

Winter Outings 2019

Winter Outing Series General Information:

- Outdoor recreation in Potter & Tioga Counties
- Events are free
- Limited equipment is available to use free of charge
- All ages are welcome with adult supervision
- Most activities are for beginners and make it easy to try something new
- Limited snow cover may alter the events, but when possible, an alternative program will be offered
- XC ski track will be set for all ski events if conditions allow
- Series events, updates, trail conditions and more at www.stepoutdoors.org or call 570-724-0300

2019 Events:

Tuesday January 1 – First Day Hike / Snowshoe / 5K

1PM-2:30PM – Hills Creek State Park – Beach parking area

Two options and two very different paces! Everyone should wear proper footwear, dress in layers, and bring water and a snack.

1. Start out on the right foot in 2017 with a short hike, exploring nature in winter at Hills Creek. This slow-paced, family-oriented hike will be less than 1.5 miles in length. If conditions warrant, limited snowshoes or traction devices will be available (or you are encouraged to bring your own). We will cheer on the 5K runners and start the hike just following their 1pm start. Come early or stay late – the sledding hill is nearby or you can explore more trails or the plowed roads throughout the park.
2. Challenge yourself with the no-frills, NO-COST, First Day 5K! Simply run around the lake on a mix of roads and trails as fast as you can. No frills = no awards, no aid stations, and you even write down your own time! Runners must register just prior to start. Registration opens at 12:30.

Tuesday January 1 – First Day Hike / Snowshoe

12Noon – 2PM – Sinnemahoning State Park – Park Office & Wildlife Center

Start the new year on the right foot with a First Day Hike! Enjoy the scenic beauty of the First Fork Valley while keeping your eyes open for the signs and traces left behind by local wildlife during this leisurely 2.5-mile hike along the Lowlands Trail. This hike is rated easy with some hills and wooded paths. Best suited for ages 5 and up. Participants should dress for the weather, wearing layers and sturdy waterproof boots for hiking.

Participants should also bring along a bottle of water and snack. This free family-friendly program will meet at the Park Office and Wildlife Center. No pre-registration is required. For more information, please call Sinnemahoning State Park at 814-647-8401, or email SinnemahoningSP@pa.gov

Thursdays All Winter – Tyoga Running Club Thursday Night Run

6PM-7PM – Wellsboro – Packer Park Lot

Sponsor(s): Tyoga Running Club

Come on out for a group run. Multiple pace groups for almost any ability level. Yes – it's dark, so bring a headlamp / lights. Yes, the group runs in almost any conditions. Distances vary. Look up the club on Facebook for more info.

Saturday January 5 – Coffee with the Birds

9AM-10AM – Sinnemahoning State Park – Park Office & Wildlife Center

Sponsor(s): PA State Parks

Participate in a Project Feeder Watch bird count and make simple natural bird feeders while learning about the variety of bird seeds available and the feathered visitors each will attract. Refreshments provided.

Sundays all Winter – Sunday Funday Snow-biking Series

9AM-varies – Asaph – US Geological Survey Parking (sometimes varies)

Sponsor(s): Oswald Cycle Works

Weekly mountain or snow-bike riding series usually starting at the lab in Asaph with updates weekly at

<https://www.facebook.com/OswaldCycleWorks/>

Saturday January 5 – Eagle Watch

1PM-2PM – Ives Run Mixing Channel – Ives Run Recreation Area

Sponsor(s): Army Corps of Engineers

Join us for an eagle watch at perhaps the best location in our area to view them in winter. Local expert, Matt West, will be leading the watch and answering questions about these amazing raptors. Bring binoculars if you have them or a limited number of spotting scopes and binoculars will also be on hand.

Directions from Wellsboro (18 miles):

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Take Route 287 north for 17 miles to Tioga (past Ives Run Recreation Area). Turn right onto S. Main St., follow to the end and wind past the park entrance gate and to the top of the hill where the road ends at the mixing channel parking lot.

Saturday January 12 – XC Ski and Snowshoe Mini-clinic

10AM-12PM – Hills Creek State Park – Beach Parking Area

Sponsor(s): PA State Parks

Try out XC skis and snowshoes during a short mini-clinic where you will learn the basics, then test your skills on the park trails and groomed track. Conditions permitting. Dress in layers for the weather, but to be active. All equipment provided for adults and youth as well.

Saturday January 12 – Caught in a SNOWstorm

2PM-3PM – Wellsboro High School Auditorium – 227 Nichols St.

