

August

Kids in the Woods Water, Water, Everywhere

August 13, 1-3pm

Eighth in the Kids in the Woods Series, is all about water! We'll learn all about what a watershed is and where water goes when it rains. Who lives in the water? We may even do a fish print! Each month will have a different theme and is open to families with children aged 6-10. Join us for one month or all twelve. Registration is required. Please call the Giant City Visitors Center at 618-457-4836 to register or for more information.

A day in the Life of a Wildlife Rehabilitator

August 20th, 1-2pm

What does a wildlife rehabilitator do, anyway? Head out to Giant City State Park to find out! Join Beverly Shofstall and some live animal friends to learn all about what a day in the life of a wildlife rehabilitator is like. I bet you will be surprised! *Meet at shelter #3*

September

Kids in the Woods Who, Who, Who Goes There?

September 10th, *6-8pm

Ninth in the Kids in the Woods Series, we'll be venturing out in the evening to learn all about our owl friends! Meet a wildlife rehabilitator as she introduces us to some live owls and go for an evening hike to try and call in some wild owls. Join us for one month or all twelve. Registration is required. Please call the Giant City Visitors Center at 618-457-4836 to register or for more information.

Journey of the Monarch September 25th, 1-2:30pm

Every fall thousands of Monarch butterflies migrate south to Central Mexico! Giant City State Park is a great stopping point for these small creatures. Come out and help the University of Kansas track these insects by participating in a tagging program. There will be a short introduction, and then we will head out to the field to catch and tag as many migrating Monarchs as we can find. Registration is required. *Meet at Visitors Center*

Sensational Sunflower Family of Giant City

September 24th, 1-4pm

The sunflower family is one of the largest and most diverse plant families on our planet. Illinois alone has over 300 species with nearly a third of these found in Giant City State Park. Join John A. Logan Biology instructor and plant enthusiast, Abel Kinser, to learn more about our local members of the sunflower family. This program will begin with a slideshow to show some of the different species one can find in the park and will end with a short hike to view the sensational asters and goldenrods that are often blooming this time of year. No registration required. Meet at the Visitors Center.

October

Kids in the Woods Changing Colors

October 8th, 1-3pm

Tenth in the Kids in the Woods Series, we'll be taking a hike on the Nature Trail to discover beautiful fall leaves. After the hike, we'll do some fun fall crafts. Join us for one month or all twelve. Registration is required. Please call the Giant City Visitors Center at 618-457-4836 to register or for more information

Giant City Rocks October 8th, 1-3pm

Giant City State Park is known for its rocks but do you know how they were formed, or what kind of rocks they are? Join Geologist Joe Devera as he leads a fun and informative geology hike on the popular Giant City Nature Trail. No registration is required. *Meet at the Giant City Visitors Center.*

Hayride and Native American Storytelling!

October 12th, 5:30-7pm

Fall is here and what better time to take a hayride at Giant City! After a fun trip around a seldom seen area of the park, warm up by the campfire, roast a marshmallow and listen to Native American stories. This program is free and open to the public but registration is required. 618-457-4836

November

Winter Tree I.D.

November 5th, 1-3pm

Identifying trees in winter is a snap when you know what to look for. Join Land Conservation Specialist, Margaret Anderson, as she shares easy and fun tips to discover trees in winter! We will be hiking the 1 mile Giant City Nature Trail. This program is free and open to the public. We will be meeting at the Visitors Center. Please register by calling 618-457-4836.

Kids in the Woods Rock Hound or Pebble Pup?

November 12th, 1-3pm

Eleventh in the Kids in the Woods Series, we'll discover how the "streets" of Giant City formed. What kind of fossils can you find in the rocks at Giant City? We'll go on a winter treasure hunt and learn about ancient animals and plants that lived in Southern Illinois. Join us for one month or all twelve. Registration is required. Please call the Giant City Visitors Center at 618-457-4836 to register or for more information.

December

Kids in the Woods Winter Wonderland

December 10th, 1-3pm

Twelfth in the Kids in the Woods Series, we'll discover just where animals go in the winter and how they survive. We will also make winter bird-feeders. Registration is required. Please call the Giant City Visitors Center at 618-457-4836 to register or for more information.



