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FALL HIKING SPREE CONTINUES THROUGH NOVEMBER

Many colorful leaves have already fallen, but there's still time to complete the Fall Hiking Spree. The 52nd annual event continues through November 30.

A first-year hiker who completes at least eight designated Summit Metro Parks trails will earn a hiking staff and shield. A veteran hiker will earn a hiking shield. Rewards are free to Summit County residents. Out-of-county residents pay to receive their awards (\$10 for first-year hikers, \$5 for veteran hikers).

Spree trails vary from easy to strenuous. The shortest trail is 1 mile, and the longest is 2.4 miles.

Hiking forms, with park addresses, trail ratings and distances, are available online at hikingspree.summitmetroparks.org and at the visitors center at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm (1828 Smith Rd., Akron), the nature center at Liberty Park (9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg), the park district's administrative offices (975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron) and all Acme Fresh Market stores.

An estimated 50,000 people participate in the spree every year, and between 11,000 and 12,000 hikers earn rewards. Last year's spree saw 11,452 participants earn rewards, including 1,995 first-year hikers. Thirteen individuals have completed every Fall Hiking Spree since 1964.

For more information, please call 330-865-8065.

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Summit Metro Parks manages 14,100 acres, including 16 parks, several conservation areas and more than 125 miles of trails, with 22.4 miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Annual attendance averages 5.2 million visitors.

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