December 2026 Events and Programs in Your Charleston County Parks!
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For more information or to Register: 843-795-4386 / www.CharlestonCountyParks.com

December 2026 Festivals & Events

The Holiday Festival of Lights
Open nightly through Dec. 31, 5:30 – 10 p.m.
James Island County Park
It's the most wonderful time of the year at the Holiday Festival of Lights! Open nightly through Dec. 31, this driving tour features three miles of magical twinkling lights. Guests can also park the car and explore the grounds, featuring mouth-watering treats, festival gift shops, visits with Santa and much more. Advance tickets are available at a discounted rate. For details on this year's festival or to purchase tickets, visit HolidayFestivalofLights.com.
Fees: vary by date; **discounts available for advance ticket purchases**
www.HolidayFestivalofLights.com

Holiday Hoedown
Wed., Dec. 2, 6 – 8 p.m.
Park Circle Community Building- 4800 Park Circle, North Charleston, SC 29405
People with disabilities and their families and friends are invited to our annual Holiday Hoedown! Come dressed in your favorite Western gear to welcome the holiday, country style. Refreshments will be provided. Chaperones are required to register but are free with a participant registration. Advance purchase is recommended. Admission will be sold for $5 on-site if still available. Call (843) 795-4386 to register.
Fee: $4
Ages: 4 and up
https://www.ccprc.com/event/holiday-hoedown/602/

Inclusive Santa
Sun, Dec. 6. Timeslots available between 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
James Island County Park
People with disabilities and their families are invited to a photo session with Santa at James Island County Park, during dedicated hours in a calming, subdued environment. Santa will be fluent in ASL (American Sign Language). While you're chatting with jolly old St. Nick, our professional photographer will take photos of your group of up to 5 people with Santa. If your group has more than 5 people, please book multiple spots. You'll receive the full digital package with all images of your visit. No personal photography will be allowed. A maximum of 6 families will be able to register for each 30-minute time slot, and each visit with Santa will be on a first-come, first-served basis during that time slot. Santa's Attic Gift Shop, the Incredible Gift Shop, and Santa's Sweet Shoppe will be open during the event hours. Registered participants will receive a complimentary pass to come back and enjoy the Holiday Festival of Lights at night (1 pass per registered group). We are also excited to partner with KultureCity® for this event. To better accommodate guests with sensory difficulties, sensory bags equipped with noise canceling headphones, fidget tools, and verbal cue cards will be available for guest use. A dedicated space will also be available for guests who may feel overwhelmed by the environment.
Fee: $40
Ages: Any
https://www.ccprc.com/holiday-festival-of-lights/visit-with-santa/

Lincoln Recreation Center Silent Dance Party
Fri.., Dec. 11, 5 – 7 p.m.
Basketball Gymnasium at Lincoln Recreation Center
Children ages 8 and up are invited to a Silent Dance Party at Lincoln Recreation Center! This will be a unique party experience where all guests wear wireless glowing headphones. There will be two live DJs playing a variety of tunes, and attendees will have the ability to switch between two genres of music.
Fee: $4
Ages: 8 and up
17699

Inclusive Santa
Sun, Dec. 13. Timeslots available between 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
James Island County Park
People with disabilities and their families are invited to a photo session with Santa at James Island County Park, during dedicated hours in a calming, subdued environment. Santa will be fluent in ASL (American Sign Language). While you're chatting with jolly old St. Nick, our professional photographer will take photos of your group of up to 5 people with Santa. If your group has more than 5 people, please book multiple spots. You'll receive the full digital package with all images of your visit. No personal photography will be allowed. A maximum of 6 families will be able to register for each 30-minute time slot, and each visit with Santa will be on a first-come, first-served basis during that time slot. Santa's Attic Gift Shop, the Incredible Gift Shop, and Santa's Sweet Shoppe will be open during the event hours. Registered participants will receive a complimentary pass to come back and enjoy the Holiday Festival of Lights at night (1 pass per registered group). We are also excited to partner with KultureCity® for this event. To better accommodate guests with sensory difficulties, sensory bags equipped with noise canceling headphones, fidget tools, and verbal cue cards will be available for guest use. A dedicated space will also be available for guests who may feel overwhelmed by the environment.
Fee: $40
Ages: Any
https://www.ccprc.com/holiday-festival-of-lights/visit-with-santa/

