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Indicate your membership category:

\$10 Individual \$15 Family \$25 Sponsor \$50 Super Sponsor \$100 Benefactor \$200 Big Benefactor \$500 Major Benefactor

Make check payable to **Friends of the Parks** and mail to:

Friends of the Parks, 1175 Hilltop Road, Indiana, PA 15701

Or, you may submit your membership via the internet by following steps 1 & 2 or by scanning this code:

1. Go to the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies website at: <https://cfalleghenies.fcsuite.com/erp/donate>

Scroll down the page to the search box and click on “Show all funds list”.

2. Scroll down to “Friends of the Parks (Indiana County) Fund”; click the blue “DONATE” button; and complete the form.



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Friends of the Parks 2024 Programs

This schedule available on-line at www.indianacountyparks.org by clicking on the Friends of the Parks link.

Date / Time	Location	Program Title / Speaker / Description
2/3/2024 Saturday 10:00 AM	Blue Spruce Park Lakeside Center	Hot Chocolate Walk - Barb Hauge & Ray Winstead - Join us for the Kickoff Event to learn the details of the 2024 Indiana County Decathlon series, followed by a winter walk with Barb or hand feeding the chickadees with Ray. Bring your sweetheart and warm up with a cup of Hot Chocolate. Easy walk on paved area and/or moderate walk on trails. Please dress appropriately for the winter weather.
2/10/2024 Saturday Luncheon: 12:00 PM Program: 1:00 PM	St. Andrew's Village: Conference Room, First Floor 	Denali National Park and Member Luncheon - Ron & Julie Fairman - This program will cover information about the amazing experience of living and working seasonally in the National Park, including information about how to obtain employment, and pros and cons of park life. Included will be photographs and short videos along with discussion about the beautiful scenery, wildlife, and recreational opportunities in the interior of Alaska, as well as the coastal areas. This presentation will be in conjunction with the annual Members' Luncheon, sponsored by InFirst Bank, Indiana, PA. Additional information about the luncheon will be provided in the FOP newsletter. Space will be limited and pre-registration will be required by calling 724-463-8636 before 2/2/2024.
2/24/2024 Saturday 10:00 AM	Indiana County Conservation District: Meeting Room, 435 Hamill Rd., Indiana, PA	Hugelkultur - Hill Gardening - Julie Baker - If you are interested in a sustainable, low-cost method of gardening and have poor soil and drainage, the centuries-old technique of Hügelkultur might be your answer. Join Penn State Master Gardener Julie Baker, as she instructs you on the technique of using logs and plant debris to develop a super-fertile, low maintenance raised bed for your vegetable and flower gardening. You may never go back to your old method of gardening again!
3/9/2024 Saturday 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Park Office at Loyalhanna Dam 440 Loyalhanna Dam Rd. Saltsburg, PA	Eagle Watch at Loyalhanna Dam - Lisa Meadows - Come join us to check out the Bald Eagles at Loyalhanna Dam. We will provide binoculars or bring your own to watch the eagles hanging out in the area. Come for a few minutes or stay the whole time. We will meet by the park office at Loyalhanna Dam. This is a weather dependent event, so if raining steadily or snowing, or below 32 degrees, this event will be cancelled. Best suited for adults, teens, and school age children, age 6 & up. Watch the Yellow Creek State Park Official DCNR Facebook page for the latest updates.
