

Intro to Snowshoeing

Saturday, January 23, 2016
10:00 a.m.

Park Office
Mingo Creek Park

Join the Washington County Parks and Recreation staff for snowshoe instruction followed by a hike on modern snowshoes. We'll enjoy the brisk winter air, look for animal tracks and perhaps even see animals that are active in winter. Please dress appropriately for the weather and hiking. There will need to be at least 4 inches of snow to have this program. If there is not enough snow a hike will be offered. Snow shoes are limited.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Snowshoeing at Sunset

Friday, January 29, 2016
5:00 p.m.

Park Office
Mingo Creek Park

Enjoy the beauty of a winter sunset on snowshoes! Join the Washington County Parks and Recreation staff for snowshoe instruction followed by a hike on modern snowshoes. Please dress appropriately for the weather and hiking. There will need to be at least 4 inches of snow to have this program. If there is not enough snow a hike will be offered. Snow shoes are limited.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Preschool at the Park: Groundhogs are Great!

Tuesday, February 2, 2016
Session I - 10:00 a.m.
Session II - 1:00 p.m.

Park Office
Mingo Creek Park
(Ages 3-5)

Join us on Groundhog Day to learn about Pennsylvania's favorite groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil. Participants will learn the history of Groundhog Day and Phil's predictions for this upcoming spring. A short hike to locate a groundhog den will also be taken. Dress appropriately.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Needle & Yarn Craft Workshop

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Park Office

Mingo Creek Park

Mingo Creek Park Needle and Yarn is one of the longest running programs sponsored by the Washington County Parks Department. At the Needle and Yarn workshop, crafters gather to share ideas and complete a new craft each month.

Coffee and snacks are provided.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

FEE: Minimal

Valentine's Night Walk

Friday, February 12, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Shelter 4

Mingo Creek Park

Bring your sweetie or the entire family for a luminary lit walk on a portion of the paved walking trail in Mingo Creek Park. The walk will conclude with a bright-n-cozy campfire and a hot cup of cocoa. Dress for the weather.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

NO FEE

Intro to Snowshoeing

Saturday, February 20, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Park Office

Mingo Creek Park

Join the Washington County Parks and Recreation staff for snowshoe instruction followed by a hike on modern snowshoes. We'll enjoy the brisk winter air, look for animal tracks and perhaps even see animals that are active in winter. Please dress appropriately for the weather and hiking. There will need to be at least 4 inches of snow to have this program. If there is not enough snow a hike will be offered. Snow shoes are limited.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

NO FEE

Snowshoeing at Sunset

Friday, February 26, 2016
5:00 p.m.

Park Office
Mingo Creek Park

Enjoy the beauty of a winter sunset on snowshoes! Join the Washington County Parks and Recreation staff for snowshoe instruction followed by a hike on modern snowshoes. Please dress appropriately for the weather and hiking. There will need to be at least 4 inches of snow to have this program. If there is not enough snow a hike will be offered. Snow shoes are limited.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Preschool in the Park: Shamrock Scramble

Tuesday, March 1, 2016
Session I – 10:00 a.m.
Session II – 1:00 p.m.

Park Office
Mingo Creek Park

Come to Mingo Creek Park and enjoy a special St. Patrick's Day snack and craft before heading out on a small hike to find some fields of green clovers. Please dress appropriately.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
FEE: \$2.00

Home Outdoor Classroom: Intro to Geocaching

Thursday, March 3, 2016
Session I – 10:00 a.m.
Session II – 1:00 p.m.

Park Office
Mingo Creek Park

Get off the couch and come learn the basic instructions of Geocaching. Join us and learn how to search for hidden treasures using a hand held GPS. A Washington County Parks and Recreation staff member will provide instruction to get us started. We will go off in search of caches hidden at Mingo Creek Park. Dress for weather and moderate hiking. If you have a hand held GPS, bring it along. A limited number of hand held GPS units will be available for use.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Cache Me if you Can

Saturday, March 5, 2016
10:00 a.m.

