September Programs Minnewaska and Sam's Point Preserve:

Thursday, September 1, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Babes in the Woods
Come join volunteer leader Renee LaMonica and other parents with babies or toddlers at Minnewaska State Park Preserve for an hour of leisurely strolling in the Park Preserve. Babes in the Woods is offered the first and third Thursday of each month from June through October, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This program will meet at the Wildmere parking area, near Lake Minnewaska, unless otherwise noted. Please bring a jogging type stroller or back/front pack child carrier. Pre-registration is required.

Thursday, September 1, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.: Homeschoolers: Early Colonists on the Ridge
Come join other homeschoolers to learn about the early settlers of the Shawangunk Ridge. These colonists did not have easy living on this unforgiving land. We will learn about how they survived on the mountain and how the Minnewaska hotels affected their lives. We will go on a short hike to explore an abandoned road, which is now a trail, where people once lived. We will also explore some of the games that kids of this era would play, when they weren't helping their parents on the farm. This program is recommended for six to twelve year old children, accompanied by a parent or legal guardian over the age of 18. Pre-registration is required.

Saturday, September 3, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.: Ghost Hotels of Minnewaska
Join park educators to learn all about Minnewaska's unique history. Did you know there were once two hotels around Lake Minnewaska? Where did they go? We will learn about the Smiley Brothers, who built the hotels, and their actions to preserve and enjoy this land. We will go on a "ghost" tour of the once standing hotels and learn about the hotel culture of that time. We will also play a hotel scavenger hunt. This program is recommended for eight to twelve year old children, accompanied by a parent or legal guardian over the age of 18. Pre-registration is required.

Saturday, September 3, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Hike to the Shingle Gully Ice Caves
Explore the Shingle Gully Ice Caves, where ice persists into summer in deep, crevice caves. These caves are in a primitive area in Minnewaska State Park Preserve. This rugged, protected landscape is accessible only on guided tours led by park staff and volunteer docents. This all-day, strenuous adventure ascends and descends 1,500 feet, includes off-trail bushwhacking and steep rock scrambles, and is only appropriate for experienced hikers. Pre-registration is required by calling Sam's Point at 845-647-7989. Pre-registration deadline: August 29th.

Sunday, September 4, 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.: Millbrook Mountain Hike
Join Becca Howe, Student Conservation Association/AmeriCorps Member, for this five mile hike along the Lake Minnewaska Carriage Road, Millbrook Mountain Carriage Road and Millbrook Mountain Footpath. The gorgeous views from the cliff on top of Millbrook Mountain include the Sky Top Fire Tower and the verdant Wallkill Valley below. Raptors are often seen soaring beneath the cliff. The footpath does feature a steep hill up and down, as well as a stream crossing and some potentially tricky footing. Participants should pack water and food and wear appropriate shoes. Pre-registration is required.

Sunday, September 4, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.: Animal Tracks for Kids at Sam’s Point
Join Laura Davis, Park Educator, to make your very own plaster track of one of the many animals that live at Sam’s Point! While the tracks are drying we will hike up to the Sam’s Point Overlook, looking for signs of animals along the way. This hike is just over one mile roundtrip on a carriage road and it ascends 200 feet. All children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian over the age of 18. This program is being offered at the Sam’s Point Area in Cragsmoor. Pre-registration is required by calling Sam’s Point at 845-647-7989.

Monday, September 5, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Morning Multiple Scenic Views Hike
Join Laura Conner, Environmental Educator, on a guided hike to see all the stunning views from the numerous scenic vistas along the East side of Lake Minnewaska. Our first stop will be the last remaining historic summerhouse gazebo, which sits perched above the Lake. From here, we’ll continue our walk to reach the site of the former, historic Cliffhouse Hotel. Marvel at the spectacular views that former guests would have had across Lake Minnewaska to the distant Catskill Mountains. Next, we’ll drop down to the Beacon Hill Footpath, which offers a broad vista of the Wallkill Valley including distant views of Storm King and Break Neck Mountains, as well as the iconic stone fire tower, Skytop, to the North. The last leg of our journey includes another cliff edge viewpoint that offers scenic vistas of the Catskill Mountains and the Dickie Barre area. This modest hike, which follows along a combination of carriage roads and a footpath, is approximately two-and-a-half miles long and does include some hills and rocky sections of footpath. Your guide stays with the group the entire trip, offering answers to your questions about the cultural and natural history of this special Park Preserve. Pre-registration is required.

