

Jacksonville State University

Field Schools



28th Annual Calendar of Events

We are pleased and delighted to announce our 2019 programs! They are all designed for those who want to know more and do more. Thank you for taking a look, signing up and contacting us if you have any questions or suggestions. Please remember that programs with a fee require registration three (3) days prior to the program date.

JSU Field Schools partner with the National Park Service, Alabama State Parks, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Alabama Cooperative Extension, and many others to provide these unique educational opportunities.

For more information and registration, please contact us at jwayner@jsu.edu or 256-845-3548:

Niki Wayner, Education Director JSU Field Schools

2019

February

Longleaf Pine Needle Basketry Class

Learn the basics of pine needle basketry, an old craft with a long history.

Join artist Brittney Hughes to learn the basic steps to making a coiled basket from longleaf pine needles. Each participant will learn the basic skills of pine needle basketry and take home their very own creation.

The art of coiling baskets is universally common to indigenous peoples. Coiling is the technique of creating baskets and art from pine needles and was a part of pre-Columbian Native American crafts. Today, pine needle baskets and art are made primarily for decorative purposes.

All materials (pine needles, thread, and small center for basket) will be furnished. Class is for ages 10 and up.

When: Saturday, February 16, 2019

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne, Alabama

Time: 10 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (CST)

Fee: \$25 supply fee- Supply fee due day of class

Pre-registration required; class number is limited to 12. For details, 256-997-5025 or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

Dutch Oven Campfire Cooking Demo

Dutch ovens have been in use for hundreds of years; especially when our country was expanding and families were on the move. Unable to bring their large cook stoves with them, women learned how to cook entire meals from stews & soups to bread & desserts, in their Dutch ovens. Learn the basics about Dutch ovens, how to clean & care for your cookware, AND cook (& eat!) dinner & dessert at the same time!

Starts around 10:00 am, located at JSU's Little River Canyon Center. This is a demonstration, so the best part is when food is just coming off the fire- drop in whenever you like & check out the food!

Date: Saturday, February 23, 2019

Time: 10 am-Until the food runs out

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center

Fee: Free, call 256-845-3548 for more details

March

Archaeology Hike: Sacred Stone Structures

Rock mounds, stone effigy structures and more...join JSU archaeologist, Dr. Harry Holstein, for this fascinating hike in the Mountain Longleaf Refuge near White Plains, AL. The group will begin with a 45 minute 'Sacred Stone' program in the Archaeology Lab at JSU. Hikes are moderate level with some steep, short trails to get to these structures.

Date: Saturday, March 2, 2019

Where: Meet in Room 142 Martin Hall (JSU Campus); JSU Van tour starts on Choccolocco Mountain

Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm (CST)

Fee: \$20 per person (Ages 14 and older); Pre-registration required 256-845-3548

Mini Survival Adventure for Kids

Has your child ever wanted to learn more about being outdoors? This class presented by Robert Wilson of Seven Pines Survival is perfect for them! The Mini Survival Adventure for children ages 8- 12 years is a daylong class on all things survival with a focus on Shelter, Fire, and Water. Children will learn about outdoor, fire and knife safety, how to build different shelters, how to build campfires, and many other basic outdoor skills all while having fun! Space is limited to 10 kids, so sign up now at sps@sevenpinessurvival.com or by calling Robert Wilson at 209-559-0040 (or for more information).

We don't provide meals for this little adventure, so we would ask for you to pack 2 snacks and a lunch for your kids' day out. Don't forget a water bottle filled with water and also bring sun and bug screen (don't forget to remind your child to check for ticks when they get home). Proper clothes: we would suggest pants and hiking boots, hat if they wish, and some gloves if they want. We will be tramping around in long grass, briars, and mud (aka having a blast!)

Date: Saturday, March 9, 2019

Time: 9 am drop off-3 pm pick up

Where: Meet at the Little River Canyon Center

Fee: \$20 per child

Class Size: 10 kids (minimum of 5)

Take a Hike: Waterfalls Tour & Easy Hike

Join JSU Field School and Desoto State Park staff on a tour exploring Little River Canyon National Preserve and Desoto State Park waterfalls. Easy to moderate hikes on rocky dirt trails. Will see some well-known waterfalls as well as some hidden treasures. Trip is dependent on water level. Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather. We will be stopping at DeSoto State Park's restaurant or please bring lunch.

