

2026 EVENTS



NC State Parks Celebrate
America's 250th Anniversary.
"Conservation is Revolutionary"

JANUARY

1 Thursday | 8 - 10am
First Day Hike

1 Thursday - 4 Sunday | 2pm
Winter Break Animal Encounters

1 Thursday - 31 Saturday
Winter Photo Contest: Winter Wanderers

22 Thursday | 9 - 11am
Passholder Experience: Behind the Scenes*

FEBRUARY

1 Sunday - 28 Saturday
Winter Photo Contest: Winter Wanderers

2 Monday | 10am
21st Annual Groundhog Day Celebration

21 Saturday | 9 - 11am
Naturalist Niche: Winter Birds*

MARCH

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Mondays | 11am
Hike with a Naturalist

11 Wednesday | 10am - 12pm
Winter Homeschool Day*
Afternoon options start at 1:30pm

21 Saturday | 9 - 11am
Naturalist Niche: Spring Ephemerals*

APRIL

1 Wednesday - 30 Thursday
Spring Photo Contest: Wilderness in Bloom

5 Sunday
70th Annual Easter Sunrise Service
Gates open 5:30am - 6:15am for 6:45am service
Sunrise at 7:11am

18 Saturday | 9 - 11am
Naturalist Niche: Signs of Spring*

MAY

1 Friday - 31 Sunday
Spring Photo Contest: Wilderness in Bloom

9 Saturday | 8 - 10am
Naturalist Niche: Spring Birding Hike*

20 Wednesday | 9:30am - 12:30pm
Spring Homeschool Day*
Afternoon options start at 1:30pm

27 Wednesday | 8 - 10am
Passholder Experience: Birding by Ear Hike*

JUNE

1 Monday - 30 Tuesday
Summer Animal Encounters
Weekdays at 2pm

6 Saturday | 10am - 3pm
National Trails Day

13 Saturday | 10am - 3pm
National Get Outdoors Day

13 Saturday | 9am - 11am
Naturalist Niche: Geology of the Gorge*

19 Friday
Juneteenth Celebration

20 Saturday | 7:30 - 9:30pm
Nature at Night Hike*

JULY

1 Wednesday - 31 Friday
Summer Animal Encounters
Weekdays at 2pm

1 Wednesday - 31 Friday
Summer Photo Contest: Fun in the Sun

11 Saturday | 9 - 11am
Naturalist Niche: History of Chimney Rock*

25 Saturday - 31 Friday
What a Park Ranger Does Storywalk

31 Friday | 10am - 12pm
World Ranger Day Celebration

AUGUST

1 Saturday - 2 Sunday
What a Ranger Does Storywalk

3 Monday - 14 Friday
Summer Animal Encounters
Weekdays at 2pm

1 Saturday - 31 Monday
Summer Photo Contest: Fun in the Sun

15 Saturday | 9am - 12pm
Naturalist Niche: Marvelous Mycology*

16 Sunday | 7 - 10am
Race to the Rock

19 Wednesday | 9 - 11am
Passholder Experience: Photos by Phone*

22 Saturday | 7:30 - 9:30pm
Nature at Night Hike*

SEPTEMBER

12 Saturday - 13 Sunday
Fall Girl Scout Day & Campout*
9:30am Saturday - 9am Sunday

19 Saturday | 7:30 - 10am
Naturalist Niche: Early Bird Walk*

19 Saturday | 10am - 3pm
18th Annual Flock to the Rock

23 Wednesday | 9:30am - 12:30pm
Fall Homeschool Day*
Afternoon options start at 1:30pm

OCTOBER

10 Saturday
Annual Passholder: Sunrise Breakfast*
Gates open at 6:45 - 7:15am for 7:31am sunrise

15 Thursday - 31 Saturday
Fall Photo Contest: Nature's Palette

17 Saturday | 7:30 - 9:30pm
Nature at Night Hike*

24 Saturday | 9am - 12pm
Naturalist Niche: Fall Color Hike*

NOVEMBER

1 Sunday - 15 Sunday
Fall Photo Contest: Nature's Palette

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Mondays | 11am
Hike with a Naturalist

10 Tuesday - 12 Thursday
Veterans Day Special
Free Admission for Military & Veterans

14 Saturday | 9 - 11am
Naturalist Niche: Forest Bathing*

18 Wednesday | 9 - 11am
Passholder Experience: Wildlife Wisdom*

27 Friday - 29 Sunday | 2pm
Thanksgiving Animal Encounters

DECEMBER

5 Saturday | 11am - 2pm
29th Annual Santa on the Chimney

12 Saturday | 11am - 2pm
29th Annual Santa on the Chimney

19 Saturday | 9 - 11am
Naturalist Niche: Winter Woods*

21 Monday - 31 Thursday | 2pm
Winter Break Animal Encounters