

CONSERVANCY

FOR CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

Greetings!

We are looking forward to **Unplugged Adventures, 9am-3pm daily, Monday June 14th-Friday June 18th, 2021**. The week will be filled with discovery, fun, education—and the opportunity to make life-long friends.

Enclosed you will find your confirmation materials, schedule and other preparatory items. Please review this information carefully.

Check in procedures

The program will begin every day at 9am at the Ledges Shelter located at **Ledges Shelter and Trailhead**: 405 Truxell Road, Peninsula 44264

Each day, we ask that a COVID-19 symptom and policy check be completed. This can be completed in your car on your mobile device before proceeding to check-in. We will also have a kiosk set up at check-in and paper copies in case of technical difficulties.

The daily COVID-19 symptom and policy check is located here: <https://waiver.smartwaiver.com/w/607dcab8d20ab/web/>



...or scan our QR code. Feel free to bookmark the page for future use.

There will be a check in table located at the shelter, where we will complete a daily temperature check and take attendance. Then we will be ready to start our adventures!

Program Activities

Every day, we will start our Unplugged Adventure with a hands-on science exploration in the national park. After you enjoy your packed lunch, we will split into Learning Streams for the afternoon. Learning Streams may take place at other locations within the Cuyahoga Valley. The Conservancy will provide a shuttle between activity locations. **During the bus trips, all school rules for bus transportation apply.**

Check out

The program will conclude daily at 3pm at the Ledges shelter.

Campers MUST be picked up by an authorized adult or have permission from a guardian to self-transport on file. No child will be permitted to walk home or leave with unauthorized adults.

If you have any questions, or need to withdraw your registration for any reason, please contact our Program Manager Amanda Schuster at aschuster@forcvnp.org. Thank you for your support of our program!

Frequently Asked Questions

❖ **How are you staying safe during the pandemic?**

In accordance with policy for masks on federal lands, we are requiring that all staff and participants wear a face covering at all times. Additionally, we are capping registration at 30 participants, which will be further broken into small learning groups of no more than 10 students. Social distancing and frequent hand-washing will be required. All program supplies and equipment will be provided, with any sharing of equipment minimized and sanitized between uses. All participants will complete a COVID symptom check and have a temperature screening every day. Participants exhibiting symptoms of illness will be asked to return home and quarantine in accordance with current CDC guidance. Should we suspect that staff or participants have been exposed to COVID, you will be notified in writing.

❖ **What does Unplugged Adventures mean?**

Unplugged Adventures means, that barring emergency, we ask that our participants take a break from their phones, screens, social media, gaming---or any other “plugged” activities. This program will immerse participants in hands-on science activities in the natural world—as well as showcase other unique ways to enjoy the national park. Aligning with their creative passions, hobbies—or even career ambitions—our Learning Streams will feature small-group instruction in Photography, Food and Agriculture or Recreation and Wellness. Through innovative collaboration with several park partners—including Old Trail School and Countryside--specialized instructors will work with the teens all week.

❖ **Are cell phones allowed?**

We recommend that students leave phones at home, but if they must have them, phone use must be limited to emergencies. This helps keep distractions to a minimum and increase the quality of the program. Staff members will carry cell phones in the case of emergencies.

❖ **How long has this program been around?**

This summer will be the inaugural year for Unplugged Adventures; however, the Conservancy has been facilitating youth programs in Cuyahoga Valley National Park since 1994.

❖ **Will there be food provided?**

There will be a light morning and afternoon snack (granola bars, fresh fruit or chips) provided; however, we ask that each student bring a packed lunch daily.

❖ **What should my student bring?**

Please reference our “what to bring?” checklist, in the packet of information.

❖ **What if my child has medication?**

The Conservancy is not authorized to pass out medications and does not offer nursing services. Participants must be responsible for their own medications. We ask that any medication carried by participants be in original containers and clearly labeled with the participant's name. If needed, participants will be responsible for inhalers, EpiPens or other such rescue devices.

❖ **Are there any hidden costs? Should I send my child with money?**

There are no hidden costs and you should not send your child with spending money. We do not provide any opportunities to spend money during the program. Your program fees include all supplies, snacks, equipment, transportation within the park and specialized instruction.

❖ **How do I reach my child in an emergency? What if I have urgent needs?**

Please call or text the Program Manager at 330-608-3765 and they will direct your inquiry.

All staff carry cell phones and can be reached in the field at all times.

UNPLUGGED ADVENTURES: PROGRAM GOALS

This is what we hope all of our participants can achieve during Unplugged Adventures

Gain a better understanding of themselves

- Learn to respect others and themselves.
- Live and play side by side with others who are different from them.
- Appreciate diversity.
- Explore new interests.
- Work as part of a team during science activities.
- Make new friends.
- Learn that they can be independent.
- Learn what makes them different makes them special.
- Feel safe and comfortable.
- Learn a new skill or do something they've never done before.

Learn about the Cuyahoga Valley

- Learn how and why we have a National Park here.
- Study some of the history of the Cuyahoga Valley.
- Get a hands-on look at the Cuyahoga Valley and its flora and fauna.
- Discover unique ways to interact with the park.

Explore their environment

- Interact positively with the environment and learn to be good stewards of the earth.
- Find new ways to enjoy the park and learn how time in the natural world can intersect with and enhance our favorite hobbies and activities.
- Gain insight and inspiration into possible career opportunities.

HAVE FUN!

PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS

The following guidelines are meant to create an atmosphere where everyone can feel safe, have fun, and learn. To make sure this happens, we expect you to honor the following in our learning community:

1. Let's keep this a safe place where no one gets sick or injured.

- Follow the mask mandate and social distancing. We will take frequent hand washing and sanitizing breaks! When coughing, please cough into your elbow to keep hands germ-free.
- Please wash your hands before all meals. Use hot water and soap when available. If we are in the field, use hand wipes and sanitizer.
- Take responsibility for your personal belongings, including medications or rescue devices.
- Wear shoes while outdoors at all times.
- Do not climb on trees, beams, and other high structures.
- Leave sticks and stones on the ground.

2. Let's make sure we take care of this beautiful natural area.

- Respect all living things.
- Stay on the established trails unless your instructor indicates otherwise.
- Leave nature in its place. (plants, rocks, etc.)
- Return all animals we are studying to their proper homes.
- Conserve water and energy.
- Pick up your trash and put it in the proper container.

3. Let's treat one another with care and respect.

- Encourage others to succeed.
- Find nice things to say about others. Do not use "put downs," tease, or bully others.
- Find opportunities to include everyone, in both activities and discussions.
- Respect others' belongings and materials.
- Do not fight or hit anyone.

4. Let's make this an exciting learning experience.

- Follow all schedules and be on time.
- Participants should always be with an adult.
- Be good listeners and follow the directions of the instructors
- Leave behind all those things you do not need here (see equipment list). If you did bring something you shouldn't have, give it to our staff right away.

5. Remember to have FUN!!!!

Following these guidelines will ensure a fun and safe learning experience for everyone.

Participants who choose to ignore these guidelines may be sent home.

WHAT TO BRING TO: Unplugged Adventures

It is important to remember that you will be outdoors as much as possible during your adventure in Cuyahoga Valley National Park so it is necessary that you come prepared. If you do not have some of the following items, **don't feel you need to buy anything special** -- you can improvise or contact us with questions. Please make sure all items are labeled with your name.

- **Closed toe shoes and socks.** Gym shoes with good tread are sufficient but they need to provide traction and support. No Crocs or flip-flops please. Shoes will likely get dirty—possibly muddy and wet. This is a great place to wear out old shoes and NOT break in new shoes!
- **Your face covering.** We will have disposable masks for you if you forget or lose your mask.
- **Hand sanitizer.** We will have a supply on hand but ask that every participant have a personal travel-sized bottle.
- **Sunscreen and** SPF Chapstick or lip balm
- **Insect (Tick) Repellent** –be advised that, as in most outdoor settings, ticks are present in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. We will review tick safety on day one.
- **Sunglasses,** hat or visor

Be advised: there are no places to secure valuables. Please do not bring valuables! The Conservancy and Cuyahoga Valley National Park are not responsible for lost or damaged belongings.

Please DO NOT BRING: Earbuds, music players, money, food, candy, squirt guns, electronic games (including iPods/iPads), alcohol or drugs, tobacco products including vapes, incendiary devices such as lighters, fireworks, sports equipment, animals, weapons (including sling shots and pocketknives), inappropriate or offensive clothing-- School dress code rules are in effect.

PROVIDED SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT: Unplugged Adventures

- **A bag** to carry your belongings. Farm and Agriculture will be given a tote, Recreation and Wellness and Photography will be given a string bag. Yours to keep!
- **A water bottle.** Each participant will receive a complimentary Hydroflask (Yours to keep). We ask that you bring it, or another preferred reusable water bottle every day.
- **A disposable poncho** in case of rainy weather. Yours to keep.
- All students will receive a **waterproof journal and hand lens** for nature observation. Yours to keep!
- All specialized equipment will also be provided.

Unplugged Adventures - June 14-18, 2021

	Monday 6/14	Tuesday 6/15	Wednesday 6/16	Thursday 6/17	Friday 6/18
9:00	Arrive and Check-in: Ledges Shelter	Arrive and Check-in: Ledges Shelter	Arrive and Check-in: Ledges Shelter	Arrive and Check-in: Ledges Shelter	Arrive and Check-in: Ledges Shelter
<i>Morning Session</i> Park Adventure: Science and Stewardship	Welcome to the CVNP! Getting to know each other games, Nature Observation and Journaling	Ecosystem Exploration Pond dipping, forest floor examination	Journey to the River Water testing at the Cuyahoga	Rockin' at the Run Geology hike at Virginia Kendall Ledges	Summer Fun: Recreation in the CVNP games, wellness activities and crafts
Lunch: please provide a packed lunch daily					
<i>Afternoon Session</i> Learning Streams	Photography: Subjects & Focus	Photography: Perspective	Photography: Composition	Photography: Macro	2:00-3:00pm Closing Ceremonies and Shareback: Ledges will be open to students' families to see what the teens worked on all week—and to enjoy the park and trail!
	- Camera intro -Technique review Subject walk	-Friend photo shoot -Perspective storytelling -Photo map	-Fill the frame -Rule of thirds -Nature art	-Macro hike -Adaptation creations	
	Food and Agriculture:	Food and Agriculture:	Food and Agriculture:	Food and Agriculture:	
	Afternoon at Old Trail Farm	Afternoon at Old Trail Farm	Afternoon at Purplebrown Farmstead	Cooking class at Spice Acres	
	Sustainable farming Touring and working at the farm	How to plant and harvest	Permaculture farming	Working with local ingredients	
3:00	Pick up: Ledges Shelter	Pick up: Ledges Shelter	Pick up: Ledges Shelter	Pick up: Ledges Shelter	Pick up: Ledges Shelter