



United States Department of Agriculture

WILLAMETTE NATIONAL FOREST SWEET HOME RANGER DISTRICT

2019 Nature & Heritage Tours



Forest
Service

Willamette
National Forest

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SWEET HOME RANGER DISTRICT

2019 Nature & Heritage Tours

Come explore the beautiful Sweet Home Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest! Led by professionals, the Sweet Home Nature and Heritage Tours offer incredible opportunities to learn about the plants, animals, geology and cultural history of the Sweet Home area, located on the edges of the Willamette Valley and within the spectacular Cascade Mountains. Sweet Home Nature and Heritage Tours will take you to the out-of-the-way spots with a friendly group to explore, learn and have a wonderful time while coming to appreciate why the Sweet Home area is such a special place. Whether you're a budding naturalist or a long-time explorer of Pacific Northwest, Sweet Home Nature and Heritage Tours will be an experience you will long remember.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Preregistration is required for all tours and they fill up quickly. Unless otherwise noted in the event description, register at www.recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777. Search or ask for Sweet Home Nature and Heritage Tours. Registration begins early May.

Most tour fees are \$10.00 per person and \$5.00 with a Senior or Access Pass. Please be aware there is a \$1.00 service charge per tour, in addition to the fee charged for the hike. Request for refunds must be made at least 2 weeks prior to the date of the tour.

Most hikes/tours meet at the Sweet Home Ranger District Office. Transportation to and from where the hike/tour begins will be provided by USDA Forest Service. A restroom is available at the office, as well as maps and other small souvenirs. Sweet Home is a full service community with restaurants, cafes and gas stations. Transportation to and from the trailhead will be provided by the Forest Service. Most tours are 6 hours and return by 3:00 p.m. Longer 6 to 7 mile tours return by 5:30 p.m.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

Hikes leave promptly from the ranger station at the designated start time. Come prepared with enough water, food and supplies necessary to be out all day. Please consider bringing the following items for an enjoyable experience:

- water bottle with extra water
- lunch and nutrient dense snacks
- hiking boots, day pack, hiking stick
- extra socks
- hat
- waterproof jacket
- sunglasses
- sunscreen
- insect repellent
- small first aid kit
- any required medications
- bee or hornet sting kit (if allergic)
- hand wipes
- camera
- binoculars

DIFFICULTY OF EACH HIKE IS BASED ON THE TRAIL RATINGS DESCRIBED BELOW:

Easy: Trail is fairly level, may have short up and down hill sections. Trail surface may be gravel or dirt.

Moderate: Trail can be steep with long up and down hill sections. Trail surface may be uneven gravel or dirt.

Difficult: Trail can be steep and have lots of elevation gain or loss with numerous long hilly sections. Trail surfaces can be uneven and rocky.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

541-367-5168



**May 11
Saturday**

General Outdoor Preparedness

Start Time: 9:00am | Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger Station

Difficulty: Easy

This eight hour hands-on class is a great way to learn how to stay alive in the woods of Western Oregon. Learn how to start a fire with very little. Class is both indoor and outdoor so dress accordingly. Bring your day pack for hiking, lunch, water, paper and pen.

Leader: Lisa Chase, Wilderness First Responder

Email: odder_or@hotmail.com | Cell: 541-401-4063

**May 17
Friday**

Cascadia Cave

Time: 9:00 a.m. | Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger District

Difficulty: Easy | Length: 2 miles

Follow the historic footsteps of the Kalapuya Indians along the lower floodplains of the South Santiam River. Includes traditional uses of plants. The trail may be muddy. This hike leaves promptly from the Ranger District office at 9:00am. Please come prepared for a day in the forest, with lunch, water, appropriate clothes, etc.

Leader: Tony Farque, Archaeologist; tony.farque@usda.gov

**May 31
Friday**

Art in Nature Spring Flowers

Start Time: 8:30am | Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger District

Difficulty: Easy | Length: 2 miles

Join our adventure on this moderate to easy 2 mile hike to where the spring flowers thrive! While the exact location of this hike will depend on how the flower season progresses, you will still need the creative art materials of your choice, a lunch, and a sense of adventure. For some, art is more than drawing and painting. If art to you is taking photos or if you're artistic inspiration comes from observing and meditating in nature, feel free to join us. Be prepared to visit the home of the flowers for several hours to "Art" and experience the place at rest.

