today, pine needle baskets and art are made primarily for decorative purposes.

All materials (pine needles, thread, and small center for basket) will be furnished. Class is for ages 10 and up.

When: Saturday, August 15, 2020

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

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

Fee: \$25 supply fee- Supply fee due day of class

Pre-registration required; class number is limited to 12. To register and for more details, call 256-997-5025 or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

Sunset 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: August 15, 2020

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 August 13th by 5:00 pm. To register, email: Paige.Norsworthy@dcnr.alabama.gov. Please provide date of paddle, a phone number; indicate number of boats, and what type requested for the trip.

Third Saturday Sunset Cruise-In

Fort Payne, Alabama

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

Date: August 15, 2020

Time: 5:00-9:00 pm

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

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

Longleaf Pine Needle Basketry Class

Learn the basics of pine needle basketry, an old craft with a long history.

Join artist Brittney Hughes to learn the basic steps to making a coiled basket from longleaf pine needles. Each participant will learn the basic skills of pine needle basketry and take home their very own creation.

The art of coiling baskets is universally common to indigenous peoples. Coiling is the technique of creating baskets and art from pine needles and was a part of pre-Columbian Native American crafts. Today, pine needle baskets and art are made primarily for decorative purposes.

All materials (pine needles, thread, and small center for basket) will be furnished. Class is for ages 10 and up.

When: Saturday, August 15, 2020

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

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

Fee: \$25 supply fee- Supply fee due day of class

Pre-registration required; class number is limited to 12. To register and for more details, call 256-997-5025 or 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, headlamp or flashlight, bug spray, snacks, and drinking water.

Date: August 29, 2020

Time: 7:00 pm-10:00 pm

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

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

Pre-registration closes August 27th 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 requested for the trip.

Hike with a Naturalist Series

JSU Field School

Join the JSU Field School staff on these monthly hikes as we hit the trail and explore Little River Canyon National Preserve. Trails will be determined and announced closer to time and hike time will be dependent on trail (stay tuned to FB for further details)

Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). 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 check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: August 31, 2020

Time: 9:00 am

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

For details contact 256-845-3548 (Niki or Beth) www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

September 2020

Adventure Hike-DeSoto Falls Basin

DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Set out on an adventure hike with DeSoto State Park staff to the bottom of one of Alabama's tallest waterfalls, DeSoto Falls!

About the hike: This hike is approximately 1.5 miles total but considered moderate to strenuous due to the mountainous terrain and elevation. Will be hiking on rocky terrain down to the West Fork of Little River and walking upstream to the view of DeSoto Falls.

Date: September 6, 2020

Time: 10:00 am-12:30 noon

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto Falls Picnic Area (about 7 miles from main park area of DeSoto State Park) Coordinates: 34.549124, -85.589668.

Fee: Free, pre-registration is required so to 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.

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

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

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

Directions to Desoto State Park:

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

Save the Dates!

Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend

Come and explore our State Parks to celebrate the national event, Girl Scouts Love the State Parks! Over 25,000 Girl Scouts around the USA will be participating with their troops and families. Nature and outdoor activities will be led by Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources scientists and naturalists. Your troop or family will bring their own picnic style lunch to enjoy at the park.

More info to come about events in select Alabama State Parks and will be posted on this page

Dates: September 11-13 2020

Info: Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama- www.facebook.com/GSNCA/

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.

Not a morning person? No problem! Bring your thermos and we'll have some fresh coffee waiting for you.

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: September 12, 2020

Time: 7:00 am-10:00 am

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 September 10th by 5:00 pm. To register, email: Paige.Norsworthy@dcnr.alabama.gov. Please provide date of paddle, a phone number; indicate number of boats, and what type requested for the trip.

Boom Days Heritage Celebration

Fort Payne, Alabama

The Boom Days Heritage Celebration, Fort Payne's annual art and music festival, displays citizens of Fort Payne taking a second look at their past and the heritage passed down to them through the arts and crafts of our area. It features dozens of the South's finest visual artists and traditional craftsmen, as well as dozens of the area's most talented musical groups.

Four blocks of the city's downtown district are closed to traffic while art shows occupy Alabama Park and City Park, and a variety of music flows from four outdoor stages. Downtown merchants operate sidewalk sales, and cultural and historical displays are mounted at the Fort Payne Culture & Heritage Center and the Depot Museum.

