



What's Happening In & Around DeSoto State Park

DeSoto State Park and park partners like Little River Canyon National Preserve, Jacksonville State University Field School, One World Adventure Company, 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 22 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.



List updated 11/29.2018 BMH

December 2018

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: December 1, 2018

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

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.

Dixie Mountaintop 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. Free gift wrapping available. Stop by, get some gift-shopping in, and support your local artists and makers!

Date: December 7th & 8th, 2018

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: Event is free & open to everyone.

Canyon Christmas

An annual tradition to celebrate the season that is filled with holiday spirit and activities including Christmas arts and crafts, a gift shop, holiday music, and a visit with Santa! Do not forget to bring your camera to capture those Santa memories. (Event starts at 1pm and Santa usually arrives around 2 pm CST)

Date: Saturday, December 8, 2018

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

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

Fee: Most activities are free...call 256-845-3548 for more details/ schedule

www.facebook.com/events/214916115928931/

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Xterra Trail Run/Mountain Bike Series- Desoto State Park

Race number 2 of 4 for The 2018 -2019 Black Squirrel Events Mountain Bike Series will be held at 11:00 AM December 8, 2018 at Desoto State Park in Ft Payne Alabama after the XTERRA Alabama Trail Run Series 15K / 8K at 8:00am.

Distance Options:

Category 1 Elite 4 laps 20 miles

Category 2 Competitive 3 laps 15 miles

Category 3 Intermediate 2 laps 10 miles

Category 2 Novice 1 Lap 5 miles

Category 1 Middle School/ Jr High 1 Lap 5 miles

Date: Saturday, December 8, 2018

Where: DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne, Alabama. Staged at the Lost Falls Trailhead

Info: www.facebook.com/events/2191197601128358/

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Date: December 15, 2018

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

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.

January 2019

First Day Hike 2019: DeSoto State Park

Start the New Year with a first day hike in DeSoto State Park! Join DeSoto State Park and JSU Field School staff on a beautiful outdoor adventure/hike along the West Fork of Little River on the rugged DeSoto Scout Trail. See historic Civilian Conservation Corps-built structures, waterfalls, and wonderful views of Little River. This hike will be roughly 2 miles total (moderately strenuous terrain). Meet at the DeSoto State Park Country Store for pre-hike orientation.

First Day Hikes are staff-led hikes, held annually on New Year's Day thru-out the Country, and are designed to encourage visitors to enjoy parks year-round and to promote good health and exercise by working off those calories gained during the holidays. Start the New Year off right!

Date: January 1, 2019

Time: 1:00 pm

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

Fee: Free and open to everyone. No pre-registration required. For details, contact Brittney Hughes at 256-997-5025 (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) 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 DeSoto State Park before leaving home (256.845.0051). Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Other First Day Hikes: www.stateparks.org/initiatives-special-programs/first-day-hikes/



For even more fun local events,
see

DeSoto State Park~Fort Payne, Alabama
#desotostatepark



Contacts for event planning/programs:

DeSoto State Park	256.997.5025	Brittney M. Hughes <u>Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov</u> <u>www.Alapark.com/DeSotoresort</u>
JSU Field Schools	256.782.5697	Niki Wayner <u>fieldschool@jsu.edu</u> <u>www.jsu.edu/epic/field_schools/</u>
Little River Canyon National Preserve	256.845.9605	Larry Beane <u>Larry_Beane@nps.gov</u> <u>www.nps.gov/liri/index.htm</u>
Russell Cave National Monument	256.495.2672	Mary Dawson <u>www.nps.gov/ruca</u>
One World Adventure Company	256-634-8370	Angie Shugart <u>angie@oneworldadventureco.org</u> <u>www.oneworldadventureco.org</u>
Seven Pines Survival		Robert Wilson <u>www.sevenpinessurvival.com</u>