



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!

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](http://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](http://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!*

# September 2022

### Miller's Bend Paddle Shack-

Miller's Bend Paddle Shack in DeSoto Falls Picnic Area will be open this weekend, to help you begin your scenic kayak trip up the West Fork of Little River.

Rent sit-on-top kayaks to enjoy a peaceful flatwater paddle on Little River overlooking beautiful DeSoto Falls. Your adventure can be up to 4 miles round trip, or as long as you want to make it!

Paddle trips are perfect for individuals or groups. Life vests & paddles are provided.

Boat Shack Hours: Saturday & Sunday 10:00-6:00 pm (CST).

Kayaks are also available by reservation Monday-Friday: Appointment only, \$50 Minimum. Must call 24 Hours ahead and depends on staff availability.

Location: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. DeSoto Falls Picnic Area, 7 miles from the main park area of DeSoto State Park. Coordinates: 34.549124, -85.589668.

Fee: Single sit-on-top kayak: \$15.00 per hour. Tandem sit-on-top kayak: \$25.00 per hour. Corcl's: \$10 per hour.

Call DeSoto State Park's Lodge for info-256.845.5380 [www.alapark.com/kayak-little-river](http://www.alapark.com/kayak-little-river)

### Zipline Aerial Adventures

DeSoto State Park has partnered with Screaming Eagle Ziplines and Aerial Adventures to offer a sky trail in the trees. Get a bird's eye view of the forest floor below and of the unusual rock formations. All adventure seekers will have great views and a fun and exhilarating aerial challenge.

Make some special memories & enjoy a real adventure!

Must wear a closed toed shoe to participate on the aerial adventure tours.

Where: DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne. Country Store & Information Center- On County Road 89 (Dekalb County)

Fee: \$59.00 plus tax . Ages 6 to adult. Minimum weight: 40 lbs,

Max weights: Girls 250 lbs and under. Guys 285 lbs and under.

For more details/tour times, see zipline staff in DeSoto's Country Store or

## **Yoga Hike Along Little River**

DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Experience yoga while enjoying the beauty that is Desoto State Park! Join instructor Destin Padgett for a great outdoor experience of strengthening yoga poses AND hiking along beautiful trails. This hike will be a mix of trail hiking with an outdoor yoga session. Combining hiking and yoga practice in the great outdoors confers benefits unmatched in any other setting. You get the light cardio and strength-building that hiking offers, the toning, flexibility, and relaxation that yoga offers, and the powerful connection to Mother Nature that being outdoors offers.

What to know: Yoga poses are alignment based which makes them perfect for those beginning or continuing their yoga practice. Wear closed-toe shoes & weather appropriate clothes; bring a hike-friendly yoga mat or towel if you wish (most poses will be standing poses), water and a snack.

About the hike: This hike is approximately 1 1/2 miles round trip, moderate. Trail starts at Indian Falls & weaves along the West Fork of Little River thru hardwood/pine mix forest with Rhododendron & Mountain Laurel. Optional yoga class on boardwalk trail afterwards.

Date: September 16, 2022

Time: 4:30 p.m. (CST)

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

Fee: 5.00 per participant per class (cash or checks) Pre-registration is required, so we know how many to expect. Email [Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov) for more info or to pre-register. If weather is questionable- check with DSP Lodge before coming: 256.845.5380.

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## **Yoga Walk-Dusk to Dark**

DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama

Experience yoga while enjoying the beauty that is Desoto State Park. Walk along the park's boardwalk trail, following Laurel Creek. Listen to the sounds of Azalea Cascade as instructor Destin Padgett guides you in slow & easy yoga poses.

What to know: Yoga poses are alignment based which makes them perfect for those beginning or continuing their yoga practice. Bring a yoga mat or towel, water & snack.

About the walk: The boardwalk trail is ADA-accessible 1,000-foot-long boardwalk with benches along the way. The walk is considered easy, ending at a large platform overlooking Azalea Cascade.

