

7th Annual

Girl Scouts Love Ohio's State Parks

September 12 – 14, 2025



It's time to lead the way at your favorite state parks and help create a better planet for all! How? By heading out to explore Ohio's State Parks during this year's **Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend!**

In 2024, over 1,000 Girl Scouts and their family members and friends participated in activities around the state — from the shores of Lake Erie to the hills of southern Ohio.

Don't miss out on this year's fun! On September 12, 13, and 14, Girl Scouts can participate in naturalist programs, self-guided tours, family hikes, and more!



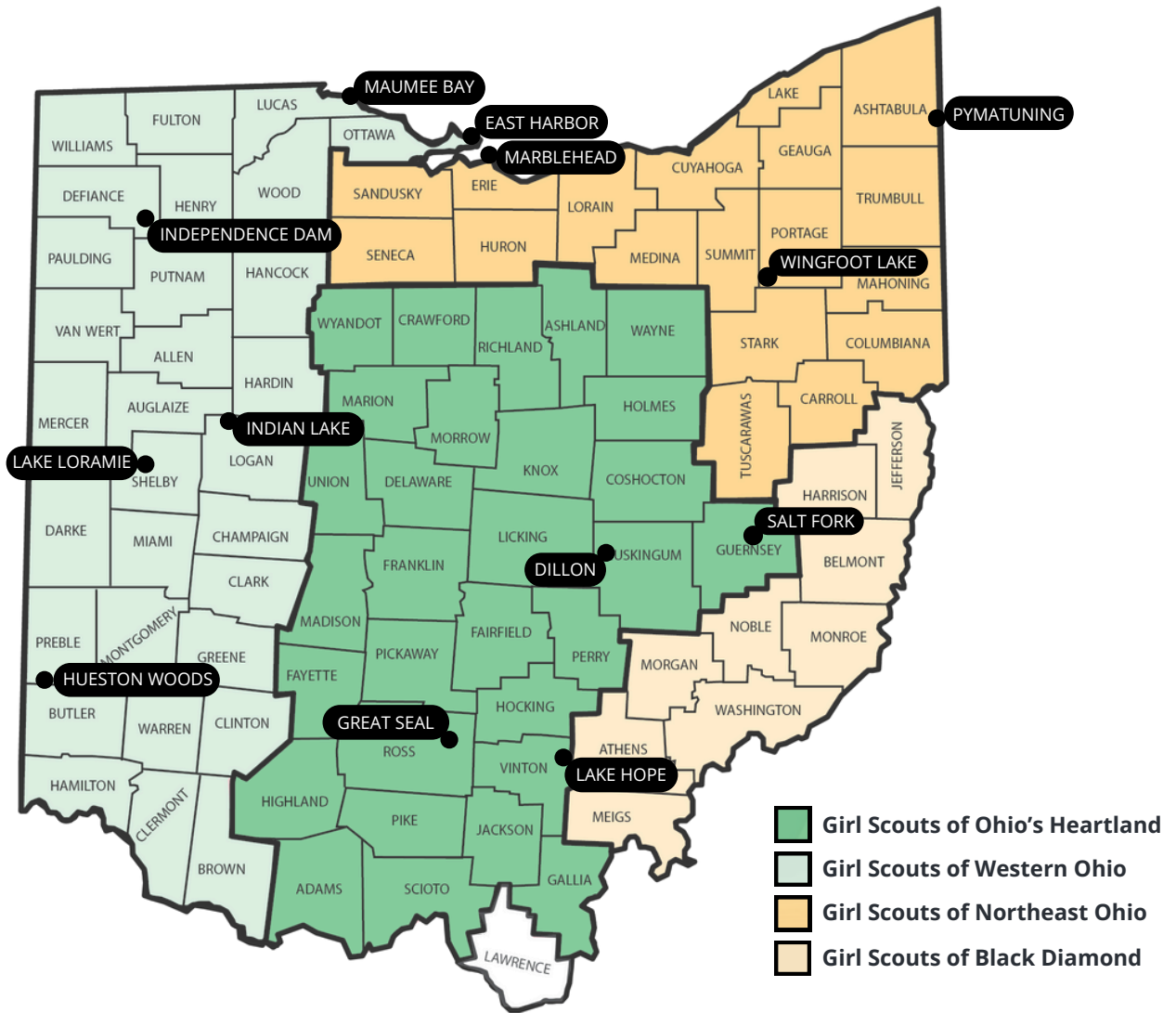
Find out more and plan your trip at ohiodnr.gov/girlscouts



**Department of
Natural Resources**



2025 Featured Parks & Programs



Know before you go!

