



May Events in Your Charleston County Parks!

Read this online: www.ccprc.com/NewsReleases

Public Contact or to Register: 843-795-4386 / www.CharlestonCountyParks.com

***Safety is our priority. Charleston County Parks requires guests to wear masks when interacting with staff and volunteers. Masks are required at events unless eating or drinking, or engaging in strenuous exercise or physical activity. Capacity for each program or event is limited and subject to cancellation. Extra safety measures will be in place specific to each event and program. Advance registration required for many events and programs.**

May Special Events

Johns Island County Park Concert Series: Vinyl Daze

Johns Island County Park

Sat., May 1, 6:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Charleston County Parks is hosting a beach music night concert at Johns Island County Park. 10x10 squares will be available on a first come, first served basis upon arrival. No more than four guests are allotted per square. You are encouraged to bring your own tables and chairs to set up in your square. Please be prepared to carry all items to your square from your parking spot. Enjoy music by the shag band Vinyl Daze. Food vendors will be on-site and alcohol will be available for purchase. No outside food, alcohol, or coolers permitted. Gates open at 6pm and music is from 7:00pm-9:30pm. Visit our website at www.charlestoncountyparks.com or call (843) 795-4386 for more information.

Fee: \$60 per square for 4 people

Ages: any

[Johns Island Concert Series](#)

Yappy Hour

Dog Park at Wannamaker County Park

Fri., May 7, 5 – 7 p.m.

Come out and enjoy the new Wannamaker Dog Park with your furry friend! Enjoy live music from a local Charleston performer in an outdoor space, and spend some quality time with your pup as you explore this new facility. Food must be consumed outside of the dog park gate. Alcohol will be available for purchase, and a valid ID is required. No outside food or alcohol permitted.

Fee: \$2; Free to Gold Pass holders

Ages: Any

[Yappy Hour](#)

Poetry at McLeod: Teri Ellen Cross Davis

McLeod Plantation Historic Site

Sat., May 29, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

In this innovative series, African American poets reclaim the plantation landscape by exploring the past, present, future, and the imagined in their own voices. Often representing pain, suffering, survival, and perseverance, these poets confirm that plantations are places of conscience. One poet recalled, "Reading poems where my ancestors were was a return. On their behalf I was returning with power. It belongs to them. I would be a part of reclaiming it." Teri Ellen Cross Davis's forthcoming a more perfect Union won The Journal/Charles B. Wheeler Poetry Prize; her debut, *Haint*, (Gival Press, 2016) won the 2017 Ohioana Book Award for Poetry. A Cave Canem fellow, her scholarships include the Sewanee's Writer Conference and the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown. Her poems appear in *Academy of American Poets*, *Kenyon Review*, *Kestrel*, *PANK*, *Tin House*, and elsewhere.

Fee: Free

Ages: Any

[Poetry at McLeod](#)

May Programs

Ongoing Programs

Early Morning Bird Walks

Caw Caw Interpretive Center

Wednesdays and Saturdays, May 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, and 29, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Join us on one or more of our regular bird walks. Our trek through many distinct habitats will allow us to view and discuss a variety of birds, butterflies, and other organisms. A paid chaperone is required for participants ages 15 and under. Every Wednesday and Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Registration is not required. Participants are encouraged to bring own binoculars. Max. 10 participants.

Fee: \$9; free for Gold Pass holders

Ages: All, a paid chaperone is required for participants ages 15 and under.

[Birding](#)

Alligator Adventure

Caw Caw Interpretive Center

Advance registration required for many programs. Call 843-795-4386 or visit www.charlestoncountyparks.com to register.

Many programs require that a minimum number of participants be met.

Saturdays, May 1, 8, 22, and 29, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Join us as we search for alligators and separate fact from fiction to learn why these large reptiles carry the special title of "keystone species."

Fee: \$9

Ages: 12 and up

[Caw Caw Calendar](#)

Essentials of Kayaking

James Island County Park

Saturdays, May 1, 8, 15 and 22, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Learn a new sport comfortably and enjoyably. Using a variety of boats, this entry-level course teaches you the basic strokes and skills to have fun on the water!

Fee: \$55

Ages: 16 and up

[Learn to Kayak](#)

Essentials of Stand-Up Paddleboard (SUP)

James Island County Park

Saturdays, May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Take the next steps in SUPing. We'll practice some fun balance drills, improve stroke technique, and learn more safety skills. This fun class is a great prep for paddling in more challenging conditions.

