



J.A. Skinner State Park

Department of Conservation and Recreation

AUGUST 2026 PROGRAMS

All programs are free, open to the public, and **meet at the Summit House** unless otherwise noted. The Summit House is located atop Mount Holyoke, off Skinner State Park Road. Parking fee: \$5 for in-state license plate and \$20 for out-of-state license plate. All children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information call the park at (413) 586-0350.



ADA/Reasonable Accommodation,
Call: 617-645-0358, or email: Moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov.

Coming Events

**Open,
Weekends &
Holidays,
9:00 am–
4:00 pm.**

Historic Summit House.

The Summit House was an 1800s hotel. Travelers once came here to relax and enjoy the view. You can do the same today! Features: Exhibits, park information, restrooms and drinking water. Picnicking available on the grounds outside. Open late-May through mid-October.

**Fridays,
August 7 & 21.
3:00–4:00 pm.**

A Living Vista.

Relax and take in the view from the summit house deck for this stationary program. The view from the Summit House is always changing. From forests reclaiming old fields to conservation efforts that protect scenic overlooks, both nature and people shape what we see. Learn how the landscape has evolved over time and how each of us can help steward the vistas of tomorrow. For ages 12 and up.

**Saturdays &
Sundays,
11:00 am. &
2:00 pm.**

Summit House Tour.

For ages 12 and up. Enliven your Summit House visit with a 30-minute park interpreter-guided tour. Hear the story and vision of John and Fanny French. In the 1800s they offered a novel mountain-top vacation here at the Prospect House. Discover how it changed and later became a State Park. Meet inside the Summit House.

**Saturdays,
3:00–4:00 pm.**

Greetings From the Past, *Postcards in Cursive.*

Stop by the Summit House to send a message the old-fashioned way! Learn about historic postcards, practice writing with a fountain pen, and discover how cursive helps us read the letters and stories left behind by earlier generations Stay for 5 minutes or an hour. **Meet outside on the Summit House deck.**

Programs Continue on Next Page.



J.A. Skinner State Park

Department of Conservation and Recreation

AUGUST 2026 PROGRAMS

Coming Events

**Mondays,
1:30–3:00 pm.**

Discoveries on the Deck.

For all ages and family friendly. Join a park interpreter for their choice of stationary pop-up programming on the natural and cultural history of Skinner State Park and the Mount Holyoke Range. Stay for 5 minutes or an hour. Severe weather cancels. **Meet outside on the Summit House deck.**

Hiking and Walking Programs

**Friday,
August 14.
9:00-11:30 am.**

Mountain Mindfulness Series.

For ages 12 and up. Join Kripalu trained Jim McNerney for a 1- to 2-mile walk exploring present-moment awareness, deep breathing, forest bathing, and conscious movement. Fully awaken your senses and receive the many healing properties of nature. Free. Location: 10 Skinner State Park Road, Hadley, MA. **Registration required.** Call (413) 253-2883, or email holyoke.range@mass.gov.

**Sunday,
August 23.
9:30–10:30 am.**

**Read The Range: A Book Club:
North Woods, by Daniel Mason.**

Join us at the historic Summit House for an engaging discussion of books inspired by nature, conservation, wildlife, and local history. Read the selected title in advance, then **gather in the Summit House’s reading room** for a relaxed conversation led by DCR staff. This accessible program offers a unique way to connect with the stories, landscapes, and history of the Mount Holyoke Range. For ages 16 and up.

North Woods, by Daniel Mason, is a multi-centennial epic that tracks the history of a single plot of land and a yellow house in the forests of western Massachusetts. Rather than following one protagonist, the novel chronicles hundreds of years through a mosaic of interconnected inhabitants from Puritan fugitives and an apple-obsessed orchardist to a runaway slave and a modern-day biologist. Find the book at your local library or at this link: [North Woods](#).

