

Jacksonville State University

Field Schools



*“Celebrating 26 years of outdoor education
from the deepest canyon to the highest mountain in Alabama.”*

26th Annual Calendar of Events

We are pleased and delighted to announce our 26th anniversary of programs! They are all designed for those who want to know more and do more. Thank you for taking a look, signing up and contacting us if you have any questions or suggestions. Please remember that programs with a fee require registration three (3) days prior to the program date.

JSU Field Schools partner with the National Park Service, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Alabama Forestry Commission, Alabama State Parks, and many others to provide these unique educational opportunities.

For more information and registration, please contact us at fieldschool@jsu.edu:

Niki Wayner, Assistant Director

256-845-3548

Pete Conroy, Director

256-782-8010

Updated: 1/17/17 NW

2017

January

2017 Hiker Series: Martha's Falls

New Year's Day-2017 Little River Canyon National Preserve

Start the New Year with a first day hike at Little River Canyon National Preserve. Join DeSoto State Park, the National Park Service, and JSU Field School staff on a beautiful outdoor adventure/hike from the Little River Canyon Center to Little River Falls and on to Martha's Falls. This hike is a moderately difficult 4 mile hike. Meet at the Little River Canyon Center for pre-hike orientation.

First Day Hikes are staff-led hikes, held annually on New Year's Day through-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!

Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks/lunch, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather.

WEATHER: As with all outdoor events, if it's raining/stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel. If the weather is questionable, please check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: Sunday, January 1, 2017

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 1:00 pm (CST)

Fee: Free and open to the public.

For details, contact Niki Wayner at 256-845-3548

Take a Hike: Pinhoti Trail with Anniston Outdoors

The JSU Field Schools partner with Anniston Outdoors to offer diverse moderate-level hikes each second Saturday of the month. Throughout the year, we will be hiking different sections of the Pinhoti trail.

Continuing south, this hike will begin at the USFS Road 531 crossing just south of the Lower Shoal Shelter and will end at the USFS Road 500 Trailhead located by a train track adjacent to the Shoal Creek District Ranger Office near US Hwy 78 and AL Hwy 281 (the Scenic Byway). This section is 6.6 miles and crosses several springs, offers a view from Sister Ridge, and travels by areas such as Brymer Gorge and the "Birds in the Pines" campsite. Participants should pack a lunch with something to drink and dress appropriately for the forecasted weather conditions on the day of the hike. The departure time and location for this outing will be 8:00 am from the Publix parking lot located across from the Oxford Exchange adjacent to Exit 188 on I-20 and US Hwy 78. Those planning to participate in this hike, should contact Keith Hudson by phone at 256-453-9527 or by email at anniston.outdoor.assn@gmail.com by Thursday, January 12.

Date: Second Saturdays each month; January 14, 2017

Where: Locations vary; Pinhoti Trail

Time: 8:00 am CST (may vary depending upon length of hike)

Fee: \$5 per person; pre-registration required by contacting Keith Hudson by phone at 256-453-9527 or by email at anniston.outdoor.assn@gmail.com by Thursday, January 12.

February

Take a Hike: Pinhoti Trail with Anniston Outdoors

The JSU Field Schools partner with Anniston Outdoors to offer diverse moderate-level hikes each second Saturday of the month. Throughout the year, we will be hiking different sections of the Pinhoti trail. Contact Keith Hudson by phone at 256-453-9527 or by email at anniston.outdoor.assn@gmail.com for details.

Date: Second Saturdays each month; February 11, 2017

Where: Locations vary; Pinhoti Trail

Time: 8:00 am CST (may vary depending upon length of hike)

Fee: \$5 per person; pre-registration required by contacting Keith Hudson by phone at 256-453-9527 or by email at anniston.outdoor.assn@gmail.com by 3 days prior.

