Public Programs at Minnewaska State Park Preserve and Sam’s Point for November 2017

Pre-registration is required for participation in most public programs. Please call the Minnewaska Office at 845-255-0752, unless otherwise noted. For outings, please wear appropriate clothing and footwear and bring snacks and water. A parent or guardian over the age of 18 must accompany children wishing to participate in any programs.

Sam’s Point Visitor Center Hours:
The Sam’s Point Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. until November 5th, when the weekend hours will change to 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The following public programs will be offered at Minnewaska State Park Preserve and Sam’s Point Area in November:

Thursday, November 2, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.: Homeschoolers: Who’s Hooting Here?
Have you ever wondered about the mysteries of owls? Why are they so quiet and where do they live? You and your children will learn the answers to these questions, and more, at this homeschoolers’ program. Children will see a mounted owl, hear owl calls and play a game that teaches about owl behavior. And, each child will dissect an owl pellet to learn about what owls eat. This program is recommended for children between the ages of seven and twelve years old, accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. Well-behaved younger siblings are always welcome. Meet at the Minnewaska Nature Center. Pre-registration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.

Saturday, November 4, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.: Loop around the Lake for Families at Sam’s Point
Join us for this three mile hike to view magnificent Lake Maratanza! On our way back toward the Visitor Center we will stop at the Sam’s Point Overlook, where on a clear day there is a great view of the Wallkill Valley, the Catskills, and much more. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. Meet at the Sam’s Point Visitor Center. Pre-registration is required by calling Sam’s Point at 845-647-7989.

Saturday, November 4, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Hike to the Shingle Gully Ice Caves
Explore the Shingle Gully Ice Caves, where ice persists nearly all year in deep crevice caves. These caves are in a backcountry 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: October 30th.

Sunday, November 5, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Two Views Hike in the Peter’s Kill Area
Join Laura Conner, Environmental Educator, for an approximately two-mile outing in the Peter’s Kill Area along two rocky footpaths. Climbing a few hills, this route showcases stunning views of the Rondout Valley, Catskill
Mountains, Clove Valley and historic Skytop Tower from cliff top ledges. This program is recommended for adults and children older than eight years old, accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. Meet in the Peter’s Kill Area **Pre-registration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.**

**Friday, November 10, 9:15 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Hike to the Shingle Gully Ice Caves**
Explore the Shingle Gully Ice Caves, where ice persists nearly all year in deep crevice caves. These caves are in a backcountry 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: November 5th.

**Saturday, November 11, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.: Minnewaska Backcountry Hike**
Explore some of the more remote trails at Minnewaska on this approximately six-mile hike with Student Conservation Association / AmeriCorps member Emily Shertzer. We will follow along the Upper Awosting Carriage Road to the Blueberry Run Footpath, then take this Footpath to the stunning Castle Point view and to the Rainbow Falls Footpath. We will then return along the Upper Awosting Carriage Road. Participants should pack water and food and wear appropriate shoes. Meet at the Minnewaska Nature Center. **Pre-registration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.**

**Sunday, November 12, 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.: Citizen Science Plant Hike at Sam’s Point**
When do the flowers bloom? When do the leaves fall? We are very curious to find out! In this program you will learn all about phenology, the study of how plants and animals change throughout the seasons, while working as a citizen scientist to collect information about the plants in our park. We will be offering this hike once a month at Sam’s Point to monitor seasonal changes in plants along the Loop Road. Along this carriage road, you will encounter a variety of flowers, ferns, shrubs, and trees which change as you move up in elevation. This program is recommended for children over the age of eight, but everyone is welcome to join us. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. Meet at the Sam’s Point Visitor Center. **Pre-registration is required by calling Sam’s Point at 845-647-7989.**

**Tuesday, November 14, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.: Tuesday Trek: High Peter’s Kill Loop Hike**
Come explore nearly the complete length of the High Peter’s Kill Footpath on this approximately five-mile hike. We’ll start by walking downhill on the High Peter’s Kill Footpath, which features a variety of terrain, along a cliff escarpment with numerous scenic viewpoints. For our return trip, we’ll walk along the easy-going Awosting Falls Carriage Road, past the beautiful and iconic Awosting Falls. This hike does include some rocky, narrow sections of trail that may be challenging for some. Meet in the Awosting Parking Area. **Pre-registration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.**

**Saturday, November 18, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Hike with a Ranger to the Ice Caves at Sam’s Point!**
Join a Park Ranger on this interpretive hike through the Ice Caves at Sam’s Point and learn about how these fascinating crevices formed. Along the way to the Ice Caves you will learn about the geology of the Shawangunk Ridge, as well as look for evidence of past glaciers. This hike is three miles roundtrip, with two-and-a-half miles on carriage roads and a half mile on a footpath that includes stone stairs, two small ladders, and boardwalk sections. All children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian over the age of
18. Meet at the Sam’s Point Visitor Center. **Pre-registration is required by calling Sam’s Point at 845-647-7989.**

**Saturday, November 18, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.: Citizen Science Plant Observation Hike at Minnewaska**
Learn all about phenology, the study of how plants and animals change throughout the seasons, and collect real data that can be used by New York scientists to monitor climate change. We are offering this hike once a month to monitor seasonal changes in plants along the Beacon Hill loop hike. This two-mile hike offers beautiful views of the Rondout and Wallkill valleys, as well as the Catskill Mountains. This program is recommended for adults and children over the age of eight, accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. Meet at the Minnewaska Nature Center. **Pre-registration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.**

**Saturday, November 25, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.: Post-Thanksgiving Walk to Echo Rock**
Whether you stuffed yourself on turkey, tofu or tempeh, join Nick Martin, Park Educator, for a post-Thanksgiving hike! For this outing, we will be taking a hike to Echo Rock, a beautiful scenic vista where raptors are often seen soaring. After stopping at Echo Rock for a few minutes to take in the view, we will head back to Lake Minnewaska and take in the sights along the east side of the Lake. Participants should pack water and food and wear appropriate shoes. Meet at the Minnewaska Nature Center. **Pre-registration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.**

**Sunday, November 26, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.: Feed the Birds! at Sam’s Point**
Birds use a lot of energy to keep themselves warm in the cold winter months. Join a Sam’s Point Ranger to make a snack that will help energize the birds in your backyard as the colder weather sets in. We’ll use pine cones to make a delicious treat for the birds that you can hang in trees near your house. After the craft, we will go for a one mile roundtrip hike to the scenic Sam’s Point Overlook where we will use binoculars to watch for birds that may be flying by. This program is recommended for children of all ages, accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. Meet at the Sam’s Point Visitor Center. **Pre-registration is required by calling Sam’s Point at 845-647-7989.**

**Tuesday, November 28, 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.: Tuesday Trek: Millbrook Mountain Hike**
Join Laura Conner, Environmental Educator, 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 Tower and the 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. Meet at the Minnewaska Nature Center. **Pre-registration is required by calling Minnewaska at 845-255-0752.**

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 6:00 p.m. until November 5th, when the Park Preserve will begin closing every day at 5:00 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 parks.ny.gov.