3/15/2024 Friday 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Learning Center	Big Night for Salamanders - Lisa Meadows - Cool, wet nights are a great time to see the salamander migration at Yellow Creek State Park. Come join us for a short presentation on our spring time salamanders and then drive to different sections of the park to check their migration to the vernal pools. Please dress for the weather, wear waterproof shoes, and bring a flashlight. This program is geared for ages 9 & up. Program is weather dependent with a back up date of 3/22/2024. Participation is limited. Pre-registration is required by emailing Lisa at limeadows@pa.gov with your name, email address, phone number, and number of participants (limit 4 per group). Registration starts after 2/26/2024.
3/16/2024 Saturday 10:00 AM	Blue Spruce Park Lakeside Center	Coffee Talk and Chickadee Path Walk - TJ Fairchild - TJ Fairchild, founder of Commonplace Coffeehouse, will share his extensive knowledge of coffee and his unique experiences in developing and operating coffee shops in our region. We will learn where coffee comes from, different types of coffee, and how to make a really good cup of coffee. After sampling some coffee we will take an easy walk in the park to visit the Chickadee Pathway to hand-feed the birds.
3/16/2024 Saturday 1:00 PM	Indiana Community Garden at Mack Park	How to Prune Your Fruit Trees and Shrubs - Charlie Venturella & Tom Nowak - Penn State Master Gardeners Tom Nowak and Charlie Venturella will teach the basics of pruning fruit trees and shrubs. Learn about various pruning techniques, as well as the use and care of pruning tools, on trees and shrubs at the Indiana Community Garden. Bring your pruning tools to try your hand at pruning. Dress warmly. Please pre-register by emailing icg15701@gmail.com or calling 724-422-0526 by 3/11/2024.
3/22/2024 Friday 6:00 PM	Blue Spruce Park Lodge	Yellowstone National Park - Ron & Julie Fairman - Yellowstone National Park is one of the most popular National Parks in the US. We will discuss our experience living and working seasonally inside the park. We will share photos and short videos of the spectacular wildlife, scenery, and thermal features unique to Yellowstone. We will include information on how to find seasonal employment opportunities and the hiring process, as well as the rewards of park life.
3/23/2024 Saturday 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM or 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Learning Center	Pysanki Eggs With a Twist - Matt Bartus - Join local artist, Matt Bartus, to learn about the Ukraine Method of dying Easter Eggs, known as Pysanki Eggs. Matt will show participants how to make these eggs using different methods. Participants will learn how to dye eggs using alcohol inks and rubbing alcohol. All materials will be provided for this class. The cost of this class is \$5/pp. Please bring cash. This program is geared for adults and kids, ages 10 & over. Space is limited so pre-registration is required by emailing Lisa at limeadows@pa.gov with name, phone number, email, and time selection: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM or 1:00 PM-3:00 PM. Registration will start after 2/19/2024.
4/1/2024 Monday 8:00 AM	On-Line	FOP and Penguin Court Native Plant Fundraiser - Buy Mom a plant for Mother's Day! Our website opens today for ordering native plants: https://friends-of-the-parks-plant-sale.square.site . The site will be open for ordering through 5/5/2024. Plant pick-up will be Saturday, 5/11/2024 from 9 AM - 12 PM. More info about the plant sale will be in the FOP Spring Newsletter.
4/6/2024 Saturday 9:30 AM	Yellow Creek State Park: Env. Learning Ctr.	Intro to Beekeeping - Nathan Williams - What you need to know about honey bees before you start your own hive.
4/8/2024 Monday 1:30 PM	Blue Spruce Park Lakeside Center	Solar Eclipse Learn & Watch - Blake Mauthe - On this day we will be having a solar eclipse. The plan for this program is to come out and learn about the ways the solar system works, how and why solar eclipses happen, and some other space related information. Then, after a short talk, hopefully we can catch a glimpse of the solar eclipse. Certified eclipse glasses will be available and required for all participants. This program is recommended for ages 9 and up. Pre-registration is required by calling 724-463-8636 by 4/5/2024.

