



Ranger Programs

Nature Walks (Each Weekend:)

Join a ranger on 1-hour walks to discover the changing colors of autumn. Discuss why leaves change colors, what a tree does during winter, and more!

October 5 (Sat): 11:00 AM at Hog Rock Parking Area

October 6 (Sun): 1:00 PM at Thurmont Vista Parking Area

October 12 (Sat): 11:00 AM at Thurmont Vista Parking Area

October 13 (Sun): 1:00 PM at Hog Rock Parking Area

October 19 (Sat): 11:00 AM at Hog Rock Parking Area

October 20 (Sun): 1:00 PM at Thurmont Vista Parking Area

October 26 (Sat): 11:00 AM at Chestnut Picnic Area (note: this route is wheelchair/stroller accessible, on a packed mulch surface.)

October 27 (Sun): 1:00 PM at Owens Creek Picnic Area

October 4: Storytime and Hike

Join a ranger and children's librarian to read a story and take a short hike along a creek. The program is targeted for 3 to 5 year olds. Sponsored by the Thurmont Library and Catoctin Mountain Park.

Program starts at the Visitor Center at 10:30 AM.

October 5: Creaks, Squeaks, and Shrieks Discover the wonderful world of nighttime animal calls and sounds that you might hear while sitting around the campfire. Meet at Owens Creek Campground Amphitheater at 7 PM.

October 12: Spy Training

Join a ranger to learn about a little-known aspect of Catoctin's history: the Office of Strategic Services (OSS, precursor to the CIA) trained here! The presentation will be followed by activities to test your spy abilities. Meet at the Owens Creek Campground Amphitheater at 7 PM.



Strike while the iron is hot:
blacksmith demonstration

October 19: Murder on the Mountain

On July 31, 1929, Clyde Hauver, a sheriff's deputy, was shot during a raid on an illegal whiskey still. On October 31, 1933, Bessie Darling, who ran a bed & breakfast near Thurmont, was killed. Learn about these ghastly tales and more spooky elements of Catoctin's history. Meet at the Owens Creek Campground Amphitheater at 7 PM.

October 20: Blacksmith Demonstration

Meet at the historic WPA Blacksmith Shop and discover the art of blacksmithing. Demonstrations will run from 1 to 4 PM at Camp Round Meadow, 14840 Manahan Rd, Sabillasville, MD.

October 26th: Murder on the Mountain

See October 19 for description. Meet at the Owens Creek Campground Amphitheater at 7 PM.

All programs are FREE and open to the public.

For more information contact: Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor Center at 301-663-9388