



MetroParks

of Butler County

SPRING 2024 PROGRAM GUIDE

Spring Has Sprung at MetroParks

Welcome to MetroParks of Butler County! With 14 parks and regional trails and 5,000 acres to explore, MetroParks is Butler County's largest greenspace provider.

This guide is your invitation to get outside with us this spring! There's no better time to be in nature as the weather warms up, wildflowers bloom and the sun returns to southwest Ohio.

Our spring program lineup also includes some returning programs and events from years past. The Run the Parks 5k Series is back from March-May, Big Week of Birding begins in May and our Flashlight Egg Hunts offer a chance to explore the parks after dark and collect some egg-cellent prizes.

NEW programs include the Women's Explorer Series, spring scavenger hunts and so much more. MetroParks has opportunities for everyone to get outside and explore in spring 2024.

We'll see you in the parks!

TO REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS:
YourMetroParks.net

REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED
UNLESS OTHERWISE
NOTED

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
(513) 867-5835
info@YourMetroParks.net





Women's

EXPLORER SERIES



PROGRAM INFO:

Ages 16 & up

Registration required

\$99/person for the four-week series

Individual session-pricing available

Session dates: 2/22, 3/21, 4/27, 5/18

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER VISIT

YourMetroParks.net

Join a women's community who seeks challenges, adventure and camaraderie in the outdoors. This four-week, hands-on backpacking series will give you the tools and confidence to get outside backpacking and exploring with confidence.

We'll start by learning the basics and end with a local overnight backpacking adventure! Join us for one session or sign up for the entire series.



MARCH PROGRAMS

MAR
2

Run the Parks 5k Spring Series: March

 Rentschler Forest MetroPark - Reigart Road Area • 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Walk, hike or run with us this spring in our Run the Parks 5k Spring Series and visit some of the out-of-the-way treasures our trails have to offer. This family-friendly, non-competitive series will take place on the first Saturday of the month from March-May. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Registration covers all 5k's from March-May.

All ages • Registration is required • \$10/person for the series (March-May)

MAR
2

Woodcock Wooing Hike

 Elk Creek MetroPark - Sebald Park Area • 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Love is in the air! Enjoy the sights and sounds of the mating display of the American Woodcock during this crepuscular hike. Learn about the mysterious lifestyle of this shorebird and its many names like the timberdoodle and bog sucker. Plan to hike over uneven terrain and dress appropriately for the weather.

All ages • FREE

MAR
7

Discovery on the Farm: Shadow Shenanigans


 Chisholm MetroPark Historic Farmstead • 10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Join us for some shadow shenanigans during this fun program and learn about daylight savings time. Find out why shadows change throughout the year through activities and crafts. Come and see if our farm animals make shadows during the live animal demonstration too.

Ages 2-10 • Registration is required • \$5/child over 2 years- adults and children under 2 years FREE

MAR
9

Tree ID for Seiors

 Fairfield Community Arts Center • 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

March is the time of year trees start to wake back up after winter's sleep, so what better time to awaken your interest in them? Join us for a presentation on common Ohio trees and learn to tell who from who. From leaves and twigs to where they grow, we'll give you the tools to go out and start identifying them for yourself.

Ages 55 & up • FREE

MAR
9

Ears are for Reading

 Chisholm MetroPark Historic Farmstead • 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Take advantage of this great opportunity to read to a farm animal in a stress-free, non-judgmental environment. Bring your book of choice or choose one from our farm library. After sharing your story with the animals, spend time getting to know your new friend and enjoy a snack, too. Reading time slots are available every 1/2 hour.

All ages • Registration is required by 3/8/24 by calling 513-867-5835 • \$5/reader



FLASHLIGHT EGG HUNT

MARCH 22 & 23, 2024

**WHEN THE PARK IS DARK, LET YOUR FLASHLIGHT
BE YOUR GUIDE. FIND ENOUGH EGGS-QUISITELY
GLOWING EGGS AND TRADE THEM IN FOR A PRIZE!**


MARCH 22- FOREST RUN METROPARK
7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

MARCH 23- RENTSCHLER FOREST METROPARK
7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

AGES 12 & UNDER WITH ACCOMPANYING ADULT
REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT YOURMETROPARKS.NET
\$5/CHILD, AGES 2 AND UNDER FREE!