Leader: Lisa Chase, Wilderness First Responder

Email: odder_or@hotmail.com | Cell: 541-401-4063

**June 21
Wednesday**

Cascadia Cave

Time: 9:00 a.m. | Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger District

Difficulty: Easy | Length: 2 miles

Follow the historic footsteps of the Kalapuya Indians along the lower floodplains of the South Santiam River. Includes traditional uses of plants. The trail may be muddy. This hike leaves promptly from the Ranger District office at 9:00am. Please come prepared for a day in the forest, with lunch, water, appropriate clothes, etc.

Leader: Tony Farque, Archaeologist; tony.farque@usda.gov



June 28
Friday

Gordon Meadows Hike

Start Time: 9:00am | Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger Station

Difficulty: Moderate | Length: 3 miles

Come see Gordon Meadows in full bloom. Enjoy wildflowers such as camas lilies, elephants head, sundews and much more. Expect wet feet. Please come prepared for a day in the forest, with lunch, water, appropriate clothes, etc.

Leader: Alice Smith and Claire Bennett, Botanists

Email: alice.smith@usda.gov and claire.bennett@usda.gov

July 5
Friday

Iron Mountain & Cone Peak Hike

Start Time: 8:00am | Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger Station

Difficulty: Difficult | Length: 6 miles

Hike through an old growth forest to a spectacular wildflower filled sub alpine meadow with great views of Cascade peaks.

Leader: Alice Smith and Claire Bennett, Forest Service Botanists

Email: alice.smith@usda.gov and claire.bennett@usda.gov

July 12
Friday

Art in Nature - Parish Lake

Start Time: 8:00am | Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger Station

Difficulty: Moderate | Length: 1.5 miles

Parish lake in July is an inspiring place. This ~ 1.5 mile round trip hike is downhill on the way in and up to come out. Bring your creativity, art materials, lunch and a sense of adventure. For some, art is more than drawing and painting. If art to you is taking photos or if you're artistic inspiration comes from observing and meditating in nature, feel free to join us. Be prepared to relax, create, explore, and enjoy this unique area for several hours as we experience Parish Lake.

Leader: Lisa Chase, Wilderness First Responder

Email: odder_or@hotmail.com | Cell: 541-401-4063

July 19
Friday

Three Pyramids

Start Time: 8:00am | Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger Station

Difficulty: Difficult | Length: 4 miles

A steep but beautiful hike. This 2 mile trail ascends 1600 feet in elevation through old growth forest and meadow before switchbacking to the summit of the Middle Pyramid. Lots of wildflowers and a spectacular view!

Leader: Alice Smith and Claire Bennett, Forest Service Botanists

Email: alice.smith@usda.gov and claire.bennett@usda.gov

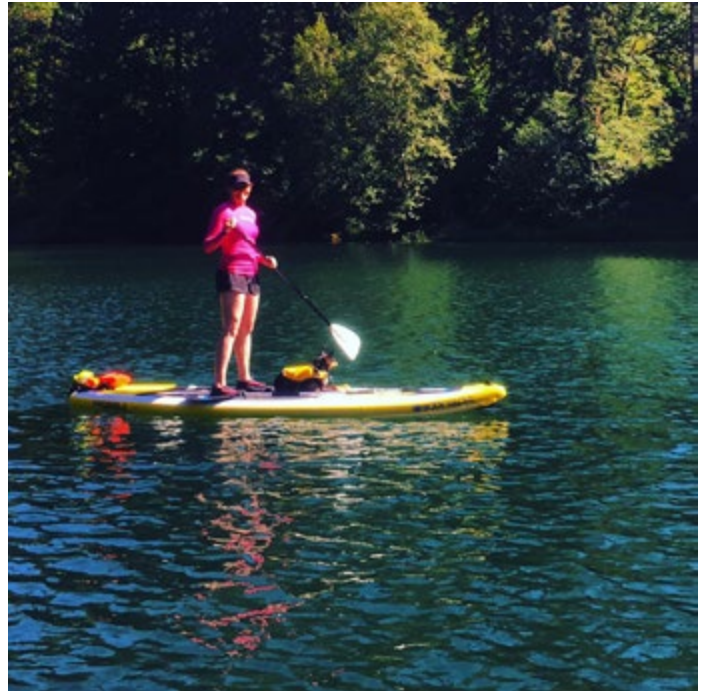
July 19
Friday

Paddle Board or Kayak Daly Lake with the District Ranger
Start Time: 10:00am | Location: Meet at the Daly Lake Parking Area
Difficulty: Depends on Experience | Paddle boards, kayaks, equipment NOT provided Enjoy a day of paddling Daly Lake and

