



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

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

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

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



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

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



DeSoto State Park's Campfire Talk Series

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

Serious Skills Series

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



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

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

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

Keep checking back for more 2024 events to be added!

OCTOBER

Nature Journey Journal Hike

Join naturalists and artists for this creative nature observation hike, combining art & nature! The focus of this nature walk is to reflect your observations of nature using a personal journaling style.....in many different ways! Learn how to keep your own nature journal while strolling along trails in DeSoto State Park. Will hike about ½ mile to the West Fork of Little River and hang out for a while working on our nature journals with provided materials. For ages 8 to adult, we encourage all ages to join!

About the hike: the hike is considered moderate, because of the uneven, rocky terrain. Total 1 ½ mile loop.

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

Date: October 3, 2024

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

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

Fee: \$5.00-includes all supplies RSVP is required, so we know how many to expect.

Email us OR pre-register here: <https://alapark.itinio.com/register/DSP-Journal-Journey>

Canyon Kids – Jr Adventurers-Birding 101

Join JSU Field School for a hands on adventure the 1st Thursday each month in 2024! Children (ages 3 years-3rd graders) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures!

In October our theme is Birding 101 as we prepare for the fall migration!

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

Date: Thursday, October 3, 2024

Time: 10:30 am–11:15 am (CST)

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

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

Free event. Registration strongly suggested. Limit 15 students. Pre-registration:
https://secure.touchnet.net/C20901_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=291&SINGLESTORE=true

www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

Junior Ranger Adventure Series: Secrets of the Forest Floor

This once-a-month series is designed for explorers aged 3 to 103! Participants will have the opportunity to earn the coveted DeSoto State Park Junior Ranger Patch while discovering the wonders of nature and the park's historical treasures.

DSP Naturalist Brittney Hughes will be guiding this fun hike, geared toward all ages. This program will begin with an overview of the DSP Jr Ranger Program and will hike along different trails and focus on several topics in the booklet.

About the hike: the hike is considered moderate, because of the uneven, rocky terrain. Each month will utilize a different trail in the park, be beginner friendly, and be between 1-3 miles each. We will take our time, so this hike is good for all skill levels. We will explore along the trails of DeSoto State Park, & discover who lives on the forest floor.

What to bring: Backpack with plenty of water, lunch, snacks. And a journal with a pen or pencil. Closed-toed shoes.

Date: October 4, 2024

Time: 4:00 p.m. (CST)

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

Fee: Free, but RSVP is required, so we know how many to expect. Email us OR pre-register here: <https://alapark.itinio.com/register/DSP-JR-Adventure>

Campfire Talk: Cherokee Trail of Tears

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

In 1838, the Cherokee Nation, comprising over 16,000 men, women, and children, was forcibly removed from their ancestral lands in the Southeastern United States and relocated to the Indian Territory, now known as Oklahoma. This harrowing journey, which also affected other tribes such as the Creek and Choctaw, resulted in the deaths of approximately 4,000 Cherokees. The Cherokee refer to this event as Nunna daul Isunyi—“the Trail Where They Cried.” Retired JSU professor Dr. Kelly Gregg will recount the experiences of Native American people before, during, and after this tragic period in our nation's history.

Date: Friday, October 4, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m. (CST)

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

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

#Hike24in24AL

Civilian Conservation Corps History Hike: The CCC Quarry

Join DeSoto State Park Staff on a moderate hike to the CCC Quarry from the 1930s. Learn how the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the original structures that you can still see in the park today. About the hike: Moderate hike along mountainous terrain, some rocky terrain. Approximately 2 miles round trip.

Date: 10/5/2024

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

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store on County Road 89. Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of hike. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

Serious Skills Series: Dutch Oven Campfire Cooking Demo

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

Dutch ovens have been in use for hundreds of years; especially when our country was expanding and families were on the move. Unable to bring their large cook stoves with them, women learned how to cook entire meals from stews & soups to bread & desserts, in their Dutch ovens. Learn the basics about Dutch ovens, how to clean & care for your cookware, AND cook (& eat!) dinner & dessert at the same time!

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

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

Date: Saturday, October 5, 2024

Time: 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. (CST) Stop by anytime!

