

BREAKING OUT

State park readies summer programs

Head to Paris Mountain for a creek hike, or become a park detective

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Send the kids — and yourself — into the woods this summer to participate in two nature programs at Paris Mountain State Park.

On weekdays this summer at 10 a.m., from June 5 to Aug. 14, all ages can participate in a 1-mile “Creek Ranger” hike.

The hike is a park ranger-accompanied walk to Mountain Creek and back. Participants should wear shoes that can get wet as hikers search for animals and their homes along the way.

After the hike, a close-up look under a microscope, and a water-quality assessment, will give participants a more in-depth perspective.

Hikes begin at the picnic flats parking lot, the first lot on the left after entering the park, and takes approximately two hours. Completion of the hike earns participants a Stewardship Ranger card.

The hike is offered to groups Monday through Thursday and to families on most Fridays.

The fee for groups varies by the number of participants. Call the park for the fee schedule.

For families on Fridays, the fee is \$5 per person, payable at the fee booth in place of admission.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Nature detectives

Children ages 8-11 can be Nature Detectives this summer during one-day camps at Paris Mountain State Park.

The first camp is the “Nature Detective in the Forest.” Participants will spend a day with a ranger, using “detective skills” to get to know forest creatures and their habitats.

Activities include a forest scavenger hunt, a 1-square-meter investigation of the forest, use of clues to identify forest inhabitants, and use of the

park lab’s Enviroscope.

Everyone takes home helpful tools for nature detectives in the forest.

The second camp, “Nature Detective in the Creek,” again has participants spend the day with a ranger. This time, they use detective skills to get to know creek creatures and their habitats.

Activities include getting in the creek to do a stream water quality investigation, looking for clues left by the park’s beavers, games, and a craft. Everyone takes home helpful tools for nature detectives in the creek.

The “Forest” camp is July 21 and the “Creek” camp is July 30. Registration is open now. Both camps run from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

WANT MORE?

For more information and registration, call the park office at: 864-244-5565, or e-mail Interpretive Ranger Cathy Taylor at: ctaylor@scprt.com

Paris Mountain State Park is located off S.C. Highway 253 (State Park Road), six miles north of downtown Greenville. Admission is \$2 for ages 16-64 and \$1.25 for S.C. seniors and disabled people. Children under age 16 are not charged admission.

Each camp costs \$25 and is limited to 16 participants. The fee is payable in advance with a completed registration form. To obtain a form, visit: www.pmspf.org