

# Kids and the Hocking Hills Report



**Cedar Falls State Park**

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## Kids and the Hocking Hills Report

On the surface, there doesn't appear to be a whole lot to do with your children in the Hocking Hills. But I have done the research and digging for you. I have come up with a list of 49 things to do with your kids in the Hocking Hills. ENJOY!

- 1. Kayak or canoe the Hocking River** - Personally, the older kids will prefer a kayak because they can control it on their own. Smaller groups can raft down the Hocking River. And up to three people can ride in a canoe.

You can also pull off on any bank along the river and take a rest or to take a quick dip on a hot day.



There are two canoe liveries to choose from:



**A. Hocking Hills Canoe Livery** is a full service canoe, kayak and raft rental. They are located across from Walmart in Remple's Grove behind The Olde Dutch Restaurant at 12789 State Route 664 South, Logan, Ohio. Call them at 740-385-0523 or at 800-634-6820 for more information.

[www.hockingriver.com](http://www.hockingriver.com)

**B. Hocking Hills Adventures** – They are a full service canoe, kayak, raft and tube rental. They are located at 31251 Chieftain Drive, Logan, Ohio. Call them at 1-800-686-0386 or 740-385-8685. They also have a Fun Center with Go-Karts and Miniature Golf.

[www.hockinghillscanoeing.com](http://www.hockinghillscanoeing.com)



I highly recommend a trip down the river. It's an enjoyable way to spend an afternoon in the Hocking Hills.

**2. Miniature Golf-** is a most challenging and FUN putt putt golf course that is in Rempel's Grove in Logan. You can play a second round for half price and there is an ice cream Shoppe near by as well as the Old Dutch Family Restaurant. There is also the Logan Antique Mall where Mom and Dad can take a look around. They are closed November through March. They are located at 12791 State Route 664 South. You can call them at 740-385-0400. [www.hockingriver.com/mini-golf](http://www.hockingriver.com/mini-golf)



**3. Hocking Hills Mini Golf** - They have a wheelchair-friendly course at the Hocking Hills Market. They are located at U.S. Route 33 at State Route 374 in Rockbridge. You can call them at 740-385-3806. [www.hockinghillsmarket.com/golf](http://www.hockinghillsmarket.com/golf).

**4. The Hocking Valley Scenic Train** – is in Nelsonville and it is an old fashioned train ride. My kids thought the seats were “cool” because on the round trip back you flip the seat around so that you can face the other way. The Santa Train in December is fun for younger children and seeing the fall foliage in October would be fun for the whole family. During the months of June and August they have a “train robbery” ride.



There are holiday trains for Easter, Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day, and New Year’s Eve. Reservations are recommended. For information call 1-800-967-7834. They are located at 33 W. Canal Street, Nelsonville. Visit them on the internet at [www.hvsry.org](http://www.hvsry.org).

**5. Steep Woods Red Caboose Lodging** – To complete your train experience, you can spend the night in a caboose. It sleeps up to five in bunk beds and has a kitchen and bathroom. It is a great adventure for the young at heart.



Steep Woods is located near Ash Cave State Park. Steep Woods is rented by Lazy Lane Cabins. Their reservation office is at 16757 State Route 664 South in Logan, Ohio 43138 or call them at (877) 225-6572. [www.lazylanecabins.com/caboose\\_cabin.htm](http://www.lazylanecabins.com/caboose_cabin.htm). Steep Woods also is in my “Budget Watchers Report”.

**6. Tecumseh!** – Is an outdoor drama complete with canons and guns firing blanks, horses and actors with live action and the best “love” story from the frontier days of Ohio. Each time I see it, I enjoy it a little more. Make sure you plan on seeing this fantastic play on one of your trips to the Hocking Hills. I highly recommend it! You won’t be disappointed.



Tecumseh! is portrayed at Sugar Loaf Mountain Amphitheatre at 5968 Marietta Rd in Chillicothe each summer from the beginning of June until the first of September.

Each show begins at 8 pm Monday - Saturday. Adult ticket prices are \$24.95, ages 10 and under are \$17.95.

Call them at 1-866-775-0700 for information. Or look at their website at [www.tecumseh-drama.com](http://www.tecumseh-drama.com).



**7. The Five Star Hiking Program** is a good idea for the whole family. If you go to the camping office at Old Man’s Cave, the whole family can pick up Hiking Sticks at the gift shop and the necessary form to fill out at five state-held hikes in the Hocking Hills. You can buy little metal emblems to put on your hiking sticks each time you come and get the coveted “Five Star” emblem on your fifth hike. This is a fantastic project for the whole family to work on together.