Educator Workshop: NASA Solar Eclipse Workshop

On Aug. 21, 2017, American sky watchers will be treated to a rare and spectacular celestial show – the first total solar eclipse visible from the continental United States in nearly four decades. In preparation for this event, Little River Canyon Center and the NASA Educator Professional Development Collaborative at Texas State University is providing a 5-hour workshop for educators. Participants will be trained in NASA resources associated with the solar eclipse. This training will prepare educators to discuss the science behind eclipses and demonstrate key principles through hands-on activities and simulations. Discussion will include classroom modifications. Register at: <https://www.etches.com/227365>

Date: Friday, February 17, 2017

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 9:30 am- 3 pm

Fee: Free (registration required at: <https://www.etches.com/227365>) Call 256-845-3548 for more details.

NASA Star Party

Join NASA educator, John Weis, for an evening of star gazing. We will be joined by heliophysicist, Dr. Mitzi Adams, who will be discussing the upcoming August 21st solar eclipse. There will be opportunities to look at stars through the telescopes and have a great evening of star gazing. (Event is free. May be cancelled in the event of poor weather).

Date: Friday, February 17, 2017

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: Starts at 6:30 pm

Fee: Free

Take a Hike: Birding Hike

Start your Saturday morning off with the birds (and a few fellow birders). JSU professor, Dr. Robert Carter, will be leading this birding hike at the Little River Canyon Center. This hike is for new and experienced birders. This will be a part of the Audubon's annual Great Backyard Bird Count weekend. Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time. Now, more than 160,000 people worldwide join the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds. Things to Bring: Plenty of water, snacks, sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended), binoculars (if you have them). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather.

WEATHER: As with all outdoor events, if it's raining/stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel. If the weather is questionable, please check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: Saturday, February 18, 2017

Where: Meet in the lobby of the Little River Canyon Center

Time: 9 am (CST)

Fee: Free and open to the public

For more details, contact 256-845-3548.

2017 Hiker Series: Powell Trail

Join the staff from the JSU Field School, DeSoto State Park, and the National Park Service for this exciting hike in our 2017 hiking series. Powell trail is located in the Little River Canyon National Preserve. This dirt trail is 0.75 miles long and is rugged and steep at times. (Level-Difficult).

Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks/lunch, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather.

WEATHER: As with all outdoor events, if it's raining/stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel. If the weather is questionable, please check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: Monday, February 20, 2017

Where: Meet in the lobby of the Little River Canyon Center

Time: 1 pm (CST)

Fee: Free and open to the public; for more details contact: 256-845-3548.

Canyon Concert: Tad of Jazz

Anniston's T.A.D. of Jazz is back again for a second wonderful winter show at the Canyon Center. This year's concert is set for Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 6:00 pm the Little River Canyon Center. T.A.D. of Jazz has become the region's leader in the contemporary and smooth jazz realm. With a unique mixture of soul, gospel, jazz, and funk roots, the band produces a sound quite different than any other of its kind. Even if you are not a jazz enthusiast, the cuisine is sure to impress! This year's event will feature a three course seated dinner catered by Tina Whiteside & Regina Henderson. This exclusive event is sure to please and as a bonus is an annual fundraiser for environmental education.

Date: Saturday, February 25, 2017

Time: Gates Open at 5 pm; Music begins at 6 pm (CST)

Fee: Contact 256-782-8010 for ticket details

Location: Canyon Center (Fort Payne, Alabama)

March

Archaeology Hike: Sacred Stone Structures

Rock mounds, stone effigy structures and more...join JSU archaeologist, Dr. Harry Holstein, for this fascinating hike in the Mountain Longleaf Refuge near White Plains, AL. The group will begin with a 45 minute 'Sacred Stone' program in the Archaeology Lab at JSU. Hikes are moderate level with some steep, short trails to get to these structures.

Date: Saturday, March 4, 2017

Where: Meet in Room 142 Martin Hall (JSU Campus); JSU Van tour starts on Choccolocco Mountain

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

Fee: \$15 per person (Ages 14 and older); Pre-registration required 256-782-8010

Take a Hike: Pinhoti Trail with Anniston Outdoors

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Date: Second Saturdays each month; March 11, 2017

Where: Locations vary; Pinhoti Trail

Time: 8:00 am CST (may vary depending upon length of hike)

Fee: \$5 per person; pre-registration required by contacting Keith Hudson by phone at 256-453-9527 or by email at anniston.outdoor.assn@gmail.com by 3 days prior.

