December Events in Your Charleston County Parks!

Read this online: www.ccprc.com/newsreleases

Public Contact or to Register: 843-795-4386 / www.CharlestonCountyParks.com

December Special Events

Holiday Festival of Lights
James Island County Park
Open nightly through Dec. 31, 5:30 – 10 p.m.
It’s the most wonderful time of the year at the Holiday Festival of Lights! Open nightly starting Nov. 11, this driving tour features three miles of magical twinkling lights. Guests can also park the car and explore the grounds at Santa’s Village and Winter Wonderland, featuring mouth-watering treats, festival gift shops, visits with Santa and much more. Advance tickets are available at a discounted rate. On Dec. 31, join us for a fireworks display! For details on this year’s festival or to purchase tickets, visit HolidayFestivalofLights.com.

Fees: vary

Great Outdoor Gear Sale
James Island County Park / Outdoor Zone
Sat., Dec. 3. 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Here's your chance to get awesome deals on great gear. Sale items may include used tents, kayaks, mountain bikes, SUPs, camping accessories, and other gear. These deals can't be beat! All equipment sold "as is," prices are non-negotiable, and all sales are final.

Fee: FREE
Ages: ANY

Inclusive Santa
Park Center Terrace at James Island County Park
Sunday, Dec. 4
Available timeslots: 12:30-1 p.m.; 1-1:30 p.m.; 1:30 – 2 p.m.
Registration required; program is filling up so register today! He's making his list, and he's checking it twice - Santa Claus is most definitely coming to town. People with disabilities and their families are invited to a photo session with Santa at James Island County Park. Join us to experience the time-honored tradition of a visit with Santa Claus during dedicated hours in a calming, subdued environment. Santa will be fluent in ASL (American Sign Language). While you're chatting with jolly old St. Nick, our professional photographer will take photos of your group of up to 5 people with Santa. If your group has more than 5 people, please book multiple spots. You'll receive one 5x7 souvenir photo of your visit and have the opportunity to upgrade to a multiple photo package onsite. No personal photography will be allowed. A maximum of 6 families will be able to register for each 30-minute time slot, and each visit with Santa will be on a first-come, first-served basis during that time slot. Santa's Attic Gift Shop, the Incredible Gift Shop and Santa's Sweet Shoppe will be open during the event hours. Registered participants will receive a complimentary pass to come back and enjoy the Holiday Festival of Lights at night (1 pass per registered group). We are also excited to partner with KultureCity® for this event. To better accommodate guests with sensory difficulties, sensory bags equipped with noise canceling headphones, fidget tools, and verbal cue cards will be available for guest use. A dedicated sensory space will also be available for guests who may feel overwhelmed by the environment. Ask staff on-site for more information.

Fee: $25
Ages: all ages
Register here: https://ccprc.com/3673/Inclusive-Visit-with-Santa

Holiday Hoedown
Cypress Hall at Wannamaker County Park
Thurs., Dec. 8, 6 – 8 p.m.
Mrs. Claus cordially invites people with disabilities and their families and friends to her annual Holiday Hoedown! Come dressed in your favorite Western gear to welcome the holiday, country style. Refreshments will be provided.

Fee: $4
Ages: 4 and up

Mingle With Kringle
Park Center Terrace at James Island County Park
Select Saturdays and Sundays in December
Advance registration is required and spaces are limited! Book a private visit with the big elf himself outside of festival hours! When you Mingle with Kringle, you and your group of up to 5 people will have a chance to tell Santa Claus your Christmas wishes and receive a digital download of your photos from our professional photographer. If you have more than 5 people, book multiple spots. Also included in the package is a Gift Pass to visit the Holiday Festival of Lights on another evening of your choosing.

Open dates:
Sat, Dec. 10, 12 – 12:30 p.m.
Sat, Dec. 10, 1 – 2 p.m.
Sat, Dec. 10, 2 – 3 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 11, 12 – 12:30 p.m.

Register in advance at www.CharlestonCountyParks.com
December Programs

Homeschool in the Park: Twilight Hike
Caw Caw Interpretive Center
Fri., Dec. 2, 4:30 – 6 p.m.
Caw Caw can be a fascinating place when the day transitions to night. Join us for a walk around the park where we use our senses to gain a better understanding of how animals navigate this landscape at twilight.
Fee: $7
Ages: 7-12
12984

Early Morning Bird Walk at Caw Caw
Caw Caw Interpretive Center
Sat., Dec. 3, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Join us on one or more of our regular bird walks. Our trek through many distinct habitats will allow us to view and discuss a variety of birds, butterflies, and other organisms.
Fee: Member: Check Fees Below. Non-member: $9
Ages: Any
13167

