



BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

Monday, August 4, 2025

10:30 am. Build a Bee Home - Join the Nature Center staff to learn about some of our native pollinators. Create a Mason Bee house to take home with you for \$3.00. **YPP**

11:30 am. Nature Documentary - Meet the Coywolf - Join the Nature Center staff for this film about the evolution, adaption, and expansion of this hybrid carnivore. About 1 hour. Rated PG. **YPP**

1:00 pm. Pet Rock Craft - Paint a rock however you want! Give it eyes! Give it a name! Craft fee is \$ 2.00.

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

10:00 am. Morning Nature Walk - Meet the Summer Naturalist for a walk along a section of Dobbin House trail. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Expect rough and muddy terrain in some areas. About 1 hour long, about a mile. **YPP**

11:30 am. Mini Birdhouse Craft - Assemble and paint your own decorative miniature birdhouse to take home. Craft fee is \$2.00.

1:30 pm. Nature Documentary - Season of the Osprey - Join the Nature Center staff for this documentary that follows a family of Ospreys for an entire summer. About 55 minutes. Not rated. **YPP**

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

11:00 am. Nature Documentary - Raccoon Nation - Is your trash can making raccoons smarter? Take a look inside the hidden world or racoons with the Nature Center staff. About 1 hour. Rated G. **YPP**

1:00 pm. Nature Documentary - Raptors: A Fistful of Daggers - Join the Nature Center staff for this insightful and spectacular celebration of raptors and what makes them some of the world's most successful predators. About 110 minutes. Not rated. **YPP**

Thursday, August 7, 2025

10:00 am Beaver Walk - Join a naturalist for a short walk to Pendleton Lake to explore some Beaver habitat. Trail may be wet and/or muddy. Wear sturdy shoes. Total walking is about 1/4 mile. About 30 minutes. **YPP**

11:00 am. Nature Documentary - Beavers - Join us for this amazing investigation into the semi-aquatic lives of North America's largest rodent. About 1 hour long. Not rated. **YPP**

2:00 pm. Leaves and Watercolors - Join the Nature Center Staff to create some fun art using crayons, watercolor paints, and some leaves. This craft is free. **YPP**

Friday, August 8, 2025

NASA Stardome - Stories in the Sky!

11:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 3:00 pm.

Participants enter the star dome through a short tunnel and are introduced to a "star-filled night sky." Your host naturalist will navigate, with the use of a digital planetarium, through some common constellations and stars. Participants will be introduced to characters from mythology, how ancient people related to constellations, and how they told stories using the shapes created by the stars. Program is about 45 minutes long.

Seating inside the dome is on the floor and is first come first served.

Entering the dome involves removing shoes and crawling through a tunnel. Arrangements can be made in advance for those unable to crawl or stoop.

It will be dark inside the dome.
YPP

Saturday, August 9, 2025

11:00 am. Digging Up the Past - Prehistoric Amber and Geology - Join the Nature Center attendant to learn about how we can investigate Earth's past. During the program, clean and polish a piece of amber to take home with you. Craft fee is \$3.00. **YPP**

1:00 pm. Citizen Science with Nature Apps - Join the Summer Naturalist to learn how making observations with smartphone apps like iNaturalist helps scientific research. Learn to make good quality reportings while still protecting sensitive organisms. **YPP**

4:30 pm. NASA Stardome - Stories in the Sky! - Participants enter the star dome through a short tunnel and are introduced to a "star-filled night sky." Your host naturalist will navigate, with the use of a digital planetarium, through some common constellations and stars. Participants will be introduced to characters from mythology, how ancient people related to constellations, and how they told stories using the shapes created by the stars. Program is about 45 minutes long.