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

Beekeeping 101

JSU Field School, with Cameron Mitchell.

At this introductory beekeeping workshop, participants will learn about pollinators and how to attract them. We'll also learn about Honeybees and how to take care of them. This workshop is a great crash course for beginners who are interested in taking up beekeeping, or for those who would just like to learn more!

Date: Saturday, October 5, 2024

Time: 1:30 – 3:30 pm (CST)

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

Info: Call the Little River Canyon Center for more information, 256-845-3548.
<https://www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools>

Fee: \$5 per person: Register here:

https://secure.touchnet.net/C20901_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=299&SINGLESTORE=true

Campfire Talk: History of Moonshine

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

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

Moonshining began very early in American history & for early moonshiners, making and selling alcohol wasn't just for fun or a few extra bucks — it was a means of survival. Learn about the history of moonshining in the Appalachian chain. Bring the family along for fresh popcorn! (Sorry, no samples of the moonshine) Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Saturday, October 5, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m. (CST)

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

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

Serious Skills Series: Nature's Touch:

Salve-Making with Native Plants

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.

Ethnobotany explores the relationship between people and plants, tracing how different cultures have historically used native plants for healing and daily life. Salve-making, a tradition rooted in this rich history, involves crafting soothing remedies from these plants, blending ancient knowledge with modern practices to create natural solutions for wellness.

Learn some the very basics of making healing salves with native plants in our hands-on workshop. Learn to create some soothing salves from local herbs, discover their healing properties, and make a few salves to take home. No experience required—just bring your curiosity and leave with new skills and your own homemade remedies!

Date: Thursday, October 10, 2024

Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meeting place disclosed at time of registration.

Fee: \$45 per person. Pre-registration is required, as spaces are limited. Register here:
<https://reserve.alapark.com/register/DSP-SSS-Salves>

Campfire Talk: Hernando DeSoto in Northeast Alabama

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

Hernando de Soto, a Spanish explorer and conquistador is most famous for his exploration of North America. He & over 600 men landed in North America 483 years ago on May 25, 1538. They first arrived near what is now Tampa Bay, Florida & spent the next four years traveling over 4,000 miles all over the American Southeast. They went to a total of ten states that exist today, & De Soto and his men were the first Europeans to reach and cross the Mississippi River.

Jacksonville State University's Dr. Harry Holstein will take you through the amazing adventures of Hernando DeSoto, as he searches for the ancient town of "Coosa."

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

Date: October 11, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m. (CST)

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

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

#Hike24in24AL

Trail Trekker Hike: Gilliam Loop

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

Date: 10/12/2024

Time: 1:00-5:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at Gilliam Loop Trailhead (past the Lodge on cabin road)

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of hike. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

Canyon Kids – Young Explorers Nocturnal Predators - Hoo's Who

JSU Field School

Join us for hands on adventure learning. The fall semester of Young Explorers will meet the 3rd Thursday of August, September, October and November of 2024! Children ages 7 to 12 years old will want to attend ALL of these hands-on adventures! To creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools.

Thursday, October 17, 2024 – Nocturnal Predators - Hoo's Who

Thursday, November 21, 2024 – Native Americans - Traditions & Innovations

Date: Thursday, October 17, 2024

Time: 10:30 am–12:00 pm (CST)

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

Fee: \$8 per class or \$25 when registering for entire spring semester. Pre-Registration required. For more details, email rmtaylor@jsu.edu or call 256-845-3548 More info:

https://secure.touchnet.net/C20901_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=286&SINGLESTOR E=true

Discover Archeology: Bain's Gap Native American Village Site

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

Join JSU archaeologist, Dr. Kathryn Catlin for an interesting campfire talk about the fieldwork at the Woodland/Mississippian site at Bains' Gap near Anniston, AL. Info about this site gleaned from multiple field seasons reveals numerous storage pits, hearths, and post patterns dating from the Early Archaic up through the early Mississippian time periods.