Date: September 16, 2022

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at the Talmadge Butler Boardwalk Trailhead on Co. Rd. 89 (Nature Center in case of rain)

Fee: \$5.00 per person (cash or check). Pre-registration is required, so we 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. If weather is questionable- check with DSP Lodge before coming: 256.845.5380.

See [www.alapark.com/DSP-Yoga](http://www.alapark.com/DSP-Yoga) for class dates

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## **Boom Days Heritage Celebration**

Boom Days Heritage Celebration honors Fort Payne's rich cultural past with events that tie the history to the present, great historical artifacts, and clothing at the Fort Payne Depot Museum, a miniatures railroad system in the original office of the Coal, and Iron Company, music covering all musical genres. City Park, once the front yard of the

DeKalb Hotel with its 1889 Ginkgo trees, is filled with some of the finest arts and craftsmen in the region. There is a children's area, artist demonstrations, and a wine tasting. Boom Days begins on the third Friday of September each year and runs through Saturday ending with musical acts at the Rotary Pavilion.

Dates: September 16-17

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

For more info, see [www.boomdays.com/](http://www.boomdays.com/)

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## **Campfire Talk: Poisonous & Venomous Organisms**

*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.*

Enjoy a fun trivia game presented by Jacksonville State University Toxicologist Dr. James Rayburn. Learn about how some plants & animals really get your attention with their special lines of defense. Beware out there! Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Friday, September 16, 2022

Time: 8:00 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) 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](mailto:Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov).

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## **Serious Skills Series: Archery**

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.

Archery is the art, practice, and skill of shooting arrows with the use of a bow.

Historically it has been used for hunting and combat and has been around for many years. Archery is also a sport that is becoming increasingly popular as an outdoor recreation activity. Ages 8 to adult

Join DeSoto State Park Staff for an opportunity to learn archery safety & techniques.

Activity is suitable for those who have never shot a bow, or for those with some previous experience. All equipment provided

Date: Saturday, September 17, 2022

Time: Class times start at 10:00 am, 11:00, & 12:00

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Picnic Area (Across the road from DSP's Country Store on County Road 89)

Fee: Free & open to the public. Pre-registration is NOT required, the public is more than welcome to come at any of the posted times. Please note: archery may be postponed due to wet conditions. Email [Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov) for any details.

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## **Campfire Talk: Amphibian Metamorphosis: From Egg to Frog, What a Leap!**

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.

Enjoy a fun trivia game with Jacksonville State University's Dr. James Rayburn while exploring how amphibians transform from a single cell to the wonderful hopping creatures we all know. Meet live tadpoles...and perhaps adopt your own non-native tadpole pet! Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Saturday, September 17, 2022

Time: 8:00 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) 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](mailto:Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov).

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## **Art Talks**

Little River Arts Council presents an evening of art critique and discussion- this will be free to the public and open discussion is encouraged!

Art is meant to be seen, and discussed! If you are an artist or an art appreciator, this is an evening for you.

Leads another informal conversation about art, why we create it, and how it affects our lives. Mikel Yeakle is an art history buff whose knowledge and enthusiasm for art is engaging and delightful. Having worked as a professional artist all his adult life, Mikel has useful tips for anyone new to selling their work. All are invited to bring their artwork and share their process and inspirations. The conversation is open to anyone who is drawn to art (pun intended) not just creators of art.

Date: September 21, 2022

Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: Moonlake Community Library, Address: 4607 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL 35984

Fee: free & open to all! [www.littleriverartscouncil.org](http://www.littleriverartscouncil.org)

#lrac #littleriverartscouncil #art #artdiscussion #arthistory #localartists #alabamaarts #mentone #critique #opendiscussion #mydekalb

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## **Yoga on the Mountain: Dusk to Dark Yoga**

DeSoto Falls Picnic Area

Want to end your day in a positive way? Enjoy a yoga class along the banks of Little River, as the sun goes down and the moon comes up. Experience the peace & quiet of the gloaming-time as yoga instructor Destin Padgett guides you with relaxing, alignment-based poses. Perfect for those beginning their yoga practice or for those wanting to try something new! Classes are open to local residents and park visitors alike. No pre-registration required!

