LAKE DARDANELLE STATE PARK

Surrounded by the beautiful Ouachita Mountains to the south and the Boston Mountain Range of the Ozarks to the north, Lake Dardanelle offers some of the finest fishing and boating resources in Arkansas. Formed by the Arkansas River, this 34,000-acre man-made lake is two miles west of Russellville in Pope and Yell Counties.

Lake Dardanelle State Park provides picnicking, camping and boat launching at the Russellville and Dardanelle areas.

FACILITIES

Camping • The main park campground, the Russellville Area, has 57 campsites (three barrier-free) and the Dardanelle Area has 18 sites. Both camping areas are open all year. Boat ramps are open all year free of charge.

Campsites include dual-voltage hook-ups, freeze-proof water connections and modern bathhouses plus a table and grill at each site. A sanitary trailer dump station is centrally located at both the Russellville and Dardanelle Areas.

Other Facilities • The park Visitor Center houses over 7,000 gallons of freshwater aquariums displaying species found in the lake, river and tributaries of the area. Other living exhibits include a honeybee hive, live snake displays, river darter tank and aquatic turtle touch table. Visitors may explore the park's environment and culture through interactive touch screen kiosks. A short orientation video is available at the Visitor Center theatre. The Visitor Center classroom offers opportunities for educational programs and may also be rented for a modest fee.

Spend a pleasant afternoon swimming, fishing or have a family picnic by the lake at one of the park's many picnic sites.

The Fishing Tournament Weigh-In Facility provides everything needed to hold a fishing tournament on Lake Dardanelle. Park staff handles release of all tournament fish. Group pavilions and Fishing Tournament Weigh-In Facility may also be reserved for a modest fee. Tournament Facility meeting room may be rented separately.

Marinas are conveniently located in both the Russellville and Dardanelle areas (both privately owned and operated). Shopping, hospitals and restaurants are conveniently located in nearby towns just minutes away.

NOTE: Campers must register at the Visitor Center before occupying a campsite. All Russellville sites are reservable and may be reserved up to one year in advance. Please call to check availability. Group pavilions must be reserved at the Visitor Center before being used (deposit required).

Fishing • Although stringer-busting catches of crappie, bream and catfish are common, the outstanding largemouth bass fishery attracts anglers from all over the country. Take a short drive to the waters below the Dardanelle Dam and try your skills on the 40-pound plus catfish or the 200-pound-and-up alligator gar which lurk here in the depths of the Arkansas River.

Recreation • Fun on Lake Dardanelle comes in many varieties: fishing, waterskiing, swimming in well-marked beach areas, sailing the open waters along the lake's 315 miles of shoreline, or cruising by powerboat. Take a party barge or kayak tour, available at the main park area. For those wishing to explore the lake on their own, kayaks may be rented at the Visitor Center (Russellville Area). Also, available is a barrier-free playground.

For information on Arkansas's other fine state parks, contact: Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism One Capitol Mall, 4A-900 Little Rock, AR 72201 Telephone: (501) 682-1191 www.ArkansasStateParks.com



arkansas.com

NOTICE: To preserve scenic beauty and ecology, fences and warning signs have not been installed in some park locations. Caution and supervision of your children are required while visiting these areas.

North Boat Launch

(Single Lane)



INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

Lake Dardanelle State Park

Telephone: (479) 967-5516 (Russellville)

the State of Arkansas of the goods and services offered

e-mail: lakedardanelle@arkansas.com

100 State Park Drive

Russellville, AR 72802

Interpretive programs are offered to all park visitors. Programs include guided hikes, nature talks, kayaking, lake tours and demonstrations throughout the park and at the Visitor Center. Offseason programs and hikes are available; groups may request special programs to meet specific interests year-round (advance arrangements necessary). Park staff offers curriculum-based educational programs which are outlined in the teacher's handbook (available by calling or stopping by the park). The Meadowbrook Self-Guided Trail (.8 mile) is also available at the Russellville Area for your outdoor pleasure (ask the Visitor Center for a trail guide). The park has been designated an Audubon Bird Area. Several locations in the park are ideal for birding & wildlife watching.

LOCATION



2016 Lake Dardanelle State Park Events

Eagle Tours- Lake Dardanelle State Park is proud to offer Winter Lake cruises from November through February for the best chance of seeing our national symbol - the Bald Eagle. Many other spectacular birds will be in the area for viewing - including white pelicans, ducks, and snow geese. Please dress very warmly as temperatures and winds are more severe on the lake. The tour schedule is available in October. You must call the visitor center to register for the tours.