Park Office
Mingo Creek Park

This is a great opportunity to discover Geocaching and learn the basics of this fun, recreational activity. Join us as we search for hidden treasures (caches) in Mingo Creek Park using a handheld Global Positioning Device (GPS). We will have a limited number of GPS units to utilize, but if you have a handheld device in which you can enter latitude and longitude coordinates or an equipped smartphone, feel free to bring it along with you.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Maple Sugaring – Sugarbush Tour & Breakfast

Saturday, March 19, 2016
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Shelter 6 & Park Office
Mingo Creek Park

Join the Washington County Department of Parks & Recreation staff for a tasty tour of Mingo Creek Park's Sugarbush. Discover techniques used to turn maple tree sap into 100% pure maple syrup. Historical demonstrations, modern day sap collecting methods, and evaporation secrets will be shared. The program will conclude with a pancake breakfast served with pure Mingo Creek Syrup, sausage, and a drink at the Park Office. Tours begin every ½ hour. Group size is limited to 20 per tour.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
FEE: \$2.00 per person

Preschool in the Park: Tree-mendous Trees

Tuesday, April 5, 2016
Wednesday, April 6, 2016
Session 1 – 10:00 a.m.
Session II – 1:00 p.m.

Shelter 6
Mingo Creek Park

Preschoolers will be participating in activities all while learning interesting facts involving the trees that call Mingo Creek Park their home. A hike will take place to observe trees and other sights. Please dress accordingly.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Flight of the Timberdoodle

Tuesday, April 5, 2016
7:30 p.m.

Shelter 6
Mingo Creek Park

Tag along as we search for the American Woodcock in Mingo Creek Park. Woodcock are also known as timberdoodle, bog sucker, and big-eyed snipe. As dusk approaches, we will be listening for the “insect-like” peenting of the male woodcock and watching the evening sky to observe its twilight courtship flight. Dress for the weather and moderate hiking. Weather permitting.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Homeschool Outdoor Classroom: Eco Day

Thursday, April 7, 2016
Session I – 10:00 a.m.
Session II – 1:00 p.m.

Park Office
Mingo Creek Park
(Ages 5-11)

Let's celebrate Earth Day! Join us as we take part in a variety of activities to help the students learn about the effects of pollution on the environment and how to prevent and dispose of pollutants. The children will take part in a pollution activity. A short “pitch in” hike will be included at the end of the program.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Great PA Clean Up

Saturday, April 9, 2016
10:00 a.m. Mingo Creek Park – Shelter 4
10:00 a.m. Cross Creek Park – Shelter 3

Individuals, families, and organized groups are invited to join the Parks & Recreation Staff for the Great PA Clean Up at Mingo Creek and Cross Creek Parks. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. Grilled hot dogs and a bottle of water will be provided.

Pre-registration required.
Organized groups welcome.
NO FEE

Star Party

Saturday, April 9, 2016

Dusk

Observatory

Mingo Creek Park

View the moon, planets and outer space in 2016 at the Mingo Creek Observatory. Scheduled public Star Parties will be provided by the Amateur Astronomers of Pittsburgh April – October. Bring your friends and family to discover the wonders of the heavens in Mingo Creek Park. Events will begin at dusk and viewing will take place as long as there is a partly clear sky. For more information about the Mingo Creek Observatory, visit www.3ap.org.

NO FEE

Flight of the Timberdoodle

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

7:30 p.m.

Shelter 3

Cross Creek Park

Tag along as we search for the American Woodcock in Cross Creek Park. Woodcock are also known as timberdoodle, bog sucker, and big-eyed snipe. As dusk approaches, we will be listening for the “insect-like” peenting of the male woodcock and watching the evening sky to observe the twilight courtship flight. Dress for the weather and moderate hiking. Weather permitting.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

NO FEE

Needle & Yarn Craft Workshop

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Park Office

Mingo Creek Park

Mingo Creek Park Needle and Yarn is one of the longest running programs sponsored by the Washington County Parks Department. At the Needle and Yarn workshop, crafters gather to share ideas and complete a new craft each month.

Coffee and snacks are provided.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

FEE: Minimal

Jr. Girl Scout Badge Program: Geocaching

Tuesday, April 19, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Shelter 4
Mingo Creek Park

Bring your Junior Girl Scout Troop to Mingo Creek Park to meet the requirements to earn their Geocaching badge. The Washington County Department of Parks and Recreation will provide the activities and materials needed; scout leaders will supply the badge. Wear comfortable hiking gear, as this activity is held outdoors. Space is limited.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Jeepers Peepers

Wednesday, April 20, 2016
8:00 p.m.

Shelter 3
Cross Creek Park

Come along with us in search of the amazingly musical Spring Peepers frogs. We will be searching breeding pools and wetland areas to hear, see, and perhaps catch these tiny tree frogs. Dress for hiking and the weather. Rubber boots and flashlights are recommended.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Hunting Morel Mushrooms

Thursday, April 28, 2016
6:30 p.m.