Giant City State Park

2016 Calendar of Events



Photos Courtesy of Janet Sundberg

Giant City State Park
235 Giant City Road
Makanda, IL 62958
618-457-4836



All Programs are free unless otherwise noted. Call or visit the Giant City Visitor's Center for more information.

January

Kids in the Woods

How to be a Naturalist

January 9th, 1-3pm

Kids in the Woods is a family naturalist program developed by area Master Naturalists to encourage all participants to observe, discover, appreciate, and have fun in nature. Each month will have a different theme and is open to families with children aged 6-10. Join us for one month or all twelve. Registration is required. Please call the Giant City Visitors Center at 618-457-4836 to register or for more information.

Backpacking Baby!

January 10th, 9-10am

If you like to hike and you have a baby, then this program is for you! Join park volunteer and baby wearer, Nicole Allen, as she treks a new trail every month. This program is designed to encourage parents with babies to get outdoors and enjoy nature in a nurturing setting. Hiking trails will range between 1 and 2 miles and are moderate. Please note that this is a non-interpretive program and is specifically designed to promote outdoor recreation. Baby slings are encouraged as trails are not stroller compatible. Please call 618-457-4836 for future dates and to register.

February

Wild Orchids of Illinois

February 6th, 1pm

Orchids are some of the most sought after gems by plant enthusiasts and can often be very hard to find. Join Botanist, Christopher David Benda (aka Illinois Botanizer), as he shares some brilliant photos and discusses these mysterious plants. No registration required. *Meet at the Giant City Visitors Center*

Kids in the Woods

Looking Up/Down

February 13, 1-3pm

Second in the Kids in the Woods Series, we will be looking up to observe and identify clouds, looking up at trees to notice the different shapes and, looking down at animal tracks! Join us for one month or all twelve. Registration is required. Please call the Giant City Visitors Center at 618-457-4836 to register or for more information. *Meet at the Giant City Visitors Center*

Friends of Giant City Annual Meeting

February 16th, 5:30-7 pm

Would you like to learn more about the Friends of Giant City? If so, why not join us for the annual meeting. Meet Friends members and enjoy refreshments and guest presenter, Living History Re-enactor, Tony Gerard. Anyone interested in learning more about the Friends group or the park is encouraged to attend. *Meet at the Giant City Visitors Center*

Winter Walk in the Woods

February 20th, 10-11:30am

It may be cold outside, but winter is a great time to get some exercise and fresh air as we take in the natural beauty of Giant City State Park. Join the Natural Resources Coordinator as we take a leisurely stroll through the winter woods. Trail will range from 1/3 to 2 miles. For more information please contact the Giant City Visitors Center at 618-457-4836. No registration required. *Meet at the Giant City Visitors Center*

Backpacking Baby!

Date to be announced

Second in series. Please call 618-457-4836 for more details.

March

Kids in the Woods

Spring into action

March 12th, 1-3pm

Third in the Kids in the Woods Series, we will be documenting the beginning signs of spring. We'll go on a hike, turn over logs and get creative as we paint spring! Join us for one month or all twelve. Registration is required. Please call the Giant City Visitors Center at 618-457-4836 to register or for more information. *Meet at the Giant City Visitors Center*

Raptors of Southern Illinois

March 26th, 1-2pm

Head out to Giant City to join Bev Shofstall from Free Again Wildlife Rehab as she introduces us to some of her amazing live raptor friends! This program is recommended for all ages and will be held outdoors by the Giant City Nature Trail at Shelter #3. No registration required. *Meet at shelter #3*

Backpacking Baby!

Date to be announced

Third in series. Please call 618-457-4836 for more details.

April

Spring Wildflower Walks

April 2nd and 9th, 10am-Noon

Trillium Trail in Giant City is one of the best spring wildflower trails in Southern Illinois. Join the Natural Resources Coordinator as we meander through the spring woods and take a closer look at these petite beauties. Please register in advance. *This is a moderately difficult 2 mile trail with some steep stair climbing. Meet at the Giant City Visitors Center*

Kids in the Woods

Creeping Crawling

April 9th, 1-3pm

Fourth in the Kids in the Woods Series, we will be learning all about our slimy and scaly friends! We'll be using all of our senses as we take a hike on a nature trail. Join us for one month or all twelve. Registration is required. Please call 618-457-4836 to register or for more information.