WEATHER: As with all outdoor events, if it's raining/stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel. If the weather is questionable, please check with the

park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Where: Little River Canyon and Desoto State Park. Meet at JSU's Little River Canyon Center.

Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (CST); JSU Van shuttle for tour

Fee: \$25 per person; pre-registration is required by March 4, 2019 by calling Niki Wayner at 256-845-3548 (Limit 9 participants)

Take a Hike: Waterfalls Tour & Easy Hike

Join JSU Field School and Desoto State Park staff on a tour exploring Little River Canyon National Preserve and Desoto State Park waterfalls. Easy to moderate hikes on rocky dirt trails. Will see some well-known waterfalls as well as some hidden treasures. Trip is dependent on water level. Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather. We will be stopping at DeSoto State Park's restaurant or please bring lunch.

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Date: Saturday, March 16, 2019

Where: Little River Canyon and Desoto State Park. Meet at JSU's Little River Canyon Center.

Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (CST); JSU Van shuttle for tour

Fee: \$25 per person; pre-registration is required by March 14, 2019 by calling Niki Wayner at 256-845-3548 (Limit 9 participants)

Take a Hike: Waterfalls Tour & Easy Hike

Join JSU Field School and Desoto State Park staff on a tour exploring Little River Canyon National Preserve and Desoto State Park waterfalls. Easy to moderate hikes on rocky dirt trails. Will see some well-known waterfalls as well as some hidden treasures. Trip is dependent on water level. Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal

temperatures/ weather. We will be stopping at DeSoto State Park's restaurant or please bring lunch.

WEATHER: As with all outdoor events, if it's raining/stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel. If the weather is questionable, please check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019

Where: Little River Canyon and Desoto State Park. Meet at JSU's Little River Canyon Center.

Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm (CST); JSU Van shuttle for tour

Fee: \$25 per person; pre-registration is required by March 14, 2019 by calling Niki Wayner at 256-845-3548 (Limit 9 participants)

Photography Workshop

Join Fine Art Photographer John Dersham for a two-day seminar on how to improve your photography by learning tried and true compositional rules. In addition learn about lighting and strategies that will provide more visual impact to your pictures. Hikes are short and are easy to moderate (optional).

Date: Friday evening, March 22nd and Saturday, March 23rd

Where: Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne, (Bring a day pack with lunch/drinks)

Fee: \$20 per person; pre-registration required; call 256-845-3548 for more details (Limit 15)

April

Plants with the Southern Herbalist

This workshop is designed for both homesteader and prepper alike to learn the art of using plants in everyday life. This program will be presented by Darryl Patton, well-known herbalist and author of "The Southern Herbalist."

Date: Saturday, April 6, 2019

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Fee: \$20 per participant; pre-registration required by calling 256-845-3548

Earth Day at the Canyon

Celebrate Earth Day with JSU Field Schools at the Little River Canyon Center. Come visit with different environmental groups from the state, see live animals, and join us for a hike. Call for schedule. (This event will be held earlier than usual due to the Easter weekend.)

Date: Saturday, April 13, 2019

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm (CST)

Fee: No fee; call 256-845-3548

May

Little River Canyon National Preserve Annual Bioblitz

Plan on coming out sometime from Friday, May 17th to Saturday, May 18th to help us document the flora and fauna of the park.

This service-wide initiative is a chance to inspire and engage a new generation of stewards of our fantastic natural resources, all while taking a vast snapshot of the biodiversity that is protected by our nation's parks.

You can choose an easy area or challenge yourself on a canyon trail. We are lining up specialists to help discover fish, amphibians and reptiles, birds or any creature or plant that call this place home. If you are interested in leading a group in the park to document species in your field of expertise, then please call NPS at 256-845-9605. The more specialists we have to lead these discovery hikes, the more the public can explore, learn and become Citizen Scientists by helping to record the presence and distribution of our species!

So come out, get involved, and help us to document the richness of Little River Canyon National Preserve!

