



News and Events June 9

We're at the height of our outdoor season! Look for the lightning bolt ⚡ to see new events and activities.

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Sign up for the City of Chattanooga's Parks and Recreation Newsletter [here](#).

⚡ Bike to Riverbend Continues through this Weekend!

Beat the traffic and crowds at the Riverbend Festival! Park your car along the [Tennessee Riverpark](#) and Bike to Riverbend. Outdoor Chattanooga will have our free, bicycle valet service set up at the south end of the Walnut St. Bridge each remaining evening of Riverbend, June 9 – 13, 5 p.m. to 12 midnight. Park at the Riverpoint, Amnicola Marsh, River Terminal Rd., or Curtain Pole Rd. parking areas along the Riverpark and enjoy a nice, quiet ride to and from the festival.

⚡ Sunset Kayak Trip June 19

Outdoor Chattanooga and the Tennessee Aquarium will host a [sunset kayak trip](#) on Fri., June 19, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on the Tennessee River through downtown Chattanooga. The two-hour onwater experience will take participants around familiar downtown landmarks and the Maclellan Island Wildlife sanctuary. Cost is \$25/\$20 for Aquarium members. The trip is appropriate for adults and kids ages 14 and older when accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Call (423) 267-3474 to register.

Chickamauga Battlefield Bicycle Ride June 20

Outdoor Chattanooga and [Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park](#) will host a Chickamauga Battlefield historical bicycle tour on Sat., June 20, 9:30 a.m., at the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitors Center. Sponsored by the [Friends of the Park](#) and the [Chattanooga Bicycle Club](#), the leisurely 6 to 8-mile ride will feature park history from National Park Service interpretive rangers. Participants should bring their own bicycles. Helmets are required for all riders aged 16 and under and highly recommended for all riders. Free loaner bicycles will be available, by reservation, for riders 5' tall and over. To reserve a loaner bicycle or learn more, call (706) 866-9241.

Downtown Kayak Trips Thurs. – Sat.

Outdoor Chattanooga is hosting [downtown kayak excursions](#) on the Tennessee River every Thurs. – Sat., at 9:30 a.m., at the Outdoor Chattanooga center, 200 River St., in Coolidge Park. The guided excursions include downtown landmarks like Maclellan Island, the museum bluffs, Ross' Landing and the Passage. Cost is \$35 for adults, \$25 for kids ages 8 – 13. Call or [email Outdoor Chattanooga](#) at (423) 643-6888 to learn more.

Events

Kids Time at Hamilton County Parks June & July

[Hamilton County Parks](#) will host a free, weekly "Kids Time" every Thurs., from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Chester Frost Park, June 11 through July 23, for grade school children ages 5 and up. A new activity each week will include presentations on farming, endangered species, and swap creatures, as well as a nature walk, an ice cream making session. The events are first-come, first-served, except for groups of eight or more, who should make a reservation at (423) 842-6748.

Blue Cross Riverbend Walk/Run June 13

Runners and walkers of all ages will find a category to compete in this Chattanooga Track Club event. The [Blue Cross Riverbend Walk/Run](#) features 10K and 5K races, a 5K walk and a 1-Mile fun run/walk beginning and ending near the bottom of Cameron Hill Circle leading to the new Blue Cross campus. Both the 10K and 5K races will be certified and will be scored electronically. [Register online](#) or [download an application](#).

Chattanooga Rat Race Open Water Swim June 13

The City of Chattanooga Parks and Recreation Department will host the [4th Annual Rat Race](#) open water swim on Sat., June 13, beginning at 7:30 a.m. on the Tennessee River. Course lengths of 1.2 or 4.5-miles are available for competitors. Cost to register is \$45 and registrations must be received by Fri., June 12 at racer check-in. For more information, email Peggy Grall at grall_p@mail.chattanooga.gov or call (423) 697-1385.

Outdoor Day at the Chattanooga Market June 14

Join [SORBA-Chattanooga](#) and Rock/Creek for an outdoor day at the Chattanooga Market Sun., June 14, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Outdoor organizations, clubs, and outfitters will be there with information, gear, and silent auction merchandise. Proceeds from the auction benefit SORBA-Chattanooga and their trail-building activities.