Dates: September 18-19, 2020

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

For more info, see: www.boomdays.com

Hernando's Adventure Storytime Hike

Join Park Ranger Michael Langston on a hike along the Azalea Cascade Interpretive Trail in DeSoto State Park. Hike along and stop at points along the trail to hear the tale of a little raccoon named Hernando. Hernando is a little on the lazy

side...and he gets left behind while his mother and siblings are off hunting for food. He awakens some time later to find himself alone...and hungry...and not really sure what to do!

About the book: *Hernando's Adventure* is a short book for children in which the ways of the woods are explained so that kids from pre-school to elementary school can understand them.

About the hike: Trail is approx. .7 of a mile long on slightly rocky terrain (not suitable for strollers) Bring snacks/drinks/daypack if you wish.

Date: September 19, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store & Information Center on Co. Rd. 89

Fee: Free, open to all age children & their family. No-pre registration required. For any details email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

Civilian Conservation Corps History Hike: The CCC Quarry

DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne, Alabama

The Civilian Conservation Corps was one of the better known and most successful of the New Deal programs following the Great Depression; one that did a lot of good for forests, recreation, and the men for whom it provided short-term jobs. Between 1933 and 1942, an average of 30 camps operated across Alabama. CCC boys helped fight fires, reforest lands, protect the state's then newly acquired national forests and build roads and recreational facilities in Alabama State Parks.

In celebration of DeSoto State Park's 81st Anniversary of its dedication day in 1939, join DSP Staff & volunteers on a moderate hike to the CCC Quarry. Learn how the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the original structures that you can still see in the park today. Moderate hike along mountainous terrain, some rocky terrain. Approximately 2 miles round trip

Date: September 19, 2020

Time: 1:00-3:00 pm (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at Country Store & Information Center on County Road 89

Fee: Free and open to everyone. For details, contact Brittney Hughes at (Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov)

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)

Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Directions to Desoto State Park:

Using a GPS or Phone to navigate to Desoto State Park can be unreliable. Please see www.alapark.com/DSP-Plan-Your-Trip for a print-out PDF file of directions to DSP.

Third Saturday Sunset Cruise-In

Fort Payne, Alabama (During Boom Days festival)

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

Date: September 19, 2020

Time: 5:00-9:00 pm

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

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

Civilian Conservation Corps History Hike: The ‘Unfinished Bridge’

The Civilian Conservation Corps was one of the better known and most successful of the New Deal programs following the Great Depression; one that did a lot of good for forests, recreation, and the men for whom it provided short-term jobs. Between 1933 and 1942, an average of 30 camps operated across Alabama. CCC boys helped fight fires, reforest lands, protect the state's then newly acquired national forests and build roads and recreational facilities in Alabama State Parks.

In celebration of DeSoto State Park's 81st Anniversary of its dedication day in 1939, join DSP Staff on a moderate hike to the Civilian Conservation Corp's 'unfinished' Bridge. Learn the history of why the CCC left it standing and see several original structures. Moderate hike on Gilliam Loop Trail & old CCC roadbed. Approx.. 4 miles round trip.

Date: Saturday, September 26, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (Central Time Zone)

Where: Meet at DeSoto State Park's Lodge Fort Payne, Alabama-. Will carpool short distance to Gillam Loop Trailhead and hike from there.

Fee: Free and open to everyone. For details, contact Brittney Hughes at (Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov)

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)

Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Directions to Desoto State Park:

Using a GPS or Phone to navigate to Desoto State Park can be unreliable. Please see www.alapark.com/DSP-Plan-Your-Trip for a print-out PDF file of directions to DSP.

Hike with a Naturalist Series

JSU Field School

Join the JSU Field School staff on these monthly hikes as we hit the trail and explore Little River Canyon National Preserve. Trails will be determined and announced closer to time and hike time will be dependent on trail (stay tuned to FB for further details)

Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). 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 check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: September 28, 2020

Time: 9:00 am

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

October 2020

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, headlamp or flashlight, bug spray, snacks, and drinking water.