Date: September 23, 2022

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne, Alabama. DeSoto Fall Picnic area, 7 miles from the main park area. Coordinates: 34.549124, -85.589668

Fee: 5.00 per participant per class (cash or checks) \$4.00 parking fee to park in picnic area. (card or cash) Bring mat/towel & water if you wish. If weather is questionable- check with DSP Lodge before coming: 256.845.5380. See [www.alapark.com/DSP-Yoga](http://www.alapark.com/DSP-Yoga) for class dates

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## **Campfire Talk: Herp Herp Herp, Hooray! Reptiles & Amphibians of Alabama**

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.

Whether you love them or hate them, get better acquainted with what herp species Alabama has and how they are a big part of our ecosystem. This live animal presentation with Herpetologist Jimmy Stiles will focus on Alabama's amazing reptile and amphibian diversity. Intended for people of all ages to learn about our native herps!

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

Date: September 23, 2022

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

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## **Campfire Talk: Fire in Our Forests: How Fire Shapes Alabama 's Flora and Fauna**

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.

Alabama's forests are intimately tied to fire. Fire's interactions with our plants and animals have shaped the states' ecosystems for thousands of years. Restoring a fire regime in areas where fire has been removed from the landscape can be very difficult. Join guest Naturalist Jimmy Stiles to learn about the importance of prescribed fire to maintaining our astounding biodiversity.

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

Date: September 24, 2022

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

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## **Campfire Talk: All About Geocaching**

*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!*

Need a reason to get outside as a family? Geocaching is a scavenger hunt where users with a GPS or smartphone search for a cache hidden at a specified location using published coordinates. Caches are hidden worldwide, and have even been placed on the International Space Station! Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location. Find out what geocaching is and how you do it yourself!

Guest Speaker: Ashley Peters from the AL Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (State Lands)

Date: Friday, September 30, 2022

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

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# **October 2022**

## **Serious Skills Series: The Art of Woodburning-DeSoto's Stonework**

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

Pyrography or woodburning is the art of decorating wood or other materials, the term meaning “writing with fire” dating back to the 17th century. Participants in this class will learn the basic techniques of decorative wood burning from artist April Blanks and will work on their own souvenir magnet designs using a pen-like burning tool & acrylic paint. The designs for this class features beautiful stonework by the builders of DeSoto State Park, the Civilian Conservation Corps (late 1930s-early 1940s). This class is for ages 14 to adult.

Date: Saturday, October 1, 2022

Time: 2 class times available: 9:00-11:00 OR 12:00-2:00 pm

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

Fee: \$25.00 -includes all supplies. Class space is limited, pre-registration is required for attendance in this class. Email [Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov) to sign up or for more info. Examples of April's work: [www.facebook.com/Aprils-Woodburnings](http://www.facebook.com/Aprils-Woodburnings)

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## **Campfire Talk: Birds of Alabama**

*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!*

Bird watching has become a popular pastime for many people-not only do birds offer tremendous recreational, economic, and psychological benefit, they are often great indicators of environmental health. Over 400 species of birds are known to occur in Alabama. Of these, 141 species have been reported from DeSoto State Park, which is stop #47 on the North Alabama Birding Trail. Guest speaker Ashley Peters returns to showcase some of the resident species and some of the migrants that should be moving through our area on their Fall migration.

[www.alabamabirdingtrails.com/trails/north-alabama/](http://www.alabamabirdingtrails.com/trails/north-alabama/)

Date: Saturday, October 1, 2022

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

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## **Yoga on the Mountain: DeSoto Falls Yoga Hike-Dusk to Dark**

Interested in ending your day in a positive way? Experience yoga while enjoying the beauty that is Desoto State Park! Join instructor Destin Padgett and park naturalist Brittney Hughes for a great outdoor experience of strengthening yoga poses AND hiking along beautiful trails. This hike will be a mix of trail hiking with an outdoor yoga session. Combining hiking and yoga practice in the great outdoors confers benefits unmatched in any other setting. You get the light cardio and strength-building that hiking offers, the toning, flexibility, and relaxation that yoga offers, and the powerful connection to Mother Nature that being outdoors offers.