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

Date: October 12, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Campfire Talk: Backyard Habitat for Wildlife

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

Join Mercedes Maddox, Nongame Wildlife Biologist from the AL Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries, to learn how to create a wildlife-friendly backyard. Whether you have a plethora of acres or a small fenced-in yard, there are many things you can do to add natural value to your landscape. Mercedes will focus on the three necessities, food, water, and shelter, and explore both artificial and natural ways you can incorporate these into your backyard. With a few key habitat traits, your backyard can turn into your own wildlife refuge.

Date: Friday, October 18, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m. (CST)

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

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

Serious Skills Series: Finger Weaving Workshop

Hosted by DeSoto State Park & Little River Arts Council

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.

Did you know that the same methods used to make that friendship bracelet for your BFF in 4th grade are the same methods that were used by people in the past to make baskets, mats, and sashes and also the same methods used by finger weaver Keena Graham to make bags to carry more yarn and wine? Yep! So join instructor Keena Graham to learn the very basics of finger weaving that will have you making your own bracelets, belts, and bags in no time.

Learn the basics of this old craft with a long history. Keena will demonstrate and teach the 3 styles of finger weaving: the "four" method, cardboard loom weaving, and the "three columns" method. Participants will work on a project using one of the methods. All materials will be furnished.

Date: Saturday, October 19, 2024

Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne, Alabama. Benefield Interpretive Center next to Country Store on County Road 89

Fee: \$55-includes all supplies. Class space is limited to 12, pre-registration is required for attendance in this class. Pre-registration: <https://www.littleriverartscouncil.org/fingerweaving.html>

Third Saturday Sunset Cruise-in

Fort Payne, Alabama

The Third Saturday Sunset Cruise-In is a great car show, featuring over 200+ classic vehicles on display in Fort Payne's historic downtown district. This is a monthly event starting in April and ending in October (skipping September for Boom Days Festival). Music across the street from DeKalb Theatre and food vendors.

Date: Saturday, October 19, 2024

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

Campfire Talk: Golden Eagles

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

Golden eagles are among North America's largest birds of prey, some with wingspans broader than 7 feet (2.1 meters). They're mostly brown, but are named for the golden feathers at the back of the head and neck.

Golden eagles are uncommon visitors to Alabama in late summer and winter, usually starting to arrive in mid- to late November and staying through March. They are most commonly found in the western half of the United States, but can be seen in eastern locations, especially during migration or the winter. Join Mercedes Maddox, Nongame Wildlife Biologist from the AL Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries to discover more about Alabama's golden eagle research.

Date: Saturday, October 19, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m. (CST)

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

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

Nighttime Zip Line Tours

Elevate your excitement! Are you daring enough to traverse the dark forest with us? Join fellow adventure seekers for breathtaking views and an exhilarating aerial challenge as you glide through the tree canopy at DeSoto State Park. Create unforgettable memories and experience a true adventure!

About the route: Enjoy six ziplines that range from 100 to 350 ft in length and seven sky bridges that range from 50 to 150 in length. A spiral staircase tower begins the trek and allows for a bird's eye view from up to 55 ft in the air. This tour is even more exciting with suspension bridges and zip lines to discover as you traverse the tree canopy and explore with your guide.

Date: October 19, 2024

Times: Multiple tour times available between 7 & 10 pm Tour duration: Approximately 2 – 2.5 hours

Fee: \$59 per person. Reservations required.

More info: www.desotozipline.com/services Email: info@desotozipline.com Phone: (256) 886-3761

Hike with a Naturalist on Lower Two-Mile Trail

in the Little River Canyon National Preserve.

Join JSU Field School staff on a beautiful outdoor adventure hike to Lower Two-Mile. This hike is a challenging, arduous and steep 1/2 mile hike. This hike is extremely steep and not recommended for pets or people who have difficulty climbing stairs and steep terrain.

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.

Date: October 24, 2024

Where: Meet at JSU's Little River Canyon Center-Fort Payne, Alabama on AL Hwy 35. We will caravan to the trail head.

Time: Meet at JSU's Little River Canyon Center at 10:30 am (CST).

Fee: Free and open to everyone! For details, contact 256-845-3548 (Canyon Center)
www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools/events

Spookapalooza Pumpkin Carving Contest 2024

DeSoto State Park is glad to host the 14th Annual Spookapalooza Pumpkin Carving Contest! Entries will be judged on overall appearance, creativeness, neatness, and originality. Entries can have any theme or design, i.e., Halloween, nature, fall season, etc. All ages may enter contest.

