



BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

Friday, July 31, 2026

11:00 am. Weather Window Craft and Film - Learn about the different kinds of clouds as you make a weather window. Afterward, watch a film all about weather. Film is not rated and is about 35 minutes long. ☼

1:00 pm. Summer Stargazing and Constellation Crafts - Learn about some of the stars and constellations that are visible this time of year and how to locate them. Make a star finder to take home with you. ☼

2:00 pm. Movie Time! - Join the Nature Center staff for this animated feature film based on a classic Dr. Seuss character who speaks for the trees. About an hour and a half long. Rated PG.

Saturday, August 1, 2026

7:30 am. Early Bird Walk - Meet our volunteer bird walk leader at the Nature Center for a morning of easy walking along pavement and packed trails. A great way to start your day. ☼

10:00 am. Flowers, Ferns, and More Walk - Join the naturalist to get a closer look at a variety of plants found within the park. About an hour of easy walking. ☼

Noontime. Nature Film and Craft - Backyard Bugs - Make a wearable pollinator mask while watching wildlife educator Sean Roach discover some of the amazing bugs in his backyard. Film is not rated and runs about 35 minutes. ☼

1:00 pm. Paper Plate Habitat Craft - You decide where the animals might live as you construct an interactive habitat. ☼

2:00 pm. Reading the Rings - What information can we learn about a tree by looking at its rings? We'll learn to read the rings at our Old-growth Hemlock stump, then make some crafts using "tree cookies." ☼

Sunday, August 2, 2026

11:00 am. FUR-real! Join the Park Naturalist to learn about all the purposes an animal's fur might serve and get to touch some real animal pelts. ☼

1:00 pm. Owls of Blackwater Falls - Join the naturalist to learn all about the owls that can be found at Blackwater Falls State Park. NO live birds will be present. ☼

2:00 pm. SLIME! - We'll talk about how some animals make and use slime, but mostly we're just MAKING slime. Supplies are limited, but participants will be able to make a bag of slime to take home. Materials fee is \$1.00. ☼

Monday, August 3, 2026

10:30 am. Milkweed Walk - Meet the Naturalist at the Nature Center to look for milkweed and Monarch Butterflies. We'll check out the pollinator garden, the lakeshore, and make our way to Pendleton Point. About a mile. Around an hour, maybe more. ☼

Noontime. Nature Film and Craft - Hummingbirds - Make a paper hummingbird finger puppet while watching a film about some of the toughest and most energetic creatures on the planet. Film is rated G and runs about 60 minutes. ☼

2:00 pm. Mini Green House Project - Plant some seeds in your own miniature greenhouse with the Nature Center staff. Chose from a kitchen herb garden or plant a bee-friendly seed mix. Materials fee is \$4.00. ☼

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

1:00 pm. Ramps! - Join park volunteer and WV Master Gardener Beverly for a presentation about foraging and cooking this quintessentially Appalachian wild food and get to sample a simple ramp recipe that you help cook. ☼

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Nature Center Open 10 am to 4 pm.

No Activities Scheduled
No Naturalist on Duty

Thursday, August 6, 2026

1:00 pm. What do you know about Black Bears? - Well, what DO you know about Black Bears. Learn a little about West Virginia's State Mammal and how to be Bear Aware. ☼

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August 7 - August 9, 2026

West Virginia Mushroom Club Annual Foray

For more information go to www.wvmushroomclub.net

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almost heaven

Friday, August 7, 2026

Noontime. Nature Film and Craft - Amphibians - Join the Nature Center staff for this short educational film all about frogs, toads, and salamanders and make your own imitation stained glass salamander to hang in your window. Film is about 35 minutes and is not rated ☼

2:00 pm. Bubbles! Gather on the Nature Center lawn to make some giant bubbles!

