KINGS GAP ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Kings Gap is committed to providing a diverse array of environmental education and interpretive programs. Programming is offered year-round to groups, civic groups, and the community. Educational programs are standards-based, grade-specific, and geared towards learning through discovery and a hands-on approach. Kings Gap also strives to teach outdoor skills in a healthy, plausible environment.

A schedule of community programs is available online and at the center. Special programs may be arranged by calling the center at 717-486-5178. Check the Calendar of Events at www.visitPAparks.com for a list of upcoming events.

These workshops are designed to provide information and ideas that can easily be integrated into the classroom.

ORGANIZED GROUNDED TEXTING: This workshop is designed for students and adults who do not have a cell phone. Students may potentially receive phone numbers from a texter to pursue a long-distance relationship. This activity is open to students in grades 8-12. Students choose a text message and begin texting to pursue a relationship. They are able to text messages to 500-500 at 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Monday to Wednesday. Additional information on how to sign up for this office at 717-496-5101, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday.

IN AN EMERGENCY

If you or a contact person are ill or injured, are in immediate danger of violence, or are experiencing a personal crisis, call 911 or a local emergency service.

WILDLIFE WATCHING

In the early 1970s from 700 to 1,400 feet above sea level, the Kings Gap Environmental Center became one of two state parks in Pennsylvania to participate in the state-wide program of Caretaker Education Centers. These centers provide an opportunity for volunteers to become knowledgeable about the natural history and educational resources of the area. The program is open to all volunteers, regardless of age, who are interested in learning about the natural history of the area and helping to provide educational programs for the public. The program is administered by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and is supported by the state and federal governments.

PEAK TO PRE-GRAD AL: These programs combine sensory discoveries, discovery, learning and storytelling to help students learn and experience their environment.

GRADS 7-8: Activities are offered to help students learn and experience their environment for the first time. The program is designed to help students develop a sense of place and a connection to the natural world.

GRADS 9-12: Activities are designed to help students learn and experience their environment in a more in-depth and rewarding manner. The program is designed to help students develop a deeper understanding of the natural world and to help them develop critical thinking skills.

These programs provide an opportunity for students to explore the natural world and to develop a deeper understanding of the natural world and to help them develop critical thinking skills.

Spotted salamander

The small pine trees of the front of the mountain range planted in 1915. It is home to some of the world’s pine salamanders. The leaf litter and soil on the ground provide a home for the salamanders. The salamanders are nocturnal and can be seen during the summer months. If food is scarce, they may be seen during the day. The salamanders are sensitive to light and may be disturbed by bright lights. The salamanders are sensitive to light and may be disturbed by bright lights.

Kings Gap is great for habitat of an ecosystem of forest, shrub, and wildlife. The forest provides habitat for a variety of birds, including thrushes, warblers, flycatchers, and vireos. The shrubs provide food and shelter for a variety of mammals, including deer, rabbits, and groundhogs. The wildlife includes white-tailed deer, bobcats, and coyotes.

Brewster’s sparrows

The Carolina wren is a small brown bird with a white belly and a black eye. It is a common bird found in the eastern United States. It is a small, plump bird with a short tail and a short beak. It is often found in woods, gardens, and yards. The Carolina wren is a territorial species and will drive away other birds from its territory. It is a hardy bird and can be found in the winter months. It is often found in pairs and will sing to attract a mate. It is a small, plump bird with a short tail and a short beak. It is often found in woods, gardens, and yards. The Carolina wren is a territorial species and will drive away other birds from its territory. It is a hardy bird and can be found in the winter months. It is often found in pairs and will sing to attract a mate. It is a hardy bird and can be found in the winter months.
Hiking: 20 Miles of Trails

Sturdy footwear is recommended due to the rocky footing on many trails. Trails are marked, but a trail map on your hike is strongly recommended. Maps are available at the trailhead parking areas and the center office.

TRAIL DIFFICULTY RATINGS: Ratings are based on technical challenges, not physical exertion.

Easiest: Elevation gain or loss is minimal, less than 5% slope, maximum 10% up to 100 feet

Most Difficult: Elevation gain or loss is severe, less than 18% slope, maximum 30% up to 300 feet

Shortest: Elevation gain or loss is usually severe, less than 15% slopes, maximum 30%–50% up to 500 feet

Tell us about your hike at: www.explorepatrails.com

1. PINE PLANTATION TRAIL: 0.6 miles, easiest hiking
This loop trail on soft pine needles has exhibits to explain management techniques used in this nursery within the 42-acre coniferous plantation.