Plan a special family celebration when you all get the “Five Star” emblem. The park is located on State Route 664, 12 miles from Logan, Ohio. Visit them at <http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/hockinghills>

**8. Naturalist Programs** – There are an abundance of “educational” naturalist programs geared to kids and families in the Hocking Hills. All of the larger parks have a staff naturalist and even some local businesses. Below is a listing of places to keep in mind when you visit. They just might have a program going on that someone in your family might enjoy.



Photo by Tim Oettinger

Old Man's Cave - <http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/hockinghills>  
Phone them at 740-385-6842.  
Lake Hope - [parks.ohiodnr.gov/lakehope](http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/lakehope)

**9. Horseback Riding** – there are six horse stables where you can ride a horse through the Hocking Hills woods.

### **Spotted Horse Ranch**

Take your own horse or ride one of theirs. They have guided trail rides by reservation. They also have cabins with hot tubs and fireplace or campsites with or without electric hookups.

Spotted Horse Ranch is open daily and weekends. Call 877-992-7433 or 1-740-332-7433. They are located on 17325 Deffenbaugh Road, Laurelville, Ohio 43135 on State Route 180 between South Perry and Laurelville.  
[www.thespottedhorseranch.com](http://www.thespottedhorseranch.com)

### **Uncle Bucks**

Uncle Buck's is a Riding Stable and Dance Barn. They have guided horseback rides and live music on the weekends. The Lady Buck Saloon has BBQ and cold beer. They are near Lake Hope State Park.

Reservations are recommended at Uncle Buck's. Call them at 800- 221-1122 or 740-664-2428. They are located at 73930 Buck Lane, New Marshfield, Ohio, 45766. Email them at [info@unclebuckstable.com](mailto:info@unclebuckstable.com) or visit their website at: [www.unclebuckstable.com](http://www.unclebuckstable.com).

### **Smoke Rise Ranch Resort**

Experience the West in Southeast Ohio. They offer horse rental, cattle roundups, trail rides, team penning and sorting, and penning and roping clinics for anyone who wants to be a cowboy or cowgirl.

Stay in their rustic cabins, at their campsites with heated pool or private ranch house with Hot Tub.

For reservations call 740-767-2624. They are located at 6751 Hunterdon Road in Glouster, Ohio. Visit their website: [www.smokeriseranch.com](http://www.smokeriseranch.com).

### **Blue Moon Acres**

Blue Moon is unique in that they rent out their own horses. They are more of a customized stable catering to what the



rider wants. They specialize in couples and families 16 years and up. Reservations required. They are on 18920 Keifel Road near Laurelville.

Visit them on the internet at: [www.bluemoonacresstable.com](http://www.bluemoonacresstable.com)

Call Blue Moon Acres at 740-380-6230 to make an appointment to ride one of their horses

### **Equestrian Ridge Farm**

Equestrian Ridge Farm has guided trail rides and personalized instruction for you, a small group, and children.

Reservations are required. They are located at 26711 Pumpkin Ridge Road, New Plymouth. Call them at 740-603-2523. [www.equestrianridge.com](http://www.equestrianridge.com).

### **Happy Trails Horseback Rides**

They are located four miles from Old Man's Cave and one mile from Conkle's Hollow. They have scenic guided horseback tours and trails for beginner and experienced riders and a gift shop to browse while you are there.

Children must be able to ride by themselves and be at least seven years old. Ride from one hour to all day.

Reservations are recommended. Their address is 25851 Big Pine Road. Call them 740-380-6372. [www.HTHorsebackRides.com](http://www.HTHorsebackRides.com).

**10. Pony Rides** – for smaller children are popular. Some of the stables have ponies for your smaller children to ride. Hand held pony rides are available at Happy Trails Horseback Rides. Reservations are recommended. Their address is 25851 Big Pine Road. Call them 740-380-6372- [www.HTHorsebackRides.com](http://www.HTHorsebackRides.com)

**11. Ash Cave Rim Trail** – Ash Cave State Park is my favorite park in the Hocking Hills. It is not a “spooky” cave but the largest recess cave in the state of Ohio. That means in could be a large outdoor amphitheater and the state does have concerts at various times of the year in this outdoor wonder of Mother Nature.



Look for the huge “pulpit” rock near the entrance of the cave where early evangelists spoke and in the back of the cave are “whispering galleries” where if you speak in a normal voice it can be heard for a distance.

When you are done taking pictures of the waterfall that flows over the top of the cave, take the steps to the top of the cave and walk back to the parking lot from the top of the cave or the rim trail as it is called.