conducting a biological inventory of the lake. Activities will include aquatic insect monitoring, amphibian monitoring, fishing, and riparian inventory. Life jackets are required to be worn at all times. Bring all of the things listed for the general hikes as well as a Northwest Forest Pass (day or annual) for your vehicle, your kayak/paddleboard, paddle, wading shoes, fishing license and fishing gear (if you wish to fish). Kayaks over 10 feet in length are required to have an Aquatic Invasive Species permit. There is a ¼ mile hike in to the lake on a well maintained all-access trail, so be prepared to portage a short distance. Limit of 20 participants.

Leader: Nikki Swanson, Sweet Home District Ranger

Email: nikki.swanson@usda.gov



Directions to Daly Lake

From Sweet Home, travel east on Highway 20 for 45 miles to Highway 22. Turn left and follow the highway for 7.5 miles to Forest Road 2266 (Parish Lake Road) and turn left. Continue on Forest Road 2266 for 4.8 miles to spur road 450. Turn right and travel 0.5 mile to the trailhead.

July 26
Friday

Mountain Biking with the Ranger - from Tombstone to Pie
Start Time: 9:30am | Location: Meet at Tombstone Pass parking lot
Difficulty: Moderate

Enjoy a 13 mile single-track mountain bike ride on the historic Santiam Wagon Road going back in time to learn about the importance of this historic route to early settlers. The ride is rated as moderately difficult and has rolling hills with 1,600 feet of elevation gain and 2,700 feet elevation loss. We will ride from Tombstone Prairie Parking area to Clear Lake Resort and celebrate the end of our adventure with pie! We will shuttle participants and their bikes back to their vehicles at Tombstone Pass. Bring all of the things listed for general hikes as well as a Northwest Forest Pass (day or annual) for your vehicle, your mountain bike, a pump, patch kit, any other minor bike repair gear you may need, and a bit of cash to buy your slice of pie.... or refreshment of your choice at Clear Lake Resort. Limit of 10 participants.

Leader: Nikki Swanson, Sweet Home District Ranger

Email: nikki.swanson@usda.gov





August 2
Friday

Gordon Meadows

Start Time: 8:00am | Length: 2 miles | Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger District

Hikers will experience a meadow, wetlands, old growth trees and, cross country travel to a historic trail shelter location and the “edge of the world” site. Great views all around.

Leader: Tony Farque, Archaeologist

Email: tony.farque@usda.gov

August 9
Friday

Streamside Rockhounding

Start Time: 9:00am | Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger Station

Difficulty: Moderate | Length: 2-3miles

An adventure for aspiring rock and mineral enthusiasts to learn about the origin and identification of river rocks in the Santiam River basin. Suitable for fit individuals prepared for hiking on riverbanks and in the river while collecting rocks for 2-3 miles. Please come prepared with good footwear for hiking and wading, lunch and plenty of water. This class is a repeat of previous years and is intended for new participants. *Leaders: Lance Gatchell, Hydrologist & Fish Biologist; lance.gatchell@usda.gov, and Tony Farque Archaeologist; tony.farque@usda.gov*

August 9
Friday

Horseback Ride with the Ranger

Start Time: 10:00am | Location: Meet at Fish Lake Day Use Area

Difficulty: Easy | Length: 5 miles | Horses or equipment NOT provided

Enjoy a leisurely 5 mile horseback ride at the historic Fish Lake Remount Station and the historic Santiam Wagon Road going back in time to learn about the importance of these historic landmarks to early settlers. The ride is rated as easy. There are no bridge or stream crossings and the terrain is relatively flat single track trails. There is some rock, so shoes or boots for your horse are recommended. Bring all of the things listed for general hikes as well as a Northwest Forest Pass (day or annual) for your vehicle, your horse, a first aid kit for your horse, weed free hay and water for your horse and a helmet. The ride will start and end at the Fish Lake dispersed camping area (just south of and on the same side of the road as the Fish Lake Day Use Area). Ride meeting at 10am. Foot in the stirrup at 10:30am.

