

Winter Outings Overview 2022

Winter Outing Series General Information:

- Outdoor recreation in Potter & Tioga Counties
- Events are free unless noted
- Limited equipment is available to use free of charge unless noted
- 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
- All details subject to change. Check for updates at www.stepoutdoors.org or search for Step Outdoors Tioga County on Facebook

**** Registration may be required for some events**

2022 Events:

Saturday January 1 – [First Day Hike](#)

10AM – 12PM – Sinnemahoning State Park – Park Office & Wildlife Center

Start the New Year on the right foot with an easy 2.5-mile guided hike on fairly level trails. Scout around for dens, nests, and other animal traces as you learn about additional outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the coming year. Dress for the weather and bring water. Well-behaved dogs on short leashes are welcome. No pre-registration required.

Saturday January 1 – [First Day Hike / First Day 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 2022 with a short hike, exploring nature in winter at Hills Creek. This slow-paced, family-oriented hike will be about 1.5 miles in length. Well-behaved dogs on short leashes are welcome. 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 even 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 record your own time! Runners must register just prior to start. Registration opens at 12:30.

Saturday January 1 – [First Day Hike](#)

1PM – 2PM – Lyman Run State Park – Lower campground parking

A family nature hike with easy walking in search of signs of winter activity by animals, stream ecology, and winter tree identification.

Thursdays All Winter – Thursday Night Run

6PM-7PM – Wellsboro – Packer Park Lot

Come on out for a group run. Multiple pace groups for almost any ability level. Yes – it's dark, so bring a headlamp / lights and the group runs in almost any weather condition. Distances vary. Look up [Tyoga Running Club on Facebook](#) for more info.

Saturday January 8 – [Snowshoeing Basics](#) (registration required) **

10AM – 11:30AM – Sinnemahoning State Park – Park Office & Wildlife Center

Snowshoeing is a great way to explore your favorite trails in winter. New to the sport? No problem! Park staff will help you get started. Snowshoes and trekking poles will be provided. Program will begin indoors with an introduction to snowshoeing equipment and styles, followed by a guided practice instruction on level ground, then a short excursion on the trail. If snow depth is insufficient for snowshoeing, the indoor portion of the program will still be held, followed by a 2- to 3-mile nature hike. Program is free, but pre-registration is required by Thursday 1/6. Register online through the DCNR Calendar of Events. Questions: SinnemahoningSP@pa.gov

Saturday January 15 – Hills Creek Winterfest

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

Free Family Fun! Activities being planned include: XC skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, ice fishing, sledding, make and take crafts, guided hike/snowshoe excursion, educational programs, 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.

*** some activities may be altered due to conditions ***

see [this page](#) for more details

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Saturday January 22 – Women’s Intro to Ice Fishing (registration required)**

2 Sessions / Times vary – Nessmuk Lake

Open to women interested in learning how to ice fish, alongside other women. Registration will be posted on the PA Fish and Boat Facebook page in early December.

Sunday January 23 – Intro to Ice Fishing (registration required)**

Times vary – Nessmuk Lake

Open to anyone 12 and over, interested in learning how to ice fish. Registration will be posted on the PA Fish and Boat Facebook page in early December.

Saturday January 22 – Winter in the Lumber Camp

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

Outdoor fun in the snow with sledding, snow men, and snow art activities. Try your hand at cross-country skis, snowshoes and ice skates (conditions permitting) with the help of equipment provided by PA DCNR and volunteer instructors. Food and drink available in the program room. Updates available on museum’s [Facebook page](#).

Saturday January 29 –Mt. Tom Snowshoe / Hike

9AM-12:00PM – Pine Creek Rail Trail – Darling Run Trailhead

Climb over 1100 feet to one of the most scenic vistas in our area, offering views of Ansonia and the upper Pine Creek valley. Experience and conditioning are required for this strenuous climb. Dress in layers. Bring a snack and water. Limited snowshoes will be available. Due to snow and/or ice, traction aiding devices (such as snowshoes or simple boot cleats) are required. This is a slow-paced course preview for the upcoming Mt. Tom Challenge.

Sunday January 30 – Eagle Watch

9AM-10AM – Ives Run Mixing Channel – Ives Run Recreation Area

Join us for an eagle watch at perhaps the best location in our area to view them in winter. Local expert and educational program coordinator for Mill Cove, 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):

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.

February 4-6 – Winter Women in the Wilds (registration required)FULL****

Sinnemahoning State Park – Pre-register online!