Be careful with small children because there are no rails near the edge. The trail does get muddy during the spring thaw so make sure to wear old shoes and stick to dry ground.

Ash Cave is located on State Route 56 between State Routes 374 and 664.



**12. The Washboard Factory Tour and Festival** – takes place every June. The only washboard factory in the United States is in Logan, Ohio. They have an annual festival with lots of entertainment and activities for the kids.

American woman used the washboard as their primary laundry tool for many years until the invention of the modern washing machine.

Tour Times of the Factory: Monday – Friday 10:00, 12:00, 2:00 Saturday 11:30 & 1:00 May thru October only.



During Father's Day weekend every year, the washboard is used as a musical instrument and various stages are set up downtown to showcase musical performers and bands. Included in the street fair are rides for children. In the past these rides have been sponsored by area businesses which made all the kids rides free to the general public. The festival always ends on Saturday so that you can make plans to celebrate with Dad on Sunday in the Hocking Hills.

The Washboard Factory is open during the festival for tours. It is located at 14 Gallagher Avenue. Phone them at 740-380-3828.

Visit them on the internet at [www.columbuswashboard.com](http://www.columbuswashboard.com).

Email them at: [info@columbuswashboard.com](mailto:info@columbuswashboard.com)



**Washboard Festival in June**

**13. Rock House State Park** – Rock House is a rock cliff that has “rooms” with “windows” and a long corridor behind the rock. My

kids think this is a great place. Rock House is located on State Route 374 and Thompson Road.



**14. Rockbridge State Nature Preserve** Hocking County has a natural rock bridge that is the largest one in the state. It rises 45 feet above the gorge below and the 100-foot long Black Hand sandstone span can be walked on from above and observed from the recess cave below.

This most unusual rock formation is at the Rockbridge State Nature Preserve off U.S. 33 between State Routes 374 and 180 on Dalton Road.



**Rockbridge**

**15. Rock Climbing and Rappelling** - For teenagers and college age that are ready and able for more adventure, I would recommend learning how to climb and rappel. There are more than one company that offer instruction and equipment and there is a place in the Hocking Hills that is dedicated to only this activity.

**A. [www.HockingHillsAdventureTrek.com](http://www.HockingHillsAdventureTrek.com) - 740-777-2579** - They also offer Guided Hikes and a TrekTheatre.

**B. Earth Water Rock** - rock climbing, rappelling, kayaking, and stand up paddle-boarding. [www.ewroutdoors.com](http://www.ewroutdoors.com) - 740-664-5220

## 16. Sleep in a Tepee

Experience the magic and tranquility of Tipi camping in a traditional Sioux Native American Tipis. Each Tipi has been placed in a beautiful woodland setting and is excellent for viewing the abundant wildlife in Hocking Hills. Call At Boulders Edge Cabin and Tipi Retreat at 740-385-0707.



[www@atbouldersedge.com](http://www.atbouldersedge.com)

**17. Mountain Bike Trails** - There is a mountain bike trail at Tar Hollow State Park that makes a complete loop in 2.5 miles. The starting point is behind the General Store. The trail runs along the beach and along the spillway through the parking lot into an open field. The trail continues through trees, several creek crossings and just when you think that the trail is a piece of cake, the hills ahead make it a challenging ride.

Lake Hope State Park has a total of 23 miles of Mountain Bike Trails and the Hocking Hills State Park has a 4 mile trail off of State Route 374. The Orange trail is a hard loop of two miles. The purple trail is medium difficulty and is also a two mile loop. Parking is at the lot used for campers and the trail begins on the opposite side of the road. "The Best Kept Secrets to the Hocking Hills" has more details about the biking trails.

**18. Feed a Hummingbird** - At Lake Hope State Park every summer from June to August you can go to the Nature Center from Wednesday through Sunday and you will be given a floral tube with food and with a little patience get to feed a hummingbird.

During the program an estimated 30 birds will come into feed and 75% of the people attending will actually get to feed a hummingbird. The key is to be patient.

Lake Hope State Park is located at 27331 State Route 278, McArthur, Ohio 45651, The Park Office phone number is 740-596-4938. The Dining Lodge number is 740-596-0601 and to reserve a cabin or campsite call 866-644-6727.



### **19. The Annual Winter Hike**

– Every January you can hike from Old Man’s Cave State Park to Cedar Falls State Park and then Ash Cave State Park. The hike is six miles and follows The Buckeye Trail. At the half way point bean soup, corn bread, and hot chocolate are served.