2. WHISPERING PINES TRAIL: 0.6 miles, paved, easiest hiking
This ADA accessible trail loops through the interior of the pine plantation.

3. ROCK SCREE TRAIL: 1.9 miles, more difficult hiking
This linear trail offers rolling terrain on the way to a pleasant overlook. Benches are strategically placed for hikers to relax and enjoy the surrounding view of a deciduous forest.

4. BUCK RIDGE TRAIL: 6 miles, most difficult hiking
This linear trail SATS Kings Gap to Pine Grove Furnace State Park through Maryland, Stein Forest Nature, a network of rocky outcrops and still logging roads. The trail begins at the mansion and follows Scenic Vista Trail before heading into Maryland State Forest.

5. BLACK GUM TRAIL: 1.1 miles, more difficult hiking
This loop trail with an abundance of black gum trees follows the southeastern contour of the mountainside near the Mansion Area. Kings Gap Hike and Forest Heritage trails provide access to Black Gap Trail.

6. NATURE TRAIL: 0.2 mile, easiest hiking
This loop trail by the education building guides walkers through open forest on a safe and level circuit around the education building.

7. COLD SPRING OVERLOOK TRAIL: 0.4 mile, easiest hiking
This trail leads into Irish Gap Hollow.

8. SCENIC VISTA TRAIL: 0.6 mile, more difficult hiking
This loop trail encompasses the headwaters for Kings Gap Hollow Run, including a rocky portion beside the stream with many small waterfalls and vernal pools.

9. COUNTRY ROAD TRAIL: 1.5 miles, more difficult hiking
This linear trail travels through an oak/pitch pine forest and honeylocust/buckthorn association.

10. KINGS GAP HOLLOW TRAIL: 2.8 miles, more difficult hiking
This linear trail winds through an oak/pitch pine forest and honeylocust/buckthorn association.

11. BOUNDARY TRAIL: 1.1 miles, more difficult hiking
This loop trail is usually severe, less than 18% slope, maximum 30% up to 500 feet.

12. WHITE OAKS TRAIL: 0.3 mile, paved, easiest hiking
This ADA accessible loop trail has exhibits to interpret the ecology of a deciduous white oak forest.

13. LOCUST POINT TRAIL: 1 mile, easiest hiking
This loop trail offers a view of Kings Gap Hollow from the southernmost contour of the mountainside near the Mansion Area. Kings Gap Hollow and Black Gum Trails provide access to Scenic Vista Trail.

14. RIDGE OVERLOOK TRAIL: 0.6 mile, most difficult hiking
This linear trail travels through a hollow with rich soils, plentiful water, and resulting maple forest.

15. BLACK GUM TRAIL: 1.1 miles, more difficult hiking
This loop trail with an abundance of black gum trees follows the southeastern contour of the mountainside near the Mansion Area. Kings Gap Hike and Forest Heritage trails provide access to Black Gap Trail.

16. NATURE TRAIL: 0.2 mile, easiest hiking
This loop trail by the education building guides walkers through open forest on a safe and level circuit around the education building.

17. COLD SPRING OVERLOOK TRAIL: 0.4 mile, easiest hiking
This trail leads into Irish Gap Hollow.

18. IRISH GAP HOLLOW TRAIL: 0.6 mile, more difficult hiking
This loop trail passes several charcoal hearths, quarried nearby and built the interior structure of the mansion.

19. TWO HOLLOWS TRAIL: 1 mile, easiest hiking
This loop trail is usually severe, less than 18% slope, maximum 30% up to 500 feet.

HISTORY

The Nature Conservancy, assisted by the community, purchased the mansion and 1,430 acres of South Mountain in 1973. Kings Gap was dedicated as the third state park in 1976. The Nature Conservancy, assisted by the community, purchased the mansion and 1,430 acres of South Mountain in 1973. Kings Gap was dedicated as the third state park in 1976.

Still remaining from the Cameron mountain estate are the water tower, carriage house, greenhouse building, stone outcropping with moss, barnyard garden, and stone wall with autumn foliage. The mansion, located at 1,300 feet above sea level, was designed by architect Frank Furness for potential clients and as a training site for employees and sales representatives. A conference room and overnight facilities are available.

FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The Nature Conservancy, assisted by the community, purchased the mansion and 1,430 acres of South Mountain in 1973. Kings Gap was dedicated as the third state park in 1976.

In 2011, the Nature Conservancy, assisted by the community, purchased 1,107 acres, designated as “Kings Gap East,” including most of the original Cameron estate.