

# Pennsylvania State Parks



## Outdoor Programs for Young People

**Hide-'n-Seekers**  
(ages 4-5)

**Outdoor Explorers**  
(ages 6-8)

**Penn's Adventurers**  
(ages 9-12)

**Conservation Leaders**  
(ages 13-17)

## What is DiscoverE?

DiscoverE is a series of exciting outdoor programs for young people ages 4-17 provided by Pennsylvania State Parks. DiscoverE makes every day an adventure, every state park a new, wondrous experience!

Pennsylvania's natural resources and historic sites are discovered through exciting programs provided by trained educators and interpreters. By combining recreation and education, we hope to motivate children to learn more and return often, leading to a lifetime of outdoor enjoyment and conservation leadership.

DiscoverE offers a variety of activities to meet developmental levels and social skills of different age groups. Participants progress from one level to another, continually growing in knowledge and skills.

Hide-'n-Seekers: ages 4-5

Outdoor Explorers: ages 6-8

Penn's Adventurers: ages 9-12

Conservation Leaders: ages 13-17

Younger learners will explore the outdoors through structured play, reinforced by stories and crafts. Older youth will be challenged by gaining recreational skills, conducting special projects and participating in valuable experiences.

## How Do I Get Involved?

DiscoverE outdoor programs are offered at many Pennsylvania state parks. Each park schedules its own DiscoverE programs and sets its own program fees. Programs can be scheduled as a two-hour meeting or a weeklong program. Registration forms, fees and other information may be required to hold a reservation. Information on DiscoverE is available at the park office or check program listings and park information online at [visitPAparks.com](http://visitPAparks.com).

## Earn a DiscoverE Badge and Certificate!

Pennsylvania State Parks has established a set of criteria for recognizing participation and achievement in the DiscoverE programs. Participants record their hours and experiences in a special DiscoverE folder. Participants may attend programs at one or many of Pennsylvania's state parks, achieving credit toward the requirements. Youth earn a certificate and badge, recognizing their accomplishments. The badge can be displayed on backpacks or jackets and will be recognized throughout Pennsylvania state parks. The websites listed on the badge remind families to return to our parks and participate in a lifetime of conservation and healthy outdoor activities.

## More Information Online


[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/calendar](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/calendar)

View the online calendar of events at the above link. Select the DiscoverE calendar and the state park. Registration may be accepted online. Follow instructions noted on the website. If payment or special forms are required, they must be received by the state park within the instructed time or your reservation will be void. You may also register by mail or bring your registration to the park office. It is important to contact the park if you cancel your reservation.



## Other Learning Opportunities

The Bureau of State Parks offers a host of recreational and educational opportunities for park visitors. Visit the website or inquire about community events, family programs, scout days, teacher workshops and school groups. Whether you like to hike, bike, camp or picnic, explore opportunities available in your state parks and get outdoors. Support your state parks. Become a Conservation Volunteer! There are many volunteer opportunities from trail work to monitoring bluebird boxes. Pledge your commitment to conservation by visiting the iConservePA website listed on the brochure.

 If you need an accommodation to participate due to a disability, please contact the park or make inquiries through the Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Service at 1-888-537-7294 (TTY). Bureau of State Parks' staff will gladly discuss how to accommodate your needs.



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Bureau of State Parks  
1-888-PA-Parks  
[dcnr.state.pa.us](http://dcnr.state.pa.us)



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# DISCOVERE

## Hide-'n-Seekers (ages 4-5)



Shhhhhh!!! Listen! Look! What do you hear in the woods? What is hiding under the rock? How many fish do you see in the stream?

Visiting a state park can be a time of discovery and wonder for children ages 4 and 5. Hide-'n-Seekers is a program developed to meet the curiosity and the attention span of the younger child. The program combines safe, playful outdoor activities with hands-on explorations, stories and crafts that encourage a child's interest and excitement.



## Outdoor Explorers (ages 6-8)

Let's go on a spider safari or a stream adventure. We are explorers in a great new place. Maybe we will build a birdhouse or discover a turtle's secret hiding place.

Children explore and experience amazing places in state parks. The programs are filled with plenty of outdoor fun with time to reflect and learn. Outdoor Explorers provides outdoor experiences filled with adventure and discovery for young explorers ages 6-8.

## Penn's Adventurers (ages 9-12)



We are ready for adventure. We might learn how to hike in the woods without leaving a trace. We might imagine that we are herpetologists finding out where frogs go in winter. We might learn to paddle a kayak or visit a historical site.

Pennsylvania state parks are filled with learning and recreational adventures connecting young people to natural and historic resources. Penn's Adventurers builds outdoor skills, enhances knowledge of the natural resources and encourages healthy experiences incorporating science, history, geography and recreation.



## Penn's Adventurers In History (ages 9-12)

Long ago, Pennsylvania state parks were quite different than they are today. The secrets of history are waiting to be discovered in piles of stone, restored buildings, rare documents and uncovered artifacts. From native legends to our industrial heritage, from canals to the Civilian Conservation Corps - each park has a unique story that is woven into DiscoverE programs developed for young historians.

Uncover this exciting history of Pennsylvania through stories and events preserved by our state parks. Check the calendar of events to view which parks provide this program.



## Conservation Leaders (ages 13-17)



Get ready to do something "wild" for conservation! Develop skills that help you enjoy the outdoors. Make a commitment to conserving natural resources. Learn how to protect and promote Pennsylvania's public lands. Be a Conservation Leader!

Conservation Leaders work with park professionals to decide on a project or an activity they want to accomplish. Young people develop a sense of stewardship and responsibility as they contribute to state park functions. Participants may work together or independently to fulfill their goal. They might decide to improve a trail, help organize a canoe program or monitor bluebird boxes.

Conservation Leaders are encouraged to assist with programs for younger children. Students may be interested in developing service-learning projects at state parks that meet requirements established by their school or scout group.