Shelter 10
Mingo Creek Park

Lace up a sturdy pair of hiking shoes, grab a collecting bag and a walking stick as we strike off in search of morel mushrooms in Mingo Creek Park. Learn where to search for these tasty spring mushrooms. Boots, long pants, and long-sleeved shirts are recommended.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Brownie Badge Program: Bugs

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Shelter 4

Mingo Creek Park

Bring your Brownie Girl Scout Troop to Mingo Creek Park to meet the requirements needed to earn their Bug Badge. The Washington County Department of Parks and Recreation will provide the activities; scout leaders will supply the badge. Wear comfortable outdoor clothing and shoes. This is an outdoor activity.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

NO FEE

Hunting Morel Mushrooms

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Parking Area across from Hopewell

Diner on Route 844

Cross Creek Park

Lace up a sturdy pair of hiking shoes; grab a collecting bag and a walking stick as we strike off in search of morel mushrooms in Cross Creek Park. Learn where to search for these tasty spring mushrooms. Boots, long pants, and long-sleeved shirts are recommended.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

NO FEE

Yoga in the Park

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Shelter 10

Mingo Creek Park

Join us for an evening of relaxation and rejuvenation as we enjoy yoga in the park. This is an introductory class, but we welcome all skill levels to participate. The class will be led by a certified yoga instructor. Bring along a yoga mat or beach towel.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

FEE: \$5.00

Star Party

Friday, May 6, 2016
Saturday, May 7, 2016
Dusk

Observatory
Mingo Creek Park

View the moon, planets and outer space in 2016 at the Mingo Creek Observatory. Scheduled public Star Parties will be provided by the Amateur Astronomers of Pittsburgh April – October. Bring your friends and family to discover the wonders of the heavens in Mingo Creek Park. Events will begin at dusk and viewing will take place as long as there is a partly clear sky. For more information about the Mingo Creek Observatory visit www.3ap.org.
NO FEE

Preschool at the Park: Salamander Tales

Tuesday, May 10, 2016
Wednesday, May 11, 2016
Session I – 10:00 a.m.
Session II – 1:00 p.m.

Shelter 6
Mingo Creek Park
(Ages 3-5)

Preschoolers will slish along with the park staff in search of salamanders that call the tributaries of Mingo Creek home. You'll need water shoes or rubber boots, quick hands, and a keen eye as we search for these four legged amphibians. A change of clothes is recommended.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Salamander Search

Thursday, May 12, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Shelter 4 Parking Area
Mingo Creek Park

Explore the soggy spring seeps, rivulets, and tributaries of Mingo Creek to discover salamanders that call the park home. Habitat preference, tips to safely collect these delicate amphibians, and identification tips will be shared. Dress for the weather. Rubber boots are recommended. Your feet may get wet, and your hands will get dirty.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Family Campout - Mingo Creek Park

Friday, May 13, 2016

Set up may begin as early as 4:00 p.m.

Shelter 8

Mingo Creek Park

Spend an evening in Mingo Creek Park camping under the star-filled skies. As night falls, we'll be cooking hot dogs, roasting marshmallows, and spending time around the campfire. We'll prepare a simple campfire breakfast Saturday morning. Bring your own tent and camping supplies. For newbies, the park staff will be available to help set up tents.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

FEE: \$5.00 per campsite

Evening Paddle (Kayaking)

Thursday, May 19, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Lynn Portal Rd. Parking Area

Cross Creek Park

Discover flat water kayaking on Cross Creek Lake with the Parks & Recreation Staff. Join us for an evening of outdoor recreation that is sure to be fun, invigorating, and relaxing, all while enjoying the outdoors in Washington County.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

NO FEE

Evening Archery for Beginners

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Shelter 6

Mingo Creek Park

Join NASP instructor Sarah Sandin for an evening of archery in Mingo Creek Park. Participants will learn the basics of shooting archery, including parts of the bow, shooting techniques, and safety on the range. Participants of all levels are welcome. Must be at least 10 years of age to participate.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

NO FEE

Yoga in the Park

Wednesday, June 1, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Shelter 10
Mingo Creek Park

Join us for an evening of relaxation and rejuvenation as we enjoy yoga in the park. This is an introductory class, but we welcome all skill levels to participate. The class will be led by a certified yoga instructor. Bring along a yoga mat or beach towel.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
FEE: \$5.00

Family Campout – Cross Creek Park

Friday, June 3, 2016
Set up may begin as early as 4:00 p.m.