Spring Frog Pond Adventure

Experience “love” from a frog’s point of view! Join the one-and-only, “Dr. Frog” George Cline, for an unforgettable evening of romance and songs from the first amphibian voices of the season. Learn to identify frog songs and get a hands-on experience with these slippery creatures. Participate in Frog Watch USA. Subject to water level/drought conditions.

Date: Saturday, March 11, 2017

Where: Frog Pond (weather and water dependent)-near White Plains School

Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm (CST)

Fee: \$5 per person; call 256-845-3548 or 256-782-8010 for more details

2017 Hiker Series: Canyon Mouth Trail

Join the staff from the JSU Field School, DeSoto State Park, and the National Park Service for this exciting hike in our 2017 hiking series. Canyon Mouth trail is located at the Canyon Mouth Picnic area. This is a dirt path along the river leading you through the woods. It is 0.90 miles long and ends at Johnnie’s Creek. Difficulty: Moderate (some uneven terrain).

Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks/lunch, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather.

WEATHER: As with all outdoor events, if it's raining/stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel. If the weather is questionable, please check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: Thursday, March 16, 2017

Where: Meet at Canyon Mouth Picnic area

Time: 1 pm (CST)

Fee: Free and open to the public; for details contact: 256-845-3548 (note: day use fee waived for hikers)

Take a Hike: Waterfalls Tour & Easy Hike

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

WEATHER: As with all outdoor events, if it's raining/stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel. If the weather is questionable, please check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: Saturday, March 18, 2017

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

Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (CST); JSU Van shuttle for tour; noon lunch at Desoto State Park Lodge (included in price)

Fee: \$25 per person; pre-registration is required by March 15, 2017 by calling 256-845-3548

Longleaf Pine Needle Basketry Class

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

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

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

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

When: Saturday, March 25, 2017

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

Time: 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (CST)

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

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

April

Medicinal Plants and Alternative Medicines with the Southern Herbalist-FULL

This workshop is designed for both homesteader and prepper alike to learn the art of using medicinal plants in everyday life. This program will be presented by Darryl Patton, well-known herbalist and author of "The Southern Herbalist."

Date: Saturday, April 1, 2017

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fee: \$20 per participant; pre-registration required by calling 256-845-3548

Spring Frog Pond Adventure

Experience "love" from a frog's point of view! Join the one-and-only, "Dr. Frog" George Cline, for an unforgettable evening of romance and songs from the first amphibian voices of the season. Learn to identify frog songs and get a hands-on experience with these slippery creatures. Participate in Frog Watch USA. Subject to water level/drought conditions.

Date: Saturday, April 1, 2017

Where: Frog Pond (weather and water dependent) near White Plains School

Time: 7-9 pm (CST)

Fee: \$5 per person; call 256-782-8010 or 256-845-3548 for more details

2017 Hiker Series: Never Neverland/ Vizneyland Loop at DeSoto State Park

Join the staff from the JSU Field School, DeSoto State Park, and the National Park Service for this exciting hike in our 2017 hiking series. The Never-Neverland and Vizneyland loops are located in DeSoto State Park. Combined the trail will be around 4 1/2 miles long, with interesting rock formations and small creeks found along the trail. Trail Difficulty: Moderate (some uneven terrain).

Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks/lunch, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather.

WEATHER: As with all outdoor events, if it's raining/stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel. If the weather is questionable, please check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: April 4, 2017

Time: 1:00 pm (CST)

Where: DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at the Country Store/Nature Center on County Road 89-will caravan to Lost Falls Trailhead. www.ALAPARK.com/hiking

Fee: Free and open to the public; for details contact 256.997.5025 or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

Take a Hike: Pinhoti Trail with Anniston Outdoors

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Date: Second Saturdays each month; April 8, 2017

Where: Locations vary; Pinhoti Trail

Time: 8:00 am CST (may vary depending upon length of hike)

Fee: \$5 per person; pre-registration required by contacting Keith Hudson by phone at 256-453-9527 or by email at anniston.outdoor.assn@gmail.com by 3 days prior.

Canyon Spring Fest

Celebrate the season by visiting the Canyon Center for the annual Children's Spring Art Show, baby animals, bunny games, and an egg hunt with prizes...a day your kids will NEVER forget!