**What to know:** Yoga poses are alignment based which makes them perfect for those beginning or continuing their yoga practice. Wear closed-toe shoes & weather appropriate clothes; bring a hike-friendly yoga mat or towel if you wish (poses will be standing poses), water and a snack.

**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. Bring a headlamp or flashlight, it will be close to dark when we hike out.

Date: October 4, 2022

Time: 4:00 p.m.

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

Fee: \$5.00 per person. Pre-registration is required, so we know how many to expect.

Hike is open to ages 10 to adult. Email [Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov) for more info or to pre-register. If weather is questionable- check with DSP Lodge before coming: 256.845.5380.

See [www.alapark.com/DSP-Yoga](http://www.alapark.com/DSP-Yoga) for class dates

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## **Campfire Talk: Cherokee Trail of Tears**

Join us for a 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!

In 1838, the Cherokee Nation -- with more than 16,000 men, women, and children -- was removed from their lands in the Southeastern United States to the Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma) which resulted in the deaths of approximately 4,000 Cherokees. In the Cherokee language, the event is called Nunna daul Isunyi—"the Trail Where They Cried". Retired JSU professor Dr. Kelly Gregg will share the story of the Native American people before, during, and after this tragic chapter in our nation's history.

Date: Friday, October 7, 2022

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

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## **Serious Skills Series: Dutch Oven Campfire Cooking 101**

*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 8, 2022

Time: 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

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

Fee: Free & open to everyone, no pre-registration required. For any details about the demo, email [Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov)

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## **Campfire Talk: Geologic History of Little River**

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!

The Little River area of Lookout Mountain is extraordinary in both its geology and biology. As the river winds its course atop the mountain it creates a mosaic of microhabitats that support unique groups of plants and animals. Join retired JSU geologist Dr. Kelly Gregg to learn about fossils and some of the ancient inhabitants of Little River, sharks, corals, ferns, ancient trees, and even giant salamanders. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Saturday, October 8, 2022

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

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## **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 for weather (you may get wet), headlamp or flashlight, bug spray, snacks, and drinking water.

Date: Sunday, October 9, 2022

Time: 7:00 pm-10:00 pm

Where: DeSoto Falls Picnic Area-Miller's Bend Paddle Shack (about 7 miles from main park area of DeSoto State Park)

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

Pre-registration closes October 4, 2022 – at 5:00 p.m. To register, email [Paige.Norsworthy@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:Paige.Norsworthy@dcnr.alabama.gov). \*\*PLEASE provide date of paddle, a phone number; indicate number of boats and what type (single/tandem) requested for the trip. You will be contacted by phone and payment will be required at time of registration\*\*  
[www.alapark.com/kayak-little-river](http://www.alapark.com/kayak-little-river)

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## **Yoga on the Mountain: Hike to the 'Unfinished' Bridge**

Interested in ending your day in a positive way? Experience yoga while enjoying the beauty that is Desoto State Park! Join instructor Destin Padgett and park naturalist Brittney Hughes for a great outdoor experience of strengthening yoga poses AND hiking along beautiful trails. This hike will be a mix of trail hiking with an outdoor yoga session. Combining hiking and yoga practice in the great outdoors confers benefits unmatched in any other setting. You get the light cardio and strength-building that hiking offers, the toning, flexibility, and relaxation that yoga offers, and the powerful connection to Mother Nature that being outdoors offers.

**What to know:** Yoga poses are alignment based which makes them perfect for those beginning or continuing their yoga practice. Wear closed-toe shoes & weather appropriate clothes; bring a hike-friendly yoga mat or towel if you wish (poses will be standing poses), water and a snack.

