



SUMMER ACTIVITIES



August



Welcome to Panther Creek State Park! We hope you will enjoy your visit. While you are with us, we invite you to take advantage of the rich natural beauty and wealth of opportunities for enjoyable recreation here at the park!

Park Program Staff: Brent Sewell and Josh Kuykendall

Friday, August 1st

- 9:00 AM **Compass Program** – Visitor’s Center – Do you get lost easily? Want to learn how to find your way with a map and compass? Join the ranger at the Visitor’s Center for an introduction to map and compass. We will then use our new skills outside to complete an orienteering course.
- 2:00 PM **Backpacking Basics** – Campground Amphitheater – Have you ever wanted to go backpacking but just didn’t know where to begin? Well, here’s your chance to learn the basic equipment needs and safety tips for a successful backpacking trip.

Saturday, August 2nd

- 9:00 AM **Nature Identification Hike** – Ranger Station – Join the Ranger on a hike along the Wagon Trail as we search for plants, trees, and wildlife. Test your outdoor knowledge and see if you can identify what we find during this fun and informative program.
- 1:00 PM **Creek Stomp** – Creek Observation Deck – Join us as we search for aquatic insects, fish, reptiles and anything else interesting we can find in and along the banks of Panther Creek. We will discuss what we find and determine the cleanliness of Panther Creek. Please wear water shoes and prepare to get wet.
- 2:30 PM **Animal Tracking** – Ranger Station – Is that a raccoon or opossum track? We’ll learn how to tell the difference as we cover the basics of track identification. Please wear old shoes, as we will be searching for tracks along the muddy banks of Panther Creek and Cherokee Lake.

Sunday, August 3rd

- 2:00 PM **Afternoon Bike Ride** – Ranger Station – Lets go on a relaxing bike ride along the Wagon Trail to see what we can find. Along the way we will talk about some of the ways pioneers traveled along the trails.
- 6:00 PM **Ridgecrest Trail Hike** – Smallman Shelter – If you are looking for a workout, this hike is for you! This strenuous trail will lead us down Hunt Knob Ridge to the lake and offers a number of amazing views. Please wear sturdy walking shoes and bring drinking water.

Sunday, August 3rd (Continued)

8:30 PM **Night Canoe Trip** – Boat Ramp – Float down and meet the ranger for a great time on Cherokee Lake. We will provide the boats, paddles and lifejackets. You should bring a friend and call the Visitor's Center for reservations. **Limit 15 per trip. Please call 423-587-7046 for reservations.**

Wednesday, August 6th

9:00 AM **History Hike** – Spoons Shelter Parking Lot – Join us for a hike along the Ore Mine Loop trail as we learn about local history. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes or boots, as this hike is moderately difficult hike.

11:00 AM **Creek Stomp** – Creek Observation Deck – Join us as we search for aquatic insects, fish, reptiles and anything else interesting we can find in and along the banks of Panther Creek. We will discuss what we find and determine the cleanliness of Panther Creek. Please wear water shoes and prepare to get wet.

2:00 PM **Outdoor Guide** – Campground Amphitheater – Learn some skills you can use if you are out in the woods and some general outdoor safety tips. We will also discuss how to start fires as well as some gear to carry with you outside.

5:00 PM **Canoe Trip** – Boat Ramp – Float down and meet the ranger for a great time on Cherokee Lake. We will provide the boats, paddles, and lifejackets. You should bring a friend and call the Visitor's Center for reservations. **Limit 15 per trip. Please call 423-587-7046 for reservations.**

Thursday, August 7th

9:00 AM **Compass Program** – Visitor's Center – Do you get lost easily? Want to learn how to find your way with a map and compass? Join the ranger at the Visitor's Center for an introduction to map and compass. We will then use our new skills outside to complete an orienteering course.

11:00 AM **Geology Hike** – Seven Sinkholes Trailhead – Lets go on a geology hike along the Seven Sinkholes Trail to see and discuss some interesting geological formations.

2:00 PM **Afternoon Hike** – Boat Ramp – Join the Ranger on a hike along the scenic Trout Lily Trail. We will discuss what we find along our journey. Remember to wear sturdy shoes and bring water on this moderately difficult two-mile hike.

3:00 PM **Tree Identification Hike**- Ranger Station- Is that a Hickory or a Maple Tree? Come find out the difference and how to identify several of our most common trees in East Tennessee. Please wear sturdy walking shoes and bring drinking water.