Date: Entries must be turned in no later than 12:00 noon on Saturday, October 26th 2024 to be judged. Turn in at DeSoto's Country Store on County Road 89-table will be set up on porch. Winners will be announced on Sunday, October 27th via DeSoto's Facebook/Instagram(#desotostatepark)

Where: DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne, Alabama.

Entries may be picked up at the DSP Country Store on Sunday, October 27th. Free and Open to all ages. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details.

Spookapalooza Spooktacular Campsite Contest 2024

Campers in DeSoto State Park have been decorating their campsites with Halloween decorations for years.....now there is a campsite decorating contest! Decorate your site with the most original and creative Halloween décor you can find ... you might win a prize! The best decorated sites will win great prizes like free camping and more-there will be a 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winner, as well as Most Creative to boost that competitive spark!

Winners will be announced on Sunday, October 27th via DeSoto's

[Facebook/Instagram\(#desotostatepark\)](https://www.facebook.com/DesotoStatePark) Winners will be contacted via email or phone

Regulations: We ask that decor remains on the individual sites and does not bleed over into others sites, roadways, trails, etc. Décor must be completely removed from site at camper checkout -PLEASE no glitter/confetti, paint, toilet paper or other materials that cause damage to the park. Please help us observe Leave No Trace in the park where we can, especially with picking up litter.

Date: Halloween Weekend 2024

Where: DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne, Alabama. Improved Campground Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details.

BATS ALIVE!

Vicky Beckham Smith of A-Z ANIMALS presents a fascinating program about those night creatures people either love or hate....Bats!

Bats are the only mammals capable of true flight. With extremely elongated fingers and a wing membrane stretched between, the bat's wing anatomically resembles the human hand. Almost 1,000 bat species can be found worldwide. In fact, bats make up a quarter of all mammal species on earth! A little known fact is that the bat plays an important role in many ecosystems. They help to keep the populations of insects and bugs from getting too high & also help with pollination, something that the bees and birds are usually given all of the credit for. Bring along the family to see Vicki's live collection of bats!

Be sure to bring your own comfortable camp chair or blanket, as seating is limited. crafts/activities will follow @11:00

Date: Saturday, October 26, 2024

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

Where: DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne, Alabama. CCC Pavilion in Picnic Area, across the road from the Country Store

Fee: Free & open to everyone. For info call 256.997.5025 or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

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. Parking is very limited to the public inside the campground, so for those that don't mind walking we suggest parking at DeSoto's Country Store or Picnic Area and walking up to the Lower loop via the gold trail (path behind Country Store) or the silver trail at the end of the store's parking lot.

Improved campground gates will open at 3:00 pm, no public entry will be allowed before 3:00 pm & after 5:30 p.m. Please do not line up at the gate prior to 3:00(no vehicles will be allowed in prior to 3:00).

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

Parking can be found at the campground bathhouses and along the roadsides in the campground. Please note parking is limited and in the past this event has had very high visitation. Please be courteous and do not park vehicles on campsites or on the road leading to the store.

Date: Saturday, October 28, 2023

Time: 3:00-5:30 pm (gates will only be open during this time, no public entry will be allowed prior to 3:00 pm and after 5:30 p.m.)

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

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

Guided Archaeology Tour of DeKalb & Cherokee Counties

Hosted by JSU Field Schools

Come along with JSU archaeologist Dr. Harry Holstein for a guided tour of sites throughout Cherokee and DeKalb counties. Participants will visit the 19th century Cornwall Iron Furnace, a Spanish contact site at Coosa village, a rock shelter in use as early as 3000 B.C., and much more. This will be an unforgettable

all-day event. Bring your own food and drinks. Transportation is provided. This tour is expected to be completely booked.

Date: Saturday, October 26, 2024

Time: 9:00-3:00 (CST)

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

Fee: \$40 per person. No refunds after October 14th. Info:
<https://www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools/events>

Boo-Bash: Bats & More!

Join us for a day of fun as we learn about misunderstood animals of Halloween. All events are at the Little River Canyon Center.