Sponsor(s): Tiadaghton Audubon

Author and researcher Scott Weidensaul will share the story of Project SNOWstorm -- how a huge, collaborative effort focused on snowy owls came together in a few frantic weeks, funded largely by the public, and has grown into one of the largest snowy owl research projects in the world, continuing to make discoveries and unexpected insights into the life and ecology of this great white raptor.

Saturday January 19 – Hills Creek Winterfest

10AM-3PM – Hills Creek State Park – Beach Parking Area

Sponsor(s): State Parks, Wellsboro Parks & Recreation, Forestry, Game Commission, Fish Commission, Asaph Trail Club

Free Family Fun! Activities being planned include: XC skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, ice fishing, sledding, kids crafts, displays, guided hike/snowshoe excursion, educational programs, 1700 pioneer demonstration and more! Enjoy hot chocolate and hot dogs - FREE while they last! Skis, snowshoes and skates provided in limited quantities or bring your own. Don't forget your sled. There's fun for the entire family.

***If by chance there is limited snow or ice, some activities may be altered ***

Sunday January 20 – Full Lunar Eclipse

9PM-1AM – PA Lumber Museum – Main Parking Area

Sponsor(s): Lumber Museum, PALMA, PA State Parks

Watch the moon plunge into complete eclipse. Special lectures and hands-on activities will be offered to compliment the event. You will be able to notice the partial eclipse about 10:30 with the totality starting about 11:40. Telescopes will be setup to enhance the viewing experience, but most other activities will take place indoors. This event is free. Museum admission and snacks available for a nominal cost.

Saturday January 26 – Winter in the Lumber Camp

10AM-3PM – PA Lumber Museum – Main Parking Area

Sponsor(s): Lumber Museum, PALMA

Pennsylvania forests provide endless possibilities for winter-time outdoor recreation. Visit the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum to try your hand at a variety of outdoor activities. Bring your sled and slide on our hills, make a snowman and then warm-up with some hot drinks in the program room. We will provide cross-country skis, snowshoes and ice skates (conditions permitting), and volunteer instructors to get you started on how to use them. Then, hit the trail at 1 Pm for a short guided (snowshoe) hike on the museum's Sustainable Forestry Trail. Equipment and instruction is free. Museum admission and snacks available for a nominal cost.

Sunday January 27 – Snowshoe / Hike / Sledding Hill

1PM-3PM – Nessmuk Recreation Area – Parking Area

Sponsor(s): Forestry, Wellsboro Parks & Recreation

Take a guided tour of the trails at Nessmuk. Hike or borrow limited snowshoes if conditions allow. Limited hiking traction devices will also be available if conditions warrant. There will be a hike if snow is limited. Kids can also make some runs on the sledding hill behind the pavilion!

Sunday January 27 – Kayak Club Open House

6:00PM-8:00PM – Mansfield University – Decker Pool

Sponsor(s): Mansfield University, MU Kayak Club

Come try kayaking INSIDE at the pool so you're ready for Spring! All ages welcome. Kayaks, paddles and related equipment provided at no charge by the MU Kayak Club. A swimsuit and a towel are all that's needed. Non-swimmers welcome! Kids must be accompanied by a responsible adult (that doesn't need to go in the water).

Leader(s): Mike Sidell, MU Kayak Club 570-724-4021

Friday February 1 – Dark Skies & Planetarium Open House

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7PM-8:30PM – Strait Planetarium – Mansfield University

Sponsor(s): Mansfield University, PA State Parks

Explore the winter night sky, Orion's belt, and distant galaxies, all from the comfort of the planetarium with a short program suitable for all ages then stick around afterwards to find out more about astronomy resources in our area. We'll take a brief trip outdoors to look through a telescope if conditions allow.

Saturday February 2 – Groundhog Day Snowshoe Hike

9AM-10:30AM – Ives Run Recreation Area – Visitor Information Center

Sponsor(s): Army Corps

Explore the trails at Ives Run in winter on a short hike or snowshoe (depending on conditions). Dress in layers and bring water. Limited snowshoes or hiking traction devices will be available.

[Directions from Wellsboro \(15 miles\):](#)

Drive 14 miles north on Route 287 to the Ives Run Recreation Area. Turn right onto Ives Run Lane. Drive 1 mile, turn right at the Visitor Information sign and follow to end.

February 8-10 – Winter Women in the Wilds **

Sinnemahoning State Park – Pre-register online!

