

December 17, 2012

News Release

For Immediate Release

Outdoor Initiatives Schedule for January, February 2013

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board's Outdoor Initiatives offers a variety of outdoor and nature-based programs in January and February for youth, families and adults, including:

Archery Clinic

Try archery for the first time or brush up on your skills with National Archery in Schools Program instructors. On-site registration and warming station at Valley Water Mill Park, 2450 E. Valley Water Mill Road. 417-833-8647.

Age: 8 yrs. and up

Date: Jan. 26, Feb. 23

Time: Sat., 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Fee: Free

Archery

Put your eagle-eye archery shooting skills to the test in this tournament with National Archery in Schools Program instructors. Prizes awarded. On-site registration and warming station at Valley Water Mill Park, 2450 E. Valley Water Mill Road. 417-833-8647.

Age: Youth: 9 – 15 yrs., Adult: 16 yrs. and up

Date: Jan. 26, Feb. 23

Time: Sat., 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Fee: \$2/5 shots

Backpacking Cooking Clinic

Learn how to cook while camping. Includes packing, setting up camp kitchen and hands-on cooking with fun and easy recipes. Pre-registration required by Feb. 15. At Valley Water Mill Park, 2450 E. Valley Water Mill Road. 417-833-8647.

Age: 11 yrs. and up

Date: Feb. 23

Time: Sat., 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Fee: \$15/Person, \$10/Person groups of 2+

Camp Challenge Trips

Two- or three-night youth camping trips may include Bull Shoals Lake, Mo; Lake Oologah, Okla.; Buffalo National River, Ark.; Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Mo.; and Paddy Creek Wilderness, Mo. Dates to be determined, call office for details at 417-833-8647.

Age: 9 – 15 yrs.

Date: TBA – Call for details

Time: TBA – Call for details

Fee: \$60 - \$100/Person

Camp Ritter Family – Group Camping Weekend

Camp out at beautiful Ritter Springs Park in your own camper, trailer or tent. Includes canoeing or kayaking, Catch & Release fishing, Dutch Oven cooking, hiking and more. Pre-registration required. Dates to be determined, call office for details at 417-833-8647.

Age: All ages

Date: TBA

Time: Fri., 5 – 6 p.m. to Sun. morning

Fee: \$10/Person, Free/6 yrs. and under

WOW National Outdoor Recreation & Conservation School

Designed to teach participants how to enjoy a wide range of outdoor recreation activities while practicing personal safety and outdoor responsibility. Each WOW course includes an outdoor skill, conservation, safety and ethics component. Great for families, individuals and groups. Pre-registration required at registration@wondersofwildlife.org. Dates to be determined, call office for details at 417-833-8647.

Age: All ages

Date: TBA – Call for details

Time: Fri. - Sat. afternoon

Fee: TBA – Call for details

Acclimatization Hikes & Walks

Get into nature, Leave No Trace and outdoor safety with these easy to moderate hikes in Lost Hill, Ritter Springs and Valley Water Mill parks. Register on-site. Details at 417-833-8647.

Age: 7 yrs. and up

Lost Hill Park: meet in parking lot, 4705 N. Farm Road 151

Date: Dec. 29, Jan. 26, Feb. 9;

Time: Sat., 9:30 a.m.

Ritter Springs Park: meet at playground gate, 3683 W. Farm Road 190

Date/Time: Sat., 9:30 a.m. – Dec. 8, Jan. 5;

Sun., 1:30 p.m. — Feb. 3;

Valley Water Mill Park: meet at Outdoor Initiatives office, 2450 E. Valley Water Mill Road.

Date: Dec. 8, Jan. 5, Feb. 9;

Time: Sat., 1:30 p.m.

Fee: Free

Little Critter Holiday Nature Crafts 'N Games

Make a holiday nature craft and play games. Participants receive a take-home packet. Pre-registration required one-week in advance. At Tom Watkins Center, 2100 W. High St. 417-833-8647.

Age: 3 – 6 yrs. (with an adult)

Date: Jan. 5, Feb 2

Time: Sat., 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Fee : \$5/Child; \$3/Child/3 or more, adults free

Missouri Hunter Education Classroom Course

Recommended for motivated students with good reading and comprehension skills who have

some firearm and hunting knowledge or experience. Pre-registration required one week in advance at <http://mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/learn-hunt/hunter-education>. At the Watershed Center, Valley Water Mill Park, 2450 E. Valley Water Mill Road. 417-833-8647.

Age: 11 yrs. and up

Date: Feb. 1-2; Feb. 22-23

Time: Fri., 6 – 9:30 p.m. and Sat., 8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Fee: Free

Winter Outdoor Safety and Preparedness, Cities To Wilderness

Prepare for being stranded in your car, at home or outdoors in a winter storm, and learn what to do when lost or fallen into a cold stream. At the Watershed Center, Valley Water Mill Park, 2450 E. Valley Water Mill Road. 417-833-8647.

Age: 9 yrs. and up

Date: Feb. 2; Feb. 23

Time: Sat., 7 p.m.

Fee: Free

Dutch Oven Cooking

Dine like the pioneers with Dutch Oven Cooking. Participants will prepare, cook and consume a delicious Dutch Oven meal. Pre-registration required by Feb. 1. At Valley Water Mill Park, 2450 E. Valley Water Mill Road. 417-833-8647.

Age: 11 yrs. and up

Date: Feb. 9

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Fee: \$15/Person, \$10/Person– groups of 2+

For more information on Outdoor Initiatives programs, call Melvin Johnson, Outdoor Initiatives Supervisor, at 417-833-8647. For media inquiries, call Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator, Springfield-Greene County Park Board, at 417-874-2176 or 417-224-5510.