Ongoing December 2026 Programs (multiple dates)

Early Morning Bird Walks at Caw Caw
Ongoing, Wednesdays and Saturdays, Dec. 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Caw Caw Interpretive Center
Advance registration is required. Join us on one or more of our regular bird walks. Our trek through many distinct habitats will allow us to view and discuss a variety of birds, butterflies, and other organisms. Accessible parking, accessible restrooms, accessible water fountains, and accessible picnic tables are available at this location. Trails are unpaved and benches are available along the trail route.
Fee: $12
Ages: Any
Bird Walks

Dragon Boat at the Holiday Festival of Lights
Ongoing, offered on select weekdays, Dec. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 4:30 – 6 p.m.
James Island County Park boat house
Expected to sell out – register in advance! Enjoy the Holiday Festival of Lights from a new perspective. Team up with a pal or forge new Friendships when you try your hand at dragon boating! Newbies and curiosity seekers will enjoy an on-the-water introduction to this ancient paddlesport while also getting a great view of some of our most iconic light displays. With ten paddlers per boat, fun is guaranteed! After you paddle off into the sunset (well, just across the lake), we'll treat you to a tasty hot chocolate and free admission to the Holiday Festival of Lights! What to expect: Parking is accessible. Restrooms are accessible at Park Center. Route from parking to Boat House is paved to wooden ramp onto floating dock. Participants will be required to kneel, bend, and stoop to enter Dragon Boat. Participants will be seated on narrow wooden benches and are asked to paddle at a slow to moderate pace with periods of rest.
Fee: $30
Ages: 10 and up
Register:
https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/charlestoncountyparks/activity/search?activity_select_param=2&activity_keyword=dragon%20boat&viewMode=list

December 2026 Programs

Senior Series: Rock Climbing
Tue., Dec. 1, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Palmetto Peaks Climbing at Outdoor Adventure Center at James Island
This program empowers adults 50+ to continue to explore, discover, and grow. Discover the exciting sport of rock climbing in a fun, supportive environment! We'll introduce the basics of climbing, including equipment, safety, body positioning, and movement techniques. Participants will have the opportunity to climb our walls with the support of our trained staff while building confidence, strength, balance, and problem-solving skills. No prior climbing experience is necessary.
Fee: $20
Ages: 50 and up
17895

Shark Tooth Sleuthing
Fri., Dec. 4, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Dunes House at Folly Beach County Park
Winter is a great time to explore the beach. Join an experienced naturalist to search for shark teeth and other beach artifacts. We'll discuss shark adaptations and biology while learning the secrets to searching for shark teeth. What to expect: Accessible parking, accessible restrooms, and accessible water fountains are available near the Dunes House where the program begins and ends. An accessible route to a natural sand beach is present and beach wheelchairs are available for checkout on a first come, first served basis. This program takes place on a sandy beach and requires periods of slow walking, standing, and gazing upwards or downwards to observe wildlife.
Fee: $12
Ages: 9 and up
17752

Homeschool in the Parks: Spacing Out!
Fri., Dec. 4, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
James Island County Park
It's a bird! It's a plane! Nope, it's a rocket ship! Blast off with us as we travel beyond our planet Earth and explore outer space. We will discuss planets, stars, galaxies, and more during this special space study. What to expect: The program will begin and end under an open-air shelter. There are accessible restrooms and an accessible water fountain within a short walk of the shelter area. Accessible picnic tables are available under the shelter. The program will involve walking on both paved and unpaved surfaces.
Fee: $7
Ages: 7-12
17717

Early Birding
Sat., Dec. 5, 7 – 9 a.m.
Old Towne Creek County Park

If the early bird gets the worm, the early birdwatchers get both! We can leave the worms for the avian life and enjoy finding birds at dawn. A birding professional will help you find the birds and understand their strategies for success in the natural world. What to expect: This program is open to birders of all levels, including beginners. Accessible parking, accessible restrooms, accessible water fountains, and accessible picnic tables are available at this location. The program route is a flat, loop and benches are available along the trail route. The trails are a mixture of paved and natural, unpaved surfaces. The program speed is moderately slow and contains periods of standing and gazing upwards.
Fee: $12
Ages: 12 and up
17808

