

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS IN JULY CAMPOUT



Van Buren State Park

**MORE
ELECTRIC
SITES NOW
AVAILABLE!**

Friday and Saturday

July 20 and 21

Friday Evening Moonlight Movie (starting at 9pm)

“How the Grinch Stole Christmas”

Saturday:

Campsite Decorating Contest!

10am-12pm Christmas Crafts at the amphitheater

1pm-4pm Reindeer Games

4:30 First Annual Rollicking Reindeer Race

5:30pm Dutch Oven Dessert Judging

6:00pm Camper Potluck

7:00pm Do you know your Species Feces?

8:00pm Hayride Sleigh Rides

8:00pm Campsite Decorating Judging

9:00pm Marshmallow Roast and Guitar Singalong

Van Buren State Park Christmas in July Campout

Friday and Saturday, July 20 and 21

Friday Evening Moonlight Movie 9:00pm

“How the Grinch Stole Christmas”

Enjoy a moonlight movie under the stars at the family campground’s amphitheater. Popcorn and refreshments available for a donation to the Friends of Van Buren State Park. Bring a lawn chair and a blanket. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday:

Campsite Decorating Contest!

All creative campers are invited to take part in the park’s first annual campsite decorating contest. Make your campsite fun with Christmas flair. Judging will take place on 8:00pm Saturday. First place is a certificate for a free night of camping at Ohio State Parks.

10am-12pm Christmas Crafts

Meet at the amphitheater to make Christmas crafts inspired by mother nature. All ages welcome! Participants will also work on making their stick reindeer for the annual rollicking reindeer race.

1-4pm Reindeer Games

Meet at the amphitheater for fun games like cornhole, ladderjacks, and more!

4:30pm First Annual Rollicking Reindeer Race

Bring your carefully crafted stick reindeer to the amphitheater to register for the first annual rollicking reindeer race. The race track will be the family camp circle. Onlookers welcome! (Craft supplies for making stick reindeer will be available at the amphitheater Friday night by 7:00pm.)

5:30pm Dutch Oven Dessert Judging

Are you famous for your dutch oven desserts? Whether you’re a seasoned veteran or just want to try a new fruitcake recipe on someone other than your relatives, enter your dessert in the dutch oven dessert contest! Bring your entry and your ingredients list to the amphitheater at 5:30 to be tested by state park staff and volunteer judges. Desserts will be judged according to presentation, aroma, and taste. First place is a night of free camping certificate at Ohio State Parks. Be advised that campers will eat all entries at the potluck.

6:00pm Camper Potluck Dinner

Bring a dish to share to the amphitheater.

7:00pm Do you Know Your Species Feces?

Join Naturalist Natalie at the amphitheater to learn about some of the “presents” left behind by Ohio’s wildlife. Head out on a short hike afterward to look for animal tracks and scat.

8:00pm Hayride Sleigh Rides

Enjoy tractor hayrides through the campground circles. Pick up your ride at the amphitheater.

8:00pm Campsite Decorating Judging

Have your Christmas lights on and your festive campsite ready to go as judges make their final selections for best decorated site.

9:00pm Marshmallow Roast and Guitar Sing-a-long

Meet at the fire ring in the center of the horse camp. Sing along to the sound of the guitar, and bring marshmallows to roast if you have them. Winner of the campsite decorating contest will be announced.

Questions? Contact Naturalist Natalie Miller at

Natalie.Miller@dnr.state.oh.us or the park office at 419-832-7662