Monday, September 5, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Ice Caves and Lake Maratanza Loop at Sam’s Point
Join Laura Davis, Park Educator, for this hike to the Sam’s Point ice caves! This hike includes approximately three-and-a-half miles of hiking on old woods roads and a half mile of hiking on the Ice Caves Footpath. This footpath includes steep stone stairs, ladders, boardwalks and some potentially slippery surfaces. For the return trip, we will complete the rest of the Loop Road around Lake Maratanza. This program is being offered at the Sam’s Point Area in
Cragsmoor. Pre-registration is encouraged by calling Sam’s Point at 845-647-7989.

Tuesday, September 6, 8:00 a.m.: Early Morning Birders
Designed for birding enthusiasts, or those just looking to learn the basics, this series will offer various outings led by experienced birding volunteers and park naturalists. Participants will meet at the Minnewaska main entrance and should come prepared with binoculars. Outing destinations will be determined the day of the program.

Saturday, September 10, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.: Millbrook Mountain Hike
Join a Minnewaska State Park Preserve educator on a moderately challenging five mile hike to Millbrook Mountain, a ridge-edge scenic vista with one of the most expansive views within Minnewaska. Participants will walk on the Lake Minnewaska Carriage Road until we reach the Millbrook Mountain Footpath. This footpath drops about 400 feet in elevation in the first half mile, then it crosses a cool mountain stream and rises again about 400 feet for another half mile. Out return trip will take participants on the easy-going Millbrook Mountain Carriage Road to return to the Lake Minnewaska area. All participants must wear appropriate footwear and come prepared with enough food and water for the hike. Pre-registration is required.

Sunday, September 11, 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Hudson River Valley Ramble: Mushroom Observation Hike
Join Jill Weiss, trip leader for the Mid-Hudson Mycological Society, and Laura Conner, Environmental Educator, for an educational, non-foraging, mushroom walk along the Beacon Hill Carriage Road. This introduction to mushrooms will teach participants how to identify some of the more common mushrooms found at Minnewaska and as a bonus, participants will get a stunning view from the end of the carriage road. Pre-registration is required.

Sunday, September 11, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Hike to the Shingle Gully Ice Caves
Explore the Shingle Gully Ice Caves, where ice persists into summer in deep crevice caves. These caves are in a primitive area in Minnewaska State Park Preserve. This rugged, protected landscape is accessible only on guided tours led by park staff and volunteer docents. This all-day, strenuous adventure ascends and descends 1,500 feet, includes off-trail bushwhacking and steep rock scrambles, and is only appropriate for experienced hikers. Pre-registration is required by calling Sam’s Point at 845-647-7989. Pre-registration deadline: September 6th.

Tuesday, September 13, 8:00 a.m.: Early Morning Birders
Designed for birding enthusiasts, or those just looking to learn the basics, this series will offer various outings led by experienced birding volunteers and park naturalists. Participants will meet at the Minnewaska main entrance and should come prepared with binoculars. Outing destinations will be determined the day of the program.

Tuesday Treks:
This series of outings is being offered every second and fourth Tuesday of the month from September through the following May. It is designed for people who are home during the week, such as retirees, stay-at-home parents, or people with weekdays off from work. The series will offer outings led by a park naturalist.

Tuesday, September 13, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.: Tuesday Trek: Millbrook Mountain Hike
Join Becca Howe, Student Conservation Association/AmeriCorps Member, for this moderately challenging five mile loop hike along the Millbrook Mountain Footpath and Carriage Road. This hike features various terrain including steep hills, slippery rock surfaces and a stream crossing. Our destination is Millbrook Mountain, a white cliff offering expansive views of the surrounding hills and valleys, including the iconic Skytop stone fire tower further north along the Ridge. Pre-registration is required.

Thursday, September 15, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Babes in the Woods at Sam’s Point
Come join volunteer leader Renee LaMonica and other parents with babies or toddlers at Minnewaska State Park Preserve for an hour of leisurely strolling in the Park Preserve. Babes in the Woods is offered the first and third Thursday of each month from June through October, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This program will meet at the Wildmere parking area, near Lake Minnewaska. Please bring a jogging type stroller or back/front pack child carrier. Pre-registration is required.

Saturday, September 17, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Awosting Falls & High Peter’s Kill Loop Hike
Join Nick Martin, for a five mile loop hike on a fun, moderately challenging footpath and one easy-going carriage road. Starting from the Peter’s Kill parking area, this guided hike will take participants on the Bullwheel and High Peter’s Kill Footpaths which traverse a variety of terrain. The return trip will take us on the historic Awosting Falls Carriage Road, past the 65 foot tall Awosting Falls and past an intriguing rock formation. Meet at the Peter’s Kill Area. Pre-registration is required.