Date: Saturday, April 8, 2017 (Easter is April 16, 2017)

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 10 am-Noon (CST)

Fee: No fee; call 256-845-3548 for details

Earth Day at the Canyon

Celebrate Earth Day with JSU Field Schools at the Little River Canyon Center. We will host hikes, crafts, and a day of fun. Sign-up sheets will be at the front desk for attending hikes hosted by various instructors. Live animal programs, awesome nature hikes, and even an appearance by the Leave No Trace Team (and maybe even Big Foot) promise to make this celebration a blast!

Date: Saturday, April 22, 2017

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm (CST)

Fee: No fee; call 256-845-3548

Steel Drums Concert

The Jacksonville State University Steel Drum band are presenting a free concert. Little River Canyon Center will be filled with the traditional, bright, happy music from the tropics, plus interpretations of the classics. Do not miss this opportunity to hear the JSU Steel Drum Band live!

Date: April 21st

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Fee: No fee; call 256-845-3548

Enchanted Botany: Plants of the Pocket

Join Desoto State Park botanist, Brittney M. Hughes, and JSU Field Schools Staff, for this enchanted botany trip to "The Pocket" on Pigeon Mountain. Excellent photo opportunities of unique and beautiful plants. Easy to moderate short boardwalk hike with optional moderate to difficult hike to waterfall. Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks/lunch,

hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather.

WEATHER: As with all outdoor events, if it's raining/stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel. If the weather is questionable, please check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Where: Meet at Desoto State Park Nature Center; shuttle to site

Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm (CST)

Fee: \$10 per person (transportation to site included) Pre-registration required by Monday, April 24, 2017 by calling 256-845-3548.

Photography Workshop

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

Date: Friday evening, April 28 and all day Saturday, April 29, 2017

Where: Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne, (Bring a day pack with lunch/drinks)

Fee: \$20 per person; pre-registration required; call 256-845-3548 for more details

May

Canyon Fiesta!

We present a fiesta celebrating the diversity of our region! Everyone is invited to attend our family-friendly event. Delicious food will be provided by local restaurant, Old Mexico Cantina and Grille. Come and enjoy authentic Mariachi music, delicious food, games for kids, and a piñata. Coolers are welcome.

Date: May 6, 2017

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Fee: Music and entrance is free, food is available for sale.

Frog Pond Adventure

Experience “love” from a frog’s point of view! Join the one-and-only, “Dr. Frog” George Cline, for an unforgettable evening of romance and songs from the first amphibian voices of the season. Learn to identify frog songs and get a hands-on experience with these slippery creatures. Participate in Frog Watch USA. Subject to water level/weather conditions.

Date: Saturday, May 6, 2017

Where: Frog Pond (Weather and Drought Dependent); near White Plains School

Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (CST)

Fee: \$5 per person

Take a Hike: Pinhoti Trail with Anniston Outdoors

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Date: Second Saturdays each month; May 13, 2017

Where: Locations vary; Pinhoti Trail

Time: 8:00 am CST (may vary depending upon length of hike)

Fee: \$5 per person; pre-registration required by contacting Keith Hudson by phone at 256-453-9527 or by email at anniston.outdoor.assn@gmail.com by 3 days prior.

Medicinal and Edible Plants-Francine Hutchinson

Join Botanist, Francine Hutchinson, a regular instructor for the JSU Field Schools for this workshop. The morning will begin with a hike to learn how to recognize and utilize various medicinal/edible plants. In the afternoon, participants will get hands-on time working with the plants discussed during the hike.

Date: Saturday, May 13, 2017

Where: Little River Canyon Center (Fort Payne, Alabama)

Time: 10 am-3 pm (CST)

Fee: \$20 per person; Limit 15 participants; pre-registration required call 256-845-3548

Little River Canyon National Preserve Annual Bioblitz

Plan on coming out sometime from Friday, May 19th to Sunday, May 21st to help us document the flora and fauna of the park.

This service-wide initiative is a chance to inspire and engage a new generation of stewards of our fantastic natural resources, all while taking a vast snapshot of the biodiversity that is protected by our nation's parks.