First Day Hikes.....1

Let's start the New Year off with a healthy lifestyle for the whole family. You can explore nature and engage in physical activity while taking a family friendly excursion through Lake Dardanelle State Park.

FEBRUARY

Eagle Tours

MARCH

Learn about Arkansas's safe boating laws and practices in this two evening class. Anyone born on or after January 1, 1986, and of legal age to operate a motorboat, must have successfully completed an approved Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Boating Education Course and carry proof while operating a motorboat on Arkansas water. You must attend both nights to take the test and complete the course. Registration required, call 479-967-5516 to sign up.

School is out, State Parks are in. The park will offer programs and activities all week as we discover the many signs in nature that signal the coming of spring.

APRIL

We will offer a full day of water resource programming for girl scouts to earn a Wonders of Water patch from Lake Dardanelle State Park. Registration for the workshop will be \$7 and is open for girls all ages. Workshop is limited to 50 participants, pre-registration is required.

Local schools bring their 4th Grade classes out and learn about our natural resources and conservation on Friday. Saturday we will have a bicycle rally for ages 2-13.

Hiking Stick Workshop/National Trails Day......4 Kick off the summer season with an outdoor hiking adventure in Arkansas State Parks! What better way to embark on your next hiking adventure after creating your own hiking stick at Lake Dardanelle State Park. Hiking sticks make hiking more fun. They let your arms get into the act, so you cover ground more easily and help you keep your balance. The workshop begins at the Visitor Center with the selection of the "perfect" stick. Throughout the morning you will be shaving, carving, and decorating with a wide variety of embellishments: beads, wood burners, paint and feathers. We will then hike Lake Dardanelle State Park's Meadowbrook Trail where you will earn your first hiking stick medallion. We will also be celebrating National Trails Day as we venture on the Meadowbrook Trail. The workshop has limited space, so please register by calling 479-967-5516 to sign up.

A summer program series created for daycares, preschools, mommy and me groups, etc. It is a series of 4 programs that will be schedules for specific weeks throughout the summer.

Learn about Arkansas's safe boating laws and practices in this two evening class. Anyone born on or after January 1, 1986, and of legal age to operate a motorboat, must have successfully completed an approved Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Boating Education Course and carry proof while operating a motorboat on Arkansas water. You must attend both nights to take the test and complete the course. Registration is required, call 479-967-5516 to sign up.

Cardboard boxes, cereal boxes, cardboard egg cartons and paper, everyone has at least a few of the above lying around. Lake Dardanelle State Park has creative ways to turn the above, and more, from trash into treasure. Join us in the month of June as we dedicate these Tuesdays to up-cycling common household trash that might be lying around your home. The workshop is open to all ages but some crafts may require adult assistance for children 13 and younger. Workshop registration is \$5 per person for each session. Pre-registration is required for 12 participants

Join us for fun exploring the "Wonders of Nature" as we explore the natural world around us. We will take hikes, kayak, experience wildlife, and much more. The camp is open to kids ages 8-12 and will be held 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Wednesday through Friday. Camp registration is \$65 which includes meals and supplies.

ULY

We will continue our Trash to Treasure Tuesdays in the month of July as we find more common household trash items waiting for a second life. The workshop is open to all ages but some crafts may require adult assistance for children 13 and younger. Workshop registration is \$5 per person for each session. Pre-registration is required for 12 participants.

Lake Dardanelle State Park is providing an opportunity on National River Cleanup Day for people to come together to make a big impact. Volunteers are needed for the 4th Annual Arkansas River Cleanup from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The amount of trash and debris collected and removed on this day will improve the health of wildlife, people and habitat of our local waterways year round.

JUNE

This camp is open to kids ages 8-12 and will be held 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day. Camp registration is \$65 which includes meals and supplies. We will explore nature in and round the lake.

A summer program series created for daycares, preschools, mommy and me groups, etc. It is a series of 4 programs that will be schedules for specific weeks throughout the summer.

This camp will get youths ages 12-15 out in nature to explore our resources. We will learn about our surroundings and discovery the wonders nature holds for us. Registration is \$65 and includes meals and supplies.

AUGUST

Our environment is a wonderful wild world to explore. Join us for fun "Waking your wild side" as we explore nature with a twist. This camp is open to kids ages 8-12 and will be held 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. each day. Camp registration is \$65 which includes meals and supplies. Campers will explore all that Lake Dardanelle has to offer.

