



Massachusetts State Parks Junior Ranger Program

Department of Conservation & Recreation
Division of State Parks & Recreation

2023 Junior Ranger program visits **Pittsfield State Forest, Mount Greylock State Reservation, Clarksburg State Park, Natural Bridge State Park, Savoy Mountain State Forest, and Mohawk Trail State Forest.**

What is the Junior Ranger program?

Junior Ranger is a fun way for children to get acquainted with DCR state parks in Western Massachusetts and participate in and experience outdoor recreation skills. Children take hikes, do park projects, make nature crafts, make wildlife observations, try navigational techniques, and more! The program is **free**.

Over a seven-week period, a total of seven different program sessions are led collaboratively by experienced DCR Park Interpreters: Bob Rando, Mike Whalen, Kristen Mabey, Alicia Cellana, Meshell Bordeleau, Ceci Flinn, Geeg Wiles and Christian Drake.

Requirements -

- Children must be between the **ages 8-12 years old**.
- Each of the **seven sessions** are held on select **Thursdays in July and August**. All programs run **from 10:00 am-noon**, and meet at one of the six parks listed, each offering a unique theme and activity. ***Please see the schedule on the back of this form for more information on dates, times, program themes and descriptions, meeting locations, and contact information.***
- **Participants must complete a total of 8 activities** (6 can be from either the Junior Ranger booklet or any combination of Junior Ranger sessions, booklet activities, attending free public interpretive events, or park visits), in order to receive a Junior Ranger patch and certificate.
- **Participants are required to attend a minimum of two Junior Ranger programs (*the first and last program sessions are mandatory*)** to qualify for the Junior Ranger patch and certificate.

Parents or guardians are required to attend all of the Junior Ranger sessions. Come to Session One for more info.

2023 Junior Ranger Program Registration & Waiver Form

Participant's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Allergies (if any) _____ Special Needs (if any) _____

Parent or guardian's name _____

Address _____

Home phone # _____ Work phone # _____

Email _____

Person to contact in case of emergency _____ Phone # _____

I hereby give full approval and permission for my child to participate in the Massachusetts Division of State Parks & recreation *Junior Ranger Program*. I have read and understand the requirements of the program as outlined in this brochure. I hereby agree to indemnify and hold blameless the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Conservation & Recreation, Division of State Parks & Recreation, its servants, agents, employees, and program directors from any or all liabilities and injuries, due to their action or failure to act, during my child's participation in this program. I certify that I am the lawful parent/guardian of the above child and am authorized to give said release.

Signed _____

Date _____

2023 Junior Ranger Schedule

Things to know: The Junior Ranger program happens rain or shine, so dress appropriately for outdoor activity and the weather, including sturdy footwear. Bring a snack and plenty of water.

PLEASE NOTE: PARK LOCATIONS CHANGE WEEKLY!
Any additional special information is listed below in ***bold italics***.

- 1.) **July 13 – INTRODUCTION TO JUNIOR RANGER at Pittsfield State Forest Ski Lodge.** Learn about the Junior Ranger program, participating parks, and how to complete activities to qualify for your Junior Ranger patch and certificate. (***Mandatory session***)
- 2.) **July 20 – STORIES OF THE LAND at Mount Greylock State Reservation Visitor Center.** Become an expert explorer. Take a short hike and read the stories of the land through observation. Examine natural and cultural evidence of forest succession. Make a map showing your favorite place.
- 3.) **July 27 – LIFE IN A BEAVER POND at Savoy Mountain State Forest Nature Center.** Discover life in an active beaver pond, become acquainted with the diversity of plants and animals. Learn how they all live together as you explore a unique wetland. Enjoy a beaver craft or game activity!
- 4.) **August 3 – GO WITH THE FLOW at Natural Bridge State Park Visitor Center.** Become a watershed scientist! Learn about watersheds and how to protect them. Investigate the health of Hudson Brook using a watershed test kit, meet and identify the aquatic insects that live there.
- 5.) **August 10 – PARK PROTECTORS at Clarksburg State Park Nature Center.** Everything we do in the woods makes an impact on the natural world! Have fun learning about “Leave No Trace” principles and make a recycled craft.
- 6.) **August 17 – FOREST RESOURCES at Mohawk Trail State Forest Nature Center.** Become a woodland detective. Take a short trail hike and learn to identify trees and plants within the forested landscape. Share your observations. Make tree cookie name tags!
- 7.) **August 24 – ASK AN EXPERT and GRADUATION at Mount Greylock State Reservation Visitor Center.** A special day to meet DCR staff, ask questions and complete your activity guides before the ***Graduation Celebration!*** All participants must be present to receive their certificates and patches.

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2023 Junior Ranger programs is held at **Pittsfield State Forest, Mount Greylock State Reservation, Clarksburg State Park, Natural Bridge State Park, Savoy Mt. State Forest, and Mohawk Trail State Forest.**

Contact information for each participating park is listed below, along with the specific dates and locations for each of the seven Junior Ranger sessions. **Junior Ranger sessions run from 10am to 12 noon.**

Session #1, July 13 held at: **Pittsfield State Forest Ski Lodge.**
1041 Cascade Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201
Phone: (413) 442-8992 - Please call for directions.
Robert.Rando@mass.gov

Session #2, July 20, and Session #7, August 24 held at:
Mount Greylock State Reservation Visitor Center
30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough, MA 01237
Phone: (413) 499-4262 - Please call for directions.
Michael.W.Whalen@mass.gov

Session #3, July 27 held at:
Savoy Mountain State Forest Nature Center
260 Central Shaft Road, Florida, MA 01247
Phone: (413) 663-8469 – Please call for directions.
Alicia.Cellana@mass.gov

Session #4, August 3 held at:
Natural Bridge State Park Visitor Center
McAuley Road, North Adams, MA 01247
Phone: (413) 663-6392 - Please call for directions.
Geeg.Wiles@mass.gov

Session #5, August 10 held at:
Clarksburg State Park Nature Center
1199 Middle Road. Clarksburg, MA 01247 Phone: (413) 664-8345 -
Please call for directions. Kristen.Mabey@mass.gov

Session #6, August 17 held at:
Mohawk Trail State Forest
P.O. Box 7, Route 2, Charlemont, MA 01339
Phone: (413) 339-5504 – Please call for directions.
Christian.Drake@mass.gov