- **Visit ohiodnr.gov** to learn about your park before your visit. Discover the park's history and natural features, print a trail map, and review any important announcements.
- **Register** for any special programs through each local council's event platform.
- **Download *Outerspatial*** to your mobile device. This free mobile app gives users access to trail maps and important information. Scan the QR code to download the app and then access *Ohio Trails+* by joining the 'Ohio Community' tab on the app.
- **Pack** for the outdoors — you'll need water, snacks and maybe a packed lunch, sunscreen, and bug repellent. You may also want to bring a notebook and something to write with to record your observations.

Looking for more fun at a park near you?

Ohio is home to 76 state parks that are open everyday and always free to visit.

We'd love to see you at a scheduled GSLSP activity, but also welcome you to find a park close to home or attend a public program.

Navigate to **ohiodnr.gov** and click "Go & Do" for links to our Property Finder and Events Calendar.



Northeastern Ohio

Wingfoot Lake State Park

Mogadore, Portage County

Activity registration through GSNEO

Groves of tall trees, expanses of grass, and a picturesque lake create a relaxing backdrop to paddling, fishing, picnicking, or disc golf at the day-use Wingfoot Lake State Park. Originally owned by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, the park has been part of the state park system since 2009.

On a clear day, visitors might spot the Goodyear blimp parked in its hangar on the lake's south shore. The park also features a Storybook Trail and a robust Nature Center. Don't miss the wildlife pond on the far east side of the park near the boat ramp for a shady walk and a chance to spot frogs and other critters.

Saturday, September 13

11 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Macroinvertebrate Mania | All Ages

1 – 2 p.m. | Glowing Creatures | All Ages

4 – 5 p.m. | Fishing Fun | All Ages

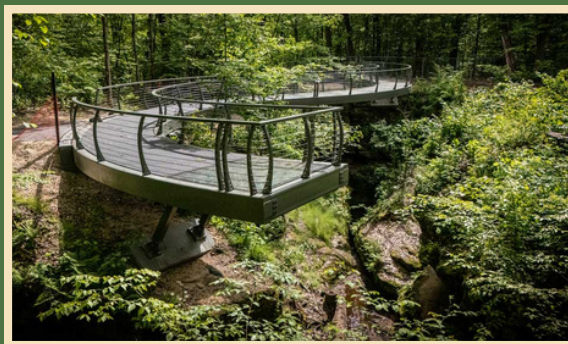
11 a.m. – 6 p.m., Daily | Nature Center Open

On-Your-Own | Litter Pick-up (Self-guided)



Goodyear Blimps Viewed from Wingfoot Lake State Park

Worth a visit: The Falls Edge Glass Walkway, a 137-foot walkway over Sylvan Creek Gorge, opened in spring 2025 at Nelson-Kennedy Ledges State Park in Portage County.



Pymatuning State Park

Andover, Ashtabula County

Activity registration through GSNEO

Spanning the border of Ohio and Pennsylvania is Pymatuning State Park, a popular vacation destination. Enjoy views of the lake and surrounding scenery from one of the park's trails, pack a picnic to eat in a shady area, or visit the Nature Center to see how you measure up to a hawk or an owl, explore the benefits of wetlands, and peek into a model beaver lodge.

Friday, September 12

5 – 6 p.m. | Paddle Power – Kayaking | BJCSA

Saturday, September 13

10 – 11 a.m. | Take Aim – Archery | BJCSA

1 – 2 p.m. | Outdoor Art Creation | All Ages

3 – 4 p.m. | Trail Adventurer | All Ages

5 – 6 p.m. | Aquatic Bug Stream Survey | All Ages

12 – 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday | Nature Center Open. Check online or call the park at (440) 293-6684 for current hours.



Northern Ohio/Lake Erie

Maumee Bay State Park

Oregon, Lucas County

Activity registration through GSWO

This park features a resort lodge and cabins nestled among scenic meadows, wet woods, and lush marshes. Visitors enjoy the campground, inland lake, accessible boardwalk trail, and the Storybook Trail. More than 300 species of birds have been observed here.

Don't miss the newly renovated Nature Center featuring displays related to the park's natural history, a bird watching area, and multiple live specimens of native reptiles, amphibians, and fish. Up for a hike? follow the boardwalk to the Eagle Nest Observation Area (check-out the Outing in the *OuterSpatial* trails app!).