Family Archery
Sat., Dec. 5, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
Basketball Gymnasium at Lincoln Recreation Center
Get your bull's-eye! Bring the family, get a brief orientation, and fling some arrows at our indoor range. Equipment will be provided. Each family member wishing to participate must register.
Fee: $20
Ages: 8 and up
17877

Intro to Archery
Sat., Dec. 5, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Basketball Gymnasium at Lincoln Recreation Center
Enhance your archery skills with basic instruction and practice on our indoor range. Equipment will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. A registered and paid chaperone is required for participants ages 15 and under.
Fee: $30
Ages: 10 and up
17915

Johns Island Art In The Park
Sat., Dec. 5, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Haut Gap Middle School
Ages: At least 4 but less than 13
For ages 4-12. Celebrate the holiday season at our one-day Art in the Park program, where participants will create festive crafts, play fun reindeer-themed games, and enjoy holiday music. Join us for a day filled with creativity, laughter, and tasty treats as we make lasting holiday memories together! Registration required to participate.
Fee: Free
Ages: 4-12
17762

Johns Island Holiday Fun at the Park
Sat., Dec. 5, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Haut Gap Middle School
For ages 4-11. Join us for an exciting day of activities and entertainment for school-aged children. The event will feature a jump castle, a gaming truck, a selection of food trucks, and photo booth. We invite you to come and enjoy a day filled with fun and festive experience. Registration not required to attend.
Fee: Free
Ages: 4-11
17945

Mingle With Kringle
Sat., Dec. 5. Available timeslots from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
James Island County Park
Reserve your spot to Mingle with Kringle! While you're chatting with jolly old St. Nick, our professional photographer will take photos of your group of up to 5 people with Santa. If your group has more than 5 people, please book multiple spots. You'll receive the full digital package with all images of your visit. No personal photography will be allowed. A maximum of 6 families will be able to register for each 1-hour time slot, and each visit with Santa will be on a first-come, first-served basis during that time slot. Santa's Attic Gift Shop, the Incredible Gift Shop, and Santa's Sweet Shoppe will be open during the event hours. Registered groups will receive a complimentary pass to come back and enjoy the Holiday Festival of Lights at night - a $45 value!
Fee: $85
Ages: Any
https://www.ccprc.com/holiday-festival-of-lights/visit-with-santa/

Belay Basics
Sun., Dec. 6, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
Adventure Center at James Island County Park
New to belaying? This class will teach you the essential skills to belay safely and confidently on top rope. We'll cover proper setup, communication, catching falls, and gear handling—all broken down step by step. No experience required, just a willingness to learn. By the end, you'll be ready to belay a climbing partner outdoors or indoors. Gear is provided; feel free to bring your own.
Fee: $25
Ages: 14 and up
18144

Lighthouse Inlet Bird Walk
Fri., Dec. 11, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Entrance at Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve
This walk focuses on the incredibly diverse northeast end of Folly Island. Once the home of a Coast Guard station, this Heritage Preserve protects maritime forest, beach, dune, and marsh habitats for wildlife. This site is a leader in number of bird species seen in South Carolina. At this time of year, we hope to see a variety of seabirds such as Northern Gannet, sea ducks such as Black Scoter, and shorebirds such as Piping Plover, plus much more. What to expect: This program is open to birders of all levels, including beginners. No accessible parking available. No restrooms or water fountains available. Park includes paved surface that leads to natural, unimproved surface out to a sandy beach. Program route is out and back and is approximately one mile long total. Program route is flat leading to moderate elevation when crossing sand dunes. No benches available. Program speed is moderately slow and requires periods of gazing upwards.
Fee: $12
Ages: 12 and up
17727

Wee Wild Ones: Little Trackers
Fri., Dec. 11, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Caw Caw Interpretive Center
Calling all little trackers and detectives! We are on the hunt for animal evidence! Come help us explore animal tracks and see how we can tell where animals have been and where they might be going. Young children will channel their inner explorers as they enjoy nature through hands-on activities, games, music, and art. Let's go on a tracking adventure! What to Expect: Accessible restrooms, accessible water fountains, and accessible picnic tables are all available near the classroom where the program begins and ends. The first portion of this program will be held in an air-conditioned classroom. The second portion of this program will take place outdoors on trails that are mostly flat and of a natural unimproved surface. We will be walking about 100-200 feet on the trail for about 10 minutes.
Fee: $10
Ages: 1 ½ to 6
17705

