

## DCR's Central and Western Girl Scout Weekend Programs

**Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park**, 287 Oak Street, Uxbridge MA  
**September 9, 2023 10:30am-12:00pm**

### **Freshwater Investigators**

Only 2.5% of Earth's water is freshwater but it is one of our most important natural resources. In this program, become a scientist for the day as we learn why freshwater is so important and how it can be impacted by human activity. Starting with a short hike and ending with an experiment, we'll explore the history of the Blackstone River and Canal and investigate the different components of a healthy freshwater ecosystem! Program intended for Juniors and can accommodate 25 people (children and adults) total. Total distance is two miles. Meet at River Bend Farm Visitor Center. Parking is free. Be sure to bring sunscreen, bug spray, water, notebook and pencil, and snack. Program will happen rain or shine but will be cancelled in the event of severe inclement weather. If raining, still expect to be outside.

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**Purgatory Chasm State Reservation**, 198 Purgatory Rd. , Sutton, MA  
**September 10, 2023 1:00-2:00pm**

### **Chasm Hike**

Scramble around boulders while taking in the mystery of Purgatory Chasm. Find out about the park's history, the chasm's rock formations, and its wildlife. As we explore these amazing resources, we will find what it means to be a good steward for our shared natural spaces. Program intended for ages 6 and older and can accommodate 30 people (children and adults) total. Total distance is 1/2 mile along moderately challenging terrain. Meet at the Pavilion near the chasm's entrance. Parking is \$5 for MA-registered vehicles, \$20 for out-of-state vehicles. Be sure to bring sturdy footwear, water, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Wet weather will cancel. The chasm trail is closed during and soon after rain due to slippery trail conditions. If in doubt, please call the Park Office for an update on current trail conditions: 508-234-3733

**Wachusett Mountain State Reservation**, 345 Mountain Road, Princeton, MA

**September 9, 2023 10:00am-12:00pm**

**Brownie Eco Friend at Wachusett Mountain**

This program will satisfy several requirements for the Brownie Eco Friend badge. In this program, Brownies will: interview a park "ranger" and find out about their fascinating job; talk with a park interpreter about animal homes, and will see some actual examples on display; will participate in a fun outdoor activity finding houses in nature, turning over rocks and using magnifying glasses to investigate living things they find; will go on an easy half-mile hike on one of Wachusett Mountain's beautiful trails, guided by the park interpreter, and will learn how to practice the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace. Meet at Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Visitor Center. This program is for Brownies, grades 2-3 and their adult chaperones; total group size should be limited to 15. Bring water, sunscreen, and snacks. There is a \$5 parking fee. The program will run rain-or-shine; the outdoor portion will be cancelled if there are thunderstorms or heavy rain. For questions, call Visitor Services Supervisor Nick at 978-464-2987.

**Wachusett Reservoir**, 180 Beaman St., West Boylston, MA

**September 9, 2023 1:00-2:00pm**

**Nature Connections StoryWalk® and activities**

Come by the Old Stone Church and discover the greater interconnectedness of nature on a short outdoor walk featuring *Trout are Made of Trees* StoryWalk® by April Pulley Sayre. Activity stations will include a Fish Print Craft and Tree Identification. Program intended for all ages and can accommodate 50 people (children and adults) total. Total distance is ¼ mile. Meet at the Old Stone Church (130 Beaman St, West Boylston). Parking is free on Beaman St. Be sure to dress for the weather. Rain cancels.

**Quabbin Reservoir**, 100 Winsor Dam Rd., Belchertown, MA

**September 10, 2023 1:00-2:00pm**

**Exploring Animal Habitats**

Insects and reptiles, fish and mammals, wildlife lives all around us. Take a hike and learn about what makes a good habitat for our animal neighbors. Program intended for Juniors and can accommodate 30 people (children and adults) total. Total distance is 1/2 mile. Meet at Hanks Meadow. Parking is free. Be sure to dress for the weather and bring water. Rain cancels.

**Holyoke Heritage State Park**, 221 Appleton Street, Holyoke, MA

**September 9, 2023 10:00-11:30am**

**How to Hike like a Pro**

For first time hikers and beginners learning to day hike. Compete in a "Pack-a-Pack" scavenger hunt to learn what to bring in your daypack. Check out specialized hiking gear. Learn how to read trail maps and to practice "Leave no Trace" hiking. This is an orientation to hiking. Program intended for Brownies and can accommodate 15 people (children and adults) total. Total distance is 1/2 mile. Meet at the Visitor Center. Parking is free. Be sure to dress for the weather and bring water and a snack. Rain cancels.

**Clarksburg State Park**, 1199 Middle Rd, Clarksburg, MA

**September 9, 2023 10:00am-12:00pm**

**Hooked on Fishing**

Girls will learn the basics of fishing including knot tying, casting, conservation, and fish identification. And, of course, we will be fishing!!! Use the park's fishing equipment or bring your own. Supplies are limited. Program intended for Juniors and older and can accommodate 25 people (children and adults) total. Meet at the Nature Center (1199 Middle Road, Clarksburg). Parking is free. Program will happen rain or shine but will be cancelled in the event of severe inclement weather. If raining, still expect to be outside.

**Great Falls Discovery Center**, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

**September 9, 2023 10:30am-12:00pm**

**Art Naturally: Botanical Prints**

We'll use gel plates and an array of papers and acrylic paints to make exquisite botanical prints. Whether printing ferns whose relatives lived 200 million years ago or leaves from the magnificent oak tree that supports so much biodiversity, you're guaranteed to create some beautiful nature-inspired artwork—suitable for framing or for small handmade book covers, greeting cards, or collage. We'll have lots of examples for how you can share your nature prints with family and friends. Program intended for all ages and can accommodate 20 people (children and adults) total. Meet at the Great Hall. Parking is free. All materials will be provided. Program will happen rain or shine.