Date: October 3, 2020

Time: 7:00 pm-10:00 pm

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

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

Pre-registration closes October 1st 5:00 pm. To register, email Paige.Norsworthy@dcnr.alabama.gov. Please provide date of paddle, a phone number; indicate number of boats, and what type requested for the trip

Third Saturday Sunset Cruise-In

Fort Payne, Alabama

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

Date: October 17, 2020

Time: 5:00-9:00 pm

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

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

ColorFest 2020

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: October 17-18, 2020

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

For details, see www.facebook.com/MentoneAlabamaFestivals

Sunset 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: October 17, 2020

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 October 15th by 5:00 pm. To register, email: Paige.Norsworthy@dcnr.alabama.gov. Please provide date of paddle, a phone number; indicate number of boats, and what type requested for the trip.

Hernando's Adventure Storytime Hike

Join Park Ranger Michael Langston on a hike along the Azalea Cascade Interpretive Trail in DeSoto State Park. Hike along and stop at points along the trail to hear the tale of a little raccoon named Hernando. Hernando is a little on the lazy side...and he gets left behind while his mother and siblings are off hunting for food. He awakens some time later to find himself alone...and hungry...and not really sure what to do!

About the book: Hernando's Adventure is a short book for children in which the ways of the woods are explained so that kids from pre-school to elementary school can understand them.

About the hike: Trail is approx. .7 of a mile long on slightly rocky terrain (not suitable for strollers) Bring snacks/drinks/daypack if you wish.

Date: October 24, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store & Information Center on Co. Rd. 89

Fee: Free, open to all age children & their family. No-pre registration required. For any details email

Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

Adventure Hike-DeSoto Falls Basin

DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Set out on an adventure hike with DeSoto State Park staff to the bottom of one of Alabama's tallest waterfalls, DeSoto Falls!

About the hike: This hike is approximately 1.5 miles total but considered moderate to strenuous due to the mountainous terrain and elevation. Will be hiking on rocky terrain down to the West Fork of Little River and walking upstream to the view of DeSoto Falls.

Date: October 24, 2020

Time: 12:00 noon-2:30 pm

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto Falls Picnic Area (about 7 miles from main park area of DeSoto State Park) Coordinates: 34.549124, -85.589668.

Fee: Free, pre-registration is required so to 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.

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

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

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

Directions to Desoto State Park:

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

Hike with a Naturalist Series

JSU Field School

Join the JSU Field School staff on these monthly hikes as we hit the trail and explore Little River Canyon National Preserve. Trails will be determined and announced closer to time and hike time will be dependent on trail (stay tuned to FB for further details)

Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). 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 check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: October 26, 2020

Time: 9:00 am

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

For details contact 256-845-3548 (Niki or Beth) www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools



Spookapalooza! in DeSoto State Park

Treats, Fun, & Games!

Join the staff and volunteers of Alabama State Parks, JSU Field Schools, & the National Park Service for a weekend of fun events guaranteed to run shivers up and down your spine! Trick or treating, live animals, storytelling, and more are in store during this popular annual event. Grab your favorite costume, bring the family, and come stay with us!

All events are free to the public & great for all ages! More details to come.
Date: October 30th-31st, 2020 (Halloween Weekend)
Where: DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne, Alabama



Schedule at a Glance:

Friday, Oct. 30th-6:00 pm Campfire Talk (TBA)
Saturday, Oct. 31st-3:00-5:30 pm Trick or Treating, Improved Campground
Saturday, October 31st - 6:00 pm Campfire Talk (TBA)

Spookapalooza Pumpkin Carving Contest

DeSoto State Park is glad to host the 9th 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 31st to be judged. Turn in at the Nature Center, next to the Country Store. Winners will be announced at the Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground, 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 31st

Where: DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne, Alabama.

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

Entries may be picked up at the DSP Country Store on Sunday, November 1st

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

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**Campfire Talk: TBA**

Part of Spookapalooza

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.

Be sure to bring your own comfortable camp chair or blanket, as seating is limited. Great for all ages!

Date: Friday, October 30, 2020

Time: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground (gate will be open to the public) Large CCC Pavilion in the Picnic Area in case of rain

Fee: Free & open to everyone. Great for all ages. Call 256.845.0051 or email

Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov for any details.