Shelter 3
Cross Creek Park

Spend an evening lakeside and under the star filled skies with your family in Cross Creek Park. We'll be cooking hot dogs, roasting marshmallows, and enjoying the outdoors around the campfire. We'll prepare a simple campfire breakfast Saturday morning. Bring your own tent and camping supplies.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
FEE: \$5.00 per campsite

Preschool at the Park: Creek Stompers

Tuesday, June 7, 2016
Wednesday, June 8, 2016
Session I – 10:00 a.m.
Session II – 1:00 p.m.

Shelter 4
Mingo Creek Park
(Ages 3-5)

Nets ready, preschoolers? Be prepared to get a bit wet as we search Mingo Creek for aquatic insects, crayfish, and small fish. We'll provide the nets and containers. Bring water shoes and a change of clothes.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Banding Songbirds

Wednesday, June 8, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Shelter 9
Mingo Creek Park

Would you like to learn more about our local songbirds? Join us at Mingo Creek Park to learn about a new research project that is documenting the breeding status of the many bird species that call Mingo Creek Park home. A short discussion will be followed by a moderate hike to the bird banding location.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Gills on the Fly

Thursday, June 9, 2016
6:30 p.m.

Shelter 3
Cross Creek Park

Try your hand at catching panfish on a fly rod. This is a great introduction for those who are curious about fly fishing. We'll cover the basics of fly fishing and do a bit of practice casting in the grassy area near the shelter before heading to the lake.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Star Party

Friday, June 10, 2016
Saturday, June 11, 2016
Dusk

Observatory
Mingo Creek Park

View the moon, planets and outer space in 2016 at the Mingo Creek Observatory. Scheduled public Star Parties will be provided by the Amateur Astronomers of Pittsburgh April – October. Bring your friends and family to discover the wonders of the heavens in Mingo Creek Park. Events will begin at dusk, and viewing will take place as long as there is a partly clear sky. For more information about the Mingo Creek Observatory, visit www.3ap.org.
NO FEE

Cross Creek Hike & Paddle

Tuesday, June 14, 2016
6:30 p.m.

Shelter 3
Cross Creek Park

Come out for an evening of laid back “cross training” in Cross Creek Park. Enjoy a leisurely 1.7 mile hike along the Lake Shore Trail from Shelter 3 to the Lynn Portal Rd. Access Area. At Lynn Portal Rd., we’ll gear up and kayak back to the County Park Rd. Access Area.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Needle & Yarn Craft Workshop

Wednesday, June 15, 2016
10:00 a.m.

Park Office
Mingo Creek Park

Mingo Creek Park Needle and Yarn is one of the longest running programs sponsored by the Washington County Parks Department. At the Needle and Yarn workshop, crafters gather to share ideas and complete a new craft each month.
Coffee and snacks are provided.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
FEE: Minimal

Homeschool Outdoor Classroom: Orienteering Adventures

Thursday, June 16, 2016
Session 1- 10:00 a.m.
Session II – 1:00 p.m.

Shelter 6
Mingo Creek Park
(Ages 5-11)

Learn to navigate your way in Mingo Creek Park using a map and compass. Discover the basics of orienteering. After some instruction, we will strike off and complete a basic orienteering course. Maps and compasses will be provided. Dress for the weather and moderate hiking.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Campfire Jam Night – Mingo Creek Park

Thursday, June 16, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Shelter 4

Mingo Creek Park

Join the park staff around the campfire for an evening of acoustic music in Mingo Creek Park. Musicians who play an instrument are encouraged to share their talent. Don't play an instrument? No problem, we welcome listeners. Bring lawn chair or a blanket. Light refreshments will be served.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

NO FEE

Insect Safari Day Camp

Monday, June 20 -

Thursday, June 23, 2016

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Shelter 3

Mingo Creek Park

(Ages 6-10)

Children ages 6 through 10 will be going buggy as they discover the unique world of insects during this day camp. A variety of educational insect activities will be offered and will include the exploration of leaf litter critters, pond life, creek macro invertebrates, and winged insects. Campers should dress for the weather and light hiking, and bring a lunch and water bottle each day.

Make your reservations early; space is limited.

Pre-registration is required. **Accepting registration beginning April 1. Payment in full at time of registration, cash or check.** Registration is limited to one family per registrant with a maximum of 2 day camps per child.

FEE: \$25.00/camper

Firefly Campfire

Friday, June 24, 2016

8:00 p.m.

