December 2023 Events in Your Charleston County Parks!

Read this online: www.ccprc.com/NewsReleases
For more information or to Register: 843-795-4386 / www.CharlestonCountyParks.com

December 2023 Festivals & 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 through Dec. 31, this driving tour features three miles of magical twinkling lights. Guests can also park the car and explore the grounds, featuring mouth-watering sweet 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
www.HolidayFestivalofLights.com

Great Outdoor Gear Sale
Saturday, December 2, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
James Island County Park Climbing Wall
Get awesome deals on great outdoor gear! Sale items may include used tents, canoes 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.
Free with park admission fee

Inclusive Santa
Park Center Terrace at James Island County Park
Sun., Dec. 3 and Dec. 10
Timeslots available between 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Registration required: program is filling up so register today! 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). Our professional photographer will take photos of your group of up to 5 people with Santa and you will receive the full digital package with all images of your visit. Register for a 30-minute time slot, and each visit with Santa will be on a first-come, first-served basis during that time slot. Participants will receive a complimentary pass to return to the Holiday Festival of Lights at night. To better accommodate guests with sensory difficulties, KultureCity sensory bags equipped with noise canceling headphones, fidget tools, and verbal cue cards will be available. A dedicated space will also be available for guests who may feel overwhelmed by the environment. Ask staff on-site for more information.
Fee: $40
Ages: all ages
Register here: https://ccprc.com/3673/Inclusive-Visit-with-Santa

Holiday Hoedown
Cypress Hall at Wannamaker County Park
Wed., Dec. 6, 5 – 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 in advance (call 843-795-4386) or $5 at the event
Ages: 4 and up
https://ccprc.com/3337/Holiday-Hoedown

Silent Disco
Lincoln Community Center (714 Lincoln Rd, McClellanville)
Sat., Dec. 16, 5-7 p.m.
Kids 8 and up are invited to a Silent Disco, a unique party experience where all guests wear wireless glowing headphones. There will be two live DJs playing a variety of tunes, and attendees will have the ability to switch between two genres of music. A chaperone is required for ages 15 and under. Headphones are provided by Quiet Kingz; personal headphones are not permitted.
Admission: $4 in advance and $5 on-site.
Ages: 8 and up
https://ccprc.com/3730/Silent-Disco

December Camps

Explorers Camp at James Island: Winter Break
Ashley Center at James Island County Park
Mon., Dec. 18 – Fri., Dec. 22, from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., 1 Week Session
Enjoy winter break at your county parks. Kids will spend their days having a blast doing arts and crafts, playing cooperative games, canoeing and playing in the dirt...just like you used to do.
Fee: Standard charge: $250
Ages: 6-9
14221

Register online at CharlestonCountyParks.com
Explorers Camp at Palmetto Islands: Winter Break
Big Oak at Palmetto Islands County Park
Mon., Dec. 18 – Fri., Dec. 22, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., 1 Week Session
Enjoy winter break at your county parks. Kids will spend their days having a blast doing arts and crafts, playing cooperative games, canoeing and playing in the dirt...just like you used to do.
Fee: Standard charge: $250
Ages: 6-9
14223

Explorers Camp at Palmetto Islands: Winter Break
Big Oak at Palmetto Islands County Park
Wed., Dec. 27 – Fri., Dec. 30, from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., 1 Week Session
Enjoy winter break at your county parks. Kids will spend their days having a blast doing arts and crafts, playing cooperative games, canoeing and playing in the dirt...just like you used to do.
Fee: Standard charge: $150.
Ages: 6 -9
14224

Explorers Camp at James Island: Winter Break
Ashley Center at James Island County Park
Wed., Dec. 27 – Fri., Dec. 30, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., 1 Week Session
Enjoy winter break at your county parks. Kids will spend their days having a blast doing arts and crafts, playing cooperative games, canoeing and playing in the dirt...just like you used to do.
Fee: Standard charge: $150.
Ages: 6-9
14222

December Programs

Homeschool in the Parks: Ecosystem Exploration
Fri., Dec. 1, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
Caw Caw Interpretive Center
Caw Caw Interpretive Center encompasses several habitats. For this program, we'll guide children through an investigative, activity-based experience. Join us as we observe various flora and fauna of this distinct ecosystem in both the field and the laboratory. What to expect: Accessible parking, accessible restrooms, accessible water fountains, and accessible picnic tables are available at this location.
Fee: $7
Ages: 7-12 years
14199

Authors Under the Oaks: Joe McGill and Herb Frazier
Welcome Center at McLeod Plantation Historic Site
Sat., Dec. 2, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Join us for an enlightening and inspiring conversation with two famed Lowcountry authors and historians, Joe McGill, Sr., founder of the Slave Dwelling Project and former Post and Courier journalist, Herb Frazier as they discuss their books, writing and offer insights into the history and culture of the Lowcountry. This program is free with park admission. Admission fees for the first fifty participants will be paid by the Charleston County Parks Foundation as part of the Arts at McLeod program series. The program will take place outdoors near the Welcome Center and seating is provided. Accessible restrooms, water fountains, and picnic tables are available.
Fee: Free with park admission
Ages: Any
14240

Early Morning Bird Walk at Caw Caw
Saturdays and Wednesdays, Dec. 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, and 20, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Caw Caw Interpretive Center
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
14447