Fee: \$30

Ages: 16 and up

[Learn to SUP](#)

Counting on Nature

James Island County Park: Saturdays, May 1 and 22, 3 – 5 p.m.

Palmetto Islands County Park: Saturdays, May 8 and 29, 3 – 5 p.m.

Wannamaker County Park: Saturday, May 15, 3 – 5 p.m.

Please join us in our ongoing effort to use citizen science platforms as a way to catalogue the life in your parks. We will photograph and record what we can, then report those observations to applications to create inventories for future use. You will learn directly from our experienced naturalists about nature around you and how to use citizen science on your own to contribute to conservation and further your knowledge base.

Fee: \$9

Ages: 9 and up

[Counting on Nature](#)

Beyond the Essentials of Kayaking: Assisted and Self Rescues

James Island County Park

Sundays, May 2, 16 and 30, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

We will teach the basic components necessary to perform efficient rescues from classic textbook rescues to improvisational methods that work in all environments. This class is recommended to those paddlers looking to gain confidence in their paddling and ability to be independent.

Fee: \$55

Ages: 16 and up

[Learn to Kayak](#)

High Ropes Experience

James Island County Park

Saturdays, May 8, 15, 22 and 29, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

This spring, test your mettle on our high static teams' course! Courageous souls can walk on air, swing from the rafters, fly high - pretty much everything your parents ever told you NOT to do! Enjoy pulse-racing fun, complete with safety gear and expert course staff. What a terrific opportunity for young (and young-at-heart) daredevils to sample a grand new adventure! Join the fun on the High Teams Course Experience! Traverse across two to four of our team high element challenges with your friends or family, and travel down our tandem zip-line. Average climbing time is 2 to 3 hours.

Fee: \$30

Ages: 10 and up

[High Ropes Experience](#)

Stand-Up Paddleboard (SUP): Beyond Essentials

James Island County Park

Sundays, May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

This fun and relaxed class will get you started with instruction on safety and the proper paddling technique that will allow you to progress comfortably at your own pace.

Fee: \$30

Ages: 16 and up

[Learn to SUP](#)

Challenge Course Adventures

James Island County Park

Advance registration required for many programs. Call 843-795-4386 or visit www.charlestoncountyparks.com to register. Many programs require that a minimum number of participants be met.

Saturdays, May 8, 15, 22 and 29, 1 – 2:30 p.m. or, 2:45 – 4:15 p.m.

With names like 'Catwalk' or the 'Leap of Faith' you can be sure that our High Dynamic Adventures will test your sense of adventure in ways you never thought about! We'll have you balancing, climbing, leaping, and swinging away your Saturday with friends or family. Never fear, you'll have all the safety gear you need and our expert course staff will lead you to personal victories. Average program time 1.5 hours.

Fee: \$15

Ages: 10 and up

[Challenge Course Adventures](#)

Single Day Programs

Open Archery

Johns Island County Park

Sat., May 1, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Go get your bull's eye! Get a brief orientation and fling some arrows at Johns Island County Park's target archery range. Equipment will be provided.

Fee: \$20

Ages: 8 and up

[9451](#)

Lowcountry Senior Series: Team Static High Elements Course

James Island County Park

Tue., May 4, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Part of the Lowcountry Senior Series, this program empowers adults 50+ to continue to explore, discover, and grow, as partnership with Lowcountry Senior Center. With ten elements, including an Entrance Cargo Net on to the High Static Course encourages participants to move growth zones beyond perceived limitations, finish with a zip line. This powerful learning tool engages individuals to create a supportive environment where others can explore the concepts of trust, personal responsibility, stress management, self-confidence, and personal and group empowerment. More information about the Challenge Course is available here at:

<https://www.ccprc.com/113/Challenge-Course-Team-Building>

Fee: \$30

Ages: 50 and up

[9144](#)

Homeschool Series on Wednesdays: Low & High Elements

James Island County Park

Wed., May 5, 1 – 4 p.m.

Part of the Homeschool Series, this program empowers youth ages 10-18 to continue to explore, discover, and grow by mastering elements like the Low Element and High Element Challenges. Participants will learn to be a part of a belay team and encourage others to move beyond perceived limitations. This powerful learning tool engages individuals to create a supportive environment where others can explore the concepts of trust, personal responsibility, stress management, self-confidence, and personal and group empowerment. More information about the Challenge Course is available here at: <https://www.ccprc.com/113/Challenge-Course-Team-Building>

Fee: \$30

Ages: 10 to 18

[10450](#)

Essentials of Kayaking for Boomers 50+

James Island County Park

Thu., May 6, 9 – 11 a.m.

