



July 2013

Myles Standish State Forest



Park Phone Number: 508-866-2526

Park Website: <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/southeast/mssf.htm>

All programs are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Reasonable accommodations are available upon request.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Off the Beaten Path Hike 9:00am – 11:00am Swamp Tromp! 2:00pm – 3:15pm	2 Explore Nature: Dragons & Damsels 2:00pm – 3:00pm	3 Junior Rangers: Fun & Safe Hiking Expeditions 10:00am – 11:15am	4 Bike Tour 10:00am -11:30am Explore Nature: Creepy Crawlies 2:00pm – 3:00pm	5 Cast Away Fishing Clinic 9:00am – 11:00am	6 Pine Barrens: A Forest at Risk 4:00pm-5:30pm Night Hike 8:00pm-9:15pm
7 Cannonballs & Cranberries 9:00am-10:30am Interpretive Center Open House 2:00pm-4:00pm	8 Off the Beaten Path Hike 9:00am – 11:00am Swamp Tromp! 2:00pm – 3:15pm	9 Explore Nature: Creepy Crawlies 2:00pm – 3:00pm	10 Junior Rangers: Camping Essentials 10:00am – 11:15am	11 Bike Tour 10:00am -11:30am Explore Nature: Animal Detectives 2:00pm-3:00pm	12	13 Cannonballs & Cranberries 4:00pm-5:30pm Night Hike 8:00pm-9:15pm
14 Pine Barrens: A Forest at Risk 9:00am – 10:30am Interpretive Center Open House 2:00pm-4:00pm	15 Off the Beaten Path Hike 9:00am – 11:00am Swamp Tromp! 2:00pm – 3:15pm	16	17 Junior Rangers: The Environment Around Us 10:00am – 11:15am	18	19 Cast Away Fishing Clinic 9:00am – 11:00am	20 Pine Barrens: A Forest at Risk 4:00pm-5:30pm Night Hike 8:00pm-9:15pm
21 Cannonballs & Cranberries 9:00am-10:30am Interpretive Center Open House 2:00pm-4:00pm	22 Off the Beaten Path Hike 9:00am – 11:00am Swamp Tromp! 2:00pm – 3:15pm	23 Explore Nature: Animal Detectives 2:00pm-3:00pm	24 Junior Rangers: Animal Detectives 10:00am – 11:15am	25 Bike Tour 10:00am -11:30am Explore Nature: Dragons & Damsels 2:00pm – 3:00pm	26 Cast Away Fishing Clinic 9:00am – 11:00am	27 Cannonballs & Cranberries 4:00pm-5:30pm Night Hike 8:00pm-9:15pm

28 Pine Barrens: A Forest at Risk 9:00am – 10:30am Interpretive Center Open House 2:00pm-4:00pm	29 Off the Beaten Path Hike 9:00am – 11:00am Swamp Tromp! 2:00pm – 3:15pm	30 Explore Nature: Nature Rambles 2:00pm – 3:00pm	31			
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Program Descriptions

Pine Barrens: A Forest at Risk	<p>Myles Standish State Forest is home to one of the Earth’s largest remaining pine barrens. This large forest consists of pitch pine and scrub oak woodlands and plentiful ponds that are home to many species. Join us on this hike through the pine barrens and learn about kettle holes, frost pockets, and more. Bring water, bug spray, and wear good hiking shoes. Meet at Parking Lot 2 on Upper College Pond Road. For a trail map, including parking lots, visit http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/southeast/mssf.htm. Rain cancels</p>
Off the Beaten Path Hiking Series & The Long Hike	<p>Join the Park Interpreter on a recreational hike each week into a different part of Myles Standish State Forest. Each hike travels along different trails and is about 3 to 4 miles in length. Join us for one hike or come for the whole series! Please wear bug spray, sunscreen, and supportive shoes. Bring along water and a snack. For adults and older children who can hike 3 to 4 miles of moderately difficult trails. All children must be accompanied by an adult. We’ll meet in a different location each week:</p> <p>July 1: Meet Charge Pond Parking Lot #5 July 8: Meet at the Fire Tower Parking Lot #6 July 15: Meet at the Equestrian Parking Lot #3 July 22: Meet at the East Entrance Parking Lot #4 July 29: Meet at the Headquarters Parking Lot.</p> <p>For a trail map, including parking lots, visit http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/southeast/mssf.htm. Rain cancels</p>
Cranberries & Cannonballs: Rocky Pond Cranberry Bog Tour	<p>Join us for a hike around the Rocky Pond Cranberry Bog. We will discuss and explore the history of the bog, including cranberry agriculture and the natural history of the park. You’ll learn about Federal Furnace, glaciation, and the area’s wildlife. Meet at the Rock Pond Cranberry Bog Parking Lot on Bare Hill Road near Rocky Pond. For a map visit http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/southeast/mssf.htm. Rain cancels.</p>
Night Hike	<p>What happens in the forest as night approaches? Join in on a guided walk through the night woods to listen to and discover how nocturnal birds and animals use their senses to survive at night. This is a moonlight thrill for all ages. No flashlights allowed on this walk and bring your insect repellent. Meet at the Interpretive Center next to Headquarters. Rain cancels.</p>