Date / Time	Location	Program Title / Speaker / Description
4/12/2024 Friday 7:00 PM	Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Learning Center	Skydance: The Dance of the Woodcock - Lisa Meadows - Spring is in the air for one of PA's most unusual birds as the Woodcock starts its fascinating mating ritual by performing aerial acrobatics. Come join us for a short discussion and then a wildlife hike (up to 1 mile) to check out the awesome Woodcock at Yellow Creek State Park. Please wear hiking shoes, wear long pants, and dress for the weather. Bring a flashlight. This program is recommended for ages 8 & up. Program is weather dependent, with a back-up date of 4/18/2024. Pre-registration is required by emailing Lisa at limeadows@pa.gov with name, email, phone number, and number of participants by 4/11/2024.
4/20/2024 Saturday 2:00 PM	Blue Spruce Park Lodge	The Best of Hawaii: Oahu, The Big Island, Kauai, & Maui - Cindy Rogers & Rebecca Sterley - Learn about Island geology, a bit of history, royal life, Pearl Harbor, Kilauea caldera, Painted Church, Allerton Garden, helicopter views of Waimea Canyon and the Na Pali Cliffs, Road to Hana, Haleakala Crater, Hawaiian Luau, Poi Fire Spinners, flora, fauna, and more!
4/21/2024 Sunday 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Mother Earth Farm 4420 Warren Rd. Indiana, PA	Wine Cap Mushroom Cultivation Outdoors - Chloe Drew - Learn how to start a patch of wine cap mushrooms (<i>Stropharia rugoso-annulata</i>) in an outdoor environment. Participants will help with the creation of a mushroom patch to learn step-by-step how to create their own at home. Participants will be able to take home wine cap mycelium to start their own patch after the program. This program is led by outdoor educator/vegetable farmer Chloe Drew, a citizen mycologist in training who completed the Community Mushroom Educator course through Cornell University. Suitable for children ages 7 and up; children under 12 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Please pre-register by contacting Chloe at chloedrew@gmail.com by 4/14/2024.
4/28/2024 Sunday 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Yellow Creek State Park Office	Spring Wildflower Walk - Melissa Reckner - Identify and learn fun facts about spring wildflowers as we stroll along the approximately 1 mile Laurel Run Trail at Yellow Creek State Park. The trail can be wet and muddy. Waterproof hiking shoes/boots and rain gear are recommended. Please pre-register by emailing Melissa at mreckner@brandywine.org by 4/26/2024.
5/4/2024 Saturday 11:00 AM	Indiana County Conservation District Meeting Room 435 Hamill Rd. Indiana, PA	Getting the Most Out of Your Backyard Garden: Seed Starting and Small-Scale Solutions - Alexis Shank - Join us for a family-friendly workshop (with breakout activities for children) focused on how to maximize the productivity of your backyard garden. Learn how to start seeds for both in-ground and transplanted crops. Discover the benefits of using timetables, plant spacing, and small-scale solutions such as layering, companion planting, and vertical growing to maximize your garden's productivity. Participants will take home a small selection of pre-grown seedlings, seed packets, and a seed starting kit. Please pre-register by emailing Alexis Shank at a.shank@iccdpa.org with your name, email, phone number, and number of adults and children by 4/26/2024.
5/12/2024 Sunday 2:00 PM	Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Learning Center	Mother's Day Walk and Tea - Cindy Rogers - Take a walk to learn about local flowers and “weeds” and their edible and medicinal uses. Then enjoy some of those “weeds” in tasty treats. Dress for the weather: if raining hard it will be an indoor slide show; if light drizzle we will do the walk. Please pre-register by emailing Cindy Rogers at rogers944@comcast.net by 5/6/2024.
5/15/2024 Wednesday 5:15 PM - 6:30 PM	Yellow Creek State Park North Shore Pavilion	Spring Tree Walk with a Forester - Chris Fatzinger - Enjoy a walk with hosts Lisa Meadows, Environmental Education Specialist for Yellow Creek State Park, and Chris Fatzinger, Service Forester for Gallitzin Forest District. The walk will be approximately 1-2 miles through forest & field. It will take 1.25 hours and will start at the North Shore Pavilion. Please join Chris as he teaches the basics of native plant and invasive plant identification, wildlife habitat strategies, timber management, and forest ecology. Please wear hiking shoes, long pants, and bring water. Bug spray is recommended. Program is weather dependent. Please check the Yellow Creek Facebook Page for updates if there are weather concerns.
5/23/2024 Thursday 6:00 PM	Buttermilk Falls Trailhead 570 Valley Brook Rd. New Florence, PA	Sweater Walk - Ed Patterson & Barb Hauge - Wear a sweater like Mr. Rogers and join us to celebrate his life and legacy. On our walk we will learn about the significance that Buttermilk Falls played in shaping the outlook of Fred Rogers of children's television fame.
5/25/2024 Saturday 1:30 PM	Yellow Creek State Park Office	Salamander Safari - Lisa Meadows - Join the Park Educator, Lisa Meadows, to explore Laurel Run for salamanders and other critters. Wear shoes that can get wet. It's great fun for the whole family. Program is weather dependent and space is limited. Pre-registration will start after 5/1/2024. Pre-registration is required by emailing Lisa at limeadows@pa.gov with your name, phone number, email, and number of participants (not to exceed 5 per group) by 5/23/2024. Program is weather dependent. Please check the Yellow Creek Facebook Page for updates if there are weather concerns.
6/1/2024 Saturday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Blue Spruce Park: Activities Throughout the Park	Family Nature Palooza Day - CAC - The Children's Advisory Commission is sponsoring a fun day at Blue Spruce Park. Entire families are welcome: outside hiking & biking, live animals, games, fishing, chances to win prizes, and many more outside activities. Pre-registration is encouraged. To register go to: www.childrensadvisorycommission.org or call 724-463-8200 ext. 8.
6/8/2024 Saturday 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Yellow Creek State Park North Shore Pavilion	Women's Intro to Fly Fishing - Barrie Mann & Ken Sink Chapter of Trout Unlimited - Many women are curious about fly fishing but may not be comfortable going out on their own. Here's your chance to learn how to fly fish with our local experts. Learn how to set up a fly rod/rig, tie special knots, match the hatch & select the right fly, and how to cast. All equipment provided. If you have your own waders or wading boots, please bring them. Dress for the weather, bring water & snack, sunscreen recommended. Opportunity to practice our skills on the lake for panfish. Program is for women & girls, age 12 & over. The cost is \$15/pp. Pre-register for program: email Lisa at limeadows@pa.gov after 5/1/2024.
6/15/2024 Saturday 5:00 PM	Indiana Community Garden at Mack Park	What's Wrong With My Garden Plant and What Can I Do About It? - Indiana Community Garden & Indiana County Conservation District - Learn how to diagnose problems in your garden caused by common pests, diseases, and growing conditions such as weather or nutrient deficiencies. Discover strategies to help minimize problems so you can grow healthier, more productive plants. Feel free to bring photos showing problems you have had with garden plants. Please pre-register by emailing the Indiana Community Garden at icg15701@gmail.com or calling 724-422-0526 by 6/10/2024.

