



We Are Columbia

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Offers Ranger-Led Programs in December

Enhance your understanding of the local nature scene by joining the City of Columbia's park rangers during a variety of programs in December.

The City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department is hosting free ranger-guided activities where guests will learn about the birds that can be found at Riverfront Park; celebrate the Winter Solstice; hear the history of the Columbia Canal and more.

Schedule

- **Holiday for the Birds | Saturday, December 10 at 2 p.m.**

Join the rangers at Riverfront Park to talk about the birds you might see at the park and in your backyard this season. Participants will have the opportunity to make pine cone and seed ornaments to take home and hang outside their windows.

Participants should meet beside the Visitors Center at Riverfront Park, 312 Laurel Street.

- **December Mingle | Tuesday, December 13 from 6-7 p.m.**

Mingle with our park rangers in the brick amphitheater beside the historic Pump and Turbine Houses. This informal program gives you a chance to meet our staff and will help us plan for programs in the year to come.

Participants should meet in the Brick Amphitheater beside the pedestrian bridge at Riverfront Park, 312 Laurel Street.

- **South East Park Wildlife Walk | Wednesday, December 14 from 2- 3:30 p.m.**

Join us for a Ranger-led wildlife walk at South East Park. This 62-acre wooded park features a pond, hiking trails and abundant wildlife, including our resident red foxes, deer and the aquatic animals that thrive in the pond.

Participants should meet in the parking lot at South East Park, 951 Hazelwood Road.

- **Winter Solstice Celebration | Wednesday, December 21 from 5-7 p.m.**

Join us to toast marshmallows and tell stories on the beautiful Broad River overlook at the north end of Riverfront Park. The golden hour on the river is simply spectacular, and if skies are clear we can admire the night sky.

Participants should meet at the Diversion Dam at the north end of Riverfront Park, 4122 River Drive.

- **Columbia Canal History Tour | Saturday, December 31 from 2 – 3 p.m.**

Join us for a Ranger-guided tour along the historic Columbia Canal and learn how it has been a part of Columbia's growth and innovation for almost 200 years. We'll discuss the original canal, Columbia's Waterworks, the earliest hydropower plants, and the SC State Penitentiary formerly the Columbia Correctional Institution.

Participants should meet at the Riverfront Park's south parking lot, 312 Laurel Street.

Guests are encouraged to bring binoculars and field guides as well as any essentials like water, sunscreen, bug repellent, hats and sturdy walking footwear.

For more information, please call the Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

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