Saturday, September 17, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Hike to the Shingle Gully Ice Caves – Special Geology Version
Join volunteer Docent, Bill Hladky, for this special geology hike to the Shingle Gully Ice Caves, where ice persists into summer in deep, crevice caves. These caves are in a primitive area in Minnewaska State Park Preserve. This rugged, protected landscape is accessible only on guided tours led by park staff and volunteer docents. This all-day,
strenuous adventure ascends and descends 1,500 feet, includes off-trail bushwhacking and steep rock scrambles, and is only appropriate for experienced hikers. Along the way we will discuss the unique geology of the ice caves and learn how the geology has affected the local flora and fauna. Pre-registration is required by calling Sam's Point at 845-647-7989. Pre-registration deadline: September 12th.

Saturday, September 17, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Hike with a Scientist! Crustaceans in the Caves at Sam's Point
Join Luis Espinasa, Associate Professor at Marist College, for a hike through the popular Ice Caves. What lives in the Ice Caves? How are they unique and why? Dr. Espinasa has been researching these questions as well as others, and he would love to tell you what he has discovered. This program will start with a short presentation at the Visitor Center, after which we will hike to the Ice Caves. This hike is three miles roundtrip, with two and a half miles on carriage roads and a half mile on a footpath that includes two small ladders and boardwalk sections. All children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian over the age of 18. This program is being offered at the Sam's Point Area in Cragsmoor. Pre-registration is required by calling Sam's Point at 845-647-7989.

Sunday, September 18, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Hike to the Shingle Gully Ice Caves
Explore the Shingle Gully Ice Caves, where ice persists into summer in deep, crevice caves. These caves are in a primitive area in Minnewaska State Park Preserve. This rugged, protected landscape is accessible only on guided tours led by park staff and volunteer docents. This all-day, strenuous adventure ascends and descends 1,500 feet, includes off-trail bushwhacking and steep rock scrambles, and is only appropriate for experienced hikers. Pre-registration is required by calling Sam's Point at 845-647-7989. Pre-registration deadline: September 13th.

Sunday, September 18, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.: Hudson River Valley Ramble: 7th Annual Minnewaska Volunteer Trail Work Day
Come to the Park Preserve to meet new friends, help improve trail conditions and learn about basic trail maintenance from experienced trail keepers. Join members of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, a region wide volunteer organization devoted to maintaining and improving public trails, and Park Preserve staff, to help improve one of the many scenic footpaths that meander through Minnewaska. Volunteers will use hand tools to clip back overgrown shrubs and tree roots, clear woodland debris, build bog bridges and improve the trail route. This event is also a great way for students in public school to accrue necessary community service hours for completion of their requirements. This program is recommended for adults and teenagers, who must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian over the age of 18. Participants are encouraged to bring their own work gloves and tools including loppers, bow saws and clipping shears. The parking fee will be waived for participants volunteering for this program. Pre-registration is required by Saturday, September 17.

Tuesday, September 20, 8:00 a.m.: Early Morning Birders
Designed for birding enthusiasts, or those just looking to learn the basics, this series will offer various outings led by experienced birding volunteers and park naturalists. Participants will meet at the Minnewaska main entrance and should come prepared with binoculars. Outing destinations will be determined the day of the program.

Thursday, September 22, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.: Homeschoolers: Leave No Trace Seven Principles Hike
Join Becca Howe, Student Conservation Association/AmeriCorps member, and Gary Natalie, volunteer, in learning the seven Leave No Trace Principles. Gary is a certified Leave No Trace master educator, and Becca is a Leave No Trace trained educator. The seven principles are best taught in the forest, so prepare for an approximately four mile hike on the Mossy Glen Footpath and Lower Awosting Carriage Road. Kids will learn these principles to use for the rest of their lives! This program is recommended for six to twelve year old children, accompanied by a parent or legal guardian over the age of 18. Meet at the Awosting Parking Lot. Pre-registration is required.

Saturday, September 24, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.: Fire Ecology Walk down Jenny Lane
Join Becca Howe, Student Conservation Association/AmeriCorps Member, on a walk down Jenny Lane to see the damage from the historic 2008 forest fire, seven years later. Starting on the Lower Awosting Carriage Road, we'll walk past an unburned forest to reach the Jenny Lane Footpath via the Blueberry Run Footpath, which was heavily burned. Then, we will cross Route 44/55 to take the Warwarsing Turnpike Footpath back to the Awosting parking lot. Throughout this five mile long hike we will see signs of past fire damage and we will compare them to unburned forests. Meet at the Awosting Parking Lot. Pre-registration is required.

