

# HUNTERDON PARKS HARBINGER

Your source for Hunterdon County Parks & Recreation  
events, programs, and news.

Summer 2026  
June, July, August



**You may have heard that the Hunterdon County Arboretum is being renovated and expanded to better serve the community. While the building is under construction the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation office has temporarily moved.**

**You can find our new temporary office at 6 Gauntt Place, Flemington, NJ 08822. We are located on the lower level of Building 2. Our mailing address is still PO Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822.**



## HUNTERDON COUNTY DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

Office Location: 1020 State Highway 31, Lebanon, NJ

Telephone (908) 782-1158 · Fax (908) 806-4057

Email: [parks@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:parks@co.hunterdon.nj.us) <https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/479/Parks-Recreation>



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## Online Program Registration

You can register for any of our Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation programs online. Visit our website [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/479/Parks-Recreation](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/479/Parks-Recreation) and click the photo for Online Program Registration.

Register in person by completing the program registration and medical record form on the last pages of this Harbinger. Visit the Division Office at 6 Gauntt Place, Building 2, Lower Level, Flemington, NJ 08822, Monday to Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM or mail your completed form with check payment to Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822.

Program details including parking addresses and any other pertinent information such as items to bring will be printed on your receipt.

### **CANCELLATION POLICIES:**

You will be notified by phone if we cancel a program and you will receive a full refund. Programs are designed for all types of weather and participants should dress appropriately. Cancellations and requests for refunds made by participants must be in writing. Cancellations made less than one week prior to the program will not receive a refund.



# Nature Camp



Join us for another great summer at Nature Camp at Echo Hill Park. Offered in partnership with River Crossing YMCA, campers can choose half-day Nature Camp or add on half-day Adventure Camp for an all-day experience. Registration details can be found at [ymcarivercrossing.org/camp/flemington-echo-hill-park](http://ymcarivercrossing.org/camp/flemington-echo-hill-park).

## **Wilderness Warriors | June 29-July 2**

Embark on a wilderness adventure! Join us for a wilderness adventure packed with outdoor activities, survival skills, teamwork, and personal development. Join us for an unforgettable journey into the wild, where every moment is an opportunity for exploration, growth and building lasting connections with nature and fellow adventurers.

## **Water Wonders | July 6-10**

Prepare to get wet this week and dive into why water is so important to our world! We will meet turtles up close, catch critters of the Prescott Creek and cool off with favorite water games! This week is sure to be a splash!

## **Herptile Heroes | July 13-17**

Reptiles and Amphibians unite for this week filled with leaps of knowledge and slithers of fun. Meet our live animal guests, from colorful snakes to majestic turtles, and hear their stories! Participate in hands-on workshops where you can explore habitats, observe behaviors, and understand the critical roles these animals play in our ecosystems. Whether you're a seasoned nature enthusiast or new to the world of herps, this camp promises excitement, education, and inspiration for everyone.

## **Fur, Paws, and Claws | July 20-24**

Let's journey through the fascinating world of Hunterdon's mammals! Each day, we'll dive into hands-on activities, interactive discussions, and imaginative roleplaying as we explore the lives of bats, beavers, bears, coyotes, and more. Get ready for a week of wild fun and discovery, where learning about these amazing creatures transforms into an unforgettable adventure!

## **Feathered Friends | July 27-31**

Fly into a week of bird explorations featuring our local feathered friends. From sparrows darting into the brush to hawks soaring in the air, we'll discover the features of the birds that fascinate us. We will learn about their captivating sounds, feathered adaptations and observe them in action at the park. Join us for a week filled with bird watching, discoveries and a whole lot of feathered fun!

## **Fintastic Adventures | August 3-7**

Explore the watery world of ponds, streams, and rivers while discovering the amazing adaptations that help fish survive. Through games, crafts, and hands-on activities, we'll learn how fish breathe, eat, and move, and even try our hand at catching a few (for observation only!). Get ready to make a splash while uncovering the secrets of life below the surface!

## **Environmental Explorers | August 10-14**

Investigate the natural world through hands-on activities, outdoor games, and creative experiments that reveal how ecosystems work and why it's important to protect them. Each day will focus on a different environmental theme—from water and wildlife to recycling and renewable energy—encouraging curiosity and conservation. Get ready to explore, discover, and make a difference for our planet!



# Summer Concert Series



**Deer Path Park**  
**Weeknight concerts begin at 7:00 PM**

All Ages - All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Join us this summer, bring your friends & family, maybe a picnic dinner, your blanket and lawn chair, and enjoy the music and the sunset!

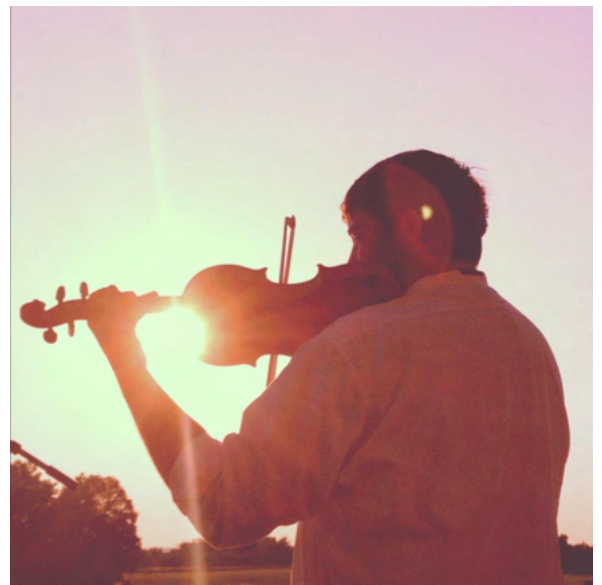
**Have fun, be safe, & be courteous of others.** Our concert series is family-oriented; be considerate of others so everyone may enjoy the music and the natural surroundings. If you smoke, make sure the smoke does not bother anyone else. Keep children in sight at all times for safety and so they do not disturb others. Remember some people are afraid of dogs; observe our leash law and keep pets under control at all times. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted!

