



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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For Immediate Release

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National Kids to Parks Day is May 16

Join the uncountable thousands of people who will be heading out to parks across the nation on May 16, 2015. That's National Kids to Parks Day (K2PD), and the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) will be a part of it. There's a weekend full of family events, and you might have a chance to win a Nikon COOLPIX L830 camera from the National Park Trust.

Park agencies across the nation are partnering with the National Park Trust for K2PD, an effort to bring kids outdoors to play. The plan is simple. Register on the K2PD website at <http://parktrust.org/youthprograms/national-kids-to-parks-day>, and then head out to a park on Saturday, May 16. You'll find local programs on the K2PD website and on the Park Authority's events calendar at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks. In fact, you'll find a weekend full of kid-friendly events on May 15, 16 and 17. Consider these great activities:

On Friday, May 15, elementary-age children will explore ladybugs as Jr. Naturalists at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park (ECLP) in Chantilly. Hidden Pond Nature Center in Springfield teaches Survival Skills for youngsters in the woods. That evening, Huntley Meadows Park in Alexandria will host a Family Nature Night, a naturalist will lead a fishing trip along Rocky Run at ECLP, and Hidden Pond will welcome you to Campfire Friday and a chance to hear evening animal sounds. There's also an evening tour of Historic Huntley, which lets you see the hilltop historic site in a new light.

On Saturday, May 16, Hidden Oaks Nature Center in Annandale hosts an evening of animal calls with a Sounds of the Night Campfire, and there will be a naturalist-led walk to the pond at Eakin Community Park in Fairfax to identify frog sounds. And, of course, the parks will all be open for activities like exploration along the Potomac River at Riverbend Park in Great Falls, blooming flowers at Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria, farm animal visits at Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon, historic tours of Colvin Run Mill in Great Falls and Sully Historic Site in Chantilly, fishing and hiking at Burke Lake, Lake Fairfax or Lake Accotink. And there are 165 county parks with playgrounds.

On Sunday, May 17, ECLP hosts its Reptile and Amphibian Club and Bird Watching Club gatherings. There's a chance to double up at Frying Pan Farm Park. Take part in the Life's a Garden—Dig It program, and then visit the farm animals.

Information about all of the Fairfax County Park Authority programs is on the park website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354.