Date: Friday, May 17th to Saturday May 18th

Where/Time: To Be Determined, call 256-845-3548 (National Park Service) for more details

June

Nature Story time for Kids

A time for stories, imagination, and fun! Story time with JSU Field Schools is always guaranteed to be a blast. Join us as we read a nature themed book, followed by a hands-on activity, walk, or possibly live animal encounter depending on that day's book.

Date: Monday, June 3, 2019

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Audience: Geared towards younger (4th grade and under) but all ages welcome

Time: 9:00 am – 10:00 am (CST)

Fee: No fee; call 256-845-3548 for more details

Canyon Camp for Children (Little River Canyon Center)

Our annual summer camp is back! Hands-on environmental education, outdoor fun, arts and exploration of the natural world abound in this camp. Children learn all about Little River Canyon and Desoto State Park...the river, the plants and the animals! Remember that all camps fill quickly, so please register early. (Note: no lunch will be provided, so please bring lunch/snacks)

2nd-4th Graders (Grade just completed)

Date: June 4-7, 2019 (Tuesday-Friday)

Time: 8 am-4 pm (Drop Off begins at 7:30 am) (CST)

Fee: \$150 per child (Covers materials and instructors)

Location: Canyon Center (Fort Payne, Alabama) Limit-10 kids

**Pre-registration required for all Canyon Camps by calling Niki Wayner at 256-845-3548.*

Canyon Center Summer Series

Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Your children (ages 3 years-3rd graders) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures! Pre-registration is required by the Monday prior to the program by calling Niki Wayner at 256-845-3548. Limited to 15 children per class. Fee and specific topics for each date to be determined. Planned topics include: Nature Art, Insects, Environmental Engineering, Little River Canyon National Preserve, Trees and Plants, Animals, and Mad Science.

Junior Explorers (ages 3-4 years of age) 9 am -10 am at the Little River Canyon Center

Tuesday, June 4 2019

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Tuesday, June 25, 2019

Tuesday, July 9, 2019

Tuesday, July 16, 2019

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Junior Adventurers (Kindergarten-1st graders) 9 am -10 am at the Little River Canyon Center

Wednesday, June 5

Wednesday, June 19

Wednesday, June 26

Wednesday, July 10

Wednesday, July 17

Wednesday, July 24

Wednesday, July 31

Junior Naturalist (2nd-3rd graders) 9 am-10 am at the Little River Canyon Center

Thursday, June 6

Thursday, June 13

Thursday, June 27

Thursday, July 11

Thursday, July 18

Thursday, July 25

Thursday, August 1

Nature Story time for Kids

A time for stories, imagination, and fun! Story time with JSU Field Schools is always guaranteed to be a blast. Join us as we read a nature themed book, followed by a hands-on activity, walk, or possibly live animal encounter depending on that day's book.

Date: Monday, June 17, 2019

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Audience: Geared towards younger (4th grade and under) but all ages welcome

Time: 9:00 am – 10:00 am (CST)

Fee: No fee; call 256-845-3548 for more details

Backpacking Basics

Join Robert Wilson of Seven Pines Survival and JSU Field School staff to learn the basics of backpacking. Everything from what to pack and how to pack it to cooking meals for your backpacking trips. This is a great class to take as a prequel to joining Robert on a backpacking overnight adventure at one of several locations such as our partner park: DeSoto State Park. Come out and join us for a day of fun! For more details or to register contact Robert Wilson at sps@sevenpinessurvival.com or at 209-559-0040.

Date: Saturday, June 29, 2019

Where: Little River Canyon Center

(Further details to come)

July

Nature Story time for Kids

A time for stories, imagination, and fun! Story time with JSU Field Schools is always guaranteed to be a blast. Join us as we read a nature themed book, followed by a hands-on activity, walk, or possibly live animal encounter depending on that day's book.

Date: Monday, July 1, 2019

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Audience: Geared towards younger (4th grade and under) but all ages welcome

Time: 9:00 am – 10:00 am (CST)

Fee: No fee; call 256-845-3548 for more details

Canyon Center Summer Series

Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Your children (ages 3 years-3rd graders) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures! Pre-registration is required by the Monday prior to the program by calling Niki Wayner at 256-845-3548. Limited to 15 children per class. Fee and specific topics for each date to be determined. Planned topics include: Nature Art, Insects, Environmental Engineering, Little River Canyon National Preserve, Trees and Plants, Animals, and Mad Science.