Intro to Climbing Technique
Sun., Dec. 3, 12:30 – 2 p.m.
James Island County Park – Outdoor Zone
There's a lot to learn about climbing; getting your footing, learning the lingo, and starting out can be intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. Whether you're new to climbing, or just trying to get past the crux of your project, our Intro to Climbing Technique class will help you reach your climbing goals. This 90-minute class will help kick off your new adventure with a 1:6 instructor to student ratio and lots of small group and partner work. Instruction takes place on both ropes and boulders, and the class will include your gear rental, too!
Fee: $20
Intro to Sport Lead Climbing  
**Sun., Dec. 3, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**  
**James Island County Park – Outdoor Zone**  
Our lead course is for those that have been top rope climbing and are ready to take things to the next level. Learning to lead climb gives you access to more walls and better prepares you for outdoor climbing. In this course you will learn about the risks involved in lead climbing, risk management, lead climbing equipment, clipping techniques, lead belaying, and falling skills. Pre-requisites: Lead climbing is not a beginner skill set. We require a base of experience to take our lead course.  
Fee: $40  
Ages: 14 and up

Early Birding  
**Thurs., Dec. 7, 7 – 9 a.m.**  
**Johns Island County Park**  
If 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: Accessible parking is available at this site. Accessible restrooms are available in the meadow but no accessible route to restroom building is present. All trails are flat and composed of natural, unpaved surfaces.  
Fee: $9  
Ages 12 and up (chaperone required for ages 15 and under)

Lighthouse Inlet Bird Walk  
**Fri., Dec. 8, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.**  
**Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve**  
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 boasts one of the largest bird lists in South Carolina. At this time of year, we hope to see a variety of songbirds, seabirds, and shorebirds such as Painted Bunting, Sandwich Tern, Whimbrel, and much more. What to expect: This program is open to birders of all levels, including beginners. No accessible parking is available. No restrooms are available. The park includes a paved surface that leads to a natural, unimproved surface out to a sandy beach. The program route is out and back and is approximately one-mile-long total.  
Fee: $9  
Ages 12 and up (chaperone required for ages 15 and under)

Drawn to Nature: Microscopic Marsh Masterpieces  
**Sat., Dec. 9, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**  
**Palmetto Islands County Park**  
What do science and art have in common? Observation and appreciation! Search for animal evidence, train your eagle-eye outdoors with nature journaling, and learn how to be great environmental stewards! Accessible parking, accessible restrooms, accessible water fountains, and accessible picnic tables are available at the Welcome Center. The park includes natural, unpaved trails that are mostly flat. The program route is a loop and benches are available along the trail route. The program speed is moderately slow to medium.  
Fee: $7  
Ages: 8 -12 years

Understanding the Rice Culture  
**Sat., Dec. 9, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**  
**Caw Caw Interpretive Center**  
To talk about land in the Lowcountry is an automatic invitation to talk about rice, who grew it, where it came from, and how the cultivation changed the landscape in ways that are still evident today. Caw Caw Interpretive Center provides one of the best local looks in the Lowcountry.  
What to expect: Accessible parking, accessible restrooms, accessible water fountains, and accessible picnic tables are available at the Welcome Center where the program begins and ends. The park includes natural, unpaved trails that are mostly flat. The program route is a loop and benches are available along the trail route. The program speed is moderately slow and includes periods of standing.  
Fee: $10  
Ages: 16 and up

Top Rope Climbing for Beginners  
**Sun., Dec. 10, 1 – 2:30 p.m.**  
**James Island County Park – Outdoor Zone**  
Learn the basics of top rope belaying. This 90-minute class will help kick off your new climbing adventure with a 1:6 instructor to student ratio and lots of small group and partner work. The class will include your gear rental, too!  
Fee: $20  
Ages: 14 and up
Basic Climbing Rescues  
Sun., Dec. 10, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. 
James Island County Park – Outdoor Zone  
Learn basic self rescue techniques for your next outdoor trip. When things don't go according to plan, have the skills and confidence to get you and your partner out of trouble.  
Fee: $40  
Ages: 16 and up  
14273

Junior Naturalist: Coastal Native Americans  
Sat., Dec. 16, 10 – 11:30 a.m.  
Caw Caw Interpretive Center  
Bring your curiosity and engage all of your senses while exploring natural habitats at your county parks! Led by Charleston County Park's Education staff, the multi-seasonal Junior Naturalist program series offers a wide variety of fun and educational nature-based activities focused around a central theme. Children who attend 8 classes earn the title of a Certified Junior Naturalist! We often say indigenous people are the first naturalists. Explore Native American culture of coastal South Carolina at the time of European settlement. Learn how local tribes successfully used natural resources in everyday life. What to expect: What to expect: Accessible parking, accessible restrooms, accessible water fountains, and accessible picnic tables are available at the Welcome Center where the program begins and ends. The park includes natural, unpaved trails that are mostly flat. The program route is a loop and benches are available along the trail route. The program speed is moderately slow to medium.  
Fee: $7  
Ages: 8 – 12 years  
14105

Community & Clubs

Baptist Hill Oatmeal Recipe Tour  
Basketball Gymnasium at Baptist Hill High School  
Sat., Dec. 2, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
The Oatmeal Recipe Tour Basketball Education Served Up by the DAE Foundation. How do you like your oatmeal? Do you add peanut butter, bananas, or honey? The DAE Foundation is cooking up something a little different. The Ingredients Basketball Education led by Jermel President Nutritional TopicsSocial Competence EducationThe Oatmeal Recipe Tour takes the DAE Foundation on the road, serving up Basketball Skill Development led by Jermel President. Learn and execute basketball techniques and develop skills while learning about the importance of Nutrition, Education, and Social Competence.  
Fee: $5  
Ages: 8 – 12 years  
14325

Johns Island Parents Night Out Ages  
St John's - Cafeteria at St John's High School  
Thurs., Dec. 14, 6 – 9 p.m.  
Parents of kaleidoscope students can drop children off for holiday movies, pizza, games, and snacks while they go out for some holiday shopping.  
Fee: $5  
Ages: 4 – 11 years  
14254