Designed for those not looking to slow down, this program is for those 50 and over. Explore and learn new activities through kayaking on the James Island County Park lake to keep you young at heart. We will cover the essentials of kayaking including basic rescues to increase your sense of independence and meet others with similar interests. For more information about our Paddlesports programs, click here: <https://www.ccprc.com/107/Paddlesports>

Fee: \$30

Ages: 50 and up

[9527](#)

Black History All Year Long: Focus on Women Virtual Program at Online-Charleston County Parks

Thu., May 6, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Join us for four virtual discussions focused on celebrating, respecting, and raising awareness about Black women. Childbirth: From Slavery to the Present Join us for a discussion of Black women's healthcare as it relates to childbearing and birth including sexual violence, genealogical experimentation, and the 21st century public health emergency facing pregnant Black women. Discussions will focus on raising awareness about the long history of systematic racism, violence, and challenges facing Black women in one of the most fundamental and sacred of human events, childbirth.

Fee: Free

Ages: All

[9784](#)

Ramble and Row

*Advance registration required for many programs. Call 843-795-4386 or visit www.charlestoncountyparks.com to register.
Many programs require that a minimum number of participants be met.*

**Caw Caw Interpretive Center
Fri., May 7, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

For a unique look into the ecology of the Lowcountry, join trained naturalists who will share the fascinating cultural and natural history of this site. Walk from forest to former rice fields and then hop into a canoe for a little on-water time that may alter your perspective in more than one way.

Fee: \$35

Ages: 12 and up

[9485](#)

**Starfish Swim School® Baby/Tot: Saturday A.M.
West County Aquatic Center**

Saturdays, May 8 – May 29, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. (4 weeks)

Designed to meet the needs of children ages 6-18 months (babies)/ages 18-36 months (tots) and an accompanying adult, this course will develop a high comfort level in the water and a readiness to swim while at the same time training the adults who accompany them in water safety and drowning prevention. Students work towards developing core swimming competencies and progress toward achieving benchmarks in a small group setting. This course does not teach children to become accomplished swimmers or to survive in the water; it does provide a confidence-building, fun, loving experience as a foundation for a lifetime of aquatic learning.

Fee: \$20

Ages: 6 months to 3 years

[9427](#)

**Starfish Swim School® for Preschool: Saturday A.M.
West County Aquatic Center**

Saturdays, May 8 – May 29, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. (4 weeks)

Designed to meet the needs of children ages 3 to 5, this course will develop a high comfort level in the water and a readiness to swim, and for those children who are developmentally ready, it will teach functional swim skills. This class approaches teaching swimming through creative, fun activities in the water. Students work toward developing core swimming competencies and progress toward achieving benchmarks in a small group setting.

Fee: \$20

Ages: 3 to 5

[9430](#)

**Starfish Swim School® for Youth: Saturday A.M.
West County Aquatic Center**

Saturdays, May 8 – May 29, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. (4 weeks)

Students ages 6-12 work toward development of core swimming competencies using age-appropriate learning activities. Learning is self-paced but challenging.

Fee: \$20

Ages: 6 to 12

[9432](#)

**Starfish Swim School® Teen/Adult: Saturday A.M.
West County Aquatic Center**

Saturdays, May 8 – May 29, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (4 weeks)

This course is designed to improve comfort and skill in the water regardless of past swimming experience for ages 13+. Students work toward developing core swimming competencies using principles of adult learning.

Fee: \$20

Ages: 13 and up

[9434](#)

**Intro to Coastal Kayaking: Strokes and Rescues
Folly River Boat Landing**

Sun., May 9, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

This course offers a progression of skill and knowledge development for paddling at the coast. We will begin in the calmer waters of Folly River and work towards introducing ourselves into moderate ocean environment. The course is designed to introduce basic coastal kayaking skills and safety to beginners. Participants will be introduced to: Proper fit and adjustment of their kayak for effective control and comfort Attaching and releasing the spray skirt Safely entering and exiting kayak, including wet exit Effective use and control of the paddle Performing basic strokes efficiently Performing T-rescue and paddle float self-rescue The importance and influence of weather and tides on the coastal kayaker Dealing with marine hazards and other safety issues Understanding personal limitations and skill level