Shelter 2

Mingo Creek Park

We just can't think of a better way to celebrate the start of summer! Join us for an evening of catching fireflies, roasting marshmallows, and relaxing around a campfire. Collection containers will be available and marshmallows will be provided, but you may want to bring along a chair or blanket and a drink.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

NO FEE

Preschool in the Park: Ants at our Picnic

Tuesday, July 5, 2016
Wednesday, July 6, 2016
Session I – 10:00 a.m.
Session II – 1:00 p.m.

Shelter 4
Mingo Creek Park
(Ages 3-5)

Children will march around Mingo Creek Park looking for an ant hill or two. After the walk, hot dogs and marshmallows will be roasted over an open campfire.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
FEE: \$2.00

Yoga in the Park

Wednesday, July 6, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Shelter 10
Mingo Creek Park

Join us for an evening of relaxation and rejuvenation as we enjoy yoga in the park. This is an introductory class, but we welcome all skill levels to participate. The class will be led by a certified yoga instructor. Bring along a yoga mat or beach towel.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
FEE: \$5.00

Evening Paddle

Thursday, July 7, 2016
6:30 p.m.

Lynn Portal Rd. Launch
Cross Creek Park

Discover flat water kayaking on Cross Creek Lake with the Parks & Recreation Staff. Join us for an evening of outdoor recreation that is sure to be fun, invigorating, and relaxing, all while enjoying the outdoors in Washington County.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Wilderness Survival Day Camp

Monday, July 11, 2016-
Friday, July 15, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Shelter 3
Mingo Creek Park
(Ages 8-12)

This is a popular camp for 8 to 12 year olds. Campers will learn basic survival skills including primitive fire building, shelter construction, water collection, basic action/reaction methods, camouflage and stalking, atlatl throwing, and more. Campers should dress for the weather and light hiking, and bring a lunch and a water bottle each day.

Pre-registration is required. **Accepting registration beginning April 1. Payment in full at time of registration, cash or check.** Registration is limited to one family per registrant with a maximum of 2 day camps per child.
FEE: \$30.00/camper

Sifting through Pond Stew

Tuesday, July 19, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Shelter 3
Cross Creek Park

Join us as we sift through the muck, mire, and plant material for insects, amphibians, fish, and other invertebrates that call Cross Creek Lake home. Foot wear required. Bring a change of clothes.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Creek Critters

Children's Program

Thursday, July 21, 2016
Session I – 10:00 a.m.
Session II – 1:00 p.m.

Shelter 5
Mingo Creek Park
(Ages 5-11)

Get wet in Mingo Creek as we search for crayfish, nymphs, clams, and whatever else we might scoop up in our nets! A parent and/or guardian must attend, and are encouraged to participate. Nets and containers will be provided. Please wear creek shoes or water boots; a change of clothes is also recommended.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Reptiles and Amphibians Day Camp

Monday, July 25 –
Friday, July 29, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Shelter 3
Mingo Creek Park
(Ages 7-11)

Children ages 7 to 11 will learn about the reptiles and amphibians of Pennsylvania. Many educational adventures will take place during this week long camp, including hikes to Salamander City and Frog Pond. Predator and Prey and Turtle Hurdles are just a few of the fun activities that will be offered. We will also be collecting, observing, and releasing live reptiles and amphibians right in Mingo Creek Park. Campers should dress for the weather and light hiking, and bring a lunch and water bottle each day. Make your reservations early; space is limited.

Pre-registration is required. **Accepting registration beginning April 1. Payment in full at time of registration, cash or check.** Registration is limited to one family per registrant with a maximum of 2 day camps per child.

FEE: \$30.00/camper

Butterfly Walk

Saturday, July 30, 2016
1:00 p.m.

Shelter 1 Parking Area
Mingo Creek Park

Learn more about the beautiful butterflies found in Washington County as we peek into the world of butterflies with Monica Miller. Search for and observe colorful butterflies, and along the way, learn life histories and the habitat preferences of common local butterflies. Wear comfortable shoes and a hat. Bring a bottle of water. Long pants are suggested.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

NO FEE

Preschool in the Park: Butterfly Roundup

Tuesday, August 2, 2016
Wednesday, August 3, 2016
Session I – 10:00 a.m.
Session II – 1:00 p.m.