↘ Chattanooga Mountains Stage Race June 19-21

Trail runners will have the chance to test themselves an average of 20 miles per day on Raccoon, Signal, and Lookout Mountains for the [Chattanooga Mountains Stage race](#), happening Fri. - Sun., June 19 - 21. The event, which benefits the Boonies Trail Running Association, is presented by Rock/Creek and Smartwool.

[Online registration](#) is now open.

✂ **Free Litespeed Bicycle Demo Rides June, July, and August**

Litespeed Bicycles and River City Bicycles will bring a fleet of demo bikes to the weekly [Chattanooga Bicycle Club's](#) Red Bank ride on three Tuesday evenings during the summer months. The fleet will be set up in the old Bi-Lo parking lot in Red Bank off of Dayton Blvd. on June 23, July 28, and Aug. 25, from 5 to 8 p.m., weather-permitting. Cyclists should bring helmets, shoes, and pedals, along with a driver's license for collateral.

Adventures

BYO-Boat Kayak Trip at Harrison Bay June 13

The [Tennessee Valley Canoe Club](#) will host a free, Bring Your Own Boat kayak trip at Harrison Bay on Sat., June 13 at 10 a.m. The 3-hour trip will include a stop for a picnic lunch. Interested participants should have their own kayak, paddle, and PFD, and be comfortable paddling at a 2-3 mph pace. Pre-registration is required by 4 p.m. June 12. Contact trip leader Eric Fleming at eric598@bellsouth.net for questions or to register.

CHC Gregory Bald Dayhike June 13

The [Chattanooga Hiking Club](#) will host a strenuous, 10-mile day hike at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on Sat., June 13. Hikers will travel the Gregory Ridge Trail, beginning at Cades Cove and climb approximately 2,150 feet to Gregory Bald to view the Flame Azaleas in bloom. Contact hike leader Wayne Chambers at waynevc@comcast.net to register, get directions, or learn more.

✂ **Chattanooga TOS Field Trip June 13**

The [Chattanooga Chapter](#) of the TN Ornithological Society will lead a birding trip on Sat., June 13, at 7 a.m., on Hinch Mountain. The area is one of the highest locations on the Cumberland Plateau and home to nesting birds who are not common at lower elevations. Contact hike leaders Harold Birch or Danny Gaddy at (423) 842-4623 for more information and directions.

✂ **Soddy Gorge Hike June 13**

The Soddy-Daisy Chapter of the TN Trails Association will host a 5-mile hike through [Soddy Gorge](#) on Sat., June 13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The hike begins at historic remnants of some of Tennessee's first coal mines. The terrain is beginner friendly, with some short uphill climbs. Please pre-register by emailing [Don Deakins](#), the hike coordinator.

✂ **Pot Point Nature Trail Hike June 20**

On Sat, June 20, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Soddy-Daisy Chapter of the TN Trails Association will lead a 4-mile hike on the [Pot Point Nature Trail](#), which runs along the Tennessee River Gorge near Prentice Cooper State Forest. Although the first mile is uphill and rated moderate, the remainder is downhill or level and rated easy. There are numerous wet areas along the river so waterproof boots are

recommended. Email don.deakins@gmail.com to pre-register and get directions to the trail head.

✓ **CHC 20th Anniversary Day Hike June 20**

The [Chattanooga Hiking Club](#) will host a couple of special hikes on Sat., June 20 on Lookout Mtn., in celebration of their 20th anniversary. A 5-mile option will take participants on the Bluff Trail, and a more strenuous 10-mile option will climb from Reflection Riding to Sunset Rock and back. For more information, visit the Chattanooga Hiking Club [events page](#).

News

✓ **National Recreation Trails Program**

Want to get National recognition for your local trail? Apply to have it designated a National Recreation Trail. Go to the [NRT Website](#) for more information. Learn more about the country's newest recreation trails, designated by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, [here](#).

