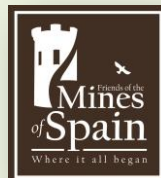




**Mines of Spain State Recreation Area &
E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center**

An Educational Program & Field Trip Guide

**Pre-Kindergarten through 6th Grade
Programs compliment state of Iowa academic standards**

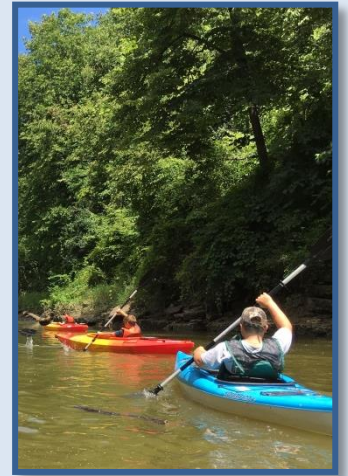


Welcome!

Come experience Outdoor Education at the Mines of Spain

The Mines of Spain State Recreation Area is a unique park comprised of over 1,400 acres of woodland, wetland, and prairie. It is also home to the Julien Dubuque Monument, Horse Shoe Bluff quarry, and the E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. Whether you are looking for a program on natural or cultural resources – there is an adventure waiting for everyone.

Field trips provide a great way to connect people with their history and their environment in a setting that allows for first-hand experiences. The programs offered at Mines of Spain are intended to complement Iowa's Academic Standards, as well as embrace nature as an outdoor classroom.



Field Trip & Program Options

A variety of field trip and program options are available:

**May – October (Thursdays – Sundays) &
November – April (Mondays – Fridays)**



Year-Round –

Hour-long field trips are offered year-round. Students and groups begin their program with an introduction in the E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center, and then hit the trails! (Pre-K through 6th grade)



Extended –

Two-hour extended field trips are available to cover multiple topics and can include either longer distance hikes or hands-on equipment. (2nd through 6th grade)



Seasonal –

The Mines of Spain experiences changes in plants and animals throughout the year. These hour-long programs allow us to look at the changing of the seasons in the park. (Pre-K through 6th grade)



Classroom/Outreach – [Available November – March]

If you are unable to come to the park, bring the park to you! We have 45-minute programs for the park staff to visit your classroom with an interactive lesson that includes live animals, furs, and artifacts. (Pre-K through 6th grade)



Self-Guided –

When staff-led programs are not available, self-guided trips are an educational way to still visit the park on your own! (Pre-K through 6th grade)

Scheduling Your Program

To schedule your field trip, or for additional information:

Call the park office at 563-556-0620. Schedules fill up fast; we recommended you call one month in advance of your desired date(s).

Limitations:

Programs are limited to **40 students per hour**. Larger groups can be accommodated based on staff availability, please call for details. Teachers and chaperones are suggested at a ratio of 1:8.

Please provide the following information when scheduling:

- Program topic (refer to list of programs offered)
- A contact name, phone number, and an e-mail address
- Group size, grade, & number of adults
- School/Group name and address
- Date and time of interest. It is advised to have additional alternative dates.

Checklist: Planning for Your Field Trip

Your group will get the most out of their visit if they are well-prepared ahead of time. Please review the following checklist to help prepare for your upcoming field trip.

Prior to Field Trip, discuss in the classroom:

- ☐ *Teach "Leave No Trace" Principles (www.lnt.org)*
- ☐ *Visit the Mines of Spain State Recreation Area webpages to learn about the park*
 - [<https://www.minesofspain.org>] & [<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Places-to-Go/State-Parks/Iowa-State-Parks/ParkDetails/ParkID/9/idAdminBoundary/200>]

Arrival Day:

- ☐ *Check the weather and come prepared!*
 - Make sure students have: Water bottle; Closed toe shoes; Extra clothing layers/jacket; Bug Spray; Sunscreen; Hat; Lunch/Snack; Nametag (optional)
- ☐ *Bring trash bag(s) if eating lunch on site. Limited indoor and outdoor seating available upon request.*

Requirements & Additional Information

Costs

Field trips and programs at the Mines of Spain State Recreation Area are free of charge. You are responsible for your own transportation. There may be scholarships available.

Transportation: Grants Available

Bus transportation grants/scholarships are available for schools and groups. This money has been made possible thanks to the Friends of Mines of Spain. Grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, in varying amounts. Please call the park office at 563-556-0620 for more details.

Waivers and Reservations of Equipment

If you are interested in reserving park equipment, which includes but is not limited to: fishing poles, butterfly and aquatic nets, waders, and canoes or kayaks for your group, please call the park office at least 30 days in advance to reserve equipment and complete a liability waiver.

Carry-in/Carry-out Policy

All Iowa State Parks and State Recreation Areas have a carry-in, carry-out waste policy. Please bring trash bags for your lunch so you can take your trash and dispose of back at school.