SEPTEMBER

Fishing is a great way to spend time with family and friends while enjoying the outdoors. This one day beginner's workshop will be from 9am -1pm and cover basic equipment, rigging, casting, and knot tying. No matter your age, learning to fish is a great way to get in touch with nature. Join us so you too, can enjoy the success of the catch. Equipment for the workshop will be provided. Pre-registration is required with the \$25 registration fee.

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

Eagle Tours

DECEMBER

Eagle Tours

PROGRAMS, TOURS

A DECEMBER OF STREET

Lake Dardanelle State Park September 2016

Tuesdays and Saturdays at 1:30 p.m. - What's for Lunch? -We have 8,000 gallons of aquariums, filled with many of the fish species found in Lake Dardanelle. Join park staff in the visitor center as they feed the fish live food. See for yourself, what's for lunch?

Saturdays at 1:45 p.m. - Critter Crunch - Lake Dardanelle's diverse habitats provide homes for many creatures large and small. Join a park interpreter in the kid's corner of the visitor center as she tells you about some of the smaller creatures. She will also be feeding these creatures; so come discover the small native wonders we have around us.

Lake Cruise -Explore the wonders of Lake Dardanelle and the Arkansas River aboard the state park tour boat. Enjoy abundant wildlife, amazing history, and astounding views of the river valley throughout this 1 hour cruise. There is no fee for the tour, but space is limited. You must register for the tour. Call 479-967-5516 to register for a seat. We will begin boarding 15 minutes before the tour, at the boat dock near the south boat ramp. (Weather permitting)

Kayak Tour – As the Arkansas River journeys through Lake Dardanelle, it continually shapes the land and creates numerous opportunities for people to enjoy from fishing to kayaking. The weather is warming up, and we're going to see what's emerging on the banks of Lake Dardanelle. We'll be paddling our kayaks through some seldom closely seen shoreline of this beautiful 34,000 acre lake. Sign up at the visitor center (479-967-5516) at least one day in advance. The fee is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children 6-12 years old, under 6 not permitted. Please specify when you sign up if you want a tandem (2 person) or solo kayak. We will meet at the front desk of the visitor center.

Friday, September 2nd

10a.m. – Legacy Cruise – Explore the wonders of Lake Dardanelle and the Arkansas River aboard the state park tour boat. Enjoy abundant wildlife, amazing history, and astounding views of the river valley throughout this 1 hour cruise. There is no fee for the tour, but space is limited. You must register for the tour. Call 479-967-5516 to register for a seat. We will begin boarding 15 minutes before the tour, at the boat dock near the south boat ramp. **(Weather permitting)**

7p.m. – Tree Maze – Lake Dardanelle State Park has a diverse ecosystem that supports a wide variety of life. Race through this life-sized tree maze to discover some of the trees found here and what makes them stand out from the others. We will meet in the grassy area across from the visitor center to begin.

Saturday, September 3rd

7-9a.m. – Lakeside Coffee Break – Come enjoy a cup of coffee on the back deck of the visitor center, overlooking beautiful Lake Dardanelle. Park Superintendent, Sarah Keating, will meet you there to share park information and history and answer any questions you might have about the park and the river valley area. The coffee is free and we look forward to meeting you.

9a.m. – All tied up! – By learning basic knot tying skills, you can learn to set up your campsite quickly and efficiently. Meet a park interpreter at the amphitheater to learn how to tie a few basic knots that will come in handy on any outdoor adventure.

11a.m. – Great Migration Challenge – Each year, over 350 bird species travel hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles to find the food they need to survive. Lake Dardanelle State Park makes a perfect place for them to find this food and rest due to its diverse habitats. Can you take on that challenge? Meet a park interpreter in the grassy area across from the visitor center to try your luck!

12p.m. – Transformers – Lake Dardanelle State Park is home to many creatures. Tadpoles and polliwogs transform into insect-eating machines throughout Lake Dardanelle State Park. Join a park interpreter in the grassy area across from the visitor center to explore these transformers and create an origami transformer yourself.

2p.m. – **Native American Games** – This area historically was inhabited by Native Americans that settled here before the removal. Are you curious about how their hunting skills were perfected? Meet a park interpreter in the grassy area across from the visitor center learn some of the games Native Americans developed, played, and perfected. All ages welcome!