Christmas Traditions Among the Enslaved
Wannamaker County Park
Sat., Dec. 3, 10 - 11:30 a.m.
Holidays represented festivities and family however, for the enslaved, it also meant a time of preparation for possible lifetime separation of children and family groups. Join us at Wannamaker County Park to explore what actually happened during the holidays.
Fee: $10
Ages: 18 and up
12954

Early Morning Bird Walk at Caw Caw
Caw Caw Interpretive Center
Wed., Dec. 7, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Join us on one or more of our regular bird walks. Our trek through many distinct habitats will allow us to view and discuss a variety of birds, butterflies, and other organisms.
Fee: $9
Ages: Any
13168

Your Parks, Your Classroom: Native Americans of Coastal SC
Virtual Program at Online-CharlestonCountyParks.com
Wed., Dec. 7, 10 – 11 a.m.
Your Parks, Your Classroom is a virtual education series for students interested in learning about habitats, flora, and fauna found in the Charleston County Parks. Join us on Wednesdays at 10 AM from your screen and make your parks your classroom. This program series is free to attend thanks to the generous support of the Charleston County Parks Foundation. Join us from the comfort of your own home or classroom as we explore one of Charleston’s diverse habitats and the inhabitants that call the Lowcountry home. In this installment, learn how natural resources were historically used in everyday life.
Fee: Free
Ages: 4 and up
13155
Lighthouse Inlet Bird Walk
Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve
Fri., Dec. 9, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
This walk focuses on the incredibly diverse northeast end of Folly Island. Once the home of a Coast Guard station, this Heritage Preserve protects maritime forest, beach, dune, and marsh habitats for wildlife. This site is a leader in number of bird species seen in South Carolina. At this time of year, we hope to see songbirds, seabirds, and shorebirds such as Painted Bunting, Caspian Tern, Wilson's Plover, and much more.
Fee: $9
Ages: 12 and up

Wee Wild Ones: Winter Fun with Feathered Ones
Caw Caw Interpretive Center
Fri., Dec. 9, 10 – 11 a.m.
Young children (age 1.5-3) will channel their inner explorers while enjoying nature through hands-on activities, games, music, and art. In this session, learn about features that make birds unique animals.
Fee: $10
Ages: 1.5 - 3

Wee Wild Ones: Winter Fun with Feathered Ones
Caw Caw Interpretive Center
Fri., Dec. 9, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Young children (age 4-6) will channel their inner explorers while enjoying nature through hands-on activities, games, music, and art. In this session, learn about features that make birds unique animals. Froglets group: Ages 4 to 6 years
Fee: $10
Ages: 4 - 6

Early Morning Bird Walk at Caw Caw
Caw Caw Interpretive Center
Sat., Dec. 10, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Join us on one or more of our regular bird walks. Our trek through many distinct habitats will allow us to view and discuss a variety of birds, butterflies, and other organisms.
Fee: $9
Ages: Any

Early Birding
Trailhead at Stono River County Park
Thurs., Dec. 15, 6:30 - 8:30 a.m.
the early bird gets the worm, the early birdwatchers get both! We can leave the worms for the avian life and enjoy finding birds at dawn. A birding professional will help you find the birds and understand their strategies for success in the natural world. What to expect: This program is open to birders of all levels, including beginners. Accessible parking available. Accessible restrooms, water fountains, and picnic tables are available near the parking area where the program begins and ends. Park includes paved and boardwalk trails, as well as some natural, unimproved trails that are mostly flat. Program route is out to an overlook and back and approximately a mile and a half long total. Benches are available midway along the trail route. Program speed is moderately slow and requires periods of gazing upwards.
Fee: $9
Ages: 12 and up

Early Morning Bird Walk at Caw Caw
Caw Caw Interpretive Center
Wed., Dec. 14, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Join us on one or more of our regular bird walks. Our trek through many distinct habitats will allow us to view and discuss a variety of birds, butterflies, and other organisms.
Fee: $9
Ages: Any

Early Morning Bird Walk at Caw Caw
Caw Caw Interpretive Center
Sat., Dec. 17, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Join us on one or more of our regular bird walks. Our trek through many distinct habitats will allow us to view and discuss a variety of birds, butterflies, and other organisms.
Fee: $9
Ages: Any
Early Morning Bird Walk at Caw Caw
Caw Caw Interpretive Center
Wed., Dec. 21, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Join us on one or more of our regular bird walks. Our trek through many distinct habitats will allow us to view and discuss a variety of birds, butterflies, and other organisms.
Fee: $9
Ages: Any
13172