Shelter 1
Mingo Creek Park
(Ages 3-5)

With nets in hand, we will flutter our way across fields in search of butterflies. Preschoolers will learn about their life cycle, as well as the proper way to collect and observe these beautiful, flying creatures. Nets and containers will be provided.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

NO FEE

Yoga in the Park

Wednesday, August 3, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Shelter 10
Mingo Creek Park

Join us for an evening of relaxation and rejuvenation as we enjoy yoga in the park. This is an introductory class, but we welcome all skill levels to participate. The class will be led by a certified yoga instructor. Bring along a yoga mat or beach towel.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
FEE: \$5.00

Pioneer Living Day Camp

Monday, August 8, –
Friday, August 12, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Shelter 9
Mingo Creek Park
(Ages 7-10)

Children ages 7 to 10 are invited to take a step back in time to see how the pioneer children lived, played, and worked. An array of pioneer activities, such as cooking over the fire pit and panning for gold, will be shared. Native American living, games, crafts, and stories will also be included. Campers should dress for the weather and light hiking, and bring a lunch and a water bottle each day. Make your reservations early; space is limited.

Pre-registration is required. **Accepting registration beginning April 1. Payment in full at time of registration, cash or check.** Registration is limited to one family per registrant with a maximum of 2 day camps per child.

FEE: \$30.00/camper

Campfire Jam Night – Cross Creek Park

Thursday, August 11, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Shelter 3
Cross Creek Park

Join the park staff around the campfire for an evening of acoustic music in Cross Creek Park. Musicians who play an instrument are encouraged to share their talent. Don't play an instrument? No problem, we welcome listeners. Bring lawn chair or a blanket. Light refreshments will be served.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Star Party

Friday, August 12, 2016

Saturday, August 13, 2016

Dusk

Observatory

Mingo Creek Park

View the moon, planets and outer space in 2016 at the Mingo Creek Observatory. Scheduled public Star Parties will be provided by the Amateur Astronomers of Pittsburgh April – October. Bring your friends and family to discover the wonders of the heavens in Mingo Creek Park. Events will begin at dusk and viewing will take place as long as there is a partly clear sky. For more information about the Mingo Creek Observatory, visit www.3ap.org.
NO FEE

Introduction to Orienteering

Tuesday, August 16, 2016

7:00 PM

Park Office

Mingo Creek Park

Join the park staff to learn to navigate your way in Mingo Creek Park using map and compass. Discover the basics of orienteering. After some instruction, we will strike off and complete a basic orienteering course. Maps and compasses will be provided. Dress for the weather and moderate hiking.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

NO FEE

Needle & Yarn Craft Workshop

Wednesday, August 17, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Park Office

Mingo Creek Park

Mingo Creek Park Needle and Yarn is one of the longest running programs sponsored by the Washington County Parks Department. At the Needle and Yarn workshop, crafters gather to share ideas and complete a new craft each month.

Coffee and snacks are provided.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

FEE: Minimal

Blowing in the Wind Children's Program

Thursday, August 18, 2016

1:00 p.m.

Shelter 6

Mingo Creek Park

Join Washington County's Parks and Recreation staff to learn just how the wind blows. Children will experiment with wind energy by constructing kites. After constructing the kites a short hike will take place.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

FEE: \$3.00

Spider Mania

Thursday, August 18, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Shelter 6

Mingo Creek Park

Join California University of PA professor Dr. Chad Hanna on an eight-legged adventure in the fields and forest of Mingo Creek Park. We'll be taking a closer look into the world of arachnids as we capture and identify spiders during this program. Long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and comfortable walking shoes are suggested. Participants are welcome to bring spiders from home for identification.

NO FEE

Evening Paddle (Kayaking)

Tuesday, August 23, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Park Office

Ten Mile Creek Park

Discover flat water kayaking on Ten Mile Creek with the Parks & Recreation Staff. Join us for an evening of outdoor recreation that is sure to be fun, invigorating, and relaxing, all while enjoying the outdoors in Washington County.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

NO FEE

Afternoon Paddle (Kayaking)

Thursday, August 25, 2016

1:00 p.m.

Park Office

Ten Mile Creek Park

Discover flat water kayaking on Ten Mile Creek with the Parks & Recreation Staff. Join us for an afternoon of outdoor recreation that is sure to be fun, invigorating, and relaxing, all while enjoying the outdoors in Washington County.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

NO FEE

Family Nature Night

Wednesday, August 31, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Shelter 2

Mingo Creek Park

Come join The Washington County Parks and Recreation staff as we take a short nature walk, learn some campfire tricks, get to know others in the community and roast some marshmallows around a cozy campfire. This is a great program for the entire family. We encourage you to bring along a chair, blanket and drink.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

NO FEE

Brownie Badge Program: Bugs

Thursday, September 1, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Shelter 10

Mingo Creek Park

Bring your Brownie Girl Scout Troop to Mingo Creek Park to meet the requirements needed to earn their Bug Badge. The Washington County Department of Parks and Recreation will provide the activities; scout leaders will supply the badge. Wear comfortable outdoor clothing and shoes. This is an outdoor activity.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

NO FEE

Yoga in the Park

Wednesday, September 7, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Shelter 10
Mingo Creek Park

Join us for an evening of relaxation and rejuvenation as we enjoy yoga in the park. This is an introductory class, but we welcome all skill levels to participate. The class will be led by a certified yoga instructor. Bring along a yoga mat or beach towel.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
FEE: \$5.00

Homeschool Outdoor Classroom: Build a Primitive Shelter

Thursday, September 8, 2016
Session I – 10:00 a.m.
Session II – 1:00 p.m.