**MAR
16**

Nature in Stills: Seeing Patterns

 Rentschler Forest MetroPark • 10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Observe nature in a new way by capturing the letters of the alphabet in a picture. Join photographer Carole Barnhart to begin your collection of alphabet photos. Complete your alphabet at home and create wall art, signs, or anything you can imagine!

Ages 16 & up • Registration is required • FREE

**MAR
16**

Junior Girl Scouts: Playing in the Past

 Governor Bebb MetroPark • 10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Travel back in time to our historic village and learn what daily life was like in the 1800's. Did you have to go to school? Were there chores? What kind of games did they play after all that hard work? Experience pioneer life hands-on as you become your own character and spend the morning playing in the past.

Junior Girl Scouts and adult chaperones • Registration is required • \$6/person

**MAR
21**

Discovery on the Farm: Luck of a Four-Leaf Clover

 Chrisholm MetroPark Historic Farmstead • 10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Dress up in your greenest outfit and help local pollinators with your own four-leaf wonder. Decorate a trap to catch the farm leprechaun before he eats all of our tasty treats. Check out the nitrogen nodules on clover roots with a microscope and learn the importance of legumes in the gardens at Chrisholm.

Ages 2-10 • Registration is required • \$5/child over 2 years- adults and children under 2 years FREE

**MAR
21**

Women's Explorer Series: Backpacking- Food, Water & Critters


 Chrisholm MetroPark Historic Farmstead • 6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

Join our women's community who seeks challenges, adventure and camaraderie in the outdoors. This is part two of a four-week, hands-on series that will give you the tools and confidence you need for a backpacking trip. Let's talk about fueling this epic journey! You're going to be carrying everything on your back and walking all day long- eating right and hydrating are essential to the experience. We'll talk about trail food and options for water filtration, with demonstrations on how to cook food around the campfire or on a camp stove. We'll also discuss food and other "smellables" that might attract bears, mice and other critters and how to best navigate those situations. Participants will receive recipe ideas and get the chance to taste food samples. The session will be held indoors.

Ages 16 & up • \$20/person for the session

**MAR
22**

Flashlight Egg Hunt

 Forest Run MetroPark - Timberman Ridge Area • 7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

When the park is dark, your flashlight will be your guide! Bring your own flashlight and we'll take care of the eggs. Access to our eggs-clusive egg hunt field containing the eggs-quisite glowing eggs is scheduled in 30-minute timeslots. Find enough eggs and trade them in for candy or a prize at the end of your hunt. While you're waiting for the egg hunt to begin or after its finished your search can continue on the mystery egg trail. We believe some eggs escaped the field and are hiding out in the park- finding them may be a more difficult challenge.

Ages 12 & under with accompanying adult • Registration is required • \$5/child over 2 years- adults and children under 2 years FREE



THERE GOES THE SUN WATCH PARTY

**APRIL 8,
2024**

Join us for a fun and immersive way to celebrate the solar eclipse! We'll learn about eclipse science, enjoy hands-on activities and of course have a front row seat to this once in a lifetime experience.

Space and eclipse safety glasses are limited!

Registered participants ONLY will have access to the park as early as 8:00 a.m.

WHERE: Forest Run MetroPark- Timberman Ridge Area

TIME: 2 - 4 p.m., participants are advised to arrive early due to the potential for heavy traffic

COST: \$5/person over 2 years old

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AT YOURMETROPARKS.NET

**MAR
23**

Flashlight Egg Hunt



Rentschler Forest MetroPark - Reigart Road Area • 7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

When the park is dark, your flashlight will be your guide! Bring your own flashlight and we'll take care of the eggs. Access to our eggs-clusive egg hunt field containing the eggs-quisite glowing eggs is scheduled in 30-minute timeslots. Find enough eggs and trade them in for candy or a prize at the end of your hunt. While you're waiting for the egg hunt to begin or after its finished your search can continue on the mystery egg trail. We believe some eggs escaped the field and are hiding out in the park- finding them may be a more difficult challenge.