Saturday, August 8, 2026

10:00 am. Morning Along the Lake - Join the Naturalist for a walk along Pendleton Lake looking and listening for interesting flora and fauna. We might even see a Bald Eagle. ☼

1:00 pm. From Amphibians and Fish to Birds and Mammals - This educational craft activity involves making five different kinds of animals and discovering how they are all similar. ☼

2:30 pm. Is it Edible? Join the Park Naturalist to see if you can correctly identify the specimens in the photos and determine if they are a safe wild food or are toxic to humans. ☼

Sunday, August 9, 2026

11:00 am. Documentary Film - The Resilient Forest - Join the Nature Center staff for this documentary produced by the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area that covers the settlement, early history, industrialization, folklife, recreation, and forestry practices of West Virginia's forests. About an hour, not rated. ☼

1:00 pm. Get to Know the Perseids - The peak of the Perseid meteor show is this week. Get some viewing tips for one of the most impressive meteor showers of the year. ☼

2:00 pm. Saving the Night Sky - Excess light at night is harmful in more ways than you might expect. Learn why you should turn off unnecessary lights at night and how Blackwater Falls State Park is working to preserve this often overlooked natural resource. ☼

Monday, August 10, 2026

11:00 am. Fossils! - Join the Nature Center attendant to learn about fossils and to unearth your own replica "fossil". Materials fee is \$3.00. ☼

1:00 pm. The Monarch Butterfly - Learn more about their life cycle, yearly migration, and what you can do help out this incredible insect. Afterwards we can explore the Nature Center's pollinator area. ☼

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

10:30 am. What's in a Wetland? - Meet the naturalist at the Falls Overflow Parking Lot. Easy walking along paved surfaces. Discover some of the features that define a wetland. About 45 to 60 minutes. ☼

1:00 pm. Smartphone Citizen Science - Join the Seasonal Naturalist to learn about using your phone to collect wildlife observations using some popular apps and how to ethically record your observations of sensitive organisms. ☼

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

11:00 am. Meadow Plants Walk - Join the Seasonal Naturalist to explore the wet meadow ecosystem behind the Nature Center for plants that thrive in this unique environment. The walking will be fairly easy, but please not that your shoes may get wet. ☼

1:00 pm. Ecosystem in a Globe - Discover the tiny life forms that live in bodies of water. Join the naturalist to collect water samples and investigate the ecosystems they contain. ☼

Thursday, August 13, 2026

11:00 am. Forest Ecosystems Hike - Join the Seasonal Naturalist for this 1.5 mile long hike along Balsam Fir Trail to explore the changes in the forest types as you go. About 70- 90 minutes. Wear sturdy shoes. ☼

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

Meet our Staff



KENNY, NAI/CIG



BLAINE



BRUCE



VICTOR

Harold Walters Nature Center Open
Daily

10:00 am to 4:30 pm

Nature Store: 10 am to 4:00 pm.

(subject to change at discretion of park naturalist)

Friday, August 14, 2026

11:00 am. Pollinator Walk - Join the naturalist for some easy walking to explore the pollinator habitats around the Nature Center and get to know some high-value pollinator plants. About 45 minutes. ☀

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In September...

2:00 pm. Walk to Pendleton Point - Meet at the Nature Center to join a naturalist on a walk to the Pendleton Point Overlook. Round-trip, this walk is about 1/2 mile. ☀

Saturday, August 15, 2026

Nature Center will be closed to the public until Noon.
We apologize for the inconvenience.

2:00 pm. "Jefferson's Giant Claw" - Learn how some unusual bones found in a West Virginia cave changed what we know about life on Earth! ☀

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Coming Later in the Month...

Friday, August 28, 2026

7:00 pm. Wings of Wonder- Live Birds of Prey Program at Blackwater Falls Lodge.

Presented by Three Rivers Avian Center.
Free and open to the public.



9:00 pm. Full Moon Hike - Prowl around with the creatures of the night! Meets in the Blackwater Lodge lobby. About an hour.



Saturday, September 26, 2026

National Public Lands Day

Programming will include such topics as State Natural Areas, Invasive Species, Blackwater Falls History, and more.

National Public Lands Day Hike - time and place to be announced soon.

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Ask about how your pet can earn the West FURginia State Park Ranger dog tag!

Ask about the NEW Junior Naturalist activity book and how to earn the NEW Junior Naturalist Patch!

☀ in description indicates a qualifying activity.