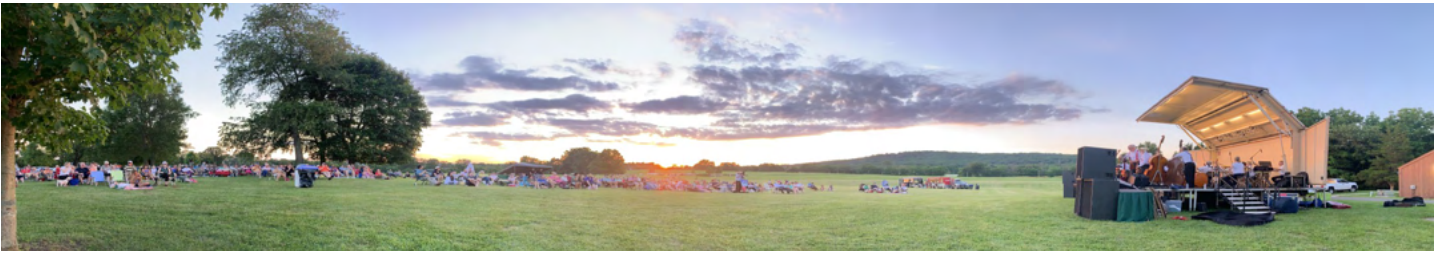
**Rainy day concert information:** Weather conditions may dictate that we move the concert inside; the decision will be made the afternoon of the concert day. To find out this information, go to our county website: [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us), social media, or call the park office after 4:30 PM, and listen to the recording (908) 782-PARK (7275). Indoor concerts will be held at Hunterdon Central High School, 84 Route 31, Flemington NJ, 08822. Doors will open at 6:00 PM. No food or drink is permitted in the auditorium.

**Thursday, June 25, 7:00 PM: CountryLIVE:** CountryLIVE is a one-of-a-kind tribute to four icons of modern country music. Imagine a show with Kenny Chesney, Shania Twain, Keith Urban and Luke Bryan all on the same stage performing their MANY hits together in one smashing performance! With four tributes in one, there is something for every country fan. <https://ultraartists.com/country-live/>

**Wednesday, July 8, 7:00 PM: America's 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration with the Hunterdon Symphony**

CELEBRATE AMERICA! The Hunterdon Symphony is proud to be your hometown orchestra — and excited to perform at this important Hunterdon County celebration and milestone in American history: the nation's 250th Anniversary only comes around once! The concert will feature patriotic and made-in-America pieces from beginning to end, followed by the biggest fireworks display the County has ever seen! A program of rousing, evocative music includes familiar works by Sousa, Horner, Bernstein, and Copland, among others. You might also hear a movement from Seven Stories of Old Hunterdon, composed by our own Lawrence Kursar. This special 250th celebration will also have a reading of the Declaration of Independence before the performance. The night will be capped with a stunning fireworks display commemorating the founding of our country 250 years ago. <https://www.hunterdonsymphony.org/>





**Thursday, July 16, 7:00 PM: Clapton Complete:** We'll take you on a journey through the life of Eric Clapton. From Eric's first band, The Yardbirds, into his power trio days with Cream giving him the opportunity to play with Jimi Hendrix, following his career through Blind Faith, Derek & the Dominoes, you'll learn about Eric's lost years and see how his hard times inspired an amazing comeback of unforgettable songs in his solo career. The Clapton Complete band will share with you a visceral and musical experience that you will never forget. <https://claptoncomplete.com/>

**Saturday, July 18 10:00AM: Beauty and the Beats:** It's all about the young and young at heart with Beauty & the Beats! Disney fanatics of all ages get ready to sing and dance with this Ultimate Fairytale Show! Picture an enchanted concert with favorites like *Under The Sea*, *We Don't Talk About Bruno*, *Let It Go*, *A Whole New World*, *Be Our Guest*, *Part Of Your World*, *Just Can't Wait to Be King* and much more. This immersive experience begins with your hosts Princess Melody and The Dragon Prince as they take us on a journey across the Fairy Tale Universe.



**Thursday, July 23, 7:00 PM: Captain Jack:** The Captain Jack Band is a Billy Joel Tribute band consisting of some of the tri-state area's top musicians. The band, in every performance, captures the "live concert" arrangements of these timeless hits which captivated tens of thousands to attend Billy Joel concerts. Every event is packed with all the energy, passion, and interaction of a Billy Joel Concert, represented by 3 decades of Billy's music in every Captain Jack show. [www.captainjacktributeband.com](http://www.captainjacktributeband.com)

**Thursday, July 30, 7:00 PM: Yacht Rock Gold Experience:** Yacht Rock Gold Experience brings all your favorite hits from the late 1970's-early 1980's to new generations of music fans. Celebrating the smooth sounds of the Doobie Brothers, Fleetwood Mac, Steely Dan, Christopher Cross, Looking Glass, Kenny Loggins, Little River Band, Ambrosia, Player, Boz Skaggs and so many more, Yacht Rock Gold engages fans with amazing harmonies and musicianship that brings audiences back to a time when music made you feel good and soothed the soul. <https://yachtrockgold.com/>

**Thursday, August 6, 7:00 PM: The Hunterdon Choral Alliance:** Delight in an evening of a cappella magic with the Hunterdon Choral Alliance! The Hunterdon Harmonizers will have your toes tapping and fingers snapping as they take you on a lively barbershop journey filled with fun, feel-good favorites. Evolution in Harmony, an award-winning all-male ensemble, delivers fresh, dynamic takes on tight harmonies that will leave you wanting more. Vocal Synergy brings a captivating mix of music – from timeless classics to today's pop hits – performed with style and heart. And if that's not enough, our talented small ensembles will take the stage, adding even more charm, energy, and musical surprises guaranteed to leave you smiling. This is a musical journey you won't want to miss! <https://www.njchoralalliance.org/>

Made possible with funds from the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.