**About the hike:** Moderate hike on Gilliam Loop Trail & old CCC roadbed. Approx. 4 miles round trip.

Date: October 14, 2022

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at DeSoto State Park's Gillam Loop Trailhead (Just past DeSoto's Lodge on Blalock Drive)

Fee: \$5.00 per person. Pre-registration is required, so we know how many to expect. Hike is open to ages 10 to adult. Email [Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov) for more info or to pre-register. If weather is questionable- check with DSP Lodge before coming: 256.845.5380.

See [www.alapark.com/DSP-Yoga](http://www.alapark.com/DSP-Yoga) for class dates

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## ColorFest 2022

### 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: Saturday, October 15-16, 2022

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

For any details, see [www.facebook.com/MentoneAlabamaFestivals](https://www.facebook.com/MentoneAlabamaFestivals)

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## Series Skills Series: Chair Weaving Demonstration

Hosted by DeSoto State Park.

DeSoto State Park Naturalist Brittney Hughes will demonstrate chair caning with reed, weaving the herringbone pattern on a 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps-built chair. The craft of chair seat weaving and chair caning has been practiced for centuries and is still a viable craft today, experienced all over the world. Come by anytime, no pre-registration required (Please note demo may be postponed due to wet conditions)

Date: October 15, 2022

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

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

Fee: Free, come by anytime for demo. For any information, call 256.997.5025 or email [Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov)

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## 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: October 15, 2022

Time: 5:00-9:00 pm

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

Free & open to everyone. For current info see  
[www.facebook.com/3rdSaturdayFortPayneAl](https://www.facebook.com/3rdSaturdayFortPayneAl)

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## Art Talks

Little River Arts Council presents an evening of art critique and discussion- this will be free to the public and open discussion is encouraged!

Art is meant to be seen, and discussed! If you are an artist or an art appreciator, this is an evening for you.

Leads another informal conversation about art, why we create it, and how it affects our lives. Mikel Yeakle is an art history buff whose knowledge and enthusiasm for art is engaging and delightful. Having worked as a professional artist all his adult life, Mikel has useful tips for anyone new to selling their work. All are invited to bring their artwork and share their process and inspirations. The conversation is open to anyone who is drawn to art (pun intended) not just creators of art.

Date: October 19, 2022

Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: Moonlake Community Library, Address: 4607 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL 35984

Fee: free & open to all! [www.littleriverartscouncil.org](http://www.littleriverartscouncil.org)

#lrac #littleriverartscouncil #art #artdiscussion #arthistory #localartists #alabamaarts  
#mentone #critique #opendiscussion #mydekalb

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## Campfire Talk: Stone Structures of NE Alabama & the Southeast US

*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!*

Better understand Native American sacred stone structures such as rock mounds, walls, stone effigy structures and more...join retired JSU archaeologist, Dr. Harry Holstein for an interesting campfire talk about the stone structures found on several sites in Alabama & the SE United States.

Date: Friday, October 21, 2022

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

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## Campfire Talk-Discover Archeology: Bain's Gap Native American Village Site

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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.

Date: Saturday, October 22, 2022

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

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## **Spookapalooza Spooktacular Campsite Contest 2022**

Campers in DeSoto State Park have been decorating their campsites with Halloween decorations for years.....this year, there will be 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 30th via DeSoto's

Facebook/Instagram(#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 2022

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

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

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## **Spookapalooza Pumpkin Carving Contest 2022**

DeSoto State Park is glad to host the 11th 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 29 2022 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 30th 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 30th. Free and Open to all age.

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

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# **November 2022**

## **Serious Skills Series: The Art of Woodburning-DeSoto Christmas**

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 wooden Christmas ornaments to practice basic techniques using a pen-like burning tool and paint. Learn a skill to make gifts for the holiday season!

This class is for ages 14 to adult.

