

Winter Outings 2023

Winter Outing Series General Information:

- Outdoor recreation in Potter & Tioga Counties
- Events are free unless noted
- Limited equipment is available to use free of charge unless noted
- All ages are welcome with adult supervision
- Most activities are for beginners and make it easy to try something new
- Limited snow cover may alter the events, but when possible, an alternative program will be offered

- XC ski track may be set for ski events if conditions allow
- All details subject to change. Check for updates at www.stepoutdoors.org or search for Step Outdoors Tioga County on Facebook

**** Registration may be required for some events**

2023 Events:

Sunday January 1 – First Day Hike

10AM – 11:30 AM – Sinnemahoning State Park – 40 Maples Day Use Area

Start the New Year on the right foot with an easy 2.5-mile guided hike on fairly level trails. Learn to identify common tree species as we scout for tracks and traces of the animals that live in the park. Hike will be held rain or shine. A limited number of snowshoes available if needed. Dress for the weather and bring water. Well-behaved dogs on short leashes are welcome. No pre-registration required. Meet at Pavilion 1 in the 40 Maples Day Use Area.

Sunday January 1 – First Day Hike / First Day 5K

1PM-2:30PM – Hills Creek State Park – Beach parking area

Two options and two very different paces! Everyone should wear proper footwear, dress in layers, and bring water and a snack.

1. Start out on the right foot in 2023 with a short hike, exploring nature in winter at Hills Creek. This slow-paced, family-oriented hike will be about 1.5 miles in length. Well-behaved dogs on short leashes are welcome. If conditions warrant, limited snowshoes or traction devices will be available (or you are encouraged to bring your own). We will cheer on the 5K runners and start the hike just following their 1pm start. Come early or stay late – the sledding hill is nearby or you can explore more trails (or even the plowed roads) throughout the park.
2. Challenge yourself with the no-frills, NO-COST, First Day 5K! Simply run around the lake on a mix of roads and trails as fast as you can. No frills = no awards, no aid stations, and you even record your own time! Runners must register just prior to start. Registration opens at 12:30.

Sunday January 1 – First Day Hike

1PM – 2PM – Lyman Run State Park – Lower campground parking

A family nature hike with easy walking in search of signs of winter activity by animals, stream ecology, and winter tree identification.

Thursdays All Winter – Thursday Night Run

6PM-7PM – Wellsboro – Packer Park Lot

Come on out for a group run. Multiple pace groups for almost any ability level. Yes – it's dark, so bring a headlamp / lights and the group runs in almost any weather condition. Distances vary. Look up Tyoga Running Club on Facebook for more info.

Saturday January 7 – Winter Survival Skills (registration required) **

10AM – 12 PM – Sinnemahoning State Park – Park Office & Wildlife Center

What would you do if you got lost while exploring the PA Wilds in winter? Learn from experienced Mountaineer Search and Rescue team member, Steve Bajor, the basic necessities that you should always carry when exploring outdoors, the steps to take if you become lost, how to keep yourself safe and warm overnight, and how to improve your chances of being found. Program begins indoors with presentation and kit-making, then moves outdoors for hands-on practice in an off-trail area. Program is free, but [pre-registration](#) is required by Thursday 1/5. Register online through the DCNR Calendar of Events. Questions: SinnemahoningSP@pa.gov

Sunday January 8 – Eagle Watch

9AM-10AM – Ives Run Mixing Channel – Ives Run Recreation Area

Join us for an eagle watch at perhaps the best location in our area to view them in winter. Local eagle expert & enthusiast, Matt West, will be leading the watch and answering questions about these amazing raptors. Bring binoculars if you have them or a limited number of spotting scopes and binoculars will also be on hand. The TCWOA is sponsoring the event, so expect hot beverages and perhaps some snacks as well.

[Directions from Wellsboro \(18 miles\):](#)

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Take Route 287 north for 17 miles to Tioga (past Ives Run Recreation Area). Turn right onto S. Main St., follow to the end and wind past the park entrance gate and to the top of the hill where the road ends at the mixing channel parking lot.