Limit of 10 participants.

Leader: Nikki Swanson, Sweet Home District Ranger

Email: nikki.swanson@usda.gov





**August 14
Wednesday**

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Annual Picnic
Start Time: 11:00am | Location: Longbow Organizational Camp
Difficulty: Easy

Join us in celebrating the successes and stories of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). This annual event is free and open to the public. Please bring a potluck dish to share. No registration required. If you would like transportation, call the Sweet Home Ranger District at 541-367-5168. Longbow is located on Gordon Road milepost marker 46 on Highway 20. Parking is available at the upper parking lot with shuttle service down the hill to the event.

**August 16
Friday**

Lava Lake
Start Time: 8:00am | Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger Station
Difficulty: Moderate | 5 miles

Geology, cultural history and botany all await discovery. Explore a scenic, unique and diverse landscape with an 8,000 year old human context.

Leaders: Tony Farque & Alice Smith & Claire Bennett

Emails: Tony: tony.farque@usda.gov, Alice: alice.smith@usda.gov, Claire: claire.bennett@usda.gov

**August 17
Saturday**

Huckleberry Haven
Start Time: 9:00am
Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger Station
Difficulty: Easy | Length: 1 mile

Learn about the berries that have sustained people and wildlife in the Cascades for thousands of years. Includes traditional uses of berries and how to distinguish between edible and non-edible berries. This is a great hike for families. Please bring a berry container.

Leader: Alice Smith and Claire Bennett

Email: alice.smith@usda.gov and claire.bennett@usda.gov



August 23
Friday

Art in Nature - Along the Middle Santiam

Start Time: 9:00am | Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger Station

Difficulty: Moderate | Length: 5 miles

The end of August is the perfect time to bring your art materials and a lunch to enjoy a day along the river. For some, art is more than drawing and painting. If art to you is taking photos or if you're artistic inspiration comes from observing and meditating in nature, feel free to join us. Be prepared to spend several hours soaking in the beautiful Middle Santiam River. This moderate 5 mile round trip adventure is sure to spark some creativity in everyone!

Leader: Lisa Chase, Wilderness First Responder

Email: odder_or@hotmail.com | Cell: 541-401-4063

August 30
Friday

Santiam Wagon Road to 7 Mile Hill

Start Time: 8:00am | Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger Station

Difficulty: Difficult | Length: 7 miles

Explore what early travel was like in the forest on the historic toll road that once linked the Willamette Valley to eastern Oregon.

Leader: Tony Farque, Archaeologist; tony.farque@usda.gov

September 6
Friday

In Search of Judge Waldo

Start Time: 8:00am | Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger Station

Difficulty: Moderate | Length: 2 miles

Follow in the footsteps of Oregon's own John Muir, Judge JB Waldo. Travel the Old Cascades visiting his favorite campsites and fishing holes. Stories included. You will have to figure out fact from fiction!

Leader: Tony Farque, Archaeologist; tony.farque@usda.gov



September 7
Friday

General Outdoor Preparedness

Start Time: 9:00am | Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger Station

This eight hour hands-on class is a great way to learn how to stay alive in the woods of Western Oregon. Learn how to start a fire with very little. Class is both indoor and outdoor so dress accordingly. Bring your day pack for hiking, lunch, water, paper and pen.

Leader: Lisa Chase, Wilderness First Responder
Email: odder_or@hotmail.com | Cell: 541-401-4063



September 13
Friday

Horseback Ride with The Ranger- From Fish Lake to Seven Mile Horse Camp with an Optional Overnight

Start Time: 9:00am; foot in the stirrup at 9:30am | Location: Meet at Fish Lake dispersed camping area .(just south of and on the same side of the road as the Fish Lake Day Use Area).