Ladies, beat cabin fever this winter while trying something new during this fun weekend of outdoor recreation and environmental education. Sessions include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, winter bird identification, winter survival, open hearth cooking and more. Program fee is \$70 per person and includes three full catered meals and participant’s choice of up to 6 classes. Group size is limited. Pre-register with the PA Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF) by Friday, 1/21. Questions: SinnemahoningSP@pa.gov

Saturday February 5 – Community Climbing Day

2PM-6PM – Mansfield University – Kelchner Fitness Center

Family friendly climbing geared towards kids and beginners. We have all the gear and staff ready to get climbing newcomers off the ground. Registration is required and will open January 24th. More info at www.mansfield.edu/kfc, on the Kelchner Fitness Center Facebook page or by emailing adelozier@mansfield.edu

Sunday February 6 – Eagle Watch

9AM-10AM – Ives Run Mixing Channel – Ives Run Recreation Area

Join us for an eagle watch at perhaps the best location in our area to view them in winter. Local expert and educational program coordinator for Mill Cove, 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):

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.

Sunday February 6 – Winter Adventure Hike

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9AM-11AM – Lyman Run State Park – Day use parking

Take this great opportunity to get outside in the colder months and see the winter beauty at Lyman Run. Be prepared with good hiking boots, hiking poles/sticks, and water.

Saturday February 12 – Wellsboro Winter Celebration – Kids XC Skiing Intro

12noon-2:30PM – The Green – Wellsboro

Kids can try out cross-country skis with basic instruction. Tubing races will also be held at 2pm at this popular in-town event as part of the Wellsboro Winter Celebration. More info on the entire weekend at wellsboropa.com

Sunday February 13 – Mt. Tom Challenge

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

Challenge yourself to climb the steepest and tallest in the area – Mt. Tom! Then do it again and again... if you can!

<https://sites.google.com/site/mttomchallenge/home>

February 18-20 – Snow-mobility Weekend

10AM-4PM – PA Lumber Museum – Main Parking Area

Ride your snowmobile to the museum all weekend long. Cross-country ski/ hike to the museum on Saturday (ONLY) for a Pancake Breakfast from 9:30 Am until 1:30 Pm. Documentary films will be shown in the program room during breakfast.

Saturday February 19 – [Great Backyard Bird Count Walk](#)

10AM-12PM – Sinnemahoning State Park – 40 Maples day use, pavilion 1

Wander the park with members of the local bird club, on the lookout for winter birds in woodland, meadow, and wetlands of the First Fork Valley while participating in the annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). Hike will be 2-3 miles over mostly level terrain. Snowshoes provided if needed. Novice and experienced birders welcome! No pre-registration required for this free program.

Sunday February 20 – Snowshoe / Hike / Sledding Hill

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

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!

Saturday February 26 – Canyon Sled Dog Challenge

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

Watch teams of 6 and 8 dogs pull sleds down and back in the canyon! New this year will be one and two dog skijoring categories. 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. Updates on

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057239238088>

Saturday March 5 – [Winter Bird Walk](#)

10AM – 12PM – Sinnemahoning State Park – Park Office & Wildlife Center

Grab a hot cup of coffee and hit the trail as we enjoy a morning taking in the sights and sounds of raptors in flight and songbirds a-twitter. Led by park staff and assisted by local bird-watching enthusiasts. Binoculars and field guides available for use during the program. Slow paced, 1-2 mile hike over uneven terrain. Beginner and experienced birders welcome. No pre-registration required for this free program.

Sunday March 6 – Winter Adventure Hike

9AM-11AM – Lyman Run State Park – Day use parking

Take this great opportunity to get outside in the colder months and see the winter beauty at Lyman Run. Be prepared with good hiking boots, hiking poles/sticks, and water.

Sunday March 13 – Charter Day

10AM-4PM – PA Lumber Museum – Free Admission

Most PA Trails of History sites are free to the public to celebrate Pennsylvania's birthday! The PA Lumber Museum will be offering guided tours of its facilities and exhibits.

Saturday March 12 – [Shed Hunting for First Timers](#)

10AM – 11:30AM – Sinnemahoning State Park – Park Office & Wildlife Center

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Get outdoors for some great exercise and to experience the thrill of the hunt while searching for deer and elk antlers on public lands. Program will begin indoors with a brief talk about deer and elk antlers, how they grow, and where and when to find them, then head outdoors for a 1- to 2-mile hike to practice locating and identifying good sites to search. Adults and children ages 8 and up. Most of hiking will be off-trail and over rough, uneven terrain. Tick repellent suggested. No pre-registration required for this free program.

Saturday & Sunday March 19-20 – Maple Open House Weekend

See www.pamaple.com for times and locations

THE END – until the 2023 series kicks off Jan 1st!!!