Shelter 1
Mingo Creek Park
(Ages 5-11)

Join Washington County staff members as we learn how to build a primitive shelter, an important wilderness survival skill. The students will work together using sticks, moss, and other items they can find to build a debris hut in the wilderness. Other survival tips will also be shared.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Crickets, Katydid & Hoppers

Thursday, September 8, 2016
6:30 p.m.

Shelter 6
Mingo Creek Park

Discover the wonderful diversity of musical insects during this evening program in Mingo Creek Park. As darkness approaches, we'll be searching the fields with nets and listening for crickets, katydids, and hoppers. Nets and bug jars will be provided. Long pants are recommended.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Covered Bridge Festival

Saturday, September 17, 2016

Sunday, September 18, 2016

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Mingo Creek Park

The Covered Bridge Festival is held at ten (10) covered bridges in Washington & Greene Counties the third weekend of September each year. Crafts, music, and food are available at each site. In Mingo Creek Park, sites are located at both the Henry and Ebenezer Bridges. Questions? Please contact the Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency at 724-228-5520.

Brownie Badge: Hiking

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Shelter 4

Mingo Creek Park

Brownie Troops can earn their Hiker Badge at this session. Participants will need to bring along a few items to meet the requirements: a backpack, water bottle, energy snack, and comfortable hiking gear. The Washington County Department of Parks and Recreation will supply the activity; troop leaders will supply the badges. Space is limited.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

NO FEE

Owl Prowl

Friday, September 23, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Shelter 10

Mingo Creek Park

Dissect an owl pellet to discover the nocturnal feeding habitats of an owl. Take a night hike to listen for the vocalizations of resident owls. Screech and Barred Owls may be heard during this program. This is a fun-filled family outing.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

FEE: \$2.00 per owl pellet

Star Party

Friday, September 23, 2016
Saturday, September 24, 2016
Dusk

Observatory
Mingo Creek Park

View the moon, planets and outer space in 2016 at the Mingo Creek Observatory. Scheduled public Star Parties will be provided by the Amateur Astronomers of Pittsburgh April – October. Bring your friends and family to discover the wonders of the heavens in Mingo Creek Park. Events will begin at dusk and viewing will take place as long as there is a partly clear sky. For more information about the Mingo Creek Observatory, visit www.3ap.org.
NO FEE

Evening Archery for Beginners

Wednesday, September 28, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Shelter 6
Mingo Creek Park

Join NASP instructor Sarah Sandin for an evening of shooting archery in Mingo Creek Park. Participants will learn the basics of shooting archery, including parts of the bow, shooting techniques, and safety on the range. Participants of all levels are welcome. Must be at least 10 years of age to participate.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Primitive Fire Making

Thursday, September 29, 2016
6:30 p.m.

Shelter 6
Mingo Creek Park

Learn how to make fire using flint and steel. Participants will have the opportunity to kindle their own flame using flint and steel.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Hey! It's a Hayride Preschool Program

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

Wednesday, October 5, 2016

10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

Shelter 1

Mingo Creek Park

(Ages 3-5)

The leaves are changing colors and the air is crisp. What a great time for a hayride in Mingo Creek Park! Come dressed for the weather and join us in a hay-filled wagon ride through the park. After our ride, we'll warm up with a cup of warm cider.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

An adult should plan to attend.

FEE: \$1.00

Homeschool Outdoor Classroom: Leaf it up to Me

Thursday, October 6, 2016

1:00 p.m.

Shelter 6

Mingo Creek Park

What do you know about leaves? Why are they changing colors? We are "leafing" it up to you to find out! We will hike to find the brightest, most colorful leaves to use for a special craft! Dress appropriately for the weather.