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YPP

almost heaven

Saturday, August 9, 2025
continued

7:00 pm. Evening Along the Lake - Meet the Seasonal Naturalist at the Nature Center for a leisurely stroll around the shore of Pendleton Lake looking and listening for wildlife. About 1/2 mile walking. About 45 minutes. **YPP**

9:00 pm. Full Moon Hike - Meet the Seasonal Naturalist at the Nature Center for this hour-long walk around the park. Dress for the weather and bring a jacket just in case. Learn about our Dark Skies initiative, what you can do to keep our skies dark, and why having dark skies matters. Maybe even see a few of the Perseid meteors that will be at their peak in a few days. **YPP**

Sunday, August 10, 2025

10:30 am. Elakala Trail Hike - Meet a naturalist in the Blackwater Lodge lobby for this hike along sections of 3 park trails. Explore the mixed Red Spruce forest on this loop of a little over 1 mile. Walk will take about 70 minutes. Trail may be wet and muddy at times, and is strewn with roots and rocks. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. **YPP**

1:00 pm. Blooms and Bugs - Join the Summer Naturalist for a walk around the nature center area to take a look at the plants that are flowering now. Search carefully enough, and you'll likely find some insects, too. About 45 minutes. **YPP**

Monday, August 11, 2025

11:00 am. Cooking with Ramps! - Join park volunteer and Master Gardener Beverly to learn about this Appalachian wild food and cook something delicious! **YPP**

1:00 pm. Weather Window Craft and Weather Film - Join the Nature Center attendant to learn about clouds by creating a weather window craft and then watch a 35 minute documentary film all about weather. Craft fee is \$2.00. **YPP**

6:00 pm. Beaver Walk - Join the Seasonal Naturalist for a short walk around Pendleton Lake to explore some Beaver habitat. Beavers get more active around sundown, so we may even get to observe some of North America's largest rodent. Trail may be wet and muddy. About 30 - 45 minutes. **YPP**

Dark - Party With the Perseids! - Join the Seasonal Naturalist at the Nature Center fire circle for the peak of the Perseid meteor shower. Hang out by the fire and enjoy a snack as we watch one of the most active meteor showers of the year. Inclement weather will cancel this event. **YPP**

- All Programs meet at the Harold Walters Nature Center unless otherwise specified in description.
- Plan to arrive five minutes early for programs. A late arrival may effect your participation in activity. A no show within seven minutes of start time may cancel activity.
- Pets should be physically leashed while enjoying the park. Activities that are pet Friendly are indicated in description. See Park Rules and Regulations about length of leash.
- Protect the environment and yourself by staying on designated blazed trails. Building or constructing unauthorized trails or simply walking off trail harms the landscape and wildlife that call the area home. Avoid short cuts and social trails that are not on the park map or blazed.
- It is suggested to walk with a partner, carry water and perhaps an individually wrapped snack. Carry the 5 c's. Don't know what the 5 c's are then ask at the Nature Center.
- Be observant of adjacent private property or Monongahela Forest Property lines while hiking.
- Children ages 12 and under need to be accompanied by an adult on programs.
- While walking on park roads a person should be facing oncoming traffic. While biking on park roads a person should ride with the flow of traffic and use hand signals. Bikers yield to hikers on trails. All yield to equestrians where they are permitted in some parks.

Nature Center 304-259-5511

YOUR FOOTSTEPS MATTER!

SOCIAL TRAILS ARE HARMFUL! Stay on Existing Blazed Trails. If there is no blaze then it's not a park trail and you should stay off this path to save the environment and it's inhabitants. Not all trails found online or in books are official trails. Use the park trail map

Meet our Staff



DELLA



BLAINE



KENNY, NAI/CIG



PAULITA, NAI/CIG

- All Activities meet at Harold Walters Nature Center unless otherwise noted in description.



KYRA



VICTOR



BRUCE

CHECK OUT OUR KIDS EXPLORATION BACKPACK

The individual borrowing the Exploration Tool kit will be responsible for all items and picking up and dropping off this resource at Harold Walters Nature Center during operational hours of nature center.

Harold Walters Nature Center Open Daily

10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Nature Store is 10 am to 4:30 p.m.

