

**INTERPRETIVE
PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES
FOR GROUPS**



DEGRAY LAKE RESORT STATE PARK

2027 STATE PARK ENTRANCE ROAD
BISMARCK, AR 71929
(501) 865-5850

www.degray.com

LAKE TOURS

Sunset Cruise/Lake Tour

Duration: 45 min-1 ½ hours

Availability: year-round

Location: in-park

Maximum Group Size: 30 (arrangements may be made for larger groups)

Fee: \$8.50 per adult; \$4.50 per child (ages 6-12); children under 6 ride free

Visitors will board the park's 35-foot tour boat for an educational adventure on DeGray Lake. On a standard tour, Park Interpreters will cover the history of the lake, wildlife found in and around the lake and introduce the geology of the Ouachita Mountains surrounding the lake. With advance notice, tour topics can be molded around most any subject. Lifejackets are provided.

Eagle Tour

Duration: 45 min-1 ½ hours

Availability: November 1-February 29

Location: in-park

Maximum Group Size: 30 (arrangements may be made for larger groups)

Fee: \$8.50 per adult; \$4.50 per child (ages 6-12); children under 6 ride free

Aboard the park's 35-tour boat, visitors will venture out onto DeGray Lake in search of wintering Bald Eagles. In prime months (November, December, January, February), juvenile and mature eagles can almost always be seen. Park Interpreters cover theories behind migration and other eagle behaviors. Chances are also good for other birds to be sighted, including a wide variety of ducks, loons, grebes, herons, and more. Visitors will need to dress appropriately for the cold weather. Lifejackets are provided.

Snorkeling

Duration: 1 ½ hours

Availability: late May-mid September

Location: in-park

Maximum Group Size: 20

Fee: \$8.50 per adult; \$4.50 per child (ages 8-12); children under 8 are not permitted to snorkel but may ride on the boat based on availability of space.

Explore DeGray Lake underneath its surface! We'll boat out to an island, snorkel along the shoreline, and see fish, crayfish, rock outcrops, aquatic plants and more! Masks, snorkels, and lifejackets are provided (visitors take snorkel home). Visitors are welcome to bring their own equipment. Visitors may want to wear some type of shoes—shoreline can be rocky. *Minimum age to snorkel is 8; kids under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Under 18 must have parent signature before boarding.*

Kayak Lake Tour

Duration: 2 hours

Availability: April-October

Location: in-park

Maximum Group Size: 10

Fee: \$10 per paddler; \$5 per child riding with an adult

When you think “kayaking” do you picture whitewater, helmets, and lots of turning over? It’s true that whitewater kayaking is popular, but there is a growing number of people who enjoy flatwater kayaking. One of the best ways to enjoy the lake is to paddle a kayak along the shoreline, exploring quiet coves. Flatwater kayaks, paddles, and lifejackets are provided, and no paddling experience is necessary. Participants must be 10 years old to paddle a boat solo. There is limited space available for children age 9 and under to ride with an adult. Reservations are required and are taken in person or by telephone at the Marina, (501) 865-2811. Participants should wear shoes that can get wet.

HIKES

Hikes

Duration: 30 minutes-1 hour

Availability: year-round; any time of the day; night hikes occasionally

Location: in-park

Maximum Group Size: maximum of 30 at one time; rotations can be scheduled

Fee: free

Guided nature hikes are popular with groups. Hikes can focus on any nature topic. There are five unique trails of varying length in the park. When planning your group’s visit to the park, you can request a trail or allow us to suggest one. The most popular requests are: General Nature Hike, Night Hike, Owl Prowl.

These can be done on one of the park’s five hiking trails: Green Heron Trail (3/4 mile), Island Trail (1 mile), Towering Pines Trail (3/4 mile), Saginaw Trail (1/4 mile), Chickadee Trail (1/4 mile).

SLIDE SHOWS

Who wants to be a Park Interpreter? (Digital Slide Show)

Duration: 30 minutes-1 hour

Availability: year-round

Location: Lodge or Amphitheater

Group Size: any

Fee: free

This fun and educational game is based on the hit TV “Millionaire” show. Contestants, chosen from the audience, answer questions on nature, Arkansas, and DeGray and try to collect points. The winner takes home a prize. Players use lifelines and audience participation is high.

Who wants to be an Ornithologist? (Digital Slide Show)

Duration: 30 minutes-1 hour

Availability: year-round

Location: Lodge or Amphitheater

Group Size: any

Fee: free

Same format as “Who wants to be a Park Interpreter” but all bird related questions.

Conserving our Resource (Digital Slide Show)

Duration: 45 minutes

Availability: year-round

Location: Lodge or Amphitheater

Group Size: any

Fee: free

This power point slide show focuses on the trials and tribulations of conserving Birds of Prey, primarily the bald eagles. It specifically discusses problems and recoveries that we’ve had here at DeGray.

TALKS/DEMONSTRATIONS

Edible Insects

Duration: 30-45 minutes

Availability: year-round

Location: anywhere in park

Group Size: any

Fee: free

A Park Interpreter will cover the benefits of insects in our environment, and then various ways insects can be eaten—and enjoyed! The interpreter will then challenge participants to eat a bug....those who successfully do so receive a button proclaiming “I ate a bug at DeGray State Park”.

Live Reptile Show

Duration: 30-45 minutes

Availability: year-round

Location: anywhere in park

Group Size: any

Fee: free

A Park Interpreter will discuss the types of reptiles that live in Arkansas and have at least one live one for an example. Discussion includes body characteristics, snake id, and habitats and habits of reptiles. Reptiles discussed that reside in Arkansas are: snake, alligator, turtle and lizard.

Furbearers of Arkansas

Duration: 30-45 minutes

Availability: year-round

Location: anywhere in park

Group Size: any

Fee: free

A Park Interpreter will discuss mammals of Arkansas. Focus includes habitat, behaviors, relationships, etc. Actual animal pelts are used and visitors get a chance to touch them, adding to their educational experience. Interpreters can bring all pelts or select a few to highlight and focus the program on. Pelts available are: deer, red fox, grey fox, striped skunk, spotted skunk, beaver, nutria, raccoon, mink, muskrat, bobcat, rabbit, coyote, opossum, black bear and otter.

Raptor Review

Duration: 30 minutes

Availability: year-round

Location: anywhere in park

Group Size: any

Fee: free

A Park Interpreter will discuss the different types of raptors and birds of prey that live around DeGray and throughout Arkansas. This program focuses on conservation of raptors and birds of prey and characteristics of each type of bird. Mounted specimens on hand for visual aid that visitors get to see and touch.

Naturally Nocturnal

Duration: 30-45 minutes

Availability: year-round

Location: anywhere in park

Group Size: any

Fee: free

Park visitors explore the mysterious world of the night as they test their senses against those creatures that who make a living in the dark. This is a very interactive program.

GPS or Geocaching 101

Duration: 30-45 minutes

Availability: year-round

Location: one of the park's trails

Maximum Group Size: 20

Fee: free

Park Interpreters introduce park visitors to the world of GPS's and the growing hobby of Geocaching. This program is for smaller groups and there is hiking involved in which we travel down one of the park's trails in search of a geocache. This is a great program for families. Weather is a factor for this program.

Nature Games

Duration: 30 minutes-1 hour

Availability: year-round

Location: anywhere in park

Group Size: any

Fee: free

Humans learn when information is presented in an entertaining medium. Park Interpreters can lead a wide variety of nature games, including those highlighted in such anthologies as Project Wet, Project Wild and Project Learning Tree. Another great program for kids.