Date / Time	Location	Program Title / Speaker / Description
6/22/2024 Saturday 2:00 PM	Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Learning Center	Spectacular Slithers - <i>Jessica Marron</i> - Curious about snakes and PA reptiles? Learn all about PA snakes, turtles, and lizards from the Penns Manor Ag Science Teacher, Jessica Marron, through this interactive presentation with her pet reptiles. She will compare and contrast her reptiles with PA reptiles. This is your opportunity to see and touch snakes and other reptiles up close and personal. This program is geared for school age children and families, as well as individuals interested in learning more about our reptile friends. Pre-registration is required. Please email Lisa Meadows at limeadows@pa.gov after 5/26/2024 with your name, email, phone number, and number of attendees. Group size is limited to 4.
7/10/2024 Wednesday 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Blue Spruce Park Pavilion #2	Summer Edible and Medicinal Plant Walk - <i>Dana Driscoll</i> - Join us on an interactive walk to learn about 15-20 edible and medicinal plants that are in-season during the summer months. The plant walk will include the ethics, best practices, and tools of wild food and medicine foraging. The walk will also cover plant identification practices, botany, and plant and local ecology. We will place a special emphasis on harvesting invasive plants as well as reciprocating care for the local ecosystem. Plants covered in this walk include monarda, willow, hawthorn, wood nettle, elderberry, mayapple, jewelweed, spruce, plantain, and many more! Please have appropriate footwear for light hiking and bring bug spray. The walk will be cancelled in the event of an active thunderstorm.
7/13/2024 Saturday 10:00 AM	Donley Property 1243 Five Points Rd. Indiana, PA	Landscaping for Wildlife with Native Plants - <i>Ed Donley</i> - Experience a home landscape that is designed to benefit wildlife, including ponds, meadows, flower beds, and a bog garden. Learn how native plants support pollinators, caterpillars, birds, and small mammals. Discover ways to make your own suburban or rural landscape an integral part of nature's food web. Take home some free native flower seedlings to enhance your garden. Please pre-register by emailing Ed at hedonley@iup.edu or calling the county park office at 724-463-8636.
7/17/2024 Wednesday 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM	Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Learning Center	Turtle Talk - <i>Blake Mauthe</i> - Join ICCD Americorp member Blake to learn about our native turtles! Not only is this event informative but we also would like to bring out a few of our turtle friends & more to join this talk! We hope you join us to get up close and personal with some species that are native and species that are closely related! Please pre-register by emailing Lisa Meadows at limeadows@pa.gov by 7/16/2024.
7/27/2024 Saturday 11:00 AM	Yellow Creek State Park Picnic Grove (First parking lot past Park Office on the right side)	The Whiskey Rebellion in Indiana County - <i>Katie Gaudreau</i> - What was the Whiskey Rebellion? Was it really over whiskey or was something else the problem? Through a living history presentation, find out how and why Indiana County residents joined other Western Pennsylvanians in rebellion. Families are welcome. Please bring lawn chairs to sit on.
8/15/2024 Thursday 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Yellow Creek State Park Lakeview Pavilion	Summer Wildflower Walk - <i>Melissa Reckner</i> - Enjoy a casual stroll along the Ridgetop Trail at Yellow Creek State Park while identifying and learning fun facts about wildflowers found along the way. Please dress for the weather and hiking. Bug spray is suggested. Please pre-register by emailing Melissa at mreckner@brandywine.org by 8/13/2024.
8/26/2024 Monday 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Yellow Creek State Park Lakeview Pavilion	Fall Edible and Medicinal Plant Walk - <i>Dana Driscoll</i> - Join us on an interactive walk to learn about 15-20 edible and medicinal plants that are in-season during the fall months. The plant walk will include the ethics, best practices, and tools of wild food and medicine foraging. The walk will also cover plant identification practices, botany, and plant and local ecology. We will place a special emphasis on harvesting invasive plants as well as reciprocating care for the local ecosystem. Plants covered in this walk include oak (acorns), hickory, spicebush, autumn olive, wild grape, witch hazel, wintergreen, partridgeberry, goldenrod, and many more! Please have appropriate footwear for light hiking and bring bug spray. The walk will be cancelled in the event of an active thunderstorm.
9/19/2024 Thursday 6:45 PM	Blue Spruce Park Lakeside Center	Whose That Hoot? Owl Prowl at Blue Spruce Park - <i>Lisa Meadows</i> - Curious about owls? Join Park Educator, Lisa Meadows, to learn all about owls of Southwestern PA. After a short program on owls, we will head out into the park to look and listen for owls that live around Blue Spruce Park. Please dress to be outside and bring a flashlight. This is a general public program for adults, teens, and kids, age 7 & up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. This program is weather dependent. If raining steadily, this program will be cancelled and rescheduled. Check the Yellow Creek Facebook Page for updates if there are weather concerns.
10/5/2024 Saturday 1:30 PM	Yellow Creek State Park Lakeview Pavilion	Electrofishing at Yellow Creek - <i>Dave Janetski</i> - Join IUP's Dave Janetski to learn about Yellow Creek's local fish populations and common sampling methods. Help to electroshock live fish! Electroshocking is a safe and effective way to survey fish populations and learn about stream health. All ages welcome, but only individuals, age 12 & up can help with electrofishing. If under 18, you must attend with an adult. Please bring your own waders or high rubber boots, if you have them. If you would like to electrofish and need waders, please note shoe size at registration. Space is limited and will require pre-registration after 9/10/2024 by emailing Lisa Meadows at limeadows@pa.gov with name, phone, email, and group size (limit 4) by 10/1/2024.
10/19/2024 Saturday 10:00 AM	Yellow Creek State Park Lakeview Pavilion Day Use Area	Fall Tree Walk - <i>Mike Tyree</i> - Join Friends of the Parks for a guided Tree Walk at Yellow Creek State Park to see the beautiful color of Indiana County. Pennsylvania is considered to be one of the premier places to see fall colors at their peak. Dr. Tyree will guide park visitors on a moderately challenging, hilly hike on Ridgetop Trail for approximately two miles. Please wear long pants and hiking shoes. Dress for the weather. Bring water and light snack. This program is weather dependent. We will meet at Lakeview Pavilion in the Day Use Area. Please watch the Yellow Creek State Park - DCNR Facebook page if the weather is questionable for the latest updates.