# Canoeing and Kayaking

## River Day Trips

Time: 8:15 AM to about 3:30 PM

Parking Location: Echo Hill Park

Ages: 8 through Adults | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: \$50 | Registration closes Wednesday before the trip.

Instructor: Patrick Eckard, Recreation Program Coordinator



Your leaders will fit you with a lifejacket and paddle, drive to the river, discuss maneuvering techniques and boating safety, and guide you down the river. We paddle for about two hours, stop for lunch, and paddle about two more hours, which depends in part on natural forces, such as wind and water levels. Our aim is to return to Echo Hill by 3:30 PM, give or take an hour. You can choose between canoes, single kayaks, or tandem kayaks. Our Naturalist Guided Paddles are a bit slower by design and stop to appreciate the natural environment and ecosystems along the South Branch.

Dates: Saturday, June 20: South Branch of the Raritan River | **Naturalist Guided Paddle**  
Sunday, June 28: Delaware River  
Saturday, July 11: South Branch of the Raritan River | **Naturalist Guided Paddle**  
Saturday, July 25: Delaware River  
Sunday, August 2: South Branch of the Raritan River  
Saturday, August 8: Delaware River

PLEASE NOTE: Due to water levels or other circumstances, it may be necessary to pick an alternative river. Leaders may make this change at any time to provide a safe and fun experience.

## Sunset Paddle on Round Valley Reservoir

Dates: Friday, June 12 and Friday, July 31

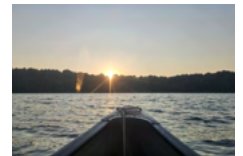
Time: 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Location: Round Valley Reservoir Boat Launch, County Rd 629, Lebanon, NJ 08833

Ages: 8 through Adults | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program

Cost: \$30 | Registration closes Wednesday before the trip.

Instructor: Patrick Eckard, Recreation Program Coordinator



Treat yourself to a guided evening sunset paddle. The group will meet at Round Valley Reservoir at the boat launch. A short safety talk will be included. Bring a flashlight and an extra jacket; it's cooler by the water when the sun goes down.

### Planning your boating trip:

**What to wear:** We suggest dressing in layers so you can adjust to changing temperatures. Durable old clothes are best; wool keeps you warm even if wet and polypropylene fleece dries quickly. Cotton is a bad material for cool, wet outdoor activities. Sneakers are recommended, please no sandals, boots, or heavy shoes. Wool socks are best for cold weather. A bathing suit may be worn in warm weather; often we stop for a swim.

**What to bring:** Lunch (in a waterproof container), lots of water to drink, rain jacket, hat, sunscreen, eyeglass strap, etc. In chilly weather, a complete change of clothing may be carried in your canoe (in a waterproof bag) or kept in the van for the trip's end.

**What not to bring:** No alcoholic beverages are permitted on our trips. No pets are allowed, except service animals. Any valuables that may be damaged or lost in the river should stay at home. Please be aware our trips run rain or shine with the exception of extreme weather.

# Nature Programs

## Family Nature Explorations

### De-Creepifying Misunderstood Animals

Thursday, June 25, 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Location: Deer Path Park Overlook Pavilion

Ages: All | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.

Cost: Free, Pre-registration is required.

Guest Instructor: Kate Seeland of Beyond the Bug

Some animals get a worse reputation than they deserve, but Beyond the Bug is here to change that! Join us and our animal friends for De-Creepifying Misunderstood Animals. Together, we will break down misconceptions, learn how many of these animals help humans, and learn how we can be better friends to them! This program is sponsored by Hunterdon County Clean Communities. After the animal show, bring a picnic dinner, enjoy the playground, and stay for the concert if desired! For more information about the Music Under the Stars concert series, see page 4.

### Firefly Walk

Wednesday, July 15, 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Location: Landsdown Trail Clinton

Ages: 6 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.

Cost: \$8

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Being outside in summer as dusk sets in is magical! On a guided nature walk, watch fireflies wake up and signal to each other! Learn about the lifecycle of fireflies, how and why they produce light, and how you can help them. We will also look and listen for other nocturnal insects and animals. Expect to walk one mile on a flat gravel trail.



### Nocturnal Insects

Tuesday, July 21, 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Location: Echo Hill Lodge

Ages: 8 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required.

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Nature after dark is fascinating! Katydid sing, cicadas emerge, and wolf spiders hunt. With this lecture, we will learn about insects that are active at night in the summer. We will hear calls and learn about how they make their sounds. After the hour-long slideshow, we will go outdoors for a short walk to look for and listen to nocturnal insects in the park!

### Full Moon Walk

Friday, August 28, 7:00 PM to 8:15 PM

Location: Teetertown Preserve parking lot 3

Ages: 8 through adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.

Cost: \$8 per person

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Come explore the park after dark and see the moonlight reflecting off our pond! Under the light of a full moon, we will listen for summer insects and learn about the adaptations of nocturnal animals. We will also learn about the phases of the moon. Meet at the brown garage, 40 Pleasant Grove Road, Port Murray (Lebanon Township). We will walk about 1.5 miles.



Scan here to register for any program online.

# Nature Programs

## Youth Nature Series

Engaging children in outdoor play and learning can foster creativity, curiosity, and physical development. Nature offers a dynamic environment that stimulates the senses, encourages problem-solving, and nurtures imagination. Spending time outside can also support a child's mental well-being and help cultivate a lifelong appreciation for the natural world.