Saturday, September 24, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Hudson River Valley Ramble: Verkeerderkill Falls Trail Work Volunteer Day at Sam’s Point
Come help Park Preserve staff restore the popular Verkeerderkill Falls Footpath. Find out how to move and set rocks safely with hand tools and create a stable dry walkway on a single-track, hiking trail. This is a “Trail University” event co-hosted by the Sam’s Point Area at Minnewaska State Park Preserve and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. Training, safety equipment and tools will be provided. Wear sturdy, protective shoes or boots, long pants and bring plenty of water and lunch. Light refreshments will be provided at the end of the day. All children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian over the age of 18. This program is being offered at the Sam’s Point Area in Cragsmoor. Pre-registration is required by calling Sam’s Point at 845-647-7989.
Sunday, September 25, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Beacon Hill Early Fall Foliage Hike
Join Gary Natalie, New York State licensed guide, for this approximately two mile loop hike on the Beacon Hill Carriage Road, Beacon Hill Footpath and Lake Minnewaska Carriage Road. This modest hike, which does include some hills and narrow, cliff-edge sections of trail, offers stunning views of the Catskills, Skytop Observation Tower and the Wallkill Valley below. With any luck, we may see the start of the leaf color change in the distant Catskills. Pre-registration is required.

Sunday, September 25, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Hike to the Shingle Gully Ice Caves
Explore the Shingle Gully Ice Caves, where ice persists into summer in deep, crevice caves. These caves are in a primitive area in Minnewaska State Park Preserve. This rugged, protected landscape is accessible only on guided tours led by park staff and volunteer docents. This all-day, strenuous adventure ascends and descends 1,500 feet, includes off-trail bushwhacking and steep rock scrambles, and is only appropriate for experienced hikers. Pre-registration is required by calling Sam’s Point at 845-647-7989. Pre-registration deadline: September 20th.

Sunday, September 25, 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.: Citizen Science! Fire Monitoring at Sam’s Point
In April, a wildfire burned over 2,000 acres at Sam’s Point. Sam’s Point is home to a globally rare ecosystem, and we are very interested to see how it will respond to the fire over time. Will it ever look the same? Will different plants find a new home here? There are twenty plots, in various locations, at Sam’s Point and we need your help to monitor them! If you are interested in science, plants, learning new skills, or volunteering to help out the Park Preserve, this program is for YOU! No previous knowledge is required. Wear sturdy shoes, clothes that can get sooty, and bring plenty of food and water. This program is recommended for adults and children over the age of 12, who must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian over the age of 18. This program is being offered at the Sam’s Point Area in Cragsmoor. Pre-registration is required by calling Sam’s Point at 845-647-7989.

Tuesday, September 27, 8:00 a.m.: Early Morning Birders
Designed for birding enthusiasts, or those just looking to learn the basics, this series will offer various outings led by experienced birding volunteers and park naturalists. Participants will meet at the Minnewaska main entrance and should come prepared with binoculars. Outing destinations will be determined the day of the program.

Tuesday, September 27, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Tuesday Trek to Napanoch Point
Join Laura Conner, Environmental Educator, for this challenging eight mile hike up the Long Path along the Mine Hole Footpath section. Leaving from the small parking area on Foordmore Road in Kerhonkson, this trail climbs steadily, gaining approximately 1,600 feet in elevation in just over three-and-a-half miles. The view from Napanoch Point, especially with colorful fall foliage, is breathtaking, encompassing much of the Rondout Valley. This hike is for experienced hikers only, who must come prepared, wearing hiking boots, proper clothing and carrying enough food and water to sustain them for the day. Pre-registration is required.

For more information and to register for programs at Minnewaska, please call the Park Preserve Office at 845-255-0752. For more information and to register for programs at the Sam’s Point Area, please call the Sam’s Point Visitor Center at 845-647-7989. Minnewaska State Park Preserve is open from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. until September 12th, when the Park Preserve will begin closing every day at 7:00 p.m.

The fee for parking is $10 per vehicle or a valid Empire Passport may be used. All fees are subject to change. There are no additional fees for public programs, unless noted otherwise.

Minnewaska State Park Preserve consists of over 23,000 acres of wild and scenic land located on Route 44/55, five miles west of the intersection with Route 299 in Gardiner, New York and also includes the Sam’s Point Area, located in the hamlet of Cragsmoor, south of Route 52.

The Palisades Interstate Park Commission administers 30 parks, parkways and historic sites for the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in New York as well as the Palisades Interstate Park and parkway in New Jersey. For more information about New York State Parks, please visit [www.nysparks.com](http://www.nysparks.com).