



Hoosier National Forest Highlights



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Interactive Education and Historic Sites Abound

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The Hoosier National Forest provides a variety of conservation education services to forest visitors and surrounding communities. During the summer months interpretive programs are offered on the weekends at the developed recreation areas including Hardin Ridge, Tipsaw and Indian/Celina Lakes Recreation Areas. Programs often include interactive ranger led presentations, hikes, crafts, activities and educational films. Partner organizations such as WildCare Inc. and BatWorld are scheduled to provide wildlife educational programs with live animals. Approximately 45 programs are offered starting Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, however, programs may be scheduled as late as October. Nearly 2,000 campers participate in the interpretive programs annually.



Two historic sites on the national forest are staffed on the weekends in the summer. The historic Brook's Cabin built in the 1890's is located near the Charles C. Deam Wilderness. The cabin is open to the public on several Saturdays and staffed by a forest naturalist or volunteer. The Brook's Cabin originally located in Crawford County, now serves as a welcome center to the wilderness and provides an opportunity to educate visitors on wilderness land ethics and backcountry recreation. The historic

Rickenbaugh House located on Celina Lake in Perry County is open and staffed by a forest naturalist on most weekends throughout the summer. The Rickenbaugh House is listed on the National Register of Historical Places and provides visitors with an opportunity to step back in time and experience what life was like over 130 years ago.

Also during the summer, the Hoosier National Forest provides presentations at two local boy scout camps educating scouts and scout leaders on low impact outdoor recreation techniques also known as Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics. Presentations

assisting with scout forestry merit badges are also provided at one of the camps. Over 500 Scout Leaders and several thousand scouts are reached annually through these presentations.

During the school year the Hoosier National Forest offers conservation education presentations at local schools and universities. A naturalist is available to visit students at school, or classes are welcome to visit the forest through a naturalist-led field trip. Presentations are offered at the preschool through college level with an emphasis at the elementary level; reaching over 3,000 students annually. The forest



reaches out to several surrounding counties in the south central part of the state with an emphasis in Lawrence and Monroe County. Additionally, the Hoosier National Forest hosts and funds an annual all-expense paid field day called Kids Unplugged to 5th graders from four local schools. Kids Unplugged invites students to participate in hands-on outdoor education sessions throughout the day. The Hoosier provides transportation, lunch, and a backpack full of nature study supplies to keep, free of charge. Twelve partners contribute to this program. Several other events take place on the Forest annually including two Kids Fishing Derbies, Adventure's with Nature, Public Lands Day, Take Pride in America, and the Wildflower Foray.

All presentations, programs, and events are free of charge and there is no admission fee to the Brook's Cabin or Rickenbaugh House. Transportation and lunch is not provided for field trips other than the Kids Unplugged program. There is an entrance fee at Hardin Ridge, Tipsaw and Indian/Celina Lakes Recreation Areas. For more information please visit the Hoosier National Forest website and click on Recreation Opportunities, or call 812-275-5987.

For more information on the Hoosier National Forest's conservation education programs contact Stacy Duke at the number above or sduke@fs.fed.us.