Difficulty: Difficult ~ Horses Not Provided

Enjoy a 15 mile horseback bike ride on the historic Santiam Wagon Road going back in time to learn about the importance of this historic route to early settlers from Fish Lake to Seven Mile Horse Camp. We will gain and then lose 3,000 ft. in elevation. There are steep switch-backs with steep pitches on both the uphill and downhill side, several bridge crossings and a few water crossings. There is some rock, so shoes or boots for your horse are recommended. The shuttle vehicles will meet us at Seven Mile Horse Camp and take participants back to their horse trailers at Fish Lake. Bring all of the things listed for general hikes as well as a Northwest Forest Pass (day or annual) for your vehicle, your horse, a first aid kit for your horse, weed free hay in a hay net and a bucket for water and a helmet. The hay nets and water buckets will be transported down to Seven Mile Horse Camp corrals and will be waiting for your horses when they arrive so that they will have food and water while they are waiting for you to return with your horse trailer. An experienced horse person will remain on site at the corrals during the shuttle to ensure the safety of the horses and to safeguard your tack. Limit of 8 participants. There is an option to stay overnight at the horse camp if you wish to continue exploring the Santiam Wagon Road with the Ranger on Saturday morning before you head home.

Leader: Nikki Swanson, Sweet Home District Ranger; nikki.swanson@usda.gov



September 20
Friday

Cascadia Cave

Time: 9:00 a.m. | Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger District

Difficulty: Easy | Length: 2 miles

Follow the historic footsteps of the Kalapuya Indians along the lower floodplains of the South Santiam River. Includes traditional uses of plants. The trail may be muddy. This hike leaves promptly from the Ranger District office at 9:00am. Please come prepared for a day in the forest, with lunch, water, appropriate clothes, etc.

Leader: Tony Farque, Archaeologist; tony.farque@usda.gov

October 4
Friday

Big Tree Expedition

Time: 8:00 a.m. | Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger District

Difficulty: Moderate

Be part of our Citizen Scientist experience and add to the Sweet Home Ranger District inventory of “Big Trees” We will measure very large trees and feel the heartbeat of their magnificence. Historical and Botanical values will be recognized and documented.

Leaders: Tony Farque, Archaeologist; tony.farques@usda.gov, Alice Smith Botanist; alice.smith@usda.gov, Dock Chastain, Forester; joseph.chastain@usda.gov; Claire Bennett, Botanist; claire.bennett@usda.gov

October 19
Saturday

Art in Nature - Art from Nature

Start Time: 9:30am | Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger Station

After a long spring & summer of adventure, bring your reference photos & creative materials of your choice to join us for a day of “Arting” indoors, at the Sweet Home Ranger District. If you are interested but don’t know where to start, Lisa Chase will be on hand offering artistic guidance, hints, & advice as needed. She is happy to provide you materials to give watercolor a try! Bring your reference pics, a lunch, creative spirit, & make sure to remember, “When you are being creative, there is no wrong answer, all you have to do is try.”

Leader: Lisa Chase, Wilderness First Responder

Email: odder_or@hotmail.com | Cell: 541-401-4063



There is limited space on this hike so please only choose **ONE** date. This way we can have new people enjoy this great experience. Come prepared for exciting day learning about the different mushrooms in the forest. Plan on spending the day and make sure to bring appropriate clothing, footwear, water, lunch and of course your picking bucket. You may want to try a milk jug on your belt to keep both hands free!

November 1
Friday

Fall Edible Mushrooms & Cooking Demonstration

Start Time: 9:00am | Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger Station

Difficulty: Moderate | Length: 2 miles

Learn about the uses of wild mushrooms, how to distinguish between edible and non-edible species; we will collect edible mushrooms and have a cooking demonstration at Longbow in the afternoon.

Bring a small collecting knife and bags/baskets.

Leaders: Alice Smith and Claire Bennett, Botanists

Email: alice.smith@usda.gov and claire.bennett@usda.gov

November 8
Friday

Edible Mushroom Hike

Start Time: 9:00am | Location: Meet at Sweet Home Ranger Station

Difficulty: Moderate | Length: 2 miles

Learn about the uses of wild mushrooms, how to distinguish between edible and non-edible species and collect edible mushrooms. Bring a small collecting knife and bags/baskets.

Leaders: Alice Smith and Claire Bennett, Botanists

Email: alice.smith@usda.gov and claire.bennett@usda.gov





WILLAMETTE NATIONAL FOREST

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