Junior Explorers (ages 3-4 years of age) 9 am -10 am at the Little River Canyon Center

Tuesday, July 9, 2019

Tuesday, July 16, 2019

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Junior Adventurers (Kindergarten-1st graders) 9 am -10 am at the Little River Canyon Center

Wednesday, July 10

Wednesday, July 17

Wednesday, July 24

Wednesday, July 31

Junior Naturalist (2nd-3rd graders) 9 am-10 am at the Little River Canyon Center

Thursday, July 11

Thursday, July 18

Thursday, July 25

Thursday, August 1

Nature Story time for Kids

A time for stories, imagination, and fun! Story time with JSU Field Schools is always guaranteed to be a blast. Join us as we read a nature themed book, followed by a hands-on activity, walk, or possibly live animal encounter depending on that day's book.

Date: Monday, July 15, 2019

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Audience: Geared towards younger (4th grade and under) but all ages welcome

Time: 9:00 am – 10:00 am (CST)

Fee: No fee; call 256-845-3548 for more details

August

Canyon Center Summer Series

Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Your children (ages 3 years-3rd graders) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures! Pre-registration is required by the Monday prior to the program by calling Niki Wayner at 256-845-3548. Limited to 15 children per class. Fee and specific topics for each date to be determined. Planned topics include: Nature Art, Insects, Environmental Engineering, Little River Canyon National Preserve, Trees and Plants, Animals, and Mad Science.

Junior Naturalist (2nd-3rd graders) 9 am-10 am at the Little River Canyon Center

Thursday, August 1

Guided Archaeology Tour of Calhoun & St. Clair Counties

Come along with JSU's Dr. Harry Holstein for a guided archaeology tour of various sites throughout Calhoun and St. Clair counties. We will visit Janney Iron Furnace, a 19th century battlefield and river locks, a prehistoric Indian village, and much more. Participants should bring their own lunch and drinks. Transportation is provided; space is limited. Be sure to register early!

Date: Saturday, August 10, 2019

Where: Jacksonville, AL (Meeting location to be disclosed upon registration)

Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm (CST)

Fee: \$20 per person (ages 14 and older) Pre-registration is required by calling 256-845-3548.

Longleaf Pine Needle Basketry Class

Learn the basics of pine needle basketry, an old craft with a long history.

Join artist Brittney Hughes to learn the basic steps to making a coiled basket from longleaf pine needles. Each participant will learn the basic skills of pine needle basketry and take home their very own creation.

The art of coiling baskets is universally common to indigenous peoples. Coiling is the technique of creating baskets and art from pine needles and was a part of pre-Columbian Native American crafts. Today, pine needle baskets and art are made primarily for decorative purposes.

All materials (pine needles, thread, and small center for basket) will be furnished. Class is for ages 10 and up.

When: Saturday, August 17, 2019

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne, Alabama

Time: 10 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (CST)

Fee: \$25 supply fee- Supply fee due day of class

Pre-registration required; class number is limited to 12. For details, 256-997-5025 or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

Orienteering

Need some family time? Come join Robert Wilson of Seven Pines Survival and JSU Field School Staff for the day as we teach you and your family some of the skills needed for orienteering. Orienteering is a sport that requires navigational skills using a compass and a map to navigate from point to point in diverse and usually unfamiliar terrain whilst moving at a fast pace. In this class, we will focus on map and compass skills. At the end of the class, you will even make your own map of an area. What to bring: water bottle, snacks/lunch, notebook, pencil. What to wear: pants and closed toed shoes are recommended, a hat if desired, and bug repellent/sunscreen. Space is limited! For more information or to register, please contact Robert Wilson at sps@sevenpinessurvival.com or 209-559-0040

Date: Saturday, August 24, 2019 further details to be determined

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Bowdrill Class

The bow drill is a simple tool used to ignite a small piece of dried tinder to start a fire. Don't be fooled though, this class takes patience, persistence, and the eagerness to learn. Survivalist Robert Wilson of Seven Pines Survival will teach you all about the bow drill. Everything you will need to make your very first Bow Drill set will be provided. This class will include all the information you need to succeed. Not only will you learn how to make a Bow drill, but knife safety and how to properly use a knife will be included as well. This class starts at 9 am and ends when you succeed! What to bring: Water bottle, notebook and pencil, camera

Date: Saturday, August 31, 2019

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Fee: \$40 per student. Pre-registration is required. Contact Robert Wilson at sps@sevenpinessurvival.com or 209-559-0040 for more information or to register.