4p.m. – Leaving a Legacy – Each of us leave a legacy, and can be a part of carrying on the legacy of Lake Dardanelle State Park and that of the State of Arkansas. Join a park interpreter on the Dardanelle side of the park near the playground to explore the legacies that have been left to you and how you can become a part of the legacy of the park. **7p.m. – Letterboxing** – Letterboxing is an activity that has been around for centuries. All it takes is a journal, stamp, clues, and a compass. We will meet in the grassy area across from the visitor center to start your adventure.

Sunday, September 4th

11a.m. – Legacy Cruise – Explore the wonders of Lake Dardanelle and the Arkansas River aboard the state park tour boat. Enjoy abundant wildlife, amazing history, and astounding views of the river valley throughout this 1 hour cruise. There is no fee for the tour, but space is limited. You must register for the tour. Call 479-967-5516 to register for a seat. We will begin boarding 15 minutes before the tour, at the boat dock near the south boat ramp. **(Weather permitting)**

1p.m. – Who goes there? – There are many creatures that call Lake Dardanelle home. Join a park interpreter in the grassy area across from the visitor center to discover who they are and what clues they leave behind as they move about. After looking through the clues we will head down the trail and see if we discover any new clues and find out, who goes there?

3p.m. – Wearable Water Cycle – As the Arkansas River journeys through Lake Dardanelle it continually shapes the land and creates opportunities for people like you. Discover the many stops a drop of water makes on its journey through the water cycle. The possibilities are endless. Join a park interpreter in the grassy area across from the visitor center and dive into this incredible journey.

4p.m. - **Opening Arkansas Wilderness** - The Steamboat played an important role in Arkansas from the earliest days of Arkansas Territory. Join a park interpreter on the Dardanelle side of the park near the playground to learn how the Steamboat industry opened the Arkansas wilderness to new settlers and commerce.

7:30p.m. – Night Vision – You can explore nature at this park because Lake Dardanelle's diverse habitats sustain many living creatures. Many of those creatures come out only at night. Explore the night life here at Lake Dardanelle. Join a park interpreter at the amphitheater and discover some of the tricks nocturnal inhabitants of the park use to get around at night.

<u>Monday, September 5th – Labor Day</u> 9a.m. – Kayak Tour

10a.m. – Spider Hider – What has eight legs and eats bugs? Discover some of the fascinating things spiders do. How they make their homes, find food, and even which ones are dangerous to us. Join a park interpreter in the grassy area across from the visitor center and learn about these amazing creatures.

1p.m. – In-seine Adventure – The Arkansas River creates many opportunities for enjoyment as it journeys through Lake Dardanelle. What all lives in the Lake besides fish and turtles? Well, here is your chance to find out. We will seine at the kayak beach for macro-invertebrates and see who is living in the lake. Come prepared to get wet and wear water shoes. 2p.m. - Focus on Fish - Why does Lake Dardanelle have such a healthy bass population? The health of this fishery is partially, due to the good conservation practices of the staff at Lake Dardanelle State Park. Join a park interpreter in the grassy area across from the visitor center, she will talk about fish and how we can better care for them by learning about and understanding their habits.

Thursday, September 8th

9a.m. - Lake Cruise

Friday, September 9th

7p.m. - Sunset Hike - You can explore nature at this park because Lake Dardanelle's diverse habitats sustain many living creatures. Join a park interpreter at the amphitheater as we explore the Meadowbrook Trail and watch the sun set on beautiful Lake Dardanelle.

Saturday, September 10th 7:30p.m. - Masters of the Night- Bat populations are in decline due to misinformation and fear. Meet a park interpreter at the amphitheater to discover the bat myths that have given them a bad reputation and learn about which bats you can find here at Lake Dardanelle State Park.

Sunday, September 11th

9a.m. - Kayak Tour

11a.m - Marsh Mystery - As the Arkansas River journeys through Lake Dardanelle, it continually shapes the land and creates opportunities for people like you. We have to be careful when enjoying these opportunities that we don't affect others. Join a park interpreter in the grassy area across from the visitor center and help her solve a marsh mystery. Discover how you can help protect our natural areas.

1:30p.m. - Fish Prints - Lake Dardanelle's fishery is healthy and diverse. We'll be using the fishery as inspiration to make some beautiful creations. Meet a park interpreter in the grassy area across from the visitor center to create some fishy art.

3p.m. - Wildlife Hike - You can explore nature at this park because Lake Dardanelle's diverse habitats sustain many living creatures. Meadowbrook Trail is home to many of these creatures. Join a park interpreter at the amphitheater and discover what animals call this area home. Then head down the trail to see how many creatures you can see or what traces of them we can find.