You can choose an easy area or challenge yourself on a canyon trail. We are lining up specialists to help discover fish, amphibians and reptiles, birds or any creature or plant that call this place home. If you are interested in leading a group in the park to document species in your field of expertise, then please call Larry @ 256-845-9605. The more specialists we have to lead these discovery hikes, the more the public can explore, learn and become Citizen Scientists by helping to record the presence and distribution of our species!

So come out, get involved, and help us to document the richness of Little River Canyon National Preserve!

Date: Friday, May 19- Sunday, May 21

Where/Time: To Be Determined, call 256-845-3548 (Ranger Larry Beane)

2017 Hiker Series: Unfinished Bridges

Join the staff from the JSU Field School, DeSoto State Park, and the National Park Service for this exciting hike in our 2017 hiking series. This hike will feature 2 of the 'Unfinished bridges' and old culverts/road beds that the men of the Civilian Conservation Corps left unfinished in the early 1940s while developing DeSoto State Park.

For this hike we will caravan to Road 5 in the Little River Wildlife Management Area, hike to the 1st unfinished bridge and then hit the trail to the 2nd, which spans Straight Creek. We will come off the trail at Gilliam Loop trailhead and get a ride back to the vehicles. Overall the hiking mileage will be around 3 ½ to 4 miles. Trail Difficulty: Moderate (some uneven terrain).

Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks/lunch, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather.

WEATHER: As with all outdoor events, if it's raining/stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel. If the weather is questionable, please check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: May 27, 2017

Time: 1:00 pm (CST)

Where: Meet in the lobby of the Little River Canyon Center-Fort Payne, Alabama (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park) will caravan to trailhead.

Fee: Free and open to the public; for details contact 256.997.5025 or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov www.alapark.com/CCC-in-DSP

June

Tiny Tots: Adventures in Nature

Join the JSU Field School for fun filled classes just for little kids. Your kids (ages 3-5 years) will learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more all while having fun!

Date: Monday, June 5, 2017 Incredible Insects

Time: 9 am-10 am (CST)

Location: Canyon Center

Fee: \$5 per child (Limit 10 children) Parents remain with children for this program. Pre-registration required by the Friday before the program is scheduled. Call 256-845-3548.

Canyon Center Creative Kids Days: Adventures in Nature

Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Your children (ages 5-10) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures!

Date: Wednesday, June 7, 2017 Incredible Insects

Time: 10:00 am – Noon (CST)

Location: Canyon Center

Fee: \$5 per child; pre-registration required by the Monday prior to the program (Limit 15 kids). Parents remain with children for this program

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Date: Second Saturdays each month; June 10, 2017

Where: Locations vary; Pinhoti Trail

Time: 8:00 am CST (may vary depending upon length of hike)

Fee: \$5 per person; pre-registration required by contacting Keith Hudson by phone at 256-453-9527 or by email at anniston.outdoor.assn@gmail.com by 3 days prior.

Tiny Tots: Adventures in Nature

Join the JSU Field School for fun filled classes just for little kids. Your kids (ages 3-5 years) will learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more all while having fun!

Date: Monday, June 19, 2017 Wonderful Wildlife

Time: 9 am-10 am (CST)

Location: Canyon Center

Fee: \$5 per child (Limit 10 children) Parents remain with children for this program. Pre-registration required by the Friday before the program is scheduled. Call 256-845-3548.

Canyon Center Creative Kids Days: Adventures in Nature

Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Your children (ages 5-10) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures!

Date: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 Wonderful Wildlife: Mammals and Birds

Time: 10:00 am – Noon (CST)

Location: Canyon Center

Fee: \$5 per child; pre-registration required (Limit 15 kids) Parents remain with children for this program

Canyon Camp for Children (Little River Canyon Center)

Hands-on environmental education, outdoor fun, arts and exploration of the natural world abound in this camp. Children learn all about Little River Canyon and Desoto State Park...the river, the plants and the animals! Remember that all camps fill quickly so please register early.