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Trick or Treating

in DeSoto State Park's Improved Campground

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

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

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

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

Date: Saturday, October 31, 2020

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

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

Free & open to everyone. Great for all ages. Call 256.845.0051 or email

Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov for any details.

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**Campfire Talk: TBA**

Part of Spookapalooza

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.

Date: Saturday, October 31, 2020

Time: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground (gate will be open to the public) Large CCC Pavilion in the Picnic Area in case of rain

Fee: Free & open to everyone. Great for all ages. Call 256.845.0051 or email

Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov for any details.



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# November 2020

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## 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, as well as interactive kid's art area. Shoppers can browse and watch artists in their creative process, listen to music, plus purchase goods from fine and folk artists such as painters, potters, quilters, weavers & basket makers, fabric spinners, culinary artists and craftsmen. Some unique and one-of-a-kind gifts will be available for purchase. Stop by and get some early gift-shopping in!

Dates: November 14 & 15, 2020 (Second weekend of November)

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

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

Fee: Event is free & open to everyone. If parking in the picnic area, 2.00 per vehicle apply. Rain or shine event. [www.littleriverartscouncil.org/creative-spirit-market](http://www.littleriverartscouncil.org/creative-spirit-market)

FAQ: [www.alapark.com/creative-spirit-market](http://www.alapark.com/creative-spirit-market)

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## Adventure Hike-DeSoto Falls Basin

DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Set out on an adventure hike with DeSoto State Park staff to the bottom of one of Alabama's tallest waterfalls, DeSoto Falls!

About the hike: This hike is approximately 1.5 miles total but considered moderate to strenuous due to the mountainous terrain and elevation. Will be hiking on rocky terrain down to the West Fork of Little River and walking upstream to the view of DeSoto Falls.

Date: November 21, 2020

Time: 9:00 am-11:30 am

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto Falls Picnic Area (about 7 miles from main park area of DeSoto State Park) Coordinates: 34.549124, -85.589668.

Fee: Free, pre-registration is required so to know how many to expect. Hike is open to ages 8 to adult. Email [Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto: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)

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

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

Directions to Desoto State Park:

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

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## 5th Annual Black Friday #OptOutside Hike

Join us for this gathering on Black Friday. Spend the morning hiking in the beautiful Little River Canyon area with our staff. Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks/lunch, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). 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 check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: Friday, November 27, 2020

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

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

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## Hike with a Naturalist Series

JSU Field School

Join the JSU Field School staff on these monthly hikes as we hit the trail and explore Little River Canyon National Preserve. Trails will be determined and announced closer to time and hike time will be dependent on trail (stay tuned to FB for further details)

Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). 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 check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: November 30 2020

Time: 9:00 am

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

For details contact 256-845-3548 (Niki or Beth) [www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools](http://www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools)

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# December 2020

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## Merrityme Artisan Market

Mentone, Alabama

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

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

Date: December 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> 2020

Time: 10am-4pm each day

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

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

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## Adventure Hike-DeSoto Falls Basin

DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Set out on an adventure hike with DeSoto State Park staff to the bottom of one of Alabama's tallest waterfalls, DeSoto Falls!

About the hike: This hike is approximately 1.5 miles total but considered moderate to strenuous due to the mountainous terrain and elevation. Will be hiking on rocky terrain down to the West Fork of Little River and walking upstream to the view of DeSoto Falls.

Date: December 12, 2020

Time: 11:00 am-1:30 pm

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto Falls Picnic Area (about 7 miles from main park area of DeSoto State Park) Coordinates: 34.549124, -85.589668.

Fee: Free, pre-registration is required so to know how many to expect. Hike is open to ages 8 to adult.

Email [Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto: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)

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

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

Directions to Desoto State Park:

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

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## Hike with a Naturalist Series

## JSU Field School

Join the JSU Field School staff on these monthly hikes as we hit the trail and explore Little River Canyon National Preserve. Trails will be determined and announced closer to time and hike time will be dependent on trail (stay tuned to FB for further details)

Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). 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 check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: December 28, 2020

Time: 9:00 am

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

For details contact 256-845-3548 (Niki or Beth) [www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools](http://www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools)



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

**DeSoto State Park~Fort Payne, Alabama  
#desotostatepark**



## Contacts for event planning/programs:

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