(subject to change at discretion of park naturalist)

Since 1978, the Harold Walters Nature Center has been educating & facilitating environmental education through the park's vast natural resources by offering a variety of free to low cost programs designed to assist visitors to learn more about the natural world.

Naturalist staff may also be available to conduct programs for school groups and organized groups at the park or nearby community Call 304-259-5511 for more information



BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

11:00 am. Cooking with Garlic Scapes! - Join park volunteer and Master Gardener Beverly to learn what garlic scapes are and then cook up something delicious. **YPP**

1:00 pm. Stained Glass Amphibian Craft - Join the Nature Center attendant for this fun craft making an imitation "stained glass" animal. Younger children may require adult assistance.

2:00 pm. Balsam Fir Hike - Join the Summer Naturalist for this 1.5 mile loop that begins and ends at the Nature Center. This trail is rocky and root-strewn at times. Wear sturdy shoes. Short interpretive stops will be made along the way. Expect it to take a little over an hour. **YPP**

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

11 am. Nature Documentary - Secret Life of Birds - Join the Nature Center staff for this 5-part series that investigates how birds communicate, their behaviors, how they fly, and how they are adapted to various habitats. Rated G

Thursday, August 14, 2025

NASA Stardome - Stories in the Sky!

11:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 3:00 pm.

Participants enter the star dome through a short tunnel and are introduced to a "star-filled night sky." Your host naturalist will navigate, with the use of a digital planetarium, through some common constellations and stars. Participants will be introduced to characters from mythology, how ancient people related to constellations, and how they told stories using the shapes created by the stars. Program is about 45 minutes long.

Seating inside the dome is on the floor and is first come first served.

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It will be dark inside the dome.

YPP

Friday, August 15, 2025

NASA Stardome - Stories in the Sky!

11:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 3:00 pm.

Participants enter the star dome through a short tunnel and are introduced to a "star-filled night sky." Your host naturalist will navigate, with the use of a digital planetarium, through some common constellations and stars. Participants will be introduced to characters from mythology, how ancient people related to constellations, and how they told stories using the shapes created by the stars. Program is about 45 minutes long.

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YPP

Saturday, August 16, 2025

10:00 am. Walk to the Falls - Meet the Summer Naturalist in the Falls Overflow/ Bus parking lot. Walking is along packed surfaces, boardwalks, and stairs. There are over 200 stairs down to the Blackwater Falls Observation Deck. A great chance to ask those burning nature-related questions. About 1/4 mile. **YPP**

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YPP

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BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 17, 2025

11:00 am. Digging Up the Past - Fossils! - Learn about how fossils form and what they can tell us about Earth's past. During the program, uncover your own replica fossil to take home. Craft fee is \$3.00. **YPP**

1:00 pm. What's Bloomin'? - Join the Summer Naturalist for a walk around the Nature Center area looking for native late summer wildflowers. Easy walking. About an hour. **YPP**

Monday, August 18, 2025

10:00 am. Balsam Fir Trail Hike - Meet the Seasonal Naturalist for this 1.5 mile loop that begins and ends at the Nature Center. This trail is rocky and root-strewn at times. Wear sturdy shoes. Short interpretive stops will be made along the way. Expect it to take a little over an hour. **YPP**

September 18 - 20, 2025

Astronomy Weekend at Blackwater Falls State Park

Hosted by the Kanawha Valley Astronomical Society
Check their website or Facebook page for more information.

Saturday, September 27, 2025

10:00 am. National Public Lands Day Hike - Join a naturalist or two for this 1.5 mile long walk along Shay Trace and Cherry Lane Trails. Wear sturdy shoe, dress for the weather, and bring water and a snack if you'd like. Expect the hike to last about 90 minutes as we explore this mixed Northern Hardwood forest, making short interpretive stops along the way. Hike meets at the Sled Run parking area. **YPP**

Check next week's updated schedule for more activities.

Young People For Parks

is a junior naturalist program for youth aged 6 to 16.
Ask for more information at the
Harold Walters Nature Center

YPP in program description indicates a qualifying activity.



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