1) *3rd -5th Graders (Grade just completed)*

Date: June 27-30, 2017 (Tuesday-Friday)

Time: 8 am-4 pm (Drop Off begins at 7:30 am) (CST)

Fee: \$150 per child (Covers materials and lunch)

Location: Canyon Center (Fort Payne, Alabama) Limit-10 kids

**Pre-registration required for all Canyon Camps by calling 256-845-3548.*

July

Take a Hike: Pinhoti Trail with Anniston Outdoors

The JSU Field Schools partner with Anniston Outdoors to offer diverse moderate-level hikes each second Saturday of the month. Throughout the year, we will be hiking different sections of the Pinhoti trail. Contact Keith Hudson by phone at 256-453-9527 or by email at anniston.outdoor.assn@gmail.com for details.

Date: Second Saturdays each month; July 8, 2017

Where: Locations vary; Pinhoti Trail

Time: 8:00 am CST (may vary depending upon length of hike)

Fee: \$5 per person; pre-registration required by contacting Keith Hudson by phone at 256-453-9527 or by email at anniston.outdoor.assn@gmail.com by 3 days prior.

August

Take a Hike: Pinhoti Trail with Anniston Outdoors

The JSU Field Schools partner with Anniston Outdoors to offer diverse moderate-level hikes each second Saturday of the month. Throughout the year, we will be hiking different sections of the Pinhoti trail. Contact Keith Hudson by phone at 256-453-9527 or by email at anniston.outdoor.assn@gmail.com for details.

Date: Second Saturdays each month; August 12, 2017

Where: Locations vary; Pinhoti Trail

Time: 8:00 am CST (may vary depending upon length of hike)

Fee: \$5 per person; pre-registration required by contacting Keith Hudson by phone at 256-453-9527 or by email at anniston.outdoor.assn@gmail.com by 3 days prior.

Guided Archaeology Tour of Calhoun & St. Clair Counties

Come along with JSU's Dr. Harry Holstein for a guided archaeology tour of various sites throughout Calhoun and St. Clair counties. We will visit Janney Iron Furnace, a 19th century battlefield and river locks, a prehistoric Indian village, and much more. Participants should bring their own lunch and drinks. Transportation is provided; space is limited. Be sure to register early!

Date: Saturday, August 12, 2017

Where: Jacksonville, AL (Meeting location to be disclosed upon registration)

Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm (CST)

Fee: \$15 per person (ages 14 and older) Pre-registration is required by calling 256-782-8010.

September

Take a Hike: Pinhoti Trail with Anniston Outdoors

The JSU Field Schools partner with Anniston Outdoors to offer diverse moderate-level hikes each second Saturday of the month. Throughout the year, we will be hiking different sections of the Pinhoti trail. Contact Keith Hudson by phone at 256-453-9527 or by email at anniston.outdoor.assn@gmail.com for details.

Date: Second Saturdays each month; September 9, 2017

Where: Locations vary; Pinhoti Trail

Time: 8:00 am CST (may vary depending upon length of hike)

Fee: \$5 per person; pre-registration required by contacting Keith Hudson by phone at 256-453-9527 or by email at anniston.outdoor.assn@gmail.com by 3 days prior.

Fourth Annual Cleburne Pottery Exhibit, Appraisals, and Pottery Sales

Joey Brackner from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and author of Alabama Folk Pottery will present "Potteries of Cleburne County." Also featuring exhibits of historic pottery of the mountains, professional collectors and artists, free pottery identification and appraisal, music and food.

Date: Saturday, September 23, 2017

Where: Cleburne County Mountain Center (Heflin, Alabama)

Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm (CST)

Fee: Free

October

6th Annual Canyon Half Marathon

The Little River Canyon Center will host its sixth annual “Little River Half Marathon.” This certified 13.1 mile course follows the rim of the canyon before winding its way through the area’s beautiful farm country.

Date: Saturday, October 7, 2017

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 8:00 am (CST)

Fee: pre-registration required; call 256-782-8010

Take a Hike: Pinhoti Trail with Anniston Outdoors

The JSU Field Schools partner with Anniston Outdoors to offer diverse moderate-level hikes each second Saturday of the month. Throughout the year, we will be hiking different sections of the Pinhoti trail. Contact Keith Hudson by phone at 256-453-9527 or by email at anniston.outdoor.assn@gmail.com for details.