Family Archery
Sat., Dec. 12, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
Basketball Gymnasium at Schroder Recreation Center
Get your bull's-eye! Bring the family, get a brief orientation, and fling some arrows at our indoor range. Equipment will be provided. Each family member wishing to participate must register.
Fee: $20
Ages: 8 and up
17917

Intro to Archery
Sat., Dec. 12, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Basketball Gymnasium at Schroder Recreation Center
Enhance your archery skills with basic instruction and practice on our indoor range. Equipment will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. A registered and paid chaperone is required for participants ages 15 and under.
Fee: $30
Ages: 10 and up
17916

Mingle With Kringle
Sat., Dec. 12. Available timeslots from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
James Island County Park
Reserve your spot to Mingle with Kringle! While you're chatting with jolly old St. Nick, our professional photographer will take photos of your group of up to 5 people with Santa. If your group has more than 5 people, please book multiple spots. You'll receive the full digital package with all images of your visit. No personal photography will be allowed. A maximum of 6 families will be able to register for each 1-hour time slot, and each visit with Santa will be on a first-come, first-served basis during that time slot. Santa's Attic Gift Shop, the Incredible Gift Shop, and Santa's Sweet Shoppe will be open during the event hours. Registered groups will receive a complimentary pass to come back and enjoy the Holiday Festival of Lights at night - a $45 value!
Fee: $85
Ages: Any
https://www.ccprc.com/holiday-festival-of-lights/visit-with-santa/

Junior Naturalist: Wetland Discovery
Sat, Dec. 12, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Caw Caw Interpretive Center
Discover a fascinating underwater world as you investigate the wetlands at the Caw Caw Interpretive Center. We will look at how these critical ecosystems serve as natural water filters, flood buffers, and biodiversity hotspots! Bring your curiosity and engage all of your senses while exploring natural habitats at your county parks! Led by Charleston County Park's Education staff, the multi-seasonal Junior Naturalist program series offers a wide variety of fun and educational nature-based activities focused around a central theme. Children who attend 8 classes earn the title of a Certified Junior Naturalist! What to expect: Accessible parking, accessible restrooms, accessible water fountains, and accessible picnic tables are available at the Welcome Center where the program begins and ends. The park includes natural, unpaved trails that are mostly flat. The program route is a loop and benches are available along the trail route. The program speed is moderately slow to medium.
Fee: $10
Ages: 8-12
17709

Baptist Hill Winterfest
Sat., Dec. 19, 2 – 6 p.m.
Schroder Recreation Center
For ages 5-12. Need a night without the kids? Parents can drop off their children for holiday movies, snacks, fun games, music and much more. A great way to kick off the holiday season!
Fee: Free
Ages: 5-12
17769

Explorers Camp at James Island: Winter Break
Mon., Dec. 21 - Wed., Dec. 23, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
James Island County Park
Enjoy winter break at your county parks. Kids will spend their days having a blast doing arts and crafts, playing cooperative games, canoeing, and playing in the dirt...just like you used to do.
Fee: $150
Ages: 6-9
17911

Explorers Camp at James Island: Winter Break
Mon., Dec. 28 - Thu, Dec. 31, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
James Island County Park
Enjoy winter break at your county parks. Kids will spend their days having a blast doing arts and crafts, playing cooperative games, canoeing, and playing in the dirt...just like you used to do.
Fee: $200
Ages: 6-9
17912

Explorers Camp at Palmetto Islands: Winter Break
Mon., Dec. 21 - Wed., Dec. 23, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Palmetto Islands County Park
Enjoy winter break at your county parks. Kids will spend their days having a blast doing arts and crafts, playing cooperative games, canoeing, and playing in the dirt...just like you used to do.
Fee: $150
Ages: 6-9
17913

Explorers Camp at Palmetto Islands: Winter Break
Mon., Dec. 28 – Thu., Dec. 31 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Palmetto Islands County Park
Enjoy winter break at your county parks. Kids will spend their days having a blast doing arts and crafts, playing cooperative games, canoeing, and playing in the dirt...just like you used to do.
Fee: $200
Ages: 6-9
17914