12:00pm – 12:45pm – Come and Go Crafts

1:00pm – 2:00pm – Batty About Bats - with LIVE bats!

2:00pm – Bat House Give Away & Best Costume Prize!

Costumes welcome!

Date: Saturday October 26, 2024

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

Fee: Events are free and open to the public. All times are Central Standard Time. Come and go as you please. Please call the Little River Canyon Center for more information, 256-845-3548

Nighttime Zip Line Tours

Elevate your excitement! Are you daring enough to traverse the dark forest with us? Join fellow adventure seekers for breathtaking views and an exhilarating aerial challenge as you glide through the tree canopy at DeSoto State Park. Create unforgettable memories and experience a true adventure!

About the route: Enjoy six ziplines that range from 100 to 350 ft in length and seven sky bridges that range from 50 to 150 in length. A spiral staircase tower begins the trek and allows for a bird's eye view from up to 55 ft in the air. This tour is even more exciting with suspension bridges and zip lines to discover as you traverse the tree canopy and explore with your guide.

Date: October 26, 2024

Times: Multiple tour times available between 7 & 10 pm Tour duration: Approximately 2 – 2.5 hours

Fee: \$59 per person. Reservations required.

More info: www.desotozipline.com/services Email: info@desotozipline.com Phone: (256) 886-3761

NOVEMBER

Serious Skills Series: Leaf Pounding Class

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.

Leaf pounding is a simple, stunning technique, historically used by Native American women to decorate fabric. Pounding with a rock or a hammer transfers the natural dyes of a leaf to fabric while retaining the design of the original leaf. In this class, join DeSoto State Park Naturalist Brittney Hughes on a quick walk to ID leaves that can be used for leaf pounding, then get a chance to unleash your creativity to make a beautiful and unique piece of fabric to take home. Participants can also bring their own fabric like t-shirts, handkerchiefs, pillowcases, etc. as long as it is 100% cotton. This class is for ages 8 to adult.

Date: Friday, November 1, 2024

Time: 3:00-5:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at Lodge, in the pollinator garden.

Fee: \$10.00 -includes all supplies. Class space is limited, pre-registration is required for attendance in this class. Pre-registration: <https://reserve.alapark.com/register/DSP-SSS-LeafPounding>

This class will be held outside under a covered pavilion, be prepared for whatever weather conditions are present. For any questions, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

#Hike24in24AL

Outdoor Observations Hike

Have you ever seen a plant, mushroom, or critter and wondered what it was? Even during the Winter there are some cool things to see, so join DeSoto State Park staff to discover what can be observed & recorded using iNaturalist, a free app that can be used to record observations of all sorts of things — plants, animals, and even fungi. Learn how to use the simple app to help contribute to park species lists and about species seen in the park. About the hike: Moderate hike along mountainous terrain, some rocky terrain. Approximately 2 miles round trip.

Date: 11/2/2024

Time: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store on County Road 89. Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of walk. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

CanyonFest

JSU's Little River Canyon Center

Canyon Fest is an annual celebration of art and nature featuring local art, crafts, live animal shows, music, food and fun for the entire family. Pets welcome on leashes.

Date: Saturday, November 2, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

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

Fee: Free and open to everyone. INFO: www.facebook.com/littlerivercanyoncenter

Fly Tying 101 Workshop

Discover the art of fly tying and experience the thrill of catching fish with flies you've crafted yourself! Join Dr. Tim Lindblom for a hands-on Fly Tying 101 Workshop, where you'll learn how to create effective flies for local bass and bream, and the techniques to use them.

Each participant will tie their own flies to take home or trade. Whether you're a beginner or looking to sharpen your skills, this workshop is perfect for you. Be sure to return in the spring for our Fly Fishing 101 course, where you'll get the chance to catch your first fish on the flies you've tied!

Date: Sunday, November 3, 2024

Time: 1 PM – 4 PM (CST)

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

Cost: \$35 per participant. Space is limited; registration is required. No refunds after October 25. Info: <https://www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools/events>

Canyon Kids-Jr Adventures-Fall Leaves

JSU Field School

Join JSU Field School staff for a hands on adventure the 1st Thursday each month in 2024! Children (ages 3 years-3rd graders) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures! Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools.