Fee: \$85

Ages: 16 and up

[9523](#)

**Essentials of Stand-Up Paddleboard for Boomers 50+
James Island County Park
Thu., May 13, 9 – 11 a.m.**

Designed for those not looking to slow down, this program is for those 50 and over. Explore and learn new activities through Stand-Up Paddleboard (SUP) on the James Island County Park lake to keep you young at heart. We will cover the essentials of SUP including basic rescues to increase your sense of independence and meet others with similar interests. For more information about our Paddlesports programs, click here: <https://www.ccprc.com/107/Paddlesports>

Fee: \$30

Ages: 50 and up

[9529](#)

**Nature's Soundscape: How to Really Tune In
Caw Caw Interpretive Center**

Thu., May 13, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Vision is a dominant tool for experiencing the natural world, but sound adds a richness that sight alone cannot provide. In many cases, hearing is the only option for experiencing certain facets of our environment, and every place has its own unique sounds associated with it. Awaken your sense of awe and hone listening skills that will enhance opportunities to find wildlife. Animals can often be heard even when they cannot be seen!

Fee: \$20

Ages: 18 and up

[9477](#)

**Lighthouse Inlet Bird Walk
Entrance at Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve**

Fri., May 14, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

This walk focuses on the incredibly diverse northeast end of Folly Island. Once the home of a Coast Guard station, this Heritage Preserve protects maritime forest, beach, dune, and marsh habitats for wildlife. This site boasts one of the largest bird lists in South Carolina. At this time of year, we hope to see spring arrivals such as Painted Buntings and Wilson's Plovers, plus much more.

Fee: \$9

Ages: 12 and up

[9488](#)

**Homeschool in the Parks: Sea Turtle Study
Folly Beach County Park**

Fri., May 14, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Sea turtles do amazing things, so it's no wonder we find them fascinating. Learn about the talents of turtles through activities on the beach. Emphasis will be placed on South Carolina's state reptile, the loggerhead sea turtle.

Fee: \$5

Ages: 7 to 12

[9917](#)

**3D Archery
Johns Island County Park**

Sat., May 15, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Maximize the "thrill of the hunt" by enhancing your archery skills on our 3D course, featuring wild boar, deer, turkey targets and more at Johns Island County Park. We'll warm up on the target range but spend most of the class walking the 3D range trail. Equipment is provided, but feel free to bring your own. A registered and paid chaperone is required for participants ages 15 and under.

Fee: \$30

Ages: 13 and up

[9452](#)

**Open Archery
Johns Island County Park**

Sat., May 15, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Go get your bull's eye! Get a brief orientation and fling some arrows at Johns Island County Park's target archery range. Equipment will be provided.

Fee: \$20

Ages: 8 and up

[9453](#)

**Intro to Climbing
James Island County Park**

Sun., May 16, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

There's a lot to learn about climbing. Getting your footing, learning the lingo, and starting out can be intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. In our Intro to Climbing class, you'll receive expert instruction on the basics of climbing, the opportunity to meet and learn with other new climbers, and an overview of our facility. This 90-minute class will help kick off your new adventure with a 1 to 9 instructor to student ratio and small group and partner work. Instruction takes place on both ropes and boulders, and the class will include your gear rental, too!

Fee: \$20

Ages: 14 and up

[9532](#)

Beginner Sprint Triathlon Swim Tune Up
James Island County Park
Mon., May 17, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Train on the actual open water Charleston Sprint Triathlon swim course with a Blue Sky Endurance triathlon coach. Open to all levels, this beginner course will give participants in-depth knowledge of the swim course and insider tips to gain confidence, increase efficiency, and improve times.

Fee: \$15
Ages: 12 and up
[9425](#)

Intermediate Sprint Triathlon Swim Tune Up
James Island County Park
Mon., May 17, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Designed for intermediate to advanced swimmers, this program will sharpen your open water swimming skills. Held on the actual Charleston Sprint Triathlon swim course, each class is led by a Blue Sky Endurance triathlon coach. Leave with an in-depth knowledge of the swim course and insider tips to gain confidence, increase efficiency, and improve times.

Fee: \$15
Ages: 12 and up
[9426](#)

Lowcountry Senior Series: SUP
James Island County Park
Tue., May 18, 9 – 11 a.m.

