dcr
Massachusetts

Mount Holyoke Range State Park

Department of Conservation and Recreation

NOVEMBER 2026 PROGRAMS

Coming Events

All programs are free and open to the public. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. All programs meet at the Notch Visitor Center, 1500 West Street, Amherst, MA, unless otherwise noted. To register for programs or get more information, call the Visitor Center (413) 253-2883 or email Holyoke.range@mass.gov.

ADA/Reasonable Accommodation
617-645-0358 | Moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov

Thursdays through Mondays. 9:00 am–4:00 pm.

Closed Thanksgiving.

Visitor Center Open Hours.

The Notch Visitor Center at 1500 West Street in Amherst, features trail maps, park orientation and information, exhibits, restrooms, and drinking water. Take a walk or hike in the park. Accessible by PVTA public transit (Amherst R38). Wheelchair accessible. Lobby and restrooms are open daily; Info desk and exhibits may be closed periodically for programming.

Family Friendly Programs.

Fridays, 10:00–11:00 am.

Nature Storytime – Kidleidoscope.

For ages 0-6+, accompanied by an adult. Enjoy nature themed stories paired with age-appropriate activity or craft. All materials are provided. No Storytime on Nov. 27.

Saturdays, 1:30–3:30 pm.

Hot Cocoa with a Ranger.

All ages. Warm up by the fire, enjoy complimentary hot chocolate while exploring the exhibits inside the Visitor Center. Use this time to ask the Ranger all about the Range. Drop in, chat with staff, stay for five minutes or an hour.

Friday, November 27. **10:00 am–12:30 pm.**

Gratitude After Gravy Hike.

Best for ages 5 and up. Bring the whole family and hike off that Thanksgiving pie and gravy! Upon arrival, choose between an easy 2-mile hike or a more challenging 4-mile hike, both featuring casual interpretation along the way.

Not up for a hike? Hang out inside the Notch Visitor Center, cozy up by the wood stove, and enjoy self-guided activities while others hit the trail.

Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water and a snack. Hot drinks will be served after the hike. Meet at the kiosk outside the Notch Visitor Center. Inclement weather or icy trail conditions will cancel the hikes.

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Hiking and Walking Programs.

Saturday,
November 14.
10:00 am–
Noon.

Empowerment Hike.
Join Park Staff in building confidence on the trail in a welcoming, supportive environment! Designed with LGBTQIA+ participants in mind and open to all, this beginner-friendly hike offers a chance to learn, connect, and explore at your own pace along a 2-mile trail. Come as you are and discover a place for yourself outside.

PFLAG FRANKLIN-HAMPSHIRE

In partnership with PFLAG. This hike is held in loving memory of Neil.

Saturday,
November 21.
9:30 am–
12:30 pm.

Off the Beaten Path Hike.
For ages 12 and up. This guided hike explores the wonders of winter wildlife survival. A more strenuous 3–5 miles over uneven terrain. Dress for the weather, bring water, snacks and extra layers. Hiking poles recommended. Severe weather cancels. Free registration required. **To register call 413-253-2883,** or email **holyoke.range@mass.gov**.

Sunday,
November 29.
10:00–
11:30 am.

Dog Days - Wild Walks.
For well-behaved, socialized dogs and their humans of all ages. A 1-2 mile guided walk in the woods with your canine companion. Learn key canine hiking safety while practicing Leave No Trace principles! Dogs must always be under control and on a 6-foot leash. Owners without dogs are welcome! Severe weather cancels.
To register call 413-253-2883, or email **holyoke.range@mass.gov**.

Ongoing Programs & Events.

Sunday,
November 22.
1:00–2:30 pm.



People of the NET: Animated Film Premier.
Join New England Trail (NET) Artist-in-Residence Alex Salsberg for the premiere of *People of the NET*, an animated film sharing the stories of those who hike, maintain, and love the Trail. Through heartfelt conversations, discover how connections to nature bring people closer to their families, communities, and themselves. Following the screening, Alex shares a behind-the-scenes look at his creative process and answer audience questions. Free registration at the website: activities.outdoors.org.

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November 7 through November 29.

Community Gallery – You are Home.

Join local artist Sonia Szala-Krotkov as she explores the meaning of home through artwork inspired by the wildlife and landscapes of the Pioneer Valley and East Africa. Drawing from her Amherst roots and travels in Tanzania, Sonia celebrates the connections between nature, childhood, and the places we call home.

The Community Gallery is a rotating exhibit featuring art by local artists, each sharing their own perspective, story and relationship with the Mount Holyoke Range. Interested in showing your work? To learn more or apply, contact by email **Holyoke.range@mass.gov**.

Saturday,
November 14.
1:30–3:30 pm.
Rain Date:
Sat., Nov. 28.

Live Art Demonstration.

Join featured Community Gallery artist Sonia Szala-Krotkov for a live art demonstration outside the Notch Visitor Center. Watch her creative process unfold, ask questions, and learn more about the inspiration behind her artwork before exploring her exhibit inside the Visitor Center.

Sunday,
December 13.
1:00–
2:00 pm.

Read the Range: A Book Club.

Cozy up by the wood stove at the Notch Visitor Center for a relaxed guided discussion of books inspired by nature, conservation, wildlife, and the places we explore. Read the selected title in advance, then gather with fellow readers for conversation. For ages 16+. Whether you're a mystery lover, an avid reader, or new to book clubs, all are welcome!

The Winter People, by Jennifer McMahon.

Discuss *The Winter People* by Jennifer McMahon, a haunting mystery set in the snowy woods of Vermont. Unfolding across generations, the story weaves together family secrets, New England folklore, and the mysteries hidden within the winter landscape. Explore how stories shape our understanding of wild places and how winter transforms the familiar into something mysterious. **Need a copy? Contact the Notch Visitor Center to find out how to borrow or access the book.**