Date: November 7, 2024

Time: 10:30 am—11:15 am (CST)

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

What to Bring: Please dress in layers appropriate for the weather and wear footwear suitable for hiking. Free event. Registration required. More info: www.facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools

9th Annual Creative Spirit Market

Hosted by DeSoto State Park & Little River Arts Council

Adding a new twist to a typical art fair, this event is designed as an open air showcase, with artist demonstrations, locally & regionally created fine & folk art, premium hand-crafted goods, & live acoustic music. Shoppers can browse and watch artists in their creative process, listen to music, plus purchase goods from fine and folk artists such as painters, potters, quilters, weavers & basket makers, fabric spinners, culinary artists and craftsmen. Some unique and one-of-a-kind gifts will be available for purchase. Stop by and get some early gift-shopping in!

Dates: November 9 & 10, 2024 (Second weekend of November) Times: 10:00 am -3:00 pm each day

The market is held near DeSoto State Park's picnic area across from the Country Store on County Road

89. If the weather is chilly, market-goers can enjoy a blazing fire in the stone fireplace in the CCC pavilion.

Bring your own camp chair to hang out a while and listen to the music. Dogs on a leash are allowed in the park.

There is limited parking in the picnic area, the tennis court area, and in front of the Country Store. If parking anywhere in the picnic area, a \$2 per vehicle fee applies. There is no fee to attend the open-air market. Rain or shine event. Call 256.997.5025 or email for more details. Artist Entry Info: www.littleriverartscouncil.org/artist-entry-form.html

Facebook page [#creativespiritmarket](#) [#desotostatepark](#) [#littleriverartscouncil](#)
www.littleriverartscouncil.org

Whisk Broom Workshop

JSU Field School

Spend an afternoon learning the Appalachian craft of broom making!

Join Frea with Wild Earth Crafts to design and make a turkey wing style whisk broom made with traditional broomcorn straw and natural cordage. Whisk brooms are incredibly useful and attractive and make great handmade gifts! This class is open to total beginners as well as professional crafters.

Age limit: 13+ or with special permission of instructor.

About the instructor: Frea Forager (pronounced FREE-yuh; she/her) is the craftswoman behind Wild Earth Crafts. She has been avidly foraging and crafting with various grasses, vines, sticks, and other wildcrafted materials since 2014. Please email Frea at freawild@gmail.com for questions or potential scholarship opportunities specifically for BIPOC/PGM candidates, in the hope of fostering greater inclusivity and support for diverse perspectives.

Date: Sunday, November 10, 2024

Time: 12:30 – 3:30 pm (CST)

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

Fee: \$60 per person. No refunds after October 28.. Pre-registration required.

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

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

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

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

Date: November 16, 2024

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

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

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

Pre-register here: <https://www.littleriverartscouncil.org/metalarts1.html>

Canyon Kids – Young Explorers Native Americans - Traditions & Innovations

JSU Field School

Join us for hands on adventure learning. The fall semester of Young Explorers will meet the 3rd Thursday of August, September, October and November of 2024! Children ages 7 to 12 years old will want to attend ALL of these hands-on adventures! To creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools.

Thursday, November 21, 2024 – Native Americans - Traditions & Innovations

Date: November 21, 2024

Time: 10:30 am—12:00 pm (CST)

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

Fee: \$8 per class or \$25 when registering for entire spring semester. Pre-Registration required. For more details, email rmtaylor@jsu.edu or call 256-845-3548 More info:

https://secure.touchnet.net/C20901_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=286&SINGLESTOR E=true

Trail Trekker Hike: DeSoto Scout Trail

The trail follows the West Fork of Little River and traverses a varied terrain of ridges, valleys, fern glades, rock formations, waterfalls, beside deep pools, riffles, through rhododendron tunnels, creek crossings, swimming holes, and sandy stretches. About the hike: Hike is approximately 3.5 miles round trip, moderate to strenuous along rocky mountainous terrain with some steep slopes. We will go from Gilliam Loop Trailhead down Exit 1 and upstream to Indian Falls and back. Closed toed shoes are preferred .