Friday, September 12

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. | Endangered Species | CSA

7:30 – 9 p.m. | Twilight Adventure Hike | JCSA

Saturday, September 13

10 – 11 a.m. | Trail Adventure Hike | DB

11 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Shapes in Nature | DB

1 – 2 p.m. | Animal Habitats | BJ

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. | Archery Cookie Shootout! | JCSA

10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Friday and Saturday;

12 – 4 p.m., Sunday | Nature Center Open



Marblehead Lighthouse

East Harbor State Park

Lakeside-Marblehead, Ottawa County

Activity registration through GSWO

Situated on a peninsula stretching into Lake Erie, East Harbor is a popular park for camping and birdwatching. Other popular activities include swimming, picnicking, and biking. A small Nature Center next to the camp store features a bird watching area and interesting displays. Don't forget to stop for ice cream!

Saturday, September 13

10 – 11 a.m. | Birding Bingo | All Ages

3 – 5 p.m. | Archery Cookie Shootout! | JCSA

Sunday, September 14

9:30 – 11 a.m. | Take a Hike | All Ages

3 – 5 p.m. | Archery Cookie Shootout! | JCSA

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Friday; Nature Center Open | closed Saturday and Sunday

Marblehead Lighthouse State Park

Marblehead, Ottawa County

Activity registration through GSWO

A short drive from East Harbor State Park, Marblehead Lighthouse is the oldest and still working lighthouse on the Great Lakes. Climb the lighthouse's 77 steps on a guided tour and get a Panoramic view of Lake Erie, from the top! You can also explore the rocky shoreline, have a picnic, or spot birds and boats.

Saturday, September 13 and Sunday, September 14

Every ½ hour, 12 – 2 p.m. | Lighthouse Tours | All Ages

Tours are FREE for Girl Scouts and their registered chaperones and family members, this weekend only. All participants must register in advance; tour capacity is limited.



Western Ohio

Hueston Woods State Park

College Corner, Preble County

Activity registration through GSWO

The limestone and shale bedrock of the Hueston Woods region provides evidence of the ancient shallow sea that once covered Ohio. Fossilized remnants of ancient marine animals are so abundant that the park attracts collectors year-round. Fossil hunting is just the beginning of the outdoor adventures found at this park which also has opportunities for hiking, disc golf, fishing, and more. The park also features a Haiku Trail, the first of its kind in Ohio.

The park's Nature Center is open daily and features interactive displays related to the park's history, geology, and Ohio's native plants and animals. The Nature Center and surrounding area is also home to a variety of live animals including fish, reptiles, birds of prey, and mammals.

Saturday, September 13

1 – 2 p.m. | Fossil Expedition | All Ages

3 – 4 p.m. | Wildlife Invasion | All Ages

Sunday, September 14

1 – 2 p.m. | Hike-ku | All Ages

3 – 4 p.m. | Environmental Stewards | All Ages

10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Daily | Nature Center Open

Lake Loramie State Park

Fort Loramie, Shelby County

An annual tradition, the Lake Loramie Fall Festival shares the dates with Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend! Activities are open to the public and include live music and other entertainment, antique farm tractors, arts and crafts, and much more. For more information, visit lakeloramiefallfest.com or call the park at (937) 295-2011.

Don't miss your opportunity to visit the park's brand new **Welcome Center** with interactive and informative displays about the park's and region's history, and a Nature Nook with hands-on displays.

Indian Lake State Park

Lakeview, Logan County

Activity registration through GSWO

Indian Lake offers a variety of on-the-water recreational options including boating, fishing, jet skiing, and swimming. Off the lake, visitors can enjoy camping and picnicking.

Saturday, September 13

10 – 11 a.m. | Fishing | All Ages

12 – 1 p.m. | Creeking | All Ages

Sunday, September 14

11 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Archery | BJCSA

Independence Dam State Park

Defiance, Defiance County

Activity registration through GSWO

This park, nestled along Ohio's scenic Maumee River just east of Defiance and across from GSWO's Camp Libby, is a peaceful riverside escape. The park blends rich history - featuring remnants of the old Miami & Erie Canal — with a wide range of outdoor activities. A quiet 3-mile trail follows the old canal towpath and shady picnic areas are found along the riverbank.

Friday, September 12

7 – 8 p.m. | Guided Park Tour | All ages

Saturday, September 13

10 – 11:15 a.m. | Maumee River Macros! River Exploration with Scenic Rivers Staff | All Ages

11:15 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Native Plant Seedballs | All Ages

4 – 6 p.m. | Historical Hike | All Ages

Sunday, September 14

10 – 11 a.m. | Fishing Clinic | All Ages

Self-guided scavenger hunt will be available each day at the CCC shelter.



