



Your Back Yard for 100 Years

NEWS RELEASE

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SUMMIT METRO PARKS KICKS-OFF 59th ANNUAL FALL HIKING SPREE

Get a head start on the 59th Annual Fall Hiking Spree by joining Summit Metro Parks at the Valley View Area of Cascade Valley Metro Park (1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron) on Sunday, August 28 from 12 to 3 p.m. for the Fall Hiking Spree Kick-Off. Join naturalists for a hike along Celebration Trail, good for spree credit. Hiking forms will be available and Fall Hiking Spree t-shirts will be for sale. To receive your hiking shield, all other hikes must be completed September 1 through November 30, 2022.

The full list of 2022 spree trails and hiking forms are available at summitmetroparks.org. What began in the mid-1960s as a way to encourage people to visit a variety of trails has continued to be a family-friendly tradition through the years. A first-time participant who completes eight hikes through November 30 will earn a hiking staff and metal shield. A veteran spree hiker will earn a shield. Hikes can be completed on a person's own schedule and at their own pace. Guided hikes are listed on the [website](#).

This year, enjoy both the [Fall Hiking Spree](#) and [Centennial Tour](#) at the same time! Many Fall Hiking Spree trails are stops on the self-guided Centennial Tour, which has been extended through the end of 2022 and features a leather hiking staff tag for those who complete it. Earn double rewards in the parks that have been "Your Back Yard for 100 Years."

Every year, an estimated 50,000 people participate in the spree, with an average of about 15,000 finishers. Fall Hiking Spree rewards are free to Summit County residents. Out-of-county residents pay to receive rewards (\$10 for first-year hikers, \$5 for veteran hikers). Hiking forms are available [online](#), in the September/October issue of Green Islands

magazine and by visiting F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm (1828 Smith Rd., Akron), Liberty Park Nature Center (9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg) or Summit Lake Nature Center (411 Ira Ave., Akron). Forms have also been placed in a dropbox outside the park district's administrative offices (975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron), at kiosks countywide and in all Acme Fresh Market locations.

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Established in 1921, Summit Metro Parks celebrated its centennial anniversary in 2021. The park district manages more than 15,000 acres throughout 16 parks, three nature centers and over 150 miles of trails, including 22 miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Annual attendance is approximately 5.5 million visits. Find us online at summitmetroparks.org.



#SMP100 #summitmetroparks