Thursday, August 7th (Continued)

6:30 PM **Music in the Park** – Spoons Shelter – The West Hamblen Fire Department and the Friends of Panther Creek State Park will host the “Music in the Park” series at the Spoons Pavilion each Thursday this August. Anyone who would like to sing or play an instrument is welcome to join in the music making. This free family event will continue each Thursday this summer. Please join us for some good music, snacks and fun.

Friday, August 8th

9:00 AM **Geology Hike** – Seven Sinkholes Trailhead – Lets go on a geology hike along the Seven Sinkholes Trail to see and discuss some interesting geological formations.

11:00 AM **Nature Identification Hike** – Ranger Station – Join the Ranger on a hike along the Wagon Trail as we search for plants, trees, and wildlife. Test your outdoor knowledge and see if you can identify what we find during this fun and informative program.

2:00 PM **Afternoon Bike Ride** – Ranger Station – Lets go on a relaxing bike ride along the Wagon Trail to see what we can find. Along the way we will talk about some of the ways pioneers traveled along the trails.

4:00 PM **Knot-Tying** – Ranger Station – Join us as we learn to tie basic knots. This very practical skill can be used in a variety of situations.

6:00 PM **Snake Program** – Upper Campground Pavilion – Slither your way up to meet Wilbur the Corn Snake as we learn about the many great snakes of east Tennessee. We’ll learn how snakes benefit the environment and us during this educational program.

Saturday, August 9th

10:00 AM **Compass Program** – Visitor’s Center – Do you get lost easily? Want to learn how to find your way with a map and compass? Join the ranger at the Visitor’s Center for an introduction to map and compass. We will then use our new skills outside to complete an orienteering course.

1:00 PM **Creek Stomp** – Creek Observation Deck – Join us as we search for aquatic insects, fish, reptiles and anything else interesting we can find in and along the banks of Panther Creek. We will discuss what we find and determine the cleanliness of Panther Creek. Please wear water shoes and prepare to get wet.

2:00 PM **Four-Legged Friend Hike** – Ranger Station – Bring your best friend and join in the fun. This is great way to walk through the woods. Good for all ages. Don’t forget your best friends leash.

7:00 PM **Photography Hike** – Seven Sinkholes Trailhead – Grab your camera and join in as we discuss tips to take better photographs. We’ll then head off along the Sinkholes Trail to see what our cameras can capture. Please wear sturdy walking shoes or boots.

Sunday, August 10th

- 2:00 PM **Wilderness Survival** – Seven Sinkholes Trailhead – Join the ranger for a quick look into wilderness survival as we discuss various tips on how to survive in a worst-case scenario. We will talk about the best ways to get out and make a guide on what to do first.
- 6:00 PM **Photography Hike** – Picnic Area # 2 (located immediately atop the mountain on park roadway) – Grab your camera and join in as we discuss tips to take better photographs. We'll then head off along the Point Lookout Trail to see what our cameras can capture. Please wear sturdy walking shoes or boots.
- 8:30 PM **Night Canoe Trip** – Boat Ramp – Float down and meet the ranger for a great time on Cherokee Lake. We will provide the boats, paddles and lifejackets. You should bring a friend and call the Visitor's Center for reservations. **Limit 15 per trip. Please call 423-587-7046 for reservations.**

Wednesday, August 13th

- 9:00 AM **Fire Building** – Upper Campground Pavilion – Let's build a fire then learn how to be safe with fire around the woods.
- 1:00 PM **Nature Identification Hike** – Ranger Station – Join the Ranger on a hike along the Wagon Trail as we search for plants, trees, and wildlife. Test your outdoor knowledge and see if you can identify what we find during this fun and informative program.
- 2:00 PM **Canoe Trip** – Boat Ramp – Float down and meet the ranger for a great time on Cherokee Lake. We will provide the boats, paddles, and lifejackets. You should bring a friend and call the Visitor's Center for reservations. **Limit 15 per trip. Please call 423-587-7046 for reservations.**
- 3:00 PM **Wildlife Mystery Box** – Campground Amphitheater – Reach into our Wildlife Mystery Box to discover many interesting items that can be found only in nature during this fun, educational and interactive program for children.
- 6:00 PM **Snake Program** – Campground Amphitheater – Slither your way up to meet Wilbur the Corn Snake as we learn about the many great snakes of east Tennessee. We'll learn how snakes benefit the environment and us during this educational program.
- 7:00 PM **Tree Identification Hike** – Ranger Station – Is that a Hickory or a Maple tree? Come find out the difference and how to identify several of the most common trees of east Tennessee. Please wear sturdy walking shoes and bring drinking water.