### Baby Walks

Fridays, 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Ages: 0 to 23 months with adult

Cost: Free

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist or Laura Tarlowski, Superintendent of Recreation

Get outside with your baby, explore your local trails, and enjoy the company of other parents and caregivers in the area. We will walk at the pace of the adults; we ask that babies be carried or in a stroller depending on the location.

June 26: Miquin Woods Preserve

Dirt trails appropriate for carriers only

July 24: Sourland Mountain Preserve

Coarse gravel trails for all-terrain strollers and carriers only

August 14: Landsdown Trail, Clinton

Fine gravel trails for strollers and carriers

### Baby Playdates

Mondays, 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Ages: 0 to 23 months with adult

Cost: Free

Instructor: Laura Tarlowski, Superintendent of Recreation

Be prepared to sit on the grass and experience nature! Explore sensory activities, read books, and play games. Bring a blanket to sit or lay on if desired and dress for the weather.

June 15: Deer Path Park

July 13: Court Street Park

August 3: Echo Hill Park



### Tot Walks

Time: 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Location: Echo Hill Park

Ages: 2 to 3 years with adult

Cost: \$10/session

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Discover nature at your local park! Leave the strollers behind as we take a walk to learn about the nature around us. We will also do a story and craft on the same theme. Please dress for the weather as we will be outside for the entire program.



### Butterflies

Session A: Wednesday, July 22

Session B: Thursday, July 23

### Turtles

Session A: Wednesday, August 26

Session B: Thursday, August 27

**Scan here to register for any program online.**



## Homeschool Nature Series

**Wednesdays, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM**

Ages: 7 to 17 years | All children must be accompanied by an adult

Cost: \$8 per session

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Join our Homeschool Nature Program for a monthly dose of outdoor education and exploration! In each session, your child will immerse themselves in a new and exciting nature topic, fostering curiosity and a deeper connection to the natural world.

### Stream Study

June 10

Location: Echo Hill Park

The ecology of the stream can tell us a lot about our surroundings. Join us for this activity and be prepared to get your feet wet as we collect and examine some of our freshwater macroinvertebrates. Based on what we find, we can make a conclusion about the water quality at Echo Hill.



### Field Insects

July 15

Location: Hoffman Park

Insects are the largest group of animals by species. We will examine what makes up an insect and discuss the roles that they play in the environment. Students will then have the opportunity to collect and examine live insects from our fields at Hoffman.



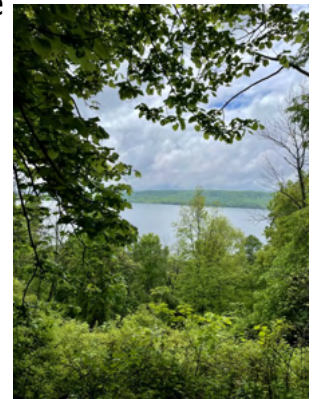
### Nature Hike

August 19

Location: Cushetunk Preserve

Join us for a walk through Cushetunk Preserve for an exploration during the end of the summer season.

We will look for signs of animal activity, do some tree identification and anything else we can find for the season. The sky is the limit for any nature-related questions that the students may have as we move about the park.



## Family Nature Club Week

Monday through Thursday, June 22 to 25

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Location: Hunterdon County Arboretum

Cost: \$100

Ages 3 to 6 years | All children must be accompanied by an adult

Instructor: Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist



This week-long program offers an ideal half-day excursion for your budding nature lover. Participants will delve into the world of local flora and fauna through guided hikes, hands-on observations, creative crafts, and engaging games. It's an enlightening and enjoyable opportunity to nurture your child's passion for the great outdoors. Dress for the weather as we plan to be outside even in light rain. Please bring a snack and refillable water bottle.

# Nature Programs

## Family Lectures

### Mammals Of Hunterdon

Wednesday, July 15, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
Location: Echo Hill Park

Age: 7 to Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required.

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Over forty different mammal species call Hunterdon County their home. This evening program will review some of these species. Species will range from the common such as the Gray Squirrel and Cottontail to the rare which includes the Mink and the Fisher. We will also cover the information on the Black Bear and Coyote. Bring your questions about the mammals, because the program is about what you want to know.

### Raptors Of Hunterdon

Wednesday, August 19, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park Main Lodge

Age: 7 to Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required.

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Fall migration is almost upon us and that means migrating birds of prey.



Join us for an evening program as we review each species that can and would be moving through the county for the fall migration. Along with tips on how to identify the species and facts of interest for each species, we will cover places to go and when species might be seen.

## Adult Programs

### Lichen Workshop

Thursday, June 11, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

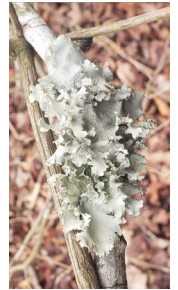
Age: Adult

Cost: \$8

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Guest Lecturer: Dennis Waters

Dennis has surveyed over 4 counties in New Jersey and has discovered more than 250 kinds of lichen growing in Hunterdon County, including species that have never been documented. Join us tonight to learn about these fascinating and ecologically important organisms. We will begin with a brief introduction to lichens—what they are and how they live—followed by examining samples that Dennis has brought to share with us.



### Introduction to Forest Bathing

Mondays, 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Ages: Adults

Cost: \$8

Instructor: Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist

Step into a world of tranquility and rejuvenation with our Forest Bathing experience. Immerse yourself in nature and unlock the powerful benefits of this healing practice. You can expect a guided gentle walk through the forest with mindfulness exercises and relaxation techniques. Join us for a serene escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Whether you're a nature lover or simply seeking a moment of peace, Forest Bathing is for everyone.