Saturday January 14 – Cross Country Skiing for Beginners (registration required) **

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM – Sinnemahoning State Park – Park Office and Wildlife Center

Join experienced ski instructor, Curt Weinhold, for a fun lesson on the popular sport of cross-country skiing. All equipment, including skis, poles, and boots (adult sizes) will be provided. Program will begin indoors with an introduction to cross country skiing equipment and styles, followed by a guided practice instruction on level ground, then a short excursion on the trail. If snow depth is insufficient for skiing, the indoor portion of the program will still be held, followed by a 2- to 3-mile nature hike. Program is free, but [pre-registration](#) is required by Thursday, 1/12. Register online through the DCNR Calendar of Events. Meet in the classroom of the Wildlife Center at Sinnemahoning State Park. Questions:

SinnemahoningSP@pa.gov

Sunday January 15 – Snow Day Fun - Snowshoeing

1PM-3PM – Cherry Springs State Park – Parking Area

Beat the winter blahs by getting outside! Marvel at the wonder of snow-blanketed landscapes, search for fresh animal tracks, and more. FREE program for kids and adults alike. Just wear winter boots and warm clothes. Adult and youth sized snowshoes available to borrow for on-site use during the program. Basic instruction will be given to people new to snowshoeing, and a more in-depth intro to snowshoeing class will be offered from 1:30 – 2, with a guided snowshoe from 2 – 2:30 PM. Participants are welcome to bring their own equipment. No pre-registration required.

*** program may be modified due to weather conditions ***

Saturday January 21 – Hills Creek Winterfest

10AM-3PM – Hills Creek State Park – Beach Parking Area

Free Family Fun! Activities being planned include: XC skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, ice fishing, sledding, make and take crafts, guided hike/snowshoe excursion, educational programs, and more! Enjoy hot chocolate and hot dogs - FREE while they last! Skis, snowshoes and skates provided in limited quantities or bring your own. Don't forget your sled. There's fun for the entire family.

*** some activities may be altered due to conditions ***

Saturday January 28 – Winter in the Lumber Camp

10AM-3PM – PA Lumber Museum – Main Parking Area

Outdoor fun in the snow with sledding, snow men, and snow art activities. Try your hand at cross-country skis, snowshoes and ice skates (conditions permitting) with the help of equipment provided by PA DCNR and volunteer instructors. Food and drink available in the program room.

Sunday January 29 – Mt. Tom Snowshoe / Hike

9AM-12:00PM – Pine Creek Rail Trail – Darling Run Trailhead

Climb over 1100 feet to one of the most scenic vistas in our area, offering views of Ansonia and the upper Pine Creek valley. Experience and conditioning are required for this strenuous climb. Dress in layers. Bring a snack and water. Limited snowshoes will be available. Due to snow and/or ice, traction aiding devices (such as snowshoes or simple boot cleats) are required. This is a slow-paced course preview for the upcoming Mt. Tom Challenge.

February 3-5 – Winter Women in the Wilds (registration required) ***FULL*****

Sinnemahoning State Park – Pre-register online!

Ladies, beat cabin fever this winter while trying something new during this fun weekend of outdoor recreation and environmental education. Sessions include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, winter bird identification, winter survival, open hearth cooking and more. Program fee is \$90 per person and includes three full catered meals and participant's choice of up to 6 classes. Group size is limited. Pre-register with the PA Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF) between Thursday, 12/1 and Friday, 1/20. Questions: SinnemahoningSP@pa.gov

Saturday February 4 – Community Climbing Day

2PM-6PM – Mansfield University – Kelchner Fitness Center

Family friendly climbing geared towards kids and beginners. We have all the gear and staff ready to get climbing newcomers off the ground. Registration is required and will open January 24th. More info at www.mansfield.edu/kfc, on the Kelchner Fitness Center Facebook page or by emailing adelozier@mansfield.edu

Sunday February 5 – Winter Adventure Hike

1PM-3PM – Lyman Run State Park – Day use parking

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Take this great opportunity to get outside in the colder months and see the winter beauty at Lyman Run. Be prepared with good hiking boots, hiking poles/sticks, and water. A limited number of traction aides or snowshoes will be available to borrow, if conditions require.