Date: Friday, November 22, 2024

Time: 12:00-4:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Gilliam Loop Trailhead (past the Lodge on cabin road)

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of hike. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/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: GPS can be unreliable in this area, for directions to Desoto State Park see www.alapark.com/DSP-Plan-Your-Trip

Serious Skills Series: Flintknapping Workshop

Hosted by DeSoto State Park & Little River Arts Council

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.

Delve into the ancient art of stone tool-making! Long ago, the earliest humans transformed simple pieces of stone into sophisticated tools that revolutionized their lives. Many people are familiar with stone artifacts such as arrowheads created by traditional cultures in North America and around the world. Uncover the secrets behind these ancient techniques and create your own stone projectile points, similar to those used by traditional cultures across North America and around the world.

About the class: Each student will be given a large piece of stone and, using a smooth cobble as a hammerstone, shown how to remove a “flake”, or small piece. Next, they will be given a pressure flaker tool and instructed how to thin and shape their flakes into a finished arrowhead. Each student will have the opportunity to create several projectile points, and they will take home their finished pieces and the pressure flaker, as well as several additional flakes to complete on their own.

No prior knowledge of or experience with flintknapping is necessary. All materials and tools will be provided. Wear comfortable clothing suitable for hands-on activities.

Date: November 23, 2024

Time: 9:00-4:00 (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne, Alabama. Country Store & Information Center on Country Road 89.

Fee: \$85-includes all supplies. Class space is limited to 4, pre-registration is required for attendance in this class. Pre-registration: <https://www.littleriverartscouncil.org/flintknapping.html>

#Hike24in24AL

Discovery Hike: Unveiling the Geological Wonders

During the Fall months, particularly along Laurel Creek, it's common for the waterfalls at DeSoto State Park to experience reduced flow or even dry up. Surprisingly, this dry spell enhances the hiking experience, providing a unique opportunity to observe the rocks beneath and the intricate markings etched on them over countless eons. Embark on this expedition with DSP staff to uncover the mysteries concealed within the rocks. About the hike: the trail will be moderate, rugged terrain over approx. 3 miles. We will utilize the orange and blue trails for this hike.

Date: 11/23/2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store on County Road 89. Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of walk. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

Opt Outside: Hike with a Naturalist

JSU Field School

We will be hiking the 2 mile trail to Little Falls in the Little River Canyon National Preserve.

This hike is a moderate to strenuous 2 mile journey with varying steep terrain and approximately 140 stone steps into the canyon. Cell phones may have little to no reception. Please wear footwear suitable for hiking, bring water, sun protection and a snack!

WEATHER: As with all outdoor events, if it's raining/stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel. If the weather is questionable, please check with the Canyon Center.

Date: Friday, November 29, 2024

Where: Meet at the Little River Falls Parking lot (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park)

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

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

DECEMBER

Junior Ranger Adventure Series: Snake Tales

This once-a-month series is designed for explorers aged 3 to 103! Participants will have the opportunity to earn the coveted DeSoto State Park Junior Ranger Patch while discovering the wonders of nature and the park's historical treasures.

Did you know that from the northern mountains to the sandy shores, Alabama is home to over fifty species of snakes? Despite being vital to our state's ecosystem, these scaly creatures are often misunderstood and feared. Join DeSoto State Park Naturalist Brittney Hughes along with a few scaly creature teachers to turn fears into fascination.

Learn about the different snake species of NE Alabama, both venomous and nonvenomous. Plus, gain valuable knowledge on how to tell the difference between the two.

Date: Friday, December 6, 2024

Time: 4:00 p.m. (CST)

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

Fee: Free, but RSVP is requested, so we know how many to expect. Pre-register here:
<https://alapark.itinio.com/register/DSP-JR-Adventure>

#AlabamaWildlife #SnakeEducation #DeSotoStatePark

#Hike24in24AL

Civilian Conservation Corps History Hike: Morris Branch Bridge

This incomplete bridge stands as a powerful testament to the commitment of the CCC in advancing the development of DeSoto State Park. Between the mid-1930s and early 1940s, the CCC undertook various stone projects in the park, including the construction of this bridge over Morris Branch. Their ambitious goal was to establish a direct highway connecting DeSoto State Park to May's Gulf, which is today recognized as Little River Canyon. Regrettably, their honorable mission was left unfinished when the CCC disbanded in 1942. Take the opportunity to accompany DeSoto State Park staff as they delve into the history and significance of this remarkable endeavor. About the hike: the trail will be moderate, no major inclines, approx. 2 1/2 miles total. Meet at DeSoto State Park Lodge and car caravan to the trailhead in the Little River WMA.