Eastern Ohio

Dillon State Park

Nashport, Muskingum County

Activity registration through GSOH

A popular destination for outdoor recreation and family-friendly activities, Dillon State Park features a large network of trails, disc golf, playgrounds, a Storybook Trail, a large lake with a swimming beach, and a newly opened Nature Center with turtles, fish, invertebrates, and more — all just a short drive from Zanesville or Newark.

Friday, September 12

7:30 – 8:30 p.m. | Park After Dark Night Hike | All Ages

Saturday, September 13

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Archery Games | JCSA

1 – 3 p.m. | Shore Explore | All Ages

1 – 5 p.m., Friday and 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., Saturday
Nature Center Open | Activity Sheets Available



Nature Center, Dillon State Park



Eco-Discovery Center, Salt Fork State Park

Salt Fork State Park

Lore City, Guernsey County

Activity registration through GSOH

Located in eastern Ohio, Salt Fork State Park is the largest state park in Ohio with thousands of acres of land and water. The stunning landscape features forested hills, open meadows, and misty valleys decorated with winding streams. Popular activities include hiking, boating, swimming — and, of course — searching for Bigfoot.

Don't miss the newly opened Eco Discovery Center, a state-of-the-art facility featuring displays about the park's history and natural features, live animals, rain gardens, and a beautiful view of Salt Fork Lake.

Saturday, September 13

8 – 9:30 p.m. | Gone Squatchin' Night Hike | All Ages

Sunday, September 14

10 – 11 a.m. | Creeking | All Ages

4 – 5 p.m. | Snakes Alive! | All Ages

10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Friday and 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.,
Saturday and Sunday | Eco-Discovery Center Open



Southern Ohio



Historic Marker, Great Seal State Park

Great Seal State Park

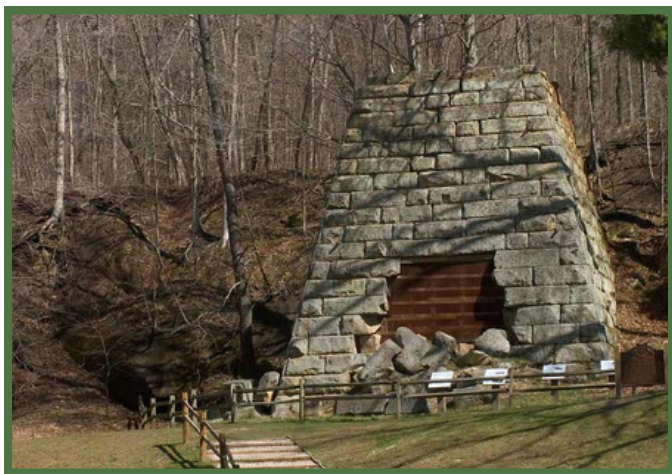
Chillicothe, Ross County

Activity registration through GSOH

Named after the hills seen on Ohio's state seal, this park near Chillicothe offers 23 miles of scenic trails with sweeping views of the Scioto Valley. The park includes a Storybook Trail where visitors can read a nature-inspired story while walking to a playground at the end. You can also play disc golf, try out the playgrounds, or enjoy a picnic.

Sunday, September 14

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Programs will include hiking/wild edible plant stroll, archery, creeking, and reptiles & amphibians. See GSOH's program calendar for specific details.



Iron Furnace, Lake Hope State Park

Lake Hope State Park

Zaleski, Vinton County

Activity registration through GSOH

Lake Hope State Park is a natural paradise in southeastern Ohio, not far from the Hocking Hills region. Popular activities include hiking, fishing, beach-going, camping, mountain biking, and paddling.

A rustic nature center offers visitors a glimpse of the park's unique history and features several displays of educational animals and a bird viewing area. Don't miss a visit to the park's historic iron furnace to learn more about the historic human impact on the environment in southeast Ohio.

Saturday, September 13

11 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Nature Journaling | BJCSA

1 – 2:30 p.m. | Bugs, Bees & Other Pollinators | All Ages

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. | Alien Invaders | JCSA

Activity Details & Registration

For more information and to register for an activity, visit the websites of our Girl Scout council partners. You need not be a member of a specific council to attend programs within that council's jurisdiction.

Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland
www.gsoh.org

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio
www.gswow.org

Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio
www.gsneo.org

