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SPREE HIKERS GET ASSISTANCE IN NOVEMBER

If you've hiked eight trails to earn this year's Fall Hiking Spree shield, attaching it to your hiking staff may be harder than completing the hikes.

Several volunteers will gladly attach it for you at no charge on **Sunday, October 25**, from **1 to 3 p.m.**, at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm (1828 Smith Rd., Akron). Additional shield assistance programs are available at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm in November:

- Saturday, November 7, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Saturday, November 14, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Saturday, November 21, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Friday, November 27, 1 – 3 p.m.

The 52nd annual Fall Hiking Spree, the largest and longest-running event of its kind in the nation, began September 1 and continues through November 30. To earn hiking rewards, hikers must complete at least eight designated trails. First-year hikers earn a hiking staff and shield. Veteran hikers earn the hiking shield. Rewards are free to Summit County residents. Out-of-county residents pay to receive their rewards (\$10 for first-year hikers, \$5 for veteran hikers).

On average, about 12,000 hikers complete the spree each year.

Hiking forms are available online at **hikingspree.summitmetroparks.org**, the visitors center at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm, 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.

Call 330-865-8065 for more information.

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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.