

Montgomery Bell State Park

Program Services

Natural, Cultural and Historic Programs

If you have an organized group such as scouts, church, civic or corporate that would like to have an individual program done for them by one of our park ranger staff, the park offers many different programs for your individual needs. The following is a list of programs for organized groups. Each program has a brief description of the program, the length, how many can participate, the appropriate age and the fee for each program. Call (615) 797-9052



Interpretive Hikes

Jim Bailey Nature Trail Hike

Take an easy half mile hike on the Jim Bailey trail and discover several different ecosystems that make the Western Highland Rim special. Some of the ecosystems include: aquatic creek, north face and cedar glade ecosystems.

1 Hour Free

Church Hollow Historical Hike

Montgomery Bell State Park has a rich historical past that dates back thousands of years. Learn about: the native cultures that inhabited this area, the founding of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the iron industry that included the Laurel Furnace and the creation of the park itself. This is an easy one mile walk through the Church Hollow area.

1 Hour Free

Wildcat & Lake Acorn Park Resource Hike

Take a hike along the Wildcat trail and learn about the plants and animals that call Montgomery Bell State Park home. You will also learn of the early development of the park system and how the C.C.C. and W.P.A. were instrumental in the park we see today. This is an easy one mile hike that starts at the park inn.

1 Hour Free

Wildlife Programs

Birds of Prey

Using live birds, this program informs the park visitor of the different species of raptors that live in Tennessee as well as the status of the health in different populations of the birds across the state. We can accommodate groups of up to 50 people.

1 Hour Free

Reptiles of Tennessee

Live snakes and turtles (depending on the time of year) are used to educate the park visitor of the diversity and importance of reptiles to us humans. We will talk about the biology and folklore of the different species that we find here at Montgomery Bell State Park. We can accommodate groups of up to 50 people.

1 Hour Free

Mammals of Tennessee

Mammals are the most advanced group of animals at Montgomery Bell and the world. With the aids of pelts, skulls and animal mounts you will see how mammals have adapted to take advantage of every ecosystem and became the kings of the animal Kingdom. We can accommodate groups of up to 50 people.

1 Hour Free

Water Programs

Lake Acorn Interpretive Canoe Float

Enjoy the nature and history of Lake Acorn on this casual interpretive canoe float. This program is for beginner to experienced paddlers from ages ten to adult. Maximum of 15 people, minimum 10 people. Canoes, paddles and life vests are included.

1.5 Hours \$5. per person (only two people per canoe)

Kayaking 101

Learn the basics of paddling and steering a kayak, then take a casual float across Lake Acorn to practice your new skills. This program is limited to visitors from ages ten to adult. Maximum of 5 people, minimum 5 people. Kayaks, paddles and life vest are included.

1 Hour \$5. per person

Paddle Boat Races

Let your competitive side show in this fun paddle boat race program. This program is for kids and adults with a maximum of 24 people, minimum of 12 people. This program is only available in the summer season, for Memorial Day to Labor Day. Boats and vests are included.

1 Hour \$5. per person

Interpretive Tours

Golf Cart Tour

Take a ride on the wild side on one of our golf cart tours. See deer, turkey and other wildlife as we cruise around the golf course after hours. Kids and adults are welcome, however there must be a licensed driver operating the golf cart at all times. Maximum of 16 people, minimum of 10 people. This program occurs after golf course hours only.

1 Hour \$5. per person

Historic Park Van Tour

Let us do the driving and tell you the story behind Montgomery Bell State Park. This tour includes: the original site of the Civilian Conservation Corps camp, the works of the W.P.A., the site of the Laurel Furnace, and many other places. This program is for teens and adults and can accommodate maximum of 6 people, minimum of 4 people.

2 Hours \$5. per person

Historic Park Carpool Tour

Same as the van tour except you supply your own vehicle. Maximum of 20 people (5 vehicles max), minimum of 10 people (5 vehicles max).

2 Hours \$2. per person

After Dark

Hall Spring Night Hike

Learn the story of the Hall Wolf on this nocturnal hike to Hall Spring. We will carpool to Hall cemetery then take a short hike to the spring. We will have a campfire for roasting s'mores and telling of tall tails. Maximum of 20 people, minimum 10 people. Bring your flashlight.

1.5 Hours \$5. per person

Church Hollow Owl Prowl

Let's call the owls and maybe they will call back. We will be in search of the most common owl in Tennessee, the Barred Owl. This is a short one mile hike from the campground to the Church Hollow area where the owls make their home. Maximum of 20 people, minimum of 10 people. Bring your flashlight.

1 Hour \$3. per person

Other Activities

History of Montgomery Bell Slide Show

This slide presentation shows the history of Montgomery Bell State Park from prehistoric times until present day. Subjects that are presented are: Native American cultures, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church founding, the iron industry, the C.C.C. and W.P.A. We can accommodate groups of up to 50 people.

1 Hour Free

Horse Mounted Ranger

This program introduces you to Montgomery Bell State Parks horse mounted ranger program. You will learn the many advantages of having a horse, such as: search and rescue, trail maintenance, and law enforcement. Maximum of 20 people, minimum of 10 people.

1 Hour \$3. per person

Nature and Historical Scavenger Hunt

Go in search of: natural objects, historical people and even culturally important places here at Montgomery Bell State Park. The park staff can set up a scavenger hunt for your group, then help you understand what you are searching for. Maximum of 20 people, minimum of 10 people.

1 Hour Free

Programs are subject to availability of park staff and should be requested at least six weeks in advance. Some programs are only offered seasonally. Call the park office at (615) 797-9052 to make an appointment for your program.