**June 29:** Wescott Preserve

**July 20:** Sourland Mountain Preserve

**August 17:** Laport Preserve

# Trips

## Van Trips

### Naturalist Guided Pine Barrens Hike

Thursday, June 11, 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM

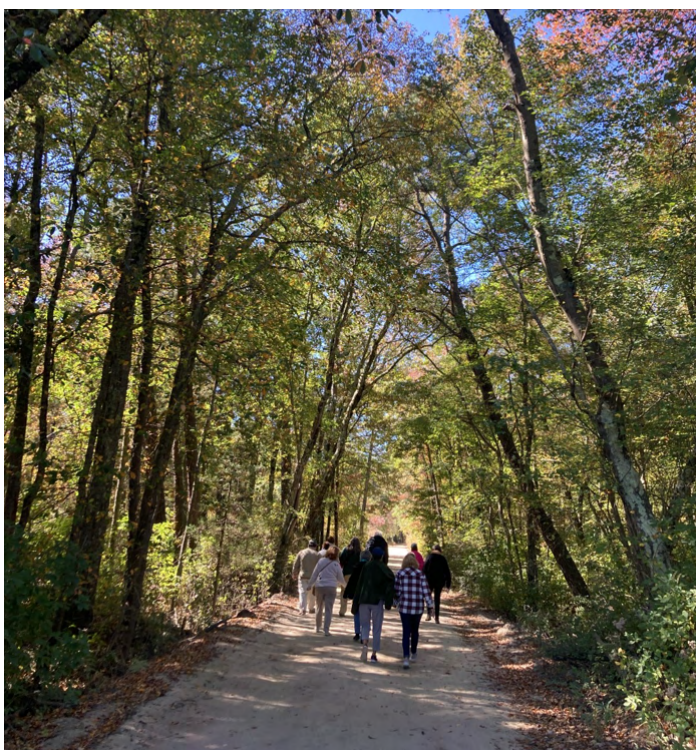
Location: Deer Path Park

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$33

Instructor: Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist

The Pine Barrens is a unique ecosystem characterized by its acidic, low-nutrient water and soil. So distinctive is this area that it was designated an International Biosphere Reserve in 1988. The Franklin Parker Preserve provides an excellent 6-mile route to experience its natural beauty. Along the way, you'll traverse through wetlands, open meadows, cranberry bogs and blueberry fields. Discover the wonders of the Pine Barrens with Naturalist Debra Reed as your guide. Embark on a captivating journey through this unique ecosystem and gain a deeper appreciation for its natural beauty. Lunch will be on the trail; please bring a daypack with water and lunch. There is a portable restroom at the trailhead.



### Battle of Monmouth Reenactment

Saturday, June 20, 10:30 AM to 6:00 PM

Parking Location: Deer Path Park

Ages: 8 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.

Cost: \$29

Instructor: Laura Bush, Principal Park Naturalist

Let's visit Monmouth during reenactment weekend! Travel back in time to the 1770s and see two armies preparing to do battle. Continental Army soldiers retrained at Valley Forge will be itching to show off their new skills, while a British-German-Loyalist Army hopes to crush the rebels and restore good government. We will arrive in time explore the camp of about 200 reenactors and watch soldiers clean their muskets while their women prepare what may be their men's last meal. Some officers may be drilling their men while others plan for the battle and yet others play cards. If someone is accused of cheating, there may be a duel. We will stay for the battle reenactment and have time to explore the visitor center. Bring a camping chair or blanket to sit on if desired (the reenactment is 30 minutes long) and a \$2 cash donation for the parking fee. We will have time to visit the sutlers (vendors that followed the army selling goods to supplement army-issued supplies) and catch the program "Over Here Molly Pitcher." Bring a bagged lunch or plan to buy it from the vendors available on-site.

# Trips

## Tour Of Institute for Natural History Arts & Insect Workshop

Tuesday, August 18, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Parking Location: Deer Path Park

Age: Adult

Cost: \$100

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Join the Institute for Natural History Arts (INHA) for an immersive, behind-the-scenes experience exploring how natural history exhibits are created—both historically and in modern practice. Participants will enjoy an in-depth guided tour led personally by INHA President and Founder George Dante. Visitors will explore the Institute's working collections and learn how specimens are prepared, preserved, and displayed for museums, educational institutions, and private collections. The tour will highlight the evolution of exhibit craftsmanship—from early displays to contemporary installations.

Following the tour, experience a hands-on insect pinning workshop with a discussion and focus on how historic entomology collection were made and the modern techniques used today. By the end patrons will have two prepared butterfly/moth specimens—one they spread themselves and one fully mounted for display. Please bring a bagged lunch and water.



## Sedge Island Kayak Eco Tour

Wednesday, August 26, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Parking Location: Deer Path Park

Ages: Adults

Cost: \$58

Instructor: Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist

Glide through a hidden coastal paradise in New Jersey's first Marine Conservation Zone! Join NJ State naturalists on an unforgettable kayak eco-adventure through the Sedge Islands, where pristine brackish waters pulse with life—from lively mudflats to soaring osprey nesting platforms. Uncover the fascinating history of Island Beach State Park and soak in the breathtaking serenity of Barnegat Bay. Dress for a day of kayaking, and be sure to bring a jacket as it could be breezy by the bay. For lunch, we'll stop at the local beachfront food court, or you can enjoy your own packed picnic. To wrap up our exploration, we'll visit the nature center and take a short, shaded walk through stands of bayberry and beach plum.

## Birding Van Trips

### Sussex County Birds

Saturday, June 6, 5:00 AM to 2:00 PM

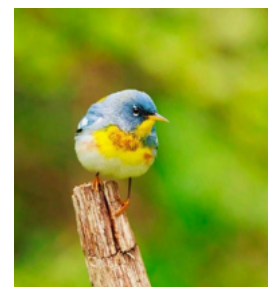
Parking Location: Deer Path Park

Ages: Adults

Cost: \$37

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Rise and shine early for one of our most beloved birding adventures! Sussex County offers fantastic opportunities to spot northern nesting birds such as the Scarlet Tanager, Cerulean Warbler, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Northern Raven. We'll explore parts of Stokes State Forest and High Point State Park during peak morning hours—prime time for birdwatching. Expect moderate walking and unforgettable views. Don't forget: we're hitting the road early to catch the best of the bird world in action! Please bring a bagged lunch. Binoculars are available to borrow if needed.