Ages 12 & under with accompanying adult • Registration is required • \$5/child over 2 years- adults and children under 2 years FREE

APRIL PROGRAMS

**APR
6**

Run the Parks 5k Spring Series: April



Indian Creek MetroPark - Springfield Road Area • 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Walk, hike or run with us this spring in our Run the Parks 5k Spring Series and visit some of the out-of-the-way treasures our trails have to offer. This family-friendly, non-competitive series will take place on the first Saturday of the month from March-May. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Registration covers all 5k's from March-May.

All ages • Registration is required • \$10/person for the series (March-May)

**APR
8**

There Goes the Sun Watch Party



Forest Run MetroPark - Timberman Ridge Area • 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Join us for a fun and immersive way to celebrate the solar eclipse! We'll learn about eclipse science, enjoy hands-on activities and of course have a front row seat to this once in a lifetime moment. Space and eclipse safety glasses are limited! Registered participants only will have access to the park as early as 8:00 a.m. Due to the potential for heavy traffic, participants are advised to arrive early to the program.

All ages • Registration is required • \$5/person over 2 years

**APR
13**

Brownie Girl Scouts: Pets



Chrisholm MetroPark Historic Farmstead • 10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Would a donkey fit in my room? How much food can a goat really eat in one day? Are chickens smellier than my siblings? Learn about how we keep our program animals safe and comfy, and then prepare to get dirty and experience the work it takes to care for some of these animal ambassadors.

Brownie Girl Scouts and adult chaperones • Registration is required • \$6/person

**APR
16**

Calling All Homeschoolers! Ohio Animals



Forest Run MetroPark - Timberman Ridge Area • 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Calling all homeschoolers to Forest Run MetroPark for a fun animal program. Meet live Ohio animals, go on a hike and play a game as we learn about local animals and their habitats.

Ages 5-12 • Registration is required • \$6/person

**APR
20****Spring Wildflower Hike** Governor Bebb MetroPark • 10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Every spring many species of wildflowers make their annual appearance at Governor Bebb MetroPark. Join us as we discover a variety of these ephemeral spring-blooming beauties that are found along the trails.

All ages • FREE

**APR
20****Friends of Chrisholm Augspurger Open House** Chrisholm MetroPark Historic Farmstead • 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Join the Friends of Chrisholm and explore the historic Augspurger House at Chrisholm MetroParks. Learn about the house's history and the family who once called it home!

All ages • FREE

**APR
21****Bird Beaks** Chrisholm MetroPark Historic Farmstead • 3:00 P.M.- 4:00 P.M.

Explore the fascinating world of bird beak adaptations! We'll learn about the different types of bird beaks and how they've evolved to suit various feeding habits through hands-on activities. After our interactive session, get ready to meet a feathered friend up close!

Ages 2-10 • FREE

**APR
26****2024 City Nature Challenge** Butler County

Explore anywhere in Butler County and contribute to the City Nature Challenge 2024 worldwide BioBlitz April 26-29. Everyone is encouraged to participate! We'll join hundreds of cities around the world including Cincinnati, Cleveland and Columbus to bioblitz our community's biodiversity. Any wild animal, plant or fungus is game! Use the FREE iNaturalist platform (website or app) to record your findings. Log photos of plants and animals you see anywhere in Butler County from April 26-29. From April 30-May 5, all the information gathered will be identified and saved to a data base. Simply download iNaturalist and get practicing for the big event!

**APR
27****Women's Explorer Series: Backpacking- Hygiene, Leave No Trace & Let's Hike!** Rentschler Forest MetroPark - Reigart Road Area • 10:00 A.M.- 12:00 P.M.

Join our women's community who seeks challenges, adventure and camaraderie in the outdoors. This is part three of a four-week, hands-on series that will give you the tools and confidence you'll need for a backpacking trip. Alright ladies, it's time to talk hygiene- our needs are a little different than our male hiking buddies, so we'll cover everything you need to know but are afraid to ask! We'll go through some Leave No Trace (LNT) principles, including how we can respect nature and other hikers, where to setup camp and how to start fires. Bring your backpack and make it heavy! We'll talk about how to properly pack it before starting on a short, interactive practice hike around the park. Participants will receive their own LNT card. This session will be held outdoors.