In partnership with the Lowcountry Senior Center, this program empowers adults 50+ to continue to explore, discover, and grow. This course introduces participants to stand-up paddleboarding at the boat dock at James Island County Park. For more information about our Paddlesports programs, click here: <https://www.ccprc.com/107/Paddlesports>

Fee: \$30
Ages: 50 and up
[9145](#)

Essentials of Kayaking for Boomers 50+
James Island County Park
Thu., May 20, 9 – 11 a.m.

Designed for those not looking to slow down, this program is for those 50 and over. Explore and learn new activities through kayaking on the James Island County Park lake to keep you young at heart. We will cover the essentials of kayaking including basic rescues to increase your sense of independence and meet others with similar interests. For more information about our Paddlesports programs, click here: <https://www.ccprc.com/107/Paddlesports>

Fee: \$30
Ages: 50 and up
[9528](#)

Homeschool in the Parks: Sea Turtle Study
Folly Beach County Park
Fri., May 21, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Sea turtles do amazing things, so it's no wonder we find them fascinating. Learn about the talents of turtles through activities on the beach. Emphasis will be placed on South Carolina's state reptile, the loggerhead sea turtle.

Fee: \$5
Ages: 7 to 12
[9404](#)

Scanning the Sand
Beachwalker County Park
Fri., May 21, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

This program is dedicated to observing and recording the life found on, in, and around barrier islands. Molluscs, birds, worms, and many more make these shifting, sandy systems come alive.

Fee: \$9
Ages: 9 and up
[9494](#)

Intro to Coastal Kayaking: Strokes and Rescues
Folly River Boat Landing
Sun., May 23, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

This course offers a progression of skill and knowledge development for paddling at the coast. We will begin in the calmer waters of Folly River and work towards introducing ourselves into moderate ocean environment. The course is designed to introduce basic coastal kayaking skills and safety to beginners. Participants will be introduced to: Proper fit and adjustment of their kayak for effective control and comfort Attaching and releasing the spray skirt Safely entering and exiting kayak, including wet exit Effective use and control of the paddle Performing basic strokes efficiently Performing T-rescue and paddle float self-rescue The importance and influence of weather and tides on the coastal kayaker Dealing with marine hazards and other safety issues Understanding personal limitations and skill level

Fee: \$85

Ages: 16 and up
[9524](#)

Essentials of Stand-Up Paddleboard for Boomers 50+
James Island County Park
Thu., May 27, 9 – 11 a.m.

Designed for those not looking to slow down, this program is for those 50 and over. Explore and learn new activities through Stand-Up Paddleboard (SUP) on the James Island County Park lake to keep you young at heart. We will cover the essentials of SUP including basic rescues to increase your sense of independence and meet others with similar interests. For more information about our Paddlesports programs, click here: <https://www.ccprc.com/107/Paddlesports>

Fee: \$30
Ages: 50 and up
[9530](#)

Fondness for Fungi
Caw Caw Interpretive Center
Fri., May 28, 3 – 5 p.m.

Please join us for an introduction to the fascinating world of fungi. We will cover the roles these valuable and important organisms play, identification tips, how to make a spore print, and how to share your observations with others.

Fee: \$9
Ages: 9 and up
[9491](#)

Tell Me Your Names: Poetry Workshop with Terri Davis
McLeod Plantation Historic Site
Sun., May 30, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

This generative workshop explores family and ancestry through poetry. Using close readings of Etheridge Knight, Rita Dove, Lucille Clifton, and more, we consider how poems can examine, celebrate, and/or reconsider history. Discussions may center around how persona and voice inform written work.

Fee: Free
Ages: 15 and up
[9544](#)

Adult Sports

Johns Island Adult Basketball League (6 weeks)
St John's High School

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Apr. 13 - May 20, 6 - 9 p.m.

Are you a basketball player, 21 and older, looking for some serious competition? It's time to lace up those basketball shoes and jump in on the opportunity to compete. Modifications may be needed to ensure the safety of our participants.

Fee: \$30
Ages: 21 and up
[9101](#)

Youth Sports

Baptist Hill Beginners Tennis (6 weeks)
Schroder Community Center

Mondays, Apr. 12 - May 17, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Little or no tennis experience? Our beginner class will offer players a great place to brush up on the basics. Participants will improve hand-eye coordination and agility, perform racquet-handling skills, and become familiar with the tennis court. Instructors will work on building the foundation and cultivating a love of the game through basic strokes and fun games associated with tennis. Modifications may be needed to ensure the safety of our participants.

Fee: \$15
Ages: 10 to 14
[9098](#)