## Breeding Birds of Hunterdon County

Friday, July 10, 6:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Parking Location: Deer Path Park

Ages: Adults

Cost: \$26

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Get to know the rich variety of birds that call Hunterdon County home during nesting season! We'll scout top birding hotspots like Hoffman Park, Spruce Run Reservoir, and Voorhees State Park. The route will be flexible and based on current sightings to maximize your birdwatching experience. Keep your eyes open for Bobolinks, a variety of warblers, and other summer residents. Around two miles of hiking may be included—come ready for a morning of exploration! Binoculars are available to borrow if needed.



## Coach Bus Trips

### Historic Winterthur Museum, Gardens, and Library

Friday, August 28, 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM

Parking Location: Deer Path Park

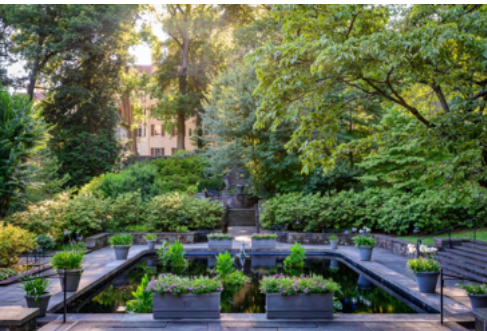
Ages: All ages | Children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: \$78 | Winterthur admission included

Instructor: Debra Somers, Senior Park Naturalist

Step into a world where American history, art, and nature come alive with a visit to Winterthur Museum & Gardens, nestled in the rolling hills of the Brandywine Valley. Often described as the largest and richest museum of American furniture and decorative arts in the world, Winterthur invites you to explore beautifully crafted interiors dating from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. Inside the grand du Pont mansion, wander through a section of the 175 rooms filled with exquisitely preserved period settings, each thoughtfully designed to reflect a range of eras, cultures, and styles—from refined European elegance to distinctive American craftsmanship and global influences.

Throughout the museum, found adjacent to the mansion, you'll encounter an exceptional collection of furniture that showcases intricate detailing, masterful woodworking, and timeless design. Beyond the mansion, the gardens reveal the artistic vision of Henry Francis du Pont, spanning nearly 1,000 acres of meadows, farmland, waterways, and old-growth forest. A relaxing tram ride offers a scenic overview of the estate's landscapes in full summer bloom, while those who prefer to explore on foot can wander through the enchanting children's garden.



All tours, garden visits, and museum experiences are self-paced, allowing you to enjoy the day at your leisure. When it's time for a break, you can stop by the on-site café or bring along a picnic to savor anywhere within the gardens. Love to shop? Enjoy the gift shops filled with artistic pieces and garden supplies.

# Walks and Hikes

## Adult Walks and Hikes

### Senior Strolls

Wednesdays, 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Ages: Adult

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required

Join our Senior Strolls, specially designed for those aged 55 and above, and experience the sheer delight of walking together. Our walks not only promote a healthier and more active lifestyle but also offer the chance to form meaningful connections with peers, making each walk an enjoyable and socially enriching experience.

**June 17:** South Branch Reservation, Sunnyside

**July 15:** Point Mountain Reservation, Central Section

**August 5:** Hoffman Park



### Adult Recreation Walks

Wednesdays, 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Ages: Adult

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required

Instructor: Patrick Eckard, Recreation Program Coordinator

Indulge in the tranquility of local parks and uncover their natural beauty on our walks. As you meander through these serene landscapes, our knowledgeable staff will sprinkle in fascinating tidbits of historical insight, enhancing your appreciation for both the environment and the past. These walks are easy to moderate difficulty with varying elevation, and some technical terrain. Please wear appropriate footwear.

**June 24:** Charlestown Reserve

Difficulty: Moderate

**July 22:** Columbia Trail Morris County Line

Difficulty: Easy

**August 26:** Round Mountain North Section

Difficulty: Moderate

### One-Way Hikes

Mondays, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Ages: Adult

Cost: \$8

Instructor: Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist

Discover the hidden corners of our parks with a series of one-way hikes along less-traveled trails. These moderately challenging hikes will take you on an exploration through unique landscapes, including wet foot crossings, knee-high vegetation, uneven stone fields, and slopes. A shuttle will transport participants from the meeting point to the trailhead. Each hike covers 2 to 3 miles; we may finish earlier than planned. Please come prepared with weather-appropriate clothing, sturdy footwear, a snack, and at least a quart of water.

**June 29:** Musconetcong Gorge Preserve

**July 27:** Wescott Preserve

**August 31:** Cushetunk Mountain Preserve

# Family Walks and Hikes

## HOPE Walks

Tuesdays, 5:00 PM start

Ages: All Ages | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required

People of all ages can explore nature together. HOPE stands for Hunterdon Outdoor Park Exploration. Join us for a guided walk to one of our scavenger hunt destinations at 17 different Hunterdon County Parks and earn the token! Be sure to dress for the weather and wear proper footwear. This program is guided by the HOPE booklet and the walk lengths vary based on the target location in each park, no longer than 1.5 hours.

**June 23:** Wescott Preserve

Difficulty: Easy

**July 14:** Schick Reserve

Difficulty: Easy

**August 25:** Point Mountain Central

Difficulty: Easy



## Kids' NIGHT Hikes for Fun

7:45 PM to 8:45 PM

Ages: 5 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult also registered for the program.