Monday, September 12th

3p.m. - Lake Cruise

Friday, September 16th

2p.m. - Lake Cruise

5:30p.m. - Grad Bag Adventures - The diverse habitats around Lake Dardanelle create many opportunities for discovery and exploration. Meet a park interpreter at the amphitheater to find out what is in her magic bag! We'll play a little game to let you touch and feel your way around. Hints will be given, but you'll be testing your sense of wildlife!

Saturday, September 17th 10a.m. - Pine Needle Masterpiece - The forests of Lake Dardanelle State Park are filled with many pine trees. These trees played an important role in the development of the state of Arkansas and also support wildlife. They can also be used to create your own artwork. Join a park interpreter at the amphitheater to learn to make a paintbrush from the needles and then create your own masterpiece.

12p.m. - Wetland Safari - Lake Dardanelle's diverse habitat is home to a wide variety of creatures. Join a park interpreter in the visitor center Orientation Room to explore some of the players in this vital ecosystem.

3p.m. - Noticing Nature Scavenger Hunt - There is great diversity in habitat and animals at Lake Dardanelle, making it easy to explore and enjoy nature here. We will see how many of the nature items on our list you can find. There will be some interesting things on her list, so bring your thinking cap, be ready to get creative with your answers, and let's go nature hunting. We will meet in front of the visitor center.

6p.m. - Pioneer Play -Discover what pioneer kids did to pass the time while the exploration and progress of their parents forged the culture you find here today. Meet a park interpreter in the grassy area across from the visitor center for some pioneer play.

Sunday, September 18th

9a.m. - Lake Cruise

10a.m. - Hidden creatures - We humans wear camouflage on a daily basis to blend in while hunting, and sometimes just for style. But, animals have to use camouflage to survive in the wild. Meet a park interpreter in the visitor center Orientation Room to see some pictures of these animals doing what they do best, blending in with nature, and see if you can spot all the hidden creatures in the pictures!

1p.m. - Meadowbrook BINGO - Lake Dardanelle State Park's Meadowbrook Trail is a thriving natural area. Join a park interpreter at the amphitheater for a leisurely stroll down the trail to discover some of the many things that call this area home, while playing a friendly game of Bingo.

2p.m. - History Rocks - Stone tools have been used by civilizations throughout history. The tribes that called this area home were no different. Join a park interpreter at the amphitheater and learn about how history rocks!

Friday, September 23rd

5:30p.m. - Lake Cruise

Saturday, September 24th

3p.m. - Fashion a Fish - Learn about the wide variety of shapes and sizes of fish the live in Lake Dardanelle, due to its health and diversity. After you discover the reasons for their shapes you can create a fish of your own. We will meet in the visitor center Lakeview Room.

6p.m. - The Stories of Lake Dardanelle - Exploration, opportunity, and progress forged the culture you find here today. Meet a park interpreter in the grassy area across from the visitor center to hear some stories of the past that create the wonderful and unique culture in the River Valley. You will see these stories come to life right before your eyes!

Sunday, September 25th 1p.m. – Nature Detective – The diverse habitats around Lake Dardanelle create many opportunities for discovery and exploration. Explore the park by touching, seeing, smelling, and listening to the nature that surrounds you. Join a park interpreter at the amphitheater as a detective investigating the forest of Lake Dardanelle State Park.

3p.m. - Eagle Measure Up - Bald Eagles are incredible not only for their beauty and speed but for their size as well. Join a park interpreter in the grassy area across from the visitor center and discover how you measure up to an eagle.

Monday, September 26th

9a.m. - Lake Cruise

Friday, September 30th

3p.m. - Lake Cruise

7p.m. - Night Hike - You can explore nature at this park because Lake Dardanelle's diverse habitats sustain many living creatures. At night, the park is full of sounds and smells much different than the daytime. Different animals are awake and are ready to be seen or heard. Join a park interpreter at the amphitheater to explore nature at night during a hike on the Meadowbrook Trail.

Borrow a Park Adventure & Creativity Kit – (P.A.C.K.) you get all the tools you need for adventure and creativity neatly packaged in a backpack along with an adventure guide full of ideas on what to do with all the items. Our P.A.C.K.'s can be checked out at the visitor center for a 10 fee. You keep the pack for 24 hours and get to keep many of the items for future adventures.

Remember that all our programs count toward earning your State Park Explorer Certificate. If you would like more information on this program ask one of our Park Interpreters.

