

**August 22, 2023**

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## **SUMMIT METRO PARKS KICKS OFF 60th ANNUAL FALL HIKING SPREE**

***Past participants share their stories in celebration of milestone anniversary***

Get a head start on the 60<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Hiking Spree at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm (1828 Smith Rd., Akron) on Sunday, August 27 from 12 to 3 p.m. for the Fall Hiking Spree Kick-Off. Join naturalists for a hike along Seneca 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, 2023.

The full list of 2023 spree trails – four of which were original trails from the first Fall Hiking Spree – and hiking forms are available at [summitmetroparks.org](http://summitmetroparks.org). What began in the mid-1960s to encourage people to visit a variety of trails has continued to be a family-friendly tradition through the years. In commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Hiking Spree, this year's event showcases the personal experiences and memories of individuals and groups who have taken part in this time-honored tradition. Participants can immerse themselves in the event's rich history and enduring charm with special audiovisual narratives featuring past participants sharing spree memories in their own words. Visit the trails to learn more.

A first-time participant who completes eight hikes through November 30 will earn a hiking staff and metal shield. A returning spree hiker will earn a shield. Hikes can be completed on a person's own schedule and at their own pace. 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). Guided hikes are listed on the [website](#).

Every year, an estimated 50,000 people participate in the spree, with an average of about 15,000 finishers. 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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In 2023, Summit Metro Parks is celebrating the benefits of native plants through Wild Back Yards. 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](https://summitmetroparks.org).



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