<p>Swamp Tromp!</p>	<p>Get ready to get wet and muddy! Use our nets and buckets to explore the creatures that live in the ponds and wetlands of MSSF. Learn about the Plymouth/Carver Aquifer which contains 500 billion gallons of water. Meet at the Interpretive Center next to Headquarters. Wear shoes and clothes that can get wet and muddy – no flip-flops please. Rain cancels</p>
<p>Bike Tour</p>	<p>Meet at the Interpretive Center for a leisurely and informative bike ride. We will follow the bike trail within the forest and learn about the history of MSSF and the work the Civilian Conservation Corps did here. We'll also learn about the natural history and stop at some spots with good photo opportunities. Program is for adults and children 10+; younger children in carriers, with a helmet, are welcome. All participants must have their own bike and wear a bike helmet (no exceptions!), and bring water. Meet at Interpretive Center. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Cancelled in the event of rain.</p>
<p>Junior Rangers</p>	<p>This program captures the imagination of young people through activities that grow future stewards of the environment. Work toward earning your Junior Ranger Patch and Certificate by attending programs and completing the specific activities in the Junior Ranger Activity Guide. Each week, we'll explore a different topic. For ages 8-12. Meet at the Interpretive Center next to Headquarters. Rain cancels.</p> <p>July 3: Fun and Safe Hiking Expeditions We'll learn the basics of how to read a compass and a map. Mark an actual trail. Make a sturdy backpack from an old pair of pants and a little rope! Review the 10 top tips essentials to take along for a safe and fun hike. (Sturdy hiking shoes required for this session!)</p> <p>July 10: Camping Essentials! We'll learn picking out the best place to set up a camp! Good camp layout! Setting up a camp tent, and of course how to build a good safe campfire. We'll go over the basic items needed for a fun and safe camping experience, and maybe even roast a few marshmallows!</p> <p>July 17: The Environment Around Us We'll learn about our impact on the environment around us. This includes the impact of trash and litter on the animals and plants we see at MSSF and in our daily lives. We'll also discuss the impact of forest fires. Think we can learn how to predict the weather ahead using only plants and animals as our meteorological tools? Come find out!</p> <p>July 24: Animal Detectives Use your detective skills to try to figure out what animals live at MSSF. We'll take a hike looking for animal signs and learning about the animals of the forest.</p>
<p>Cast Away & Go Fishing!</p>	<p>Park Interpreters provide a hands-on fishing demonstration and instruction. This program is for ages 6+ and open to the public. Parents must accompany children. MA fishing license is not required. Bring your fishing pole and bait – or borrow one of ours (limited supply). Meet at the Fearing Pond Day Use Area. There is no fee for parking if you are attending the fishing clinic; all cars must leave the parking lot at the end of the program. Cancelled in the event of</p>

	rain.
Explore Nature: Creepy Crawlies	Use our nets and insect boxes to go on a bug hunt! Do you know what may be living in the dirt? Have you ever looked under a log or rock to see what is there? Using hand lenses and bug boxes, we will examine salamanders, sow bugs, centipedes, fungi, and more. For children and curious adults; all children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the Interpretive Center next to Headquarters. Rain cancels.
Explore Nature: Dragons & Damsels	Learn about the beautiful dragonflies and damselflies found in Myles Standish State Forest. Then we'll search around the pond for these dazzling creatures. Learn about the life cycle of these beautiful flyers by catching them in sweep nets and examining them up close with a hand lens. Bring binoculars if you have them. We'll have some binoculars and nets for people to borrow. For children and curious adults; all children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the Interpretive Center next to Headquarters. Rain cancels.
Explore Nature: Animal Detectives	Let's find out what animals are living in the area. We will use our detective skills to observe footprints, nibbled twigs, and scat, as we take a walk through the forest and along a wetland. For children and curious adults; all children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the Interpretive Center next to Headquarters. Rain cancels.
Discovery Packs	Discovery Packs are available at Myles Standish State Forest. These backpacks are full of cool items that you can use to discover the world around you while at Myles Standish State Forest. The following Discovery Packs are available to borrow from the park's Interpretive Center: Geology & Fossils, Birding, Nature Discovery, Young Explorers, and Tracking. Please call ahead to reserve the use of a Discovery Pack. For more information, call the Park Interpreters, at (508) 866-2526.