

South Cove County Park to host National Hunting and Fishing Day





South Cove County Park is hosting National Hunting and Fishing Day for the first time from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 22.

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR
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SENECA — It's hard to top a day in the outdoors, but even harder to beat a free one. South Cove County Park is hosting National Hunting and Fishing Day for the first time from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 22.

"We are very excited about this event," South Cove County Park superintendent Stephen Schutt said. "It will be about a mid-range event for us. Our 'Boo by the Lake' is, of course, our biggest event. We hope that we will see good numbers for our first year and that we will see it grow year to year."

Duke Energy hosted the event two years ago at the World

of Energy at Oconee Nuclear Station.

"The South Carolina Wildlife Federation came to us, and Duke Energy was hosting it at their site, and then last year they decided not to, so it was not held last year," Schutt said. "South Carolina Wildlife Federation and DNR came to us and asked us if we would host it, and we did. It's been a lot of planning since then."

Schutt said the park is expecting up to 1,600 people, right around the number that Duke Energy was getting for its past events.

"They've been looking for a location here in the Upstate and our facilities with the proximity to Lake Keowee is a

great location, so we're excited to host that," Oconee parks, recreation and tourism director Phil Shirley said. "We've got a bunch of stuff that day out at South Cove."

The event is hosting a multitude of free activities including air-rifle shooting, archery, camo hide-and-seek, kayaking, fishing and other events.

"Bring your family, bring your friends and just have a great day out here," Schutt said. "We'll have people parking you, and we'll have all the events set up. There's kayaking, the DNR fishing program will be putting a net across the lake and releasing catfish inside that net so the kids can catch the catfish. They are going to have archery

set up for the kids. They're going to have some fly-tying classes and some fly-casting classes. They're going to have some wildlife species out here. They're going to have air-rifle shooting, all kinds of stuff."

With South Cove holding the event for the first time, it will be the only event in South Carolina recognizing the day. Schutt noted that several organizations will also be on hand to celebrate the day.

"This is the only National Hunting and Fishing Day event in the state of South Carolina," he said. "The state of South Carolina's National Hunting and Fishing Day is being held at South Cove. They're bringing in resources from DNR



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all over the state. The South Carolina Wildlife Federation, the 4-H Clemson Extension, I know I'm missing people. There's a whole list of people that are going to be out here — Travel Unlimited, the Quail Forever, there's going to be a whole bunch of organizations out here."

There will be options for food on site, as well as the choice to bring lunch to the park.

"We do have the food trucks, so we'd love for them to plan on eating lunch," Shirley said. "People are certainly welcome to bring picnics. We've got plenty of space."

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