Date: November 5, 2022

Time: 2 class times available: 9:00-11:00 and 11:30- 1:30

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

Fee: \$25.00 -includes all supplies. Class space is limited, pre-registration is required for

attendance in this class. Email [Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov) to sign up or for more info.

Examples of April's work: [www.facebook.com/Aprils-Woodburnings](http://www.facebook.com/Aprils-Woodburnings)

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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. 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 12 & 13, 2022 (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.

Facebook page [#creativespiritmarket](#) [#desotostatepark](#) [#littleriverartscouncil](#)

[www.littleriverartscouncil.org/creative-spirit-market.html](http://www.littleriverartscouncil.org/creative-spirit-market.html)

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Art is meant to be seen, and discussed! If you are an artist or an art appreciator, this is an evening for you.

Leads another informal conversation about art, why we create it, and how it affects our lives. Mikel Yeakle is an art history buff whose knowledge and enthusiasm for art is engaging and delightful. Having worked as a professional artist all his adult life, Mikel has useful tips for anyone new to selling their work. All are invited to bring their artwork and share their process and inspirations. The conversation is open to anyone who is drawn to art (pun intended) not just creators of art.

Date: November 16, 2022

Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: Moonlake Community Library, Address: 4607 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL 35984

Fee: free & open to all! [www.littleriverartscouncil.org](http://www.littleriverartscouncil.org)

[#lrac](#) [#littleriverartscouncil](#) [#art](#) [#artdiscussion](#) [#arthistory](#) [#localartists](#) [#alabamaarts](#) [#mentone](#) [#critique](#) [#opendiscussion](#) [#mydekalb](#)

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# December 2022

## Serious Skills Series: Art of Woodburning-DeSoto Falls Ornaments

Hosted by DeSoto State Park. The Serious Skills series is a variety of classes and workshops that provide opportunities to discover a hidden talent or learn a new skill for

personal enrichment. Classes are open to local residents, overnight guests, and park visitors.

Pyrography or woodburning is the art of decorating wood or other materials, the term meaning “writing with fire” dating back to the 17th century. Participants in this class will learn the basic techniques of decorative wood burning from artist April Blanks, and will work on their own souvenir DeSoto Falls magnet or ornament. Practice basic techniques using a pen-like burning tool and paint. Create a gift for someone this holiday season! This class is for ages 14 to adult.

Date: December 3, 2022

Time: 2 class times available: 9:00-11:00 OR 12:00-2:00 pm

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

Fee: \$25.00 -includes all supplies. Class space is limited, pre-registration is required for attendance in this class. Email [Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov) to sign up or for more info. Examples of April's work: [www.facebook.com/Aprils-Woodburnings](http://www.facebook.com/Aprils-Woodburnings)

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Date: December 21, 2022

Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: Moonlake Community Library, Address: 4607 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL 35984

Fee: free & open to all! [www.littleriverartscouncil.org](http://www.littleriverartscouncil.org)

#lrac #littleriverartscouncil #art #artdiscussion #arthistory #localartists #alabamaarts #mentone #critique #opendiscussion #mydekalb



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

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



**Contacts for event planning/programs:**

DeSoto State Park	256.997.5025	Brittney M. Hughes <u><a href="mailto:Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov">Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov</a></u> <u><a href="http://www.Alapark.com/DeSotoresort">www.Alapark.com/DeSotoresort</a></u>
JSU Field Schools	256.845.3548	Rebekah Taylor or Beth Sewell <u><a href="mailto:fieldschool@jsu.edu">fieldschool@jsu.edu</a></u> <u><a href="http://www.jsu.edu/epic/field_schools/">www.jsu.edu/epic/field schools/</a></u>
Little River Canyon National Preserve	256.845.9605	<u><a href="http://www.nps.gov/liri/index.htm">www.nps.gov/liri/index.htm</a></u>
Russell Cave National Monument	256.495.2672	Mary Dawson <u><a href="http://www.nps.gov/ruca">www.nps.gov/ruca</a></u>