

Explore the Outdoors

Near Somerset, PA



- **Blue Knob State Park** – Year round, outdoor adventures including fishing, mountain biking, hiking, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling. Blue Knob boasts beautiful views.
- **Forbes State Forest** – Offers roads and trails open for horseback riding, mountain biking, and snowmobiling.
- **Gallitzin State Forest** – Open to hunting, fishing, biking, horseback riding, and camping.
- **Keystone State Park** – Featuring a sand beach, this park is great for swimming, biking, and camping.
- **Kooser State Park** – The CCC established the lake and day use areas of the park, open today for picnics, fishing, and camping. In the winter, the trails are great for cross-country skiing.
- **Laurel Hill State Park** – Follow the Pumphouse Trail 1.6 miles to the Jones Mill Run Dam, or visit the Hemlock Trail Natural Area. Great fishing at Laurel Hill Lake and Laurel Hill Creek.
- **Laurel Mountain State Park** - Enjoy downhill skiing and snowboarding and beautiful views of the rolling countryside of the Ligonier Valley.
- **Laurel Ridge State Park** – Go overnight backpacking along the 70-mile Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail. The trail accommodates seasoned hikers, as well as, the casual hiker.
- **Laurel Summit State Park** – This small park is primarily a picnic area. Follow the Bog Trail to view unique plant life.
- **Linn Run State Park** - A scenic place for picnicking, hiking and cabin rentals. Grove and Rock Runs join to make Linn Run, an excellent trout stream, and the lovely Adams Falls.
- **Ohiopyle State Park** – Ohiopyle has beautiful vistas, great white water rafting, rock climbing, and biking opportunities.
- **Shawnee State Park** – Popular for biking, hiking, fishing, bird watching, and swimming.
- **Yellow Creek State Park** - Easy walking trails for all ages. Private picnic spots with views of the lake. Stop by the wind turbine to learn about the effectiveness of wind energy.

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Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer

Volunteers - they're the lifeblood of our parks and forests. The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation offers a wide variety of opportunities to put a volunteer's special skills to work. Whether you're a trail-builder, a wildlife expert, an event organizer or one of those special people who always say, "Just put me to work wherever you need me," Pennsylvania's state parks and forests have a role for you.

Foundation Volunteers

Volunteers are welcome to assist with mailings, events, photography, videography, media editing, and more.

Volunteer in State Parks and Forests with Friends Groups

Friends Groups are local groups who volunteer their time, services and support to enhance our state park and forest systems.

What Do Friends Groups Do?

They work in partnership with the park to:

- Raise money for park playgrounds, equipment, and material
- Organize annual park cleanups and regular trail work days
- Plan and execute special events including craft shows, concerts and festivals
- Construct park and forest amenities like trails, visitor centers and gift shops
- Serve as campground hosts, visitor center hosts, and docents
- Create awareness about the value of their state park or forest

Western Pennsylvania Friends Groups

- Friends of Blue Knob State Park
- Friends of Laurel Hill State Park
- Friends of Linn Run State Park
- Friends of Ohiopyle State Park
- Friends of Shawnee State Park
- Friends of Yellow Creek State Park
- Laurel Mountain Volunteers

Conservation Volunteers

Volunteer opportunities in state parks and forests are also available through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Learn more at PAParksAndForests.org and <https://www.volunteers.dcnr.state.pa.us>