Saturday February 11 – Snowshoeing Basics (registration required) **

10AM – 11:30AM – Sinnemahoning State Park – Park Office & Wildlife Center

Snowshoeing is a great way to explore your favorite trails in winter. New to the sport? No problem! Park staff will help you get started. Snowshoes and trekking poles will be provided. Program will begin indoors with an introduction to snowshoeing equipment and styles, followed by a guided practice instruction on level ground, then a short excursion on the trail. If snow depth is insufficient for snowshoeing, the indoor portion of the program will still be held, followed by a 2- to 3-mile nature hike. Program is free, but [pre-registration](#) is required by Thursday 2/9. Register online through the DCNR Calendar of Events. Questions: SinnemahoningSP@pa.gov

Saturday February 11 – Wellsboro Winter Celebration – Kids XC Skiing Intro

12noon-2:30PM – The Green – Wellsboro

Kids can try out cross-country skis with basic instruction. Tubing races will also be held at 2pm at this popular in-town event as part of the Wellsboro Winter Celebration. More info on the entire weekend at wellsboropa.com

Sunday February 12 – Mt. Tom Challenge

9AM-Noon – Mt. Tom Trails – Darling Run Parking Area

Challenge yourself to climb the steepest and tallest in the area – Mt. Tom! Then do it again and again... if you can!

<https://sites.google.com/site/mttomchallenge/home>

February 17-19 – Snow-mobility Weekend

10AM-4PM – PA Lumber Museum – Main Parking Area

Ride your snowmobile to the museum all weekend long. Cross-country ski/ hike to the museum on Saturday (ONLY) for a Pancake Breakfast from 10:30 Am until 1:00 Pm. Documentary films will be shown in the program room during breakfast. At 1:30, a program on making maple syrup will be offered by Chris Nicholas.

Saturday February 18 – Great Backyard Bird Count Walk

10AM-12PM – Sinnemahoning State Park – Park Office and Wildlife Center

Wander the park with members of the local bird club, on the lookout for winter birds in woodland, meadow, and wetlands of the First Fork Valley while participating in the annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). Hike will be 2-3 miles over mostly level terrain. Snowshoes provided if needed. Novice and experienced birders welcome! No pre-registration required for this free program.

Sunday February 19 – Nest Box Building

1PM-3PM – Tioga – Cumming's Wood Shop

Join club members in an annual tradition of building nest boxes for wildlife. Please register by Feb 10th to help in planning. Contact Anne at tiogacowoa@gmail.com or 570-279-7074 or find the group on Facebook.

Saturday February 25 – Snow Day Fun – Cross Country Skiing

10AM-12PM – Cherry Springs State Park – Parking Area

Beat the winter blahs by getting outside! Marvel at the wonder of snow-blanketed landscapes, search for fresh animal tracks, and more! FREE program for kids and adults alike. Just wear warm clothes. Adult and youth sized cross-country ski equipment (including boots, skis, and poles) will be available to borrow for on-site use during the program. Basic instruction will be given to people new to cross-country skiing, and a more in-depth intro to cross-country skiing class will be offered from 10:30 – 11, with a guided ski from 11 – 11:30 AM. Participants are welcome to bring their own equipment, classic ski tracks will be set along the perimeter of the park. No pre-registration required.

*** program may be modified due to weather conditions ***

Saturday March 4 – Winter Tree Identification

10AM – 12PM – Sinnemahoning State Park – Park Office & Wildlife Center

What trees are growing in your woods? Learn to distinguish common local trees in winter by observing bark, twigs, cones, and other features while learning interesting facts about our native forests. Slow-paced, 1-mile walk over mostly level terrain. Binoculars and field guides available for use during the program. Program will begin indoors with an overview of tree identification, followed by a slow paced, 1-2 mile hike over uneven terrain to practice identifying live trees in the park. All skill levels welcome. No pre-registration required for this free program.

Sunday March 5 – Winter Adventure Hike

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1PM-3PM – Lyman Run State Park – Day use parking

Take this great opportunity to get outside in the colder months and see the winter beauty at Lyman Run. Be prepared with good hiking boots, hiking poles/sticks, and water. A limited number of traction aides or snowshoes will be available to borrow, if conditions require.

Friday March 10 – Telescopes & Planetarium Open House

7PM-8:30PM – Strait Planetarium – Commonwealth (Mansfield) University

Explore the winter night sky, Orion's belt, and distant galaxies, all from the comfort of the planetarium with a short program suitable for all ages. Before or after the program, look through telescopes provided to take a closer look at the planetary lineup of Saturn, Venus, and Mars. Telescopes will be setup outside on your way in. The planetarium is part of Grant Science Center. See Mansfield.edu for a campus map.

Sunday March 12 – Charter Day

10AM-4PM – PA Lumber Museum – Free Admission

Most PA Trails of History sites are free to the public to celebrate Pennsylvania's birthday! The PA Lumber Museum will be offering guided tours of its facilities and exhibits.

Saturday & Sunday March 18-19 – Maple Open House Weekend

See www.pamaple.com for times and locations