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required

Instructor: Debra Reed, Park Naturalist

Get ready for an exciting adventure under the setting sun with our Night Hikes for Kids! This unique outdoor experience is perfect for young adventurers, offering the chance to explore nature in a whole new light. Kids ages 5-12 will enjoy a guided hike through the beautiful woods, where they'll learn about nocturnal animals and discover the mysteries of the night. It's a safe, supervised way for children to connect with nature, make new friends, and have an unforgettable time.

**Sunday, June 28:** Teetertown Preserve

**Thursday, July 23:** Hoffman Park

**Thursday, August 27:** Hunterdon County Arboretum

Did you know that there are more than 140 miles of trails in the Hunterdon County Park System?

You can explore all of the trails on foot and many by bicycle and even some on horseback!

# Basketry & Crafts

Basketry, with its deep historical roots in cultures worldwide, offers an enriching and timeless experience for individuals of all backgrounds. Through hands-on learning, participants can appreciate the therapeutic and creative aspects of basketry, connecting with tradition while fostering a sense of accomplishment and personal fulfillment.

## Blueberry Basket

Tuesday, June 23, 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM

Location: Echo Hill Park

Ages: 12 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: \$30 per basket

Instructor: Laura Tarlowski, Superintendent of Recreation

Get ready for berry harvest season by weaving your own berry picking basket. This 6 inch square bottom basket with an oak handle will be perfect for home harvests. The easy to weave basket is a simple starter basket.



Please bring water and a bagged lunch for full-day programs. There will be a 30-min lunch break.

## Flag Basket

Tuesday, July 7, 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Location: Deer Path Park, Cedars Pavilion

Ages: 10 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: \$25 per basket

Instructor: Laura Tarlowski, Superintendent of Recreation



Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America with this simple patriotic basket. This small rectangular basket uses natural, red, and blue reed to make a flag style basket.

## Macrame Woven Coasters

Tuesday, August 4, 2:00 to 4:00 PM

Location: Deer Path Park, Cedars Pavilion

Ages: 8 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: \$18 per set of 4 coasters

Instructor: Laura Tarlowski, Superintendent of Recreation

Use cotton cord and a simple weaving pattern to make your own set of four coasters. This entry level activity is a great opportunity to try your hand at macrame, using cord and knots to make unique creations. Perfect to keep or to share.



## Group Requested Programs

Your youth or adult group can request a variety of nature, craft, or skill-based programs to be brought to you at a public meeting location or held on-site in a county park. We can cover topics from baskets to CPR, amphibians to wildflowers. Our staff can provide your group with an informative fun event. For more information about what programs we offer, or to request more information about scheduling a program, visit our website:

[www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/506/Group-Education-Programs](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/506/Group-Education-Programs)



# Fitness Programs

## Let's Try Trail Running

Thursdays, 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Ages: 14 through Adult | All children must be accompanied by an adult that is also registered for the program.

Cost: Free but pre-registration is required

Instructor: Laura Tarlowski, Superintendent of Recreation

Experience the joy of trail running with "Let's Try Trail Running," a program welcoming to both beginners and seasoned runners alike! Each weekly group run will be filled with exploring scenic trails and embracing the outdoors. Most runs are planned to be between 2.5 to 4 miles. The terrain will vary from technical and steep to flat and comfortable. Whether you're new to trails or a seasoned runner seeking a change of scenery or some camaraderie, lace up your shoes, and let the adventure begin. You can sign up for just one run, or commit to every week. All paces are welcome, but participants should be comfortable jogging continuously for at least 30 minutes.

**June 4:** Landsdown Trail, Clinton

**June 11:** Uplands Reserve

**June 25:** Echo Hill Park

**July 2:** Crystal Springs, Teetertown Preserve

**July 16:** Round Mountain North Section

**July 23:** Jugtown Mountain, Tower Hill

**July 30:** Charlestown Reserve

**August 6:** Sourland Mountain Preserve

**August 27:** Wescott Preserve, Strimples Mill



## STORYWALK® at the Hunterdon County Arboretum

This is an invitation to experience our StoryWalk®. Enjoy nature and get some fresh air while reading the storybook *Mighty Mighty Construction Site*, by Sherri Duskey Rinker. StoryWalk® is a fun journey reading the pages of our favorite books while walking along the Grove of 13 Trail in the Gardens at the Hunterdon County Arboretum. The StoryWalk® is open, for your enjoyment, from dawn to dusk.

Our StoryWalk® was created by a partnership between Hunterdon County Parks & Recreation and the Hunterdon County Library. Funding is provided by the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library and Hunterdon County Parks & Recreation.

StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Anne Ferguson.



# Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation

**Office Hours:** Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

**Location:** 1020 Route 31, Lebanon, NJ 08833

**Phone:** (908) 782-1158

**Website:** [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/479/Parks-Recreation](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/479/Parks-Recreation)

Like "Hunterdon County Parks" on Facebook  
Follow us on Instagram @hunterdonparksandrec

## Mission Statement

The Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation is dedicated to preserving open space and natural resources, providing safe parks and facilities, and offering educational and recreational opportunities, all contributing to an enhanced quality of life for present and future generations.

## Modification Statement

The Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation welcomes all individuals to participate and enjoy our parks, facilities, and recreational programs. Reasonable modifications, individual adaptations, and support will be provided for persons of all abilities, to encourage everyone to benefit equally from their choice of leisure activities.

Individuals requesting modifications shall describe what they need to use the service. Whenever feasible, please make the request in advance, before the modification is needed to access the service. Each request will be assessed individually.

## Reservable Facilities

**Arboretum:** Two Gazebos

**Deer Path Park:** Two Pavilions, Gazebo, & Softball Field

**Court Street Park:** Gazebo/Bandstand

**Echo Hill Park:** Main Lodge & Group Campsite

**Teetertown Preserve:** Group & Public Campsites

**To reserve a facility, contact the park office.**

**For information on each park, visit our website.**



Scan here to learn more about the reservable facilities.