Thursday, August 14th

- 9:00 AM **Canoe Trip** – Boat Ramp – Float down and meet the ranger for a great time on Cherokee Lake. We will provide the boats, paddles and lifejackets. You should bring a friend and call the Visitor’s Center for reservations. **Limit 15 per trip. Please call 423-587-7046 for reservations.**
- 11:00 AM **Creek Stomp** – Creek Observation Deck – Join us as we search for aquatic insects, fish, reptiles and anything else interesting we can find in and along the banks of Panther Creek. We will discuss what we find and determine the cleanliness of Panther Creek. Please wear water shoes and prepare to get wet.
- 1:30 PM **Animal Tracking** – Ranger Station – Is that a raccoon or opossum track? We’ll learn how to tell the difference as we cover the basics of track identification. Please wear old shoes, as we will be searching for tracks along the muddy banks of Panther Creek and Cherokee Lake.
- 3:00 PM **Cardio Hike** – Spoons Shelter Parking Lot – Join us for some mid-day exercise as we walk at a semi-brisk pace along the Ore Mine Trail. Please wear sturdy walking shoes and bring drinking water as this is a moderately difficult trail.
- 6:30 PM **Music in the Park** – Spoons Shelter – The West Hamblen Fire Department and the Friends of Panther Creek State Park will host the “Music in the Park” series at the Spoons Pavilion each Thursday this August. Anyone who would like to sing or play an instrument is welcome to join in the music making. This week we will feature a special performance by the Stony Creek Cloggers. This free family event will continue each Thursday this summer. Please join us for some good music, snacks and fun.

Friday, August 15th

- 9:00 AM **Geology Hike** – Seven Sinkholes Trailhead – Lets go on a geology hike along the Seven Sinkholes Trail to see and discuss some interesting geological formations.
- 11:00 AM **Outdoor Safety** – Creek Observation Deck – Let’s discuss what to do to stay safe in the outdoors and what you can do if you encounter a problem.
- 2:00 PM **Edible Plant Hike** – Ranger Station – Lets visit the great outdoor supermarket in search of edible wild plants, nuts and fruits. We’ll identify wild foods Native Americans and pioneers ate centuries ago as we take a leisurely stroll along the Wagon Trail.

Saturday, August 16th

- 9:00 AM **Nature Identification Hike** – Ranger Station – Join the Ranger on a hike along the Wagon Trail as we search for plants, trees, and wildlife. Test your outdoor knowledge and see if you can identify what we find during this fun and informative program.

Saturday, August 16th (Continued)

- 11:00 AM **Outdoor Guide**– Campground Amphitheater – Learn some skills you can use if you are out in the woods and also some general outdoor safety tips. We will also discuss how to start fires as well as some gear to carry with you outside.
- 2:00 PM **Norris Blackburn Trail Hike** – Norris Blackburn Trailhead – Lets use our senses to find wildlife along the Norris Blackburn Trail. This is a great trail with a moderately steep ascent to the park’s wildlife observation deck. Don’t forget to bring some water and wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots.

Sunday, August 17th

- 2:00 PM **Creek Stomp** – Creek Observation Deck – Join us as we search for aquatic insects, fish, reptiles and anything else interesting we can find in and along the banks of Panther Creek. We will discuss what we find and determine the cleanliness of Panther Creek. Please wear water shoes and prepare to get wet.
- 6:30 PM **Canoe Trip** – Boat Ramp – Float down and meet the ranger for a great time on Cherokee Lake. We will provide the boats, paddles and lifejackets. You should bring a friend and call the Visitor’s Center for reservations. **Limit 15 per trip. Please call 423-587-7046 for reservations.**
- 9:00 PM **Night Hike** – Seven Sinkholes Trail – Lets listen for things that go bump in the night. See if you can identify what makes those nighttime sounds. Meet the Ranger at the trailhead for this fun program. Remember to bring your flashlight and a friend!

SPECIAL NOTE: We work hard to make our programs both safe and fun! However, as with any outdoor activity, there is always a risk of personal discomfort or even personal injury. Please use your common sense and care whenever you enjoy activities in the Great Tennessee Outdoors.