Information About the Programs

Who can attend the programs? We welcome both families and individuals.

Must I pre-register? Yes, due to restrictions on group size, some 2024 programs have pre-registration requirements. Please email the address or call the number indicated in the program description to pre-register. If a program is cancelled, we will make every effort to contact those registered. Since most programs will be smaller, if you can't attend after pre-registering, please contact us so that we can give your space to someone else.

How long are the programs and how should I dress? Programs usually last from 1 to 2 hours, unless noted. Dress appropriately for the outdoors and for walking. Most programs are held regardless of the weather.

Is there a fee? Programs are offered free of charge unless otherwise indicated.

How do I get there? Directions to various program locations are available at indianacountyparks.org. Follow the link to Friends of the Parks or get directions to program sites by calling 724-463-8636.

Friends of the Parks is a volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality environmental education programs in the Indiana County Parks & Trails and Yellow Creek State Park.

For additional information about a program, contact:

For Yellow Creek State Park Programs:
limeadows@pa.gov

Additional program listings for Yellow Creek can be found at:
<https://www.facebook.com/yellowcreekSP>

For Indiana County Parks & Trails Programs:
(724) 463-8636 indparks@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Friends-of-the-Parks-100064881660015>

Our newsletters and schedule are available under "Friends of the Parks" at www.indianacountyparks.org or by scanning this code:

Support for Friends of the Parks comes from organizations, businesses, and individuals like yourself who care about quality environmental programming for Indiana County. Your support is vital to helping us accomplish our goal.



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Indiana County Parks Yellow Creek State Park

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2024 Program Schedule



FRIENDS OF THE PARKS

1128 Blue Spruce Road

Indiana, PA 15701