Class Size: Limited to 5 participants

September

Backpacking Basics

Join Robert Wilson of Seven Pines Survival and JSU Field School staff to learn the basics of backpacking. Everything from what to pack and how to pack it to cooking meals for your backpacking trips. This is a great class to take as a prequel to joining Robert on a backpacking overnight adventure at one of several

locations such as our partner park: DeSoto State Park. Come out and join us for a day of fun! For more details or to register contact Robert Wilson at sps@sevenpinessurvival.com or at 209-559-0040.

Date: Saturday, September 21, 2019 (further details to come)

Where: Little River Canyon Center

October

8th Annual Canyon Half Marathon

The Little River Canyon Center will host its eighth annual "Little River Half Marathon." This certified 13.1 mile course follows the rim of the canyon before winding its way through the area's beautiful farm country.

Date: Saturday, October 5, 2019

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 8:00 am (CST)

Fee: pre-registration required; call 256-782-8010 for more details

Sixth Annual Dog Daze

Bring your dogs and human family to this event where the Canyon Center staff features dog games, and presentations on all topics canine such as dog adoption, dog advocacy, service dogs, and much more! More details to come!

Date: Saturday, October 12, 2019

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Fee: Free; call 256-845-3548 for more details/schedule (Niki Wayner)

November

Fall Photography Workshop

Join Fine Art Photographer John Dersham for a two-day seminar on how to improve your photography by learning tried and true compositional rules. In addition learn about lighting and strategies that will provide more visual impact to your pictures. Hikes are short and are easy to moderate (optional).

Date: Friday evening, November 1 (6-9 pm) and Saturday morning, November 2, 2019

Where: Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne, (Bring a day pack with lunch/drinks)

Fee: \$20 per person; pre-registration required; call 256-845-3548 for more details

11th Annual Canyon Fest

Join us for this 11th annual celebration! Don't miss the live music, nature and art activities, demonstrations, great food, vendors, and fun at this signature festival designed to celebrate our canyon and the natural world.

Date: Saturday, November 2, 2019

Where: Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne, AL

Fee: No Fee; call 256-845-3548 for more details (Anna Lindsey)

Guided Archaeology Tour of Cherokee and DeKalb Counties

Come along with JSU archaeologist Dr. Harry Holstein for a guided tour of sites throughout Cherokee and DeKalb counties. Participants will visit the 19th century Cornwall Iron Furnace, a Spanish contact site at Coosa village, a rock shelter in use as early as 3000 B.C., and much more. This will be an unforgettable all-day event. Bring your own food and drinks. Transportation is provided. Space is limited so register early!

Date: Saturday, November 9, 2019

Where: Near Fort Payne, AL (Meeting location disclosed at registration)

Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm (CST)

Fee: \$20 per person (Ages 14 and over); pre-registration required by calling 256-845-3548

4th Annual Day after Thanksgiving #OptOutside Hike

Join us for this gathering the day after Thanksgiving. Spend the morning hiking in the beautiful Little River Canyon area with our staff. Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks/lunch, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather.

WEATHER: As with all outdoor events, if it's raining/stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel. If the weather is questionable, please check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group.

Date: Friday, November 29, 2019

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 10:00 am (CST)

Fee: Free; call 256-845-3548 for more details (Niki Wayner)

December

Canyon Christmas

An annual tradition to celebrate the season that is filled with holiday spirit and activities including Christmas arts and crafts, a gift shop, a visit with Santa, and more!

Date: Saturday, December 7, 2019

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Fee: Most activities are free...call 256-845-3548 for more details/schedule