

Nathan Eppink  
Chief of Marketing & Communications  
330-865-8040 x215  
neppink@summitmetroparks.org

Lindsay Smith  
Marketing Coordinator  
330-865-8040 x207  
lsmith@summitmetroparks.org

### **FALL HIKING SPREE BEGINS SEPTEMBER 1, INCLUDES NEW TRAIL**

Summit Metro Parks' annual Fall Hiking Spree, the largest and longest-running event of its kind in the nation, kicks off later this month with a one-day sneak preview event and then takes place September 1 to November 30.

Hikers may get an early start to the spree Sunday, August 30, from noon to 3 p.m., in Liberty Park, 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg. The park's 1.1-mile Ledges Trail may be completed for spree credit. A naturalist and mascots will be on hand during the kickoff event, and Fall Hiking Spree T-shirts will be for sale.

Starting two days later, 13 other trails may be hiked for spree credit. A first-year hiker who completes at least eight designated trails through November 30 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).

Other spree trails include a section of the Bike & Hike Trail in Stow; a section of the Towpath Trail in Akron; Schumacher Trail in Cascade Valley in Akron; Quarry Trail in Deep Lock Quarry Metro Park in Peninsula; Old Mill Trail in Furnace Run Metro Park in Richfield; Glens Trail in Gorge Metro Park in Cuyahoga Falls; Spring Hollow Trail in Hampton Hills Metro Park in Akron and Cuyahoga Falls; the Meadow Trail in Munroe Falls Metro Park in Munroe Falls and Tallmadge; Seneca Trail at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm in Akron; Deer Run Trail in O'Neil Woods Metro Park in Bath; the Parours Trail in Sand Run Metro Park in Akron; Chippewa Trail in Silver Creek Metro Park in Norton; and the new Downy Loop Trail in Wood Hollow Metro Park in Hudson.

Wood Hollow Metro Park opened in May. This is the first time the Downy Loop has appeared on the Fall Hiking Spree.

Spree trails vary from easy to strenuous. The shortest trail (Old Mill) is 1 mile. The longest (a section of the Bike & Hike) is 2.4 miles.

Hiking forms, with park addresses, trail ratings and distances, are available online at [hikingspree.summitmetroparks.org](http://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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