Date: Second Saturdays each month; October 14, 2017

Where: Locations vary; Pinhoti Trail

Time: 8:00 am CST (may vary depending upon length of hike)

Fee: \$5 per person; pre-registration required by contacting Keith Hudson by phone at 256-453-9527 or by email at anniston.outdoor.assn@gmail.com by 3 days prior.

Fourth Annual Dog Daze

Bring your dogs and human family to this event where the Canyon Center staff features dog games, and presentations on all topics canine such as dog adoption, dog advocacy, service dogs, and much more! More details to come!

Date: Saturday, October 14, 2017

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 11:00 am – 3:00 pm (CST)

Fee: Free; call 256-845-3548 for more details/schedule

Annual Spookapalooza Weekend: Treats, fun, and games!

Join the staff and volunteers of Desoto State Park, National Park Service, and Jacksonville State University for a weekend of fun events guaranteed to run shivers up and down your spine! Trick or treating, games, storytelling, and more are in store during this popular annual event. Grab your favorite costume, bring the family, and come stay with us! All events are free to the public and great for all ages! More details to come!

Date: October 28-October 30, 2016 (Halloween Weekend)

Where: Desoto State Park and Little River Canyon Center, Ft Payne, AL

Call 256-997-5025 or see www.alapark.com/DSP-Spookapalooza for details

November

9th Annual Canyon Fest

Join us for this 9th annual celebration! This is the Canyon Center's biggest event of the year. Don't miss the live music, nature and art activities, demonstrations, great food, vendors, and fun at this signature festival designed to celebrate our canyon and the natural world.

Date: Saturday, November 4, 2017

Where: Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne, AL

Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm (CST)

Fee: No Fee; call 256-845-3548 for more details (Anna Lindsey)

Take a Hike: Pinhoti Trail with Anniston Outdoors

The JSU Field Schools partner with Anniston Outdoors to offer diverse moderate-level hikes each second Saturday of the month. Throughout the year, we will be hiking different sections of the Pinhoti trail. Contact Keith Hudson by phone at 256-453-9527 or by email at anniston.outdoor.assn@gmail.com for details.

Date: Second Saturdays each month; November 11, 2017

Where: Locations vary; Pinhoti Trail

Time: 8:00 am CST (may vary depending upon length of hike)

Fee: \$5 per person; pre-registration required by contacting Keith Hudson by phone at 256-453-9527 or by email at anniston.outdoor.assn@gmail.com by 3 days prior.

Guided Archaeology Tour of Cherokee and DeKalb Counties

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. Space is limited so register early!

Date: Saturday, November 11, 2017

Where: Near Fort Payne, AL (Meeting location disclosed at registration)

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

Fee: \$15 per person (Ages 14 and over); pre-registration required by calling 256-782-8010

2017 Hike Series: 2nd Annual Day after Thanksgiving Hike

Join us for this gathering the day after Thanksgiving. Spend the morning hiking in the beautiful Little River Canyon area with our staff. Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks/lunch, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather.

WEATHER: As with all outdoor events, if it's raining/stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel. If the weather is questionable, please check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: Friday, November 24, 2017

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 10:00 am (CST)

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

December

Take a Hike: Pinhoti Trail with Anniston Outdoors

The JSU Field Schools partner with Anniston Outdoors to offer diverse moderate-level hikes each second Saturday of the month. Throughout the year, we will be hiking different sections of the Pinhoti trail. Contact Keith Hudson by phone at 256-453-9527 or by email at anniston.outdoor.assn@gmail.com for details.

Date: Second Saturdays each month; December 9, 2017

Where: Locations vary; Pinhoti Trail

Time: 8:00 am CST (may vary depending upon length of hike)

Fee: \$5 per person; pre-registration required by contacting Keith Hudson by phone at 256-453-9527 or by email at anniston.outdoor.assn@gmail.com by 3 days prior.

Canyon Christmas

An annual tradition to celebrate the season that is filled with holiday spirit and activities including winter wildlife feeding, Christmas arts and crafts, a Secret Santa gift shop, puppet shows, and a visit with photos with Santa, and more!

Date: Saturday, December 9, 2017

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 10 am- 3 pm (CST)

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