✓ **National Park Service Fee-Free Weekends**

The [National Park Service](#) will waive entrance fees during three weekends this summer: June 20-21 (Father's Day Weekend), July 18-19, and Aug. 15-16. The fee waiver includes: entrance fees, commercial tour fees, and transportation entrance fees. Other fees such as reservation, camping, tours, concession and fees collected by third parties are not included unless stated otherwise.

Classes and Clinics and Camps

✓ **Street Smarts June 13**

League of American Bicyclists instructors will teach vehicular cycling techniques for bicyclists who want to ride the roads for transportation, recreation, and good health. How to fix a flat, emergency maneuvers, and rules of the road will all be covered. The class is suitable for adults and students ages 16 and older. All students must have their own bicycle and helmet. Contact Philip Pugliese at ppugliese@outdoorchattanooga.com or (423) 643-6887 to pre-register or learn more.

✓ **Touring Kayak Clinic June 14**

Outdoor Chattanooga OutVenture and the Tennessee Aquarium will host a beginner [touring kayak clinic](#) on Sun., June 14, from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Participants will learn proper paddling techniques, how to adjust, enter and exit a boat, safety guidelines and what to do if the boat turns over. Students should dress in clothing that may get wet and bring dry ones in case they want to experience a wet exit first-hand. The class is appropriate for adults and kids ages 14 and older when accompanied by an adult. Class limit is 12. Cost is \$25/\$20 for Aquarium members.

Website of the Week

A new [Chattanooga Adventure Guide](#), from the Adventure Collective, offers an

overview for activities, family adventures, and resources in the area.

Last Week's WebSite:

For you "fixie" fanatics, the [Fixed Gear Gallery](#) should satisfy at least your Web craving for one-speed bicycles.

Coming Up . . .

June

- 27/28 [✓BYO-Boat Kayak Camping Trip](#)
- 28 [Touring Kayak Clinic](#)
- 29 [National Parks Night at the Lookouts](#)

July

- 3 [Bike2Work](#)
- 4 [✓Lula Lake Day Hike w/Chattanooga Hiking Club](#)
- 9 [Women on the Water](#)
- 12 [BMW of Chattanooga Waterfront Triathlon](#)
- 18 [Chickamauga Battlefield Bicycle Ride](#)
[TN River Gorge Paddle](#)
[✓Women in the Outdoors](#)
[✓Laurel Falls Day Hike w/ Chattanooga Hiking Club](#)
- 24 [Sunset Kayak Trip](#)

August

- 1 [Nickajack Bat Cave Kayak Trip](#)
- 6 [Full Moon Paddle](#)
- 7 [Bike2Work](#)
- 8 [Greenway 5-Mile Trail Race](#)
[Missionary Ridge Road Race](#)
- 15 [Touring Kayak Clinic](#)
- 19 [Women on the Water](#)
- 22 [Chickamauga Battlefield Bicycle Ride](#)
- 29 [Raccoon Mtn. 5K and 10K](#)

September

- 4 [Bike2Work](#)
- 5 [Raisin' Hope Ride](#)
- 19 [Chickamauga Battlefield Bicycle Ride](#)
[TN River Gorge Overnight Kayak Trip](#)
- 26 [TN River Blueway Canoe and Kayak Race](#)
- 27 [Komen Race for the Cure](#)

October

- 2 [Bike2Work](#)
- 3 [Rock/Creek Stump Jump 50K](#)
[Sequatchie Valley Century](#)

- [Tennessee River Rescue](#)
- 6 [The Adoption Tour](#)
- 10 [Chattanooga Head Race](#)
- [Joe Johnson Run for Mental Health 10K](#)
- 17 [Chickamauga Battlefield Bicycle Ride](#)
- [Signal Mtn. Road Race and Pie Run](#)
- 24/25 [Dam to Dam Paddle](#)
- 29/30 [Southeastern Water Trails Forum](#)

November

- 6 [Upchuck 50K Trail Race](#)
- [Chickamauga Battlefield Marathon, ½ Marathon & Jr. Marathon](#)
- 7/8 [Head of the Hooch Rowing Regatta](#)

December

- 12 [Wauhatchie Trail Run](#)
- 19 [Lookout 100K & 10K Trail Race](#)