Sponsor: PA State Parks

Ladies, don't let the winter blues get you down! Do you find yourself sitting in front of the television waiting for warmer weather? Well, here's the perfect opportunity to break out of your routine and try something new! Friday, February 8, to Sunday, February 10, 2019, Sinnemahoning State Park is offering a weekend filled with opportunities for women to learn new outdoor skills. Programs will include snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, birding, yoga, seasonal crafts, and many others. Pre-registration is required by Friday, January 25, 2019. The program fee of \$100.00 per person includes classes and meals. Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so be sure to register early. For more information on this specialty program, please call the Sinnemahoning State Park Office and Wildlife Center at 814-647-8401. To register for this event please visit the DCNR Calendar of Events at events.dcnr.pa.gov

Saturday February 9 – Family Climbing Day

10AM-3PM– Mansfield University – Kelchner Fitness Center

Sponsor(s): Mansfield University

Family friendly climbing geared towards kids and beginners. We have all the gear and staff ready to get climbing newcomers off the ground.

Saturday February 16 – Wellsboro Winter Celebration - Family Fun on the Green

12noon-3PM – The Green – Wellsboro

Sponsor(s): Wellsboro Parks & Recreation, PA State Parks

Kids can try out cross-country skis, try mini-golf in the snow or make a snow castle or other snow art. Tubing races will be back again at this popular in-town event as part of the Wellsboro Winter Celebration. More info on the entire weekend at wellsboropa.com

Sunday February 17 – Mt. Tom Challenge

9AM-Noon – Mt. Tom Trails – Darling Run Parking Area

Sponsor(s): Tyoga Running Club, Forestry, State Parks

Challenge yourself to climb the steepest and tallest in the area – Mt. Tom! <https://sites.google.com/site/mttomchallenge/home>

Saturday February 23 – Canyon Sled Dog Challenge

9AM-Noon – Pine Creek Trail – Darling Run Parking Area for spectators

Sponsor(s): PA Sled Dog Assoc., Wellsboro Chamber, Forestry

Watch teams of 6 and 8 dogs pull sleds down and back in the canyon! Spectators, please leave your pets at home! The only spectator area is Darling Run parking area to watch this fast-paced down-and-back format. Hot chocolate, coffee, and snacks will be available for purchase benefitting Second Chance Animal Sanctuary. Club page: <https://www.pasleddogclub.com/races-events-source/2019/2/23/canyon-sled-dog-challenge>

Saturday March 2 – Introduction to XC Skiing & Snowshoeing **

12Noon – 2PM – Sinnemahoning State Park – Park Office & Wildlife Center

Sponsor(s): PA State Parks

Join Sinnemahoning State Park staff for a fun lesson on the popular sport of cross-country skiing or snowshoeing. This program is for first-timers as well as those with more experienced. All equipment and instruction will be provided. A limited number of adult-sized skis and both adult and youth-sized snowshoes are available. Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, February 27. The program will begin in the classroom of the Park

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Office & Wildlife Center with a brief introduction and an overview of the equipment, then move outdoors where staff will teach basic techniques and give participants an opportunity to practice their skills before venturing out on the trail. Due to limited equipment, pre-registration is required for this program. All participants should be prepared for outdoor activity. Please dress for the weather, wearing layers of moisture-wicking fabrics. If we do not have sufficient snow cover, park staff will offer a winter nature hike instead. Registered participants will be notified of the status of the program by Thursday February 28. For more information or to register for this free program, please call the Sinnemahoning State Park Office and Wildlife Center at 814-647-8401. Additional details can be found on the DCNR Calendar of Events at events.dcnr.pa.gov

Saturday March 9 – Winter Snowshoe Hike

10AM-11:30AM – Mill Cove – Main Pavilion

Sponsor(s): Mill Cove, DCNR, Asaph Trail Club

Explore the lowland trails of Mill Cove in winter by foot or snowshoe. This 2-mile family-oriented hike will start and end at the main pavilion. If conditions dictate, a limited number of snowshoes will be available to use during the event.

Directions from Mansfield:

The Mill Cove Environmental Area can be accessed by traveling to North Main Street in Mansfield, turning onto Decker Street and proceeding over Pickle Hill for approximately 5 miles to the Mill Creek Road. Turn left on Mill Creek and continue west to the end, preceding though the gate. The Mill Cove Pavilion is on the right approximately a ¼ mile from the gate.

Sunday March 10 – Charter Day

9AM-5PM – PA Lumber Museum – Free Admission

Sponsor(s): Lumber Museum, PALMA

Free admission to the museum in celebration of Pennsylvania's birthday.

Saturday & Sunday March 16-17 – Maple Open House Weekend

See www.pamaple.com for times and locations