Cancellation Policy

If you need to cancel or reschedule your visit, please contact the park office as soon as possible at: 563-556-0620.

Mines of Spain staff will notify the listed point of contact on the morning of the program if it must be cancelled due to inclement weather.

Other Educational Opportunities

Self-guided Opportunities

- Scavenger Hunts & Lesson Plans – Indoor/Outdoor (download from minesofspain.org)

Want more time at the Mines of Spain? Why not make a day of it!

Anyone is welcome to spend the day at the Mines of Spain State Recreation Area. Some special things to do and see:

- *E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center (see center's hours)*
- *Take a hike or nature walk (see park map for trails)*
- *Picnic (see park map for picnic areas)*
- *Use the outdoor learning lab (along the John & Alice Butler Trail)*

Pre-school

Year-round Field Trips

Sensory Adventures

Children get to use all of their senses to explore nature. They will learn how animals use senses and try out their own on a sensory nature hike!

Wildlife Adventures (Birding Edition)

This program teaches children about eastern-Iowa's animals, emphasizing the different types

of native birds. A short hike will allow children to see different types of manmade bird homes.

Plant Adventures

The Mines of Spain hosts numerous plants. Children will observe and discover the different parts that make up a plant: from the leaves to the seed. Kids will learn how plants grow.

Kindergarten & 1st Grade

Year-round Field Trips

Historical Hike: Lead Mine Trail

Lead mining is an important piece of our history in the park. Children will learn how people used this land during the lead mining period of the park's history, and hike to see an old lead mine.

America's State Tree Woodland Walk

This program takes children on a hike through prairie to see the 50 state trees. Children will see and learn to identify different types of trees.

2nd and 3rd Grade

Year-round Field Trips

America's State Tree Woodland Walk

Take a hike through restored prairie to look at and learn about the significance of the 50 state trees. Children will learn to identify and compare different types of trees.

Archeology Adventures: Horse Shoe Bluff

Learn about the fascinating geological history in

the Mines of Spain by hiking through limestone bluffs. Kids will get to explore the area for rocks and fossils millions of years old.

Historical Hike: Lead Mine & Pine Chapel

Hike back in time to learn how people have used this land over hundreds of years, stopping at historical sites along the way.

4th through 6th Grade

Year-round Field Trips

America's State Woodland Walk Trail

Take a hike through restored prairie to learn about the significance of the 50 state trees. Children will identify and compare trees, as well as learn what it takes for a tree to survive.

Archeology Adventures: Horse Shoe Bluff

Children will learn about local geological history through hands-on archeology experiences. They will take a hike into limestone bluffs & explore for rocks and fossils, millions of years old.

Historical Hike: Lead Mine & Pine Chapel

Children will hike back in time and learn how people have used this land over hundreds of years, exploring historical sites along the way.

Historical Hike: Native American Lifestyles

As children hike from Catfish Creek to the Julien Dubuque Monument they will learn about the Mesquakie Native Americans who settled in the area, as well as their relationship with Julien Dubuque.

Nature Hike: From Prairie to Woodlands

Children will take a hike to get first-hand experiences in a variety of ecosystems: prairies, creeks, wetlands, and woodlands. Children will learn the importance of these ecosystems and the impact humans have on them.

"My favorite part was I got to go for a hike." - Local First Grader



Seasonal Field Trips

Pre-K through 6th Grade

Pond & Creek Stomping (April – Oct)

Explore the abundant aquatic life found in the creeks and wetlands within the Mines of Spain. Students will discover the creatures that thrive beneath the surface of the water while observing them with nets and buckets for an up close view. *This is a messy (and possibly wet) program, so please dress appropriately.

Spring has Sprung (April – June)

Signs of spring begin to appear this time of year all over the park. From flowers to animals, students will learn about this busy season as the park begins to change - and spring back into life.

Fall Color (Sept – Nov)

Students experience the park in an abundance of colors while they learn about the fall season and what that means to the plants and animals as they prepare for the upcoming winter months.

Winter Wonderland (Nov – Feb)

It is cold outside! Dress warm for a hike to explore nature in the winter months. Learn how nature survives through the winter – plant and animal alike. *If snow is present, students will also have the opportunity to look for signs of animal tracks in the snow.

Other Educational Opportunities

6th Grade through 12th Grade

Native Plant Restoration Field Trip (6th – 12th grade)

This program helps the park with a service learning project. Here students will learn about the importance of restoration, and get some hands-on experiences collecting seed and pulling invasive plants from the prairies at Mines of Spain. The goal is to create awareness of native plant communities in the park, and teach students how humans can positively and negatively impact these communities.

Group size is limited to 20-40 students.

Duration: 2 hours (Sample program: 15 minutes program introduction, group 1: 45 minutes seed collection; 15 minute break/switch groups; group 2: 45 minutes invasive plant pulling) **Gloves provided.*

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Dubuque, Iowa 52003

