

HOCKING HILLS STATE PARK NATURALIST PROGRAMS



Annual Events 2025

All programs are subject to change. Notify the naturalist if special accommodations are needed for your participation. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

January 18th - 59th Winter Hike

Continuous starts from 9am-11am

Enjoy this challenging 6-mile hike from Old Man's Cave to Ash Cave. Remember to dress for the weather. Refreshments are available at Cedar Falls and Ash Cave for a donation. A shuttle will return you to your parking lot from Ash Cave.

March 8-9 Maple Sugaring in the Hills. 12-4pm

Join us at the Historic Cabin behind the Old Man's Cave Visitor Center. Take a step back in time to see how maple sugar has been processed over the years. We will have a local producer on site selling their delicious goods.

April 21-26 Week of Spring Wildflowers Hike 10am

Join us for our weeklong hiking series to observe the beautiful spring wildflower display. Hikes will occur across the park.

Monday, April 21 10am: Fire tower to Ash Cave hike

Join us for an approximately 2-mile round trip hike from the Ash Cave Fire Tower to Ash Cave and back. Meet us at the Ash Cave Fire Tower Parking lot on 374 S for a meander over rolling hills to find a variety of native wildflowers! Be prepared for a possibly muddy hike.

Tuesday, April 22 10am: Rose Lake hike

Join us for an approximately 2.5-mile round trip hike around Rose Lake. Meet us at the Rose Lake Fisherman's Parking Lot on 374 S for a hike along the edge of Rose Lake. We will have to look out for roots and rocks along the edge of the lake.

Wednesday, April 23 10am: Whispering Cave hike

Join us for an approximately 2-mile round trip hike down past Whispering Cave to the Hemlock Bridge and back. Meet us at the Hiker's Pavilion at the Hocking Hills Lodge. This hike will be rugged and rocky. Be prepared for inclines up and down the hill.

Thursday, April 24 10am: Cedar Falls hike



Recreation programs and activities can be inherently dangerous. Participants accept and acknowledge that any injury or property damage that occurs during a program or activity is not the responsibility of ODNR or its naturalist educators.

Join us for a 1-mile round trip hike around Cedar Falls. Meet us at Trailhead H at the Cedar Falls parking lot. This hike will contain stairs and rocks that we will have to navigate over.

Friday, April 25 10am: Conkle's Hollow gorge hike

Join us for a 1-mile round trip through the gorge at nearby Conkle's Hollow State Nature Preserve. Meet us at Conkle's Hollow parking lot. This will be a paved trail with steps at the far end. Pets are not allowed on this hike.

Saturday, April 26 10am: Ash Cave hike

Join us for a ½ mile round trip hike to Ash Cave and back. Meet us at Trail O at the Ash Cave parking lot. One half of this hike will be paved and the second half of this hike will include stairs and roots.

October 11 Grandma Gatewood Fall Color Hike 9am

Join us for our seasonal fall colors hike and take in the scenery along the Grandma Gatewood trail. We will be hiking roughly 6-miles on this trail from Old Man's Cave to Cedar Falls and back. This hike is rated difficult, please dress for the fall weather and terrain.

October 24 Halloween Night Hike Ash Cave 7pm

Join us at the Ash Cave parking lot for a spooky lantern lit hike to Ash Cave.

December 13- Christmas in Ash Cave 5-7pm

Come celebrate the season with us in Ash Cave. Take a candlelit stroll to Ohio's largest recessed cave. Enjoy seasonal activities and a visit with Santa himself.



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