## Visitor Services Staff



Back row, left to right:

Tom Sheppard: [tsheppard@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:tsheppard@co.hunterdon.nj.us)

Patrick Eckard: [peckard@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:peckard@co.hunterdon.nj.us)

Front row, left to right:

Debra Reed: [dreed@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:dreed@co.hunterdon.nj.us)

Laura Bush: [lkroon@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:lkroon@co.hunterdon.nj.us)

Liz Braidwood-Fulmer:

## Affiliated Organizations

**Arc of Hunterdon County** [archunterdon.org](http://archunterdon.org)

**Hunterdon Flutterwheels Square Dance Club**  
[hunterdonflutterwheels.nnjsda.org](http://hunterdonflutterwheels.nnjsda.org)

**Hunterdon Hiking Club**  
[hunterdonhikingclub.org](http://hunterdonhikingclub.org)

**NJ Beekeepers Association** [nwnjba.com](http://nwnjba.com)



Heron Glen has quickly positioned itself as one of New Jersey's finest public golf facilities. From junior camps to leagues, we offer programs for every golfer out there. For your family outing or an afternoon spent with friends, we invite you to see why so many refer to Heron Glen as the course they call home. Our facility offers a beautiful 18-hole golf course, pro shop, driving range, and putting green. For more information, please visit our website at [www.heronglen.com](http://www.heronglen.com) or call at (908) 806-6804. 110 US Highway 202/Route 31, Ringoes, NJ 08551



## HUNTERDON COUNTY DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

### Combined Program Registration and Medical Record



*A medical record is valid for one year and can be used for subsequent programs in the following year. If your medical history has changed, please submit a new medical record.*

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Participant's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian (for minor) \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street                                      Town                                      State                                      Zip

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  Check here to be added to our E-mail List.

Program Name	Program Date	Location	Time	Fee
Total Fees Enclosed				\$

Make check payable to "Hunterdon County Parks." Fees are listed in the *Hunterdon Parks Harbinger* and on the website and are used to offset the cost of the program.

**IMPORTANT POLICIES:** (Participant or parent/guardian, please read and provide authorized signature.)

- 1. Cancellation requests must be in writing. No refunds will be issued for cancellations made less than one week prior to the program.**
- 2. Payment is due at the time of registration. Please mail it to the PO Box listed above or drop it off at the office location. Cash, check, or credit is accepted.**
- 3. I have read and understand these policies and consent to myself or my child participating in the above referenced program(s).**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Participant or Parent/Guardian for minor)

**EMERGENCY CONTACT(S) – AT LEAST ONE CONTACT WHO IS NOT A PARENT/GUARDIAN**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the back side of this form.



# HUNTERDON COUNTY DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION



## Combined Program Registration and Medical Record

Physician(s) Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_

List all known allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Describe allergic reaction(s) and how it is managed \_\_\_\_\_

Medical issues \_\_\_\_\_

Current medications \_\_\_\_\_

(Parks staff do not administer non-emergency medication)

Health Insurance Provider \_\_\_\_\_ Policy number \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe any other relevant conditions or information that we should know \_\_\_\_\_

### RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY AND ASSIGNMENT OF CLAIMS

As consideration for being allowed to participate in the event(s) described below I agree:

1. I hereby assume all of the risks of participating, viewing and/or volunteering in this event. I realize that liability may arise from negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons or entities organizing or conducting this event and hereby release them of all possible liability. I certify I am at least 18 years old, or this is signed by my legal guardian or Parent. I promise not to sue and agree to pay all court costs and all attorney fees that result from my action, civil or otherwise.
2. I certify that I am physically fit with no known physical or mental impairment and have prepared for participation in the event(s). I acknowledge that this Accident Waiver and Release of Liability form will be used by the event holders, sponsors, and organizers of the event(s), in which I may participate and that it will govern my actions and responsibilities at said events. I certify that I am not under the influence of any narcotic, alcohol or other drug that may impair my understanding or judgment and that I will not at any time during the event(s) participate while under the influence of any narcotic, alcohol or drug. I certify that I have fully adequate insurance to cover all medical claims, and any other equipment and any damage or liability I may ultimately be found responsible for, during all travel to the point of my entry into this event.
3. In consideration of my being permitted to participate in this event, I hereby take action for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, successors, and assigns as follows: (A) Waive, Release and Discharge from any and all liability for my death, disability, personal injury, property damage, property theft or actions of any kind which may hereafter accrue to me during the event or during my traveling to and from this event, THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES OR PERSONS: County of Hunterdon, and their respective boards and commissions, officers, agents, officials, employees, volunteers, contractors and representatives, the employees, organizers, sponsors, representatives, agents, volunteers and (B) indemnify and Hold Harmless the entities or persons mentioned in this paragraph from any and all liabilities or claims made by other individuals or entities as a result of any of my actions during this event. Accordingly, I do hereby release and discharge the above from all claims, demands, and causes of action of every kind whatsoever for any death, damages and /or injuries which may result from my participation in this event. This shall be construed broadly to provide a release and waiver to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.
4. I hereby consent to receive medical treatment, which may be deemed advisable in the event of injury, accident and or illnesses during the event(s). I agree to pay for any and all costs related to medical response, treatment and transport on my behalf.
5. Photo Release: I authorize and acknowledge that I or my child may be photographed and/or videotaped for educational and publicity purposes (Website, Facebook, Instagram, Brochures, etc). Photos and videos will not include names or personal information about any individual unless permission is granted. **Initial:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I hereby certify that I have read both pages of this Waiver, Release and Assignment of Claims in its entirety.**

**My signature below indicates that I fully understand it and agree to its contents.**

Full Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ If a minor Parents signature \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature indicates agreement to terms and conditions)

**Printed name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_