Ages 16 & up • \$20/person for this session



City Nature Challenge

Butler County

April 26-29, 2024



BioBlitz with MetroParks!

Explore anywhere in Butler County and contribute to the worldwide BioBlitz! We'll join hundreds of cities around the world including Cincinnati, Cleveland and Columbus and bioblitz our community's biodiversity. Any wild animal, plant or fungus is game! Use the FREE iNaturalist platform to record your findings. Log photos of plants and animals you see anywhere in Butler County April 26-29.



Rentschler Forest MetroPark Kick-OFF

April 27, 2024 * 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
FREE for all ages

Stop by and learn about the challenge, how to participate and visit with some MetroParks Animal Ambassadors!



Voice of America MetroPark Kick-OFF

April 27, 2024 * 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
FREE for all ages

Stop by and learn about the challenge, how to participate and visit with some MetroParks Animal Ambassadors!



MetroParks
of Butler County



APR
27

2024 City Nature Challenge Kick-Off

Rentschler Forest MetroPark - Reigart Road Area • 10:30 A.M.- 12:00 P.M.

Help us kick-off the 2024 City Nature Challenge! Stop by to learn about the challenge, how to participate, and we'll even assist you with accessing the FREE iNaturalist platform. A few animal ambassadors will be on hand to help you practice recording your findings. Once you're comfortable with iNaturalist, explore the park on your own and see what other photos of flora and fauna you can collect to represent Butler county in this worldwide event.

All ages • FREE

APR
27

2024 City Nature Challenge Kick-Off

Voice of America MetroPark • 1:30 P.M.- 3:00 P.M.

Help us kick-off the 2024 City Nature Challenge! Stop by to learn about the challenge, how to participate, and we'll even assist you with accessing the FREE iNaturalist platform. A few animal ambassadors will be on hand to help you practice recording your findings. Once you're comfortable with iNaturalist, explore the park on your own and see what other photos of flora and fauna you can collect to represent Butler county in this worldwide event.

All ages • FREE

APR
27

Evening Lantern Hike

Harbin Park • 8:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

An evening forest is one of the most peaceful places on earth. Join us for a quiet exploration of the evening forest at Harbin Park. We'll grab a lantern and enjoy a 1-2 mile stroll through the forest as the stars come out.

All ages • FREE

APR
28

Birding for Beginners Hike

Voice of America MetroPark • 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Curious about birds but don't know where to start looking for them? Join us for a great opportunity to hone your sleuthing skills needed to identify our common and not-so-common bird species. Learn the basics of how to sight a bird in a scope or binoculars, use a bird guide or bird ID app and listen to their sounds to help identify our fine feathered friends. After a quick introduction, we'll take a hike and see what migratory spring birds we can find. Bring your own binoculars or borrow a pair from us.

All ages • FREE

MAY PROGRAMS

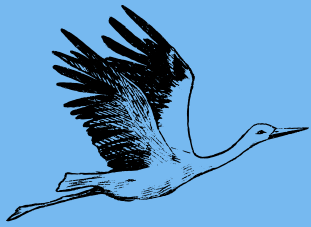
MAY
1

Big Week of Birding Hike

Gilmore MetroPark - Bilstein Entrance • 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Springtime migratory season is upon us! Birders of all levels are welcome to join us for our "Big Week of Birding" hikes. Gilmore MetroPark is a great place for birds, and whether you don't own a pair of binoculars or have been birding for years, you're sure to see some cool birds on this hike. A limited supply of binoculars will be available for use.