Pre-registration is required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

FEE: \$1.00

Fall Group Hayrides

Friday, October 7, 2016

Saturday, October 8, 2016

Cross Creek Park

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Ride into fall on one of Cross Creek Park's Hay-filled wagons. Hayrides are approximately 50 minutes in length. Groups can enjoy the fall splendor as they travel through Cross Creek Park on the hay wagon. Group size is limited to 20 people per wagon. The use of a picnic shelter and a fire circle two (2) hours before or after the scheduled hayride is included.

Registration anytime; payment in full at time of registration.

FEE: \$50.00 per hayride

Fall Group Hayrides

Friday, October 7, 2016
 Saturday, October 8, 2016
 Friday, October 14, 2016
 Saturday, October 15, 2016
 Friday, October 21, 2016
 Saturday, October 22, 2016

Mingo Creek Park

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Ride into fall on one of Mingo Creek Park’s hay-filled wagons. Hayrides are approximately 50 minutes in length. Groups can enjoy the fall splendor as they travel through Mingo Creek Park on the hay wagon. Group size is limited to 25 people per wagon. The use of a picnic shelter and a fire circle two (2) hours before or after the scheduled hayride is included.

Registration anytime; payment in full at time of registration.
 FEE \$50.00 per hayride

Fall Fun Day

Saturday, October 8, 2016
 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Shelter 6
 Mingo Creek Park

Join the park staff for a fun-filled day of pumpkin carving, scarecrow stuffing, hayrides, cider sippin’, and marshmallow toasting.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.

FEE:

Hayrides	\$2.00 per person
Pumpkins	\$4.00 per pumpkin
Scarecrow Stuffing	Free – bring your own clothes

Junior Girl Scouts: Animal Habitats

Wednesday, October 19, 2016
 6:00 p.m.

Shelter 4
 Mingo Creek Park

Bring your Junior Girl Scout Troop to Mingo Creek Park to meet the requirements to earn their animal habitat badge. The Washington County Department of Parks and Recreation will provide the activities; scout leaders will supply the badge. Wear comfortable hiking gear, as this activity is held outdoors.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
 NO FEE

Halloween Night Walk

Friday, October 21, 2016
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

McDonald Trail Station
Panhandle Trail

Bring your young ghosts and goblins decked out in their Halloween costumes for a luminary lit walk on the Panhandle Trail in McDonald Borough. Trick or Treats will be provided along the trail to children ages 11 and under.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Star Party

Friday, October 21, 2016
Saturday, October 22, 2016
Dusk

Observatory
Mingo Creek Park

View the moon, planets and outer space in 2016 at the Mingo Creek Observatory. Scheduled public Star Parties will be provided by the Amateur Astronomers of Pittsburgh April – October. Bring your friends and family to discover the wonders of the heavens in Mingo Creek Park. Events will begin at dusk and viewing will take place as long as there is a partly clear sky. For more information about the Mingo Creek Observatory, visit www.3ap.org.
NO FEE

Homeschool Outdoor Classroom: Habitat Shuffle

Thursday, November 3, 2016
1:00 p.m.

Park Office
Mingo Creek Park

Join us for a variety of fun activities as we discover what makes up a habitat. We will go on a short hike to search for animal homes. Upon return to the park office we will do the “habitat shuffle.” Please dress appropriately for weather.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Cache Me if you Can

Saturday, November 12, 2016
10:00 a.m.

Park Office
Mingo Creek Park

This is a great opportunity to discover Geocaching and learn the basics of this fun, recreational activity. Join us as we search for hidden treasures (caches) in Mingo Creek Park using a handheld Global Positioning Device (GPS). We will have a limited number of GPS units to utilize, but if you have a handheld device in which you can enter latitude and longitude coordinates or an equipped smartphone, feel free to bring it along with you.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
NO FEE

Star Party

Saturday, November 12, 2016
Dusk

Observatory
Mingo Creek Park

View the moon, planets and outer space in 2016 at the Mingo Creek Observatory. Scheduled public Star Parties will be provided by the Amateur Astronomers of Pittsburgh April – October. Bring your friends and family to discover the wonders of the heavens in Mingo Creek Park. Events will begin at dusk and viewing will take place as long as there is a partly clear sky. For more information about the Mingo Creek Observatory, visit www.3ap.org.

NO FEE

Needle & Yarn Craft Workshop

Wednesday, November 16, 2016
10:00 a.m.

Park Office
Mingo Creek Park

Mingo Creek Park Needle and Yarn is one of the longest running programs sponsored by the Washington County Parks Department. At the Needle and Yarn workshop, crafters gather to share ideas and complete a new craft each month. Coffee and snacks are provided.

Pre-registration required; registration not more than 30 days in advance.
FEE: Minimal