Backpacking Baby!

Date to be announced

Fourth in series. Please call 618-457-4836 for more details.

May

Kids in the Woods

Fur and Feathers

May 14, 1-3pm

Fifth in the Kids in the Woods Series, learn all about how the birds in the park live and adapt just like people do. Take a hike and learn all about how plants and trees help birds survive. Join us for one month or all twelve. Registration is required. Please call the Giant City Visitors Center at 618-457-4836 to register or for more information. *Meet at the Giant City Visitors Center*

Reptile and Amphibian Month at Giant City State Park!

May 14th, 21st and 28th

Here at Giant City, reptiles and amphibians hold a special place in our hearts. That's why we are designating the month of May as the Giant City Reptile and Amphibian Appreciation Month! On Saturday, May 14th, from 10am to noon, join local photographer and reptile and amphibian enthusiast, Jeremy Schumacher, as he shares photography tips and leads a hike to look for slimy and scaly friends. On Saturday, May 21st, from 10am-11am, join IDNR Natural Heritage Biologist, Scott Ballard, as he discusses these often misunderstood creatures. On Saturday, May 28th, from 1-2pm, join Master Naturalist, Kathleen Gaare-Wiese, as she shares her love of these creatures by showing off several different live species. These programs are all free and open to the public. Please call 618-457-4836 to register.

Backpacking Baby!

Date to be announced

Fifth in series. Please call 618-457-4836 for more details.

June

Giant City Off the Beaten Path

June 4th

Did you know that Giant City State Park has 4,055 acres? Join the Natural Resource Coordinator as we celebrate National Trails day by venturing out on 1-2 mile sections of the 12 mile backpacking trail. These trails host great views of interesting rock formations and even a small waterfall! Please call the Visitors Center for more information or to register, 618-457-4836.

Kids in the Woods

Woodsy Wonders

June 11th, 1-3pm

Sixth in the Kids in the Woods Series, this month is all about trees! What kinds of trees live in the park? Are they the same as those that live at your house or school? What kinds of animals live in the trees? Join us for one month or all twelve. Registration is required. Please call the Giant City Visitors Center at 618-457-4836 to register or for more information.

Wild Plants of Giant City

June 25th, 10am-1pm

Giant City State Park is home to hundreds of species of amazing plants. Join John A. Logan Biology instructor and plant enthusiast, Abel Kinser for a Wild Plant Hike on the 1 mile Giant City Nature Trail. Mr. Kinser has taught science in Southern Illinois for the last ten years and has been exploring Giant City for decades. No registration required. *Meet at the Visitors Center.*

Backpacking Baby!

Date to be announced

Sixth in series. Please call 618-457-4836 for more information.

July

Kids in the Woods

Flying Rainbows

July 9th, 1-3pm

Seventh in the Kids in the Woods Series, we will be looking for butterflies! What is the difference between a butterfly and a moth? What kinds of plants are growing and what do butterflies need in order to survive? Each month will have a different theme and is open to families with children aged 6-10. Join us for one month or all twelve. Registration is required. Please call the Giant City Visitors Center at 618-457-4836 to register or for more information.

Fern Workshop

July 21st from 6-8pm, and July 23rd from 9am-noon

In summer, Giant City is a lush green environment full of many different species of ferns. This two part Fern Workshop conducted by Extension Forester, Chris Evans, will give a hands on approach to learning all about these green beauties. On Thursday July 21st, join us for an indoor presentation about a few of the unique varieties that you will find at the park. Then, on Saturday July 23rd, head out to the trail to identify some live species. This program is free and open to the public. Please register by calling, 618-457-4836.

Forest Hike

July 30th

Join volunteer and forest enthusiast, Jennifer Behnken, on the Giant City Nature Trail as she discusses tree identification, Illinois forests, wood products, cultural history, and invasive species. This will be a fun, family, interpretive hike focused on trees and forests. No registration required. *10am-noon, meet at Giant City Nature Trail located next to shelter #3*

Backpacking Baby!

Date to be announced

Sixth in series. Please call 618-457-4836 for more information.