Ages 8 & up • FREE

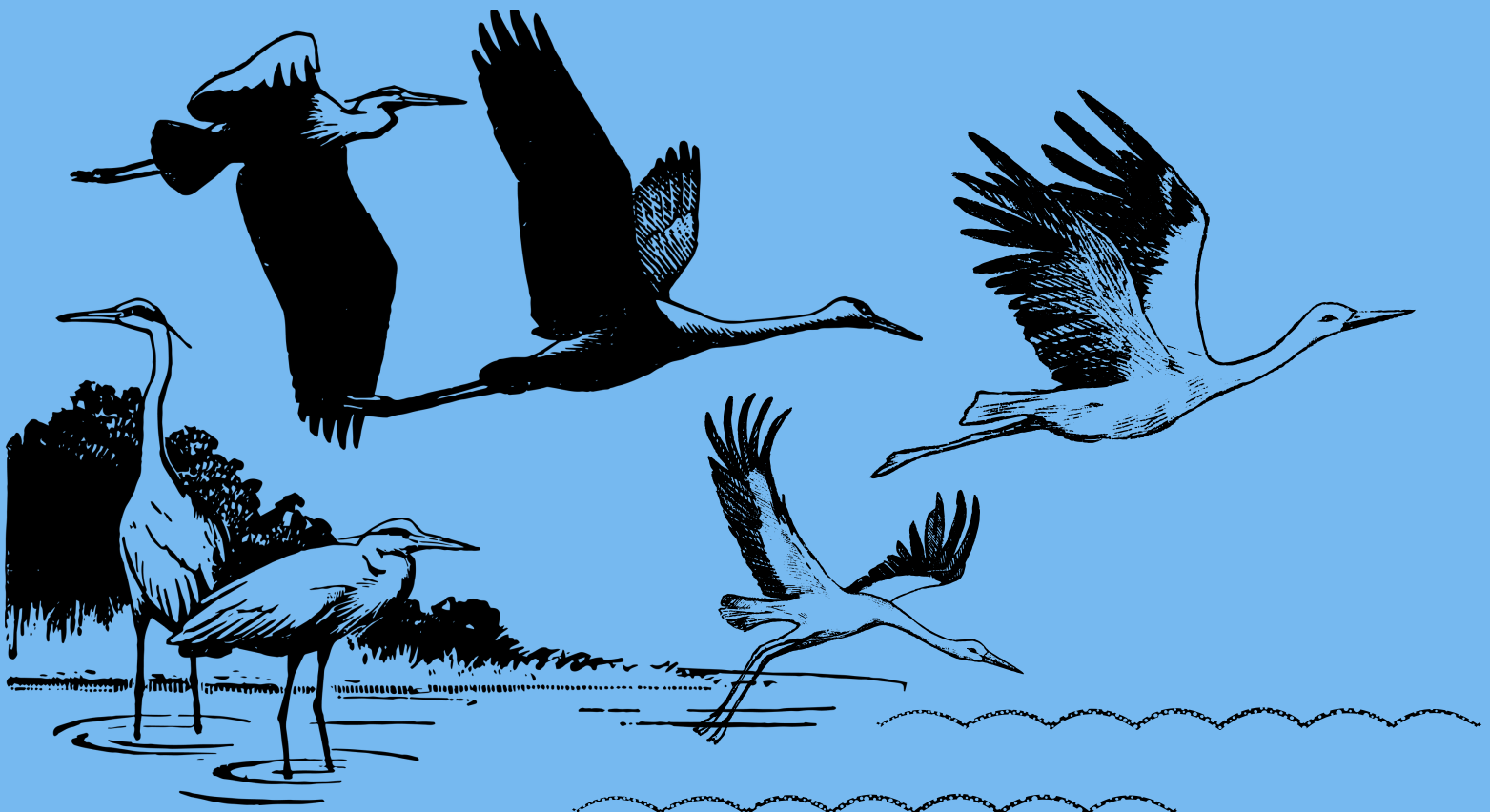


BIG WEEK OF BIRDING



Springtime migratory season is upon us! Join us for FREE birding hikes on May 1 at Gilmore MetroPark and May 5 at Governor Bebb MetroPark. Birders of all experience-levels welcome.

For more information, visit YourMetroParks.net



**MAY**
4

Run the Parks 5k Spring Series: May

 Elk Creek MetroPark - Meadow Ridge Area • 9:00 A.M.- 11:00 A.M.

Walk, hike or run with us this spring in our Run the Parks 5k Spring Series and visit some of the out-of-the-way treasures our trails have to offer. This family-friendly, non-competitive series will take place on the first Saturday of the month from March-May. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Registration covers all 5k's from March-May.

