

Programs at Norris Dam State Park

During the summer months, seasonal programmers present many of the following programs and much more. A weekly schedule is available at the park office. Other times of the year, many of these programs are available and can be presented with advanced scheduling through the Park Interpretive Specialist.

Snakes of Tennessee:

This 45 minute program utilizes slides and live specimens to acquaint the participant with the identification, natural history, and folklore of nature's most misunderstood creature--the snake. (Available both on-site and off-site, year round.)

The Wildlife of Tennessee:

This 1 hour all-inclusive entertaining program utilizes slides and live animals to acquaint the participant with a general overview of the mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians of the Tennessee region. (Available both on-site and off-site, year round.)

The Bats of the Night Skies:

This 45 minute program takes an in-depth look at another one of nature's misunderstood animals. Program utilizes slide presentation (Available both on-site and off-site, year round) and colony study area (Available on-site only, seasonally)

The Owls of Tennessee:

This 45 minute program acquaints participants with the identification and natural history of the owls of the region. Program utilizes slides and live specimens. (Available both on-site and off-site, year round.)



Nature Walks:

Guided nature walks are available throughout the year for all age groups on any of the park's trails. Distance of walks vary with group needs.

Annual Wildflower Hikes:

This special event is held annually on the last Saturday in March and the first Saturday in April. Wildflower hikes along various trails in the park and TVA reservation acquaint participants with the identification, natural history, and folklore of the spring wildflowers.



Wildflowers of Tennessee:

This 1 hour slide presentation acquaints participants with the identification, natural history and folklore of the spring, summer, and fall wildflowers of the area. (Available on-site and off-site, year round.)



Spring Heritage Festival

Held annually, the second week-end of June, artists and craftsmen from around the region demonstrate and sell their goods of paintings, woodwork, ceramics, quilting, jewelry, etc. Many other activities such as music, nature presentations, cultural demonstrations, museum tours and nature games are offered on this week-end.

Hummingbird Slide Show:

This 30 minute program takes an in-depth look at one of the world's most fascinating and unique birds. Program utilizes slide presentation, and study of live specimens at feeders. (Available on-site only, seasonally.)

18th Century Rice's Gristmill Tour:

This 30 minute guided tour acquaints the visitor with the history and operation of the park's Gristmill. (Available April-October)

Birds of Tennessee:

This 1 hour program involves a guided hike along the river to search for and identify some of the area's birds. (Available on-site, year round)

Nature Games:

This 45 minute program utilizes nature games from Project Wild and other sources that deal with habitat destruction, animal needs, predator/prey relationships, etc. (Available on-site and off-site, year round.)

Norris Dam Challenge:

Held annually in January, this is part of the Tennessee State Park's Running Tour. It consists of a 7.2 mile, 3 mile and 1 mile family fun run. Contact the Oak Ridge Track Club at 865-483-0194 for more information.



Owl Prowl:

This one hour night program utilizes recorded owl calls in an attempt to attract owls living in the area. Some hiking is usually involved. (Available on-site only, year round.)

Spring Wildflower Walks:

Guided wildflower hikes are available from late February through April. This program will acquaint participants with the identification, natural history, and folklore of the spring wildflowers.

Hill Cave Tours:

This 2 & 1/2 hour program will acquaint visitors with the mysterious world of a wild living cave. This program is limited to groups of no more than 18 people. Offered Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Fall Color Cruises:

During October, two hour cruises are available on Norris Lake aboard the park's pontoon boat to view the spectacular autumn colors. Participants will also become acquainted with the history of Norris Dam and the area.

The Civilian Conservation Corps:

This 45 minute program will acquaint the observer with the story of the CCC, the peace time army. Program involves a walking tour of the East Side of

Norris Dam State Park, where most of the structures were built by the CCC.
(Available on-site only, year round.)

The Trees of Tennessee:

This 1 hour program involves a walking field trip of the park's interpretive trail. The participant will become acquainted with tree identification, biology and the natural history of area tree species. (Available on-site only, year round.)

TVA's First Project: The Building of Norris Dam:

This 45 minute slide presentation tells the story of TVA and Norris Dam and how this project affected the lives of the people living in the area. (Available on-site and off-site, year round.)

The Lenoir Museum Tour:

This 45 minute guided tour involves acquainting the visitor with Will G. and Helen Lenoir's collection of artifacts, and with the people and stories behind them. These items examine the ingenuity of the Appalachian way of life.
(Available on-site, year round.)

