



Lake Awosting. Photo by David Johnson.

New York State Office of Parks,  
Recreation, and Historic Preservation

Palisades Interstate Park Commission

### ***Minnewaska State Park Preserve***

#### ***Summer 2012 Youth Programs***

Minnewaska State Park Preserve is proud to  
announce summer programming for youth,

including the popular Junior Naturalist and Homeschoolers' Summer Naturalist series:

#### [Junior Naturalist Programs 2012](#)

Come join other families at Minnewaska to explore the life of a pond, pick wild blueberries, make sculptures from nature, search for butterfly homes and learn about wild edible plants. Each program is designed for a specific age range, but younger and older siblings are welcome as long as they are capable of participating and will not distract other children. Parents may need to assist younger siblings with some activities and very young children will need to be carried by adults in a backpack style carrier for hikes. Also, all participants must pack plenty of water and food and wear appropriate footwear. Pre-registration is required and all children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at least 18 years old.

#### [Wednesday, July 11th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Junior Naturalists: Pond Exploration and Blueberries](#)

This program will feature an approximately two mile hike to a remote pond where children will use nets to look for animals. Afterwards, we'll look for ripe blueberries to pick. This program is recommended for six to ten year old children. Pre-registration is required.

#### [Thursday, July 12th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Junior Naturalists: Kids Make Art in the Park](#)

A short hike will lead us to a cool location in the woods where participants will make their own sculpture from nature. We suggest bringing a comfortable cushion for sitting on the ground. This program is recommended for eight to twelve year old children. Pre-registration is required.

#### [Wednesday, August 8th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Junior Naturalists: Butterfly Searchers](#)

Join park educators to wander park carriage roads and hiking trails for approximately three miles, looking for signs of butterflies

and learning about these beautiful insects. This program is recommended for six to ten year old children. Pre-registration is required.

Thursday, August 9th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Junior Naturalists: Wild Edibles

Join park educators on a two mile walk to look for wild edible plants. You'll learn how to recognize these abundant plants and how to use them too. This program is recommended for seven to ten year old children. Pre-registration is required.

Wild Wednesdays for Children

New this year, Minnewaska educators will lead families in fun, park activities on two Wednesdays this summer. An age guideline is provided for each day, but younger and older siblings are welcome as long as they can participate without disrupting the program. Parents may need to assist younger siblings with some activities and very young children will need to be carried by adults in a backpack style carrier for hikes. Also, all participants must pack plenty of water and food and wear appropriate footwear. Pre-registration is required and all children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at least 18 years old.

Wednesday, July 18th, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Nature Games for Children

Join us to spend the morning playing various active games that teach about nature. An approximately one mile walk will be included as part of the activities. This program is recommended for six to ten year old children. Pre-registration is required.

Wednesday, August 15th, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.: Bike to Swim at Lake Awosting

Bring your own bicycle, helmet, swimming gear and picnic lunch and join us for this modestly challenging, hilly, nine mile bicycle ride to the picturesque and refreshing Lake Awosting Swim Area. This program is recommended for physically fit eight to twelve year old children. Pre-registration is required.

Homeschoolers' Summer 2012 Naturalist Series

Bring your homeschooled children to explore the life of a pond, pick wild blueberries, make art inspired by nature, search for butterfly homes and learn about wild edible plants. Each program is designed for a specific age range, but younger and older siblings are welcome as long as they are capable of participating and will not distract other children. Parents may need to assist younger siblings with some activities and very young children will need to be carried by adults in a backpack style carrier for hikes. Also, all participants must pack plenty of water and food and wear appropriate footwear. Pre-registration is required and all children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at least 18 years of age.

Wednesday, July 25th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Homeschoolers' Summer Naturalists: Pond Life and Berry Picking

This program will feature an approximately two mile hike to a remote pond where children will use nets to look for animals. Afterwards, we'll look for ripe blueberries to pick. This program is recommended for six to ten year old children. Pre-registration is required.

Thursday, July 26th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Homeschoolers' Summer Naturalists: Butterfly Searchers

Join us to wander park carriage roads and hiking trails for approximately three miles, looking for signs of butterflies and learning about these beautiful insects. This program is recommended for six to ten year old children. Pre-registration is required.

Wednesday, August 22nd, 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Homeschoolers' Summer Naturalists: Kids Make Art in the Park

Learn about some of the great painters of the 20th century and make your own art to take home. Participants should be prepared to walk two miles and also to spend time sitting and observing nature. We suggest bringing a comfortable cushion for sitting on the ground. This program is recommended for eight to twelve year old children. Pre-registration is required.

Thursday, August 23rd, 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Homeschoolers' Summer Naturalists: Wild Edibles

Join park educators to wander the carriage roads and trails of the Park Preserve in search of wild edible plants. For those homeschoolers who joined us in June for this program, we will learn about different plants in addition to reinforcing the knowledge from that lesson. This program is recommended for seven to ten year old children. Pre-registration is required.

For more information and to register for programs, please call the Park Preserve Office at 845-255-0752. The Park Preserve is open from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. through August 5th and from August 6th until September 16th, the Park Preserve will close at 8:00 p.m. The fee for parking at Minnewaska is \$8 per car. All fees are subject to change. There are no additional fees for public programs, unless noted otherwise. Minnewaska State Park Preserve consists of approximately 22,000 acres of wild and scenic land located on Route 44/55, five miles west of the intersection with Route 299 in Gardiner, New York.

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If you would like to join our mailing list please [click here](#).

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