All ages • Registration is required • \$10/person for the series (March - May)

MAY
5

Big Week of Birding Hike


 Governor Bebb MetroPark • 8:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

Springtime migratory season is upon us! Birders of all levels are encouraged to join us for our “Big Week of Birding” hikes. Discover the many bird species that migrate through Butler county. Bring binoculars if you have them, otherwise a limited supply will be provided. The forest, creek and fields at Governor Bebb MetroPark are home to many bird species including woodpeckers, warblers and tanagers.

All ages • FREE

MAY
11

Spring Migration Birding

 Harbin Park • 8:30 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.

Spring is one of the best times to go birding because you can see birds who pass through Ohio, not just the ones who stay for a season. Join us for a hike through the forest at Harbin Park as we look for these brightly colored visitors. Birders of all skill levels are welcome and a limited supply of binoculars will be available for use.

All ages • FREE

MAY
11

Spring Spinning in the Village

 Governor Bebb MetroPark • 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

When winter ends it's time to shear sheep and start the process of turning wool into wear. Visit the Pioneer Village for a self-guided tour through the cabins and try your hand at spinning. Educators in period dress will be onsite to give you a hand and answer any questions.

All ages • FREE

MAY
18

Nature in Stills: A Photographic Scavenger Hunt

 Indian Creek MetroPark - Springfield Road Area • 10:00 A.M.- 11:30 A.M.

Learn to capture an idea in a photo on this nature scavenger hunt. Hike with photographer Carole Barnhart and take pictures that represent ideas like spiky, hollow or fluffy. Carole will introduce the fundamentals of composing an image in the frame, and then we'll set off on a collaborative quest!

Ages 16 & up • Registration is required • FREE

**MAY
18**

Friends of Chrisholm Augspurger Open House

Chrisholm MetroPark Historic Farmstead • 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Join the Friends of Chrisholm and explore the historic Augspurger House at Chrisholm MetroParks. Learn about the house's history and the family who once called it home!

All ages • FREE

**MAY
18**

Spring Vine Gardening

Chrisholm MetroPark Historic Farmstead • 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Fast-growing vines can add a lot of color and structure to your pots and gardens. Join Butler County Master Gardener Ginny Hertenstein to learn which vines grow well in our area. She will show us how to collect branches found locally and how to build a trellis in a pot. All supplies will be included for you to complete your project and take it home. After the program, visit with the Friends of Chrisholm inside the beautiful Augspurger House.

Ages 10 & up unless accompanied by an adult • Registration is required • \$5/person

**MAY
18**

Women's Explorer Series: Backpacking- Practice Hike & Backpack Overnight

Governor Bebb MetroPark • 3:00 P.M. - 10:00 A.M.

Join our women's community who seeks challenges, adventure and camaraderie in the outdoors. This is the final session of a four-week, hands-on series that will give you the tolls and confidence you need for a backpacking trip. It's camp out time! We'll put everything we've learned into practice and have a great time with our new outdoorsy friends. Bring your loaded backpacks and your sleeping system for this overnight celebration of completing the classes. Our final session will include a gear shakedown, hike, on-site water filtration, fire building, a backpacking meal buffet and a toast to our awesomeness and the great outdoors. Included with registration are: snacks, backpacking dinner trail buffet, campsite fees, guided hike and a discount to the Fall 2024 Arrow Adventure Women, Wine and Wilderness Retreat. This session will be held entirely outdoors.

Ages 16 & up • \$39/person if sessions 1-3 are completed, \$50/person for this session only

**MAY
19**

Salute to Pioneers

Indian Creek MetroPark - Pioneer Church Area • 2:30 P.M.

Join the Indian Creek Pioneer Church Restoration Committee and MetroParks of Butler County for the annual Salute to Pioneers. Guest speaker Andrew Sawyer from the Miami University Myaamia Center who will discuss the local history of the Myaamia Tribe and their forced removal from their ancestral lands in 1846. Attendees can explore the historic Pioneer Church and Burial Grounds after the scheduled program.

All ages • FREE



Stay Connected!

YOURMETROPARKS.NET

(513) 867-5835

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