

September

9/1-30 12 Mile Red Cedar Hiking Challenge
Entire Month of September

9/5 Jeremy Schumacher: Reptile Campground Program
Time: 6-7:30pm

9/26 Jennifer Wharton: Forage for Art, Nature Mandala photography
Time: 1-3pm



October

10/14 U of I Extension: Gardening for Bats
Time: 5:30-6:30pm

10/31 Trek N' Treat
Time: 1-3pm



November

11/6 Vickie Lang-Mendenhall: Evening Owl Prowl
Time: 5:30-7pm



11/8 Illinois Botanizer: Best of Illinois Nature 2026
Time: 2-3pm

11/8 Steve Gariepy: Hike to Glaciers End
Time: 10am-12:30

11/14 Vicki Lang-Mendenhall: Accessible Birding Hike
Time: 9:30-11:30 am

11/15 U of I Extension: Christmas Bird Count Workshop
Time: 1-3pm

December

12/1 Giant City Gnome Roam
December-February

12/5 U of I Extension: Holiday Wreath Workshop
Time: 10- 11:30am OR 1-2:30pm

For updated program information, please visit the Giant City State Park Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/DNRGiantCity>

Funding for program presenters and supplies is made possible by the Friends of Giant City. Consider joining today!

<http://friendsofgiantcity.weebly.com/please-join-us.html>



Cover photo by Devin Miller

2026 Programs & Events

Giant City STATE PARK



January

1/1-2/28 Giant City Gnome Roam



February

1/1-2/28 Giant City Gnome Roam

2/16 Mary Boehler: Guided 12-mile hike
Time: 8 am-4pm

2/28 Kay Ripplemeyer: An Illustrated Chronicle of the Inoca in Southern Illinois - From Glaciers to Genocide.
Time: 1-2:30pm

March

3/7 Jennifer Behnken: Buds and Bark winter tree ID, 1 mile hike
Time: 1-3pm

3/8 Vicki Lang-Mendenhall: Birding hike
Time: 9:30-11:30am

3/8 John Palis: What Frog is That? Presentation
Time: 1-2pm

3/14 Steve Gariepy: Glaciers End Hike
Time: 10am-12:30pm



3/15 Chris Benda: Primer to Understanding Grasses and Sedges
Time: 2-3pm



3/21 Anne Townsend: Egg-cellent Natural Dyes
Time: 1:30-3pm

April

4/4, 4/11, 4/17 Park Naturalist: Spring Wildflower Walks
Time: 1-3pm



4/25 Hannah Bushur: Accessible Wild Flower and Plant Hike
Time: 1:00-2:00pm

May

5/1 Jeremy Schumacher: Amphibian Night Hike
Time: 7:30-9pm

5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28 Park Naturalist: Senior Social and Stroll
Time: 9am-10:30am

5/16 Rockette Jaros: Wild Mushrooms and Foraging
Time: TBA

5/23 Steve Gariepy: Night Moves, Campground Night Hike
Time: 8:30-10pm



June

6/4, 6/11, 6/18, 6/24, 6/25 Kids Summer Art in the Park Series!
Time: 10am-Noon



July

7/10, 7/24 Park Naturalist: Sun-up Hikes
Time: 6:30am-8am

7/11 Park Naturalist: Kayaking Lake Murphysboro
Time: 9-10:30am

7/19 Chris Benda: Wild Ferns of Southern Illinois
Time: 2-3pm

7/26 U of I Extension: Mothscape: Dry Terrarium Edition for adults
Time: 1pm-3pm

August

8/1 Park Naturalist and IDNR Fisheries: Fishing from Canoes
Time: 9am-1pm

8/12 SIU STEM Education: See the Perseids at Giant City
Time: 8:30-10:30pm



Looking for more information? Scan the QR code or, call the Giant City Visitors Center at 618-457-4836. Details can also be found on the IDNR website at dnr.illinois.gov.

All programs are FREE but most require pre-registration.