Date: 12/7/2024

Time: 10:00-12:30 p.m (CST)

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

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of walk. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

Serious Skills Series: Creative Spirit Nature Art Workshop

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

Explore your wild creativity and discover ancient art with nature as your muse! For thousands of years, humans have been creating art through nature. Our ancestors' sacred relationship with the natural world prompted them to express themselves thru the materials around them, in all seasons.

In this workshop, participants will create works of art using a variety of natural materials, using materials like clay, leaves, acorns, pinecones, etc. Nature Journaling supplies will also be available to create your own unique memory of your day in DeSoto State Park. (Bring your favorite journal if you wish) Art forms such as watercolors, leaf pounding, leaf rubbings, clay imprints, etc.

Date: December 7, 2024

Time: 2:00 pm-5:00 pm (CST)

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

Fee: \$55.00 -includes all supplies. Ages 12 to adult. Class space is limited to 10, pre-registration is required for attendance in this class. Pre-registration: <https://www.littleriverartscouncil.org/natureart.html>

#Hike24in24AL

Adventure Hike-DeSoto Falls Basin

Set out on an adventure hike with DeSoto State Park staff to the bottom of one of Alabama's tallest waterfalls, DeSoto Falls! Learn about Little River, an outstanding water source with its clear water & plant & animal life. Discover the history of the area around DeSoto Falls in Dekalb County, Alabama. 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: 12/14/2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto falls Trailhead on County Road 613

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no-preregistration required. Weather-dependent, please call the Lodge at 256.845.5380 beforehand to check on status of hike. Contact Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for any details. www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park/hiking

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

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

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

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

Date: December 14, 2024

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

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

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

Pre-register here: <https://www.littleriverartscouncil.org/metalarts2.html>

Primitive Skills-Natural Cordage & Pitch Glue

Hosted by DeSoto State Park & Little River Arts Council .

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.

Create glue and cordage using only simple, natural elements! Scientists have written that cordage (string) and glue were not merely for making the lives of traditional cultures easier; they literally held their world together. In this workshop students will learn two important skills: how to process plant fibers to create cordage, and how to combine natural elements to create glue.

About the class: Part I is cordage, in which students will first learn how to refine the leaves and stalks from various plant species in order to expose the fibers. Next, students will be taught the reverse-twist method of creating actual cordage. Each student will take home the cordage strands they create, as well as extra material to process and twist on their own.

Part II is making pine-pitch glue, where students are provided three ingredients: charcoal, dried plant matter and pine sap. First, a minimal amount of processing will be done to break down and purify the ingredients. Then, students will melt the sap over a heat source and gradually add the other two elements. When the correct consistency is achieved, students will learn how to attach the liquified glue to the end of a small piece of wood for storage. Each student will take home several of these 'pitch sticks'. The workshop will culminate in students using their glue and cordage to haft a projectile point onto a river cane handle.

Date: December 14, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (CST)

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

Fee: \$85-includes all supplies. Class space is limited, pre-registration is required for attendance in this class.

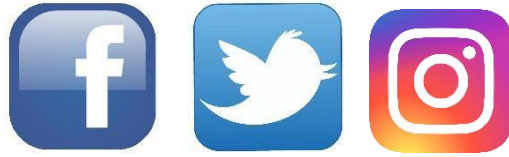
Pre-registration: <https://www.littleriverartscouncil.org/primitive-cordage.html>



**For even more fun events,
see**

www.alapark.itinio.com/register/

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



Contacts for event planning/programs:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------|--|
| DeSoto State Park | 256.997.5025 | Brittney M. Hughes Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov www.Alapark.com/DeSotoresort |
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