



Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Park

Program Request Form

WHO?

- Educational and youth organizations, including schools, homeschools, day camps, park districts, scouts, college classes, and specialty groups, are welcome.

WHAT?

- Park programs consist of 1 to 1.5-hour educational or interpretive guided hikes at Starved Rock and French Canyon. Along the trail, naturalists will frequently pause to engage participants in discussions about the park's history, geology, and ecology, unless a different program theme is requested in advance by the group.

WHY?

- Nature is accessible to all, and everyone benefits from it! Park Naturalists are dedicated to helping individuals of all ages connect with the habitats, wildlife, history, geology, and more at Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Parks.

WHEN?

- Park programs are available from September to November exclusively for groups larger than 30 individuals (30-100). These programs can be scheduled at 10:30 AM or 1 PM on Mondays or Fridays.
- Smaller groups of 10 to 30 people can be accommodated in the spring, from March through mid-May. Scheduling options for these groups are available at 10 AM or 1 PM on Thursdays or Fridays.

WHERE?

- Programs can be conducted at Starved Rock or Matthiessen State Parks. Some of our program themes can also be delivered off-site in classrooms within a 30-mile radius of Utica, Illinois, on the same dates mentioned above. Off-site programs typically last between 30 to 45 minutes.

HOW?

- To schedule a visit, please complete the two-page form and attach it as a PDF file to lisa.sons@illinois.gov at least one month prior to your desired visit date. Park Naturalist Lisa Sons will reply within two business days to confirm your request or suggest alternative dates if necessary.

Please note: Any group of 20 or more individuals must complete a mandatory Activity Permit and a Release of Liability Waiver (or provide proof of liability insurance from a school or youth organization) to DNR.StarvedRock@illinois.gov at least two weeks before their visit for site approval. A \$25 permit fee is required in cash or check made out to IDNR, payable at the front desk of the Starved Rock Visitor Center on the day of the visit. Forms are available on the same webpage as the Program Request Form under the Activity and Interpretive section.

Please choose 1 of the following topics/themes for your park program. Do not mark more than one please.

- ☐ **Ecology:** Discover the park's diverse life, from large to small, green to non-green, furry to scaly, and vibrant to camouflaged, throughout its lush woodlands.
- ☐ **Geology:** Travel through time across an ancient seabed, historic shoreline, and trails once buried beneath a mile of ice.
- ☐ **History:** Explore the park's centuries-spanning history as you hike to Starved Rock, its highest point, steeped in legend.
- ☐ **Highlights:** A blend of geology, history, and ecology.
- ☐ **Mammals:** Become a wildlife enthusiast by examining animal pelts, tracks, scat, and skulls.
- ☐ **Birds:** Search for birds throughout the park while learning to identify their calls, shapes, colors, beaks, and feet.
- ☐ **Insects:** Uncover the hidden world of insects in the park's grasses, soil, trees, and flowers.
- ☐ **Trees:** Enjoy a fun trail activity focused on tree identification, growth, habitats, and the food they provide for wildlife.

Please email the completed form to the Natural Resource Coordinator, Lisa Sons, at lisa.sons@illinois.gov.
Only PDF document attachments please.

Contact Person Name: _____

Email Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Phone #: _____

Total # of Participants: _____ Adults _____ Children _____ Age Range _____

Date of program requested: _____

(Please refer to months and days of the week mentioned above)

Start time of program requested: _____

(Please refer to times listed above)

Will your group require use of the Eagle's Roost Cabin (**for youth and school groups only**)? YES ☐ NO ☐

Please list the timeframe you will need to use the cabin. _____ to _____

Other picnic shelters and tables are on a first-come, first-served basis at either park.

-----Office Use Only-----

Date Confirmed: _____

Natural Resource Coordinator Signature

Notes from the Natural Resources Coordinator: _____

Park Office/Visitor Center:
2678 E. 873rd Rd. Oglesby, IL 61348

Natural Resource Coordinator:
815-667-5356

Office Hours:
W-SU, 9-4