After starting between 9-11 am buses take you back to the starting point at Old Man’s Cave. I don’t recommend this for young children. I did the hike myself last year and saw lots of teenagers and college age hikers. Phone 740-385-6841 for more information.

**20. Hockhocking Adena Bikeway** - The Hockhocking Adena Bikeway is a 17 mile long paved and handicap accessible bike path which follows the old Columbus and Hocking Valley Railroad bed from Athens to Nelsonville. The surrounding beauty of the area can be enjoyed by bicycle, foot, inline skates, scooter, skateboard, and wheelchair or cross country skis in the winter time.



**Hockhocking Adena Bikeway**

**21. Ziplining** –There are four zipline companies in the Hocking Hills area. A typical tour takes between two and one half to three hours.

**A. Hocking Hills Canopy Tours** - have professional guides that take you on 10 ziplines and 5 skywalks before you finish. You'll see the Hocking Hills in a way you've never seen it before.

The Superzip is over a quarter of a mile long and reaches speeds up to 50 mph. Two zippers are launched together and can fly "superman" style.

They are open April through November during daylight hours. Kids are half price every Tuesday and Thursday. Receive a discount for 8 or more in a group. The group discount is not available on holidays and only Monday through Friday. You need to have average mobility and strength and you must be in reasonably good health. Dragonfly course is just for kids.



The minimum age is 10 and children between the ages of 10 and 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Children ages 10-15 zip for half price, except on holidays. Only one child per paying adult. The adult must be at least 18 years old. Minimum weight is 70 pounds and maximum is 250 pounds. Closed toed shoes are a requirement. Check out their website at [hockinghillscanopytours.com](http://hockinghillscanopytours.com) or call them at 740-385-9477. The address for Canopy Tours is 10714 Jackson Street, Rockbridge, Ohio near the Hocking Hills Market. [www.zipohio.com](http://www.zipohio.com)

**B. Soaring Cliffs** - Zip Line course and partial tours for children. They have ground to ground landing and a hands-free braking system. They are located at 24719 Miller Road, Rockbridge, Ohio 43149. Call them at 855-442-2246 or 740-385-6263. Email them at [soaringcliffs@yahoo.com](mailto:soaringcliffs@yahoo.com). Visit them on the internet at [www.soaringcliffs.com](http://www.soaringcliffs.com).

**C. Valley Zipline Tours** - They have over a mile of ziplines with a mini zip for children. They are located at 3465 Duffy Road, Lancaster, Ohio. Phone them at 740-654-3392. Visit them on the internet at [www.valleyziplinetours.com](http://www.valleyziplinetours.com)

**22. R Adventure World** - If you like to ride an ATV the Hocking Hills has a family oriented ATV nature park with streams, a mud bog, and obstacle course. Learn to ride with professional trainers and rent their equipment. They have 70 acres of land and 10 miles of trails. They also have a zip rail, rope course, and hunger range.



They are located at 15155 Sauerkraut Road, Logan, Ohio just three miles south of Logan. Call them at 866-985-1202. They are open 365 days a year. You can visit them on the internet at: [www.radventurpark.com](http://www.radventurpark.com).

**23. Hocking Hills Hot Air Ballooning** - Hot air balloon rides are available from an FAA certified pilot with more than twenty years of experience. Up to four passengers can ride depending on the current day air temperature and humidity. The minimum age to ride is thirteen years old. Rides take place every day of the year – unless wind is over 10 mph. Reservations are recommended 4-5 days in advance of your visit.

Balloons launch from the Lancaster area – about 15 miles from Logan, Ohio. Flights can be cancelled due to weather conditions. The Georgian Manner at 29055 Evans Road in Logan is their sponsor. Call them at 614-870-2539 or 1-800-606-1840.

[www.georgianmanner.com/hot-air-balloons.html](http://www.georgianmanner.com/hot-air-balloons.html)



**24. Hocking Hills Scenic Air Tours** - Scenic air tours are available year round. Don't forget to bring your camera. 66285



Airport Road, New Plymouth, Vinton County. Phone them at 740-380-2031 or 740-649-2207. [www.hockinghills.com/airtours/](http://www.hockinghills.com/airtours/)



**25. Vinton County Annual Air Show** - Every year the Vinton County Airport will host an Air Show. It is a free event with a \$10 fee for parking. A multitude of airplanes of all size and age will be on display. Remote control pilots and aircraft will give performances and actual air plane rides will start after the air show is over.



BBQ dinners are prepared on site and will be available at 11 am. Other food and drink will be available as well. Bring a lawn chair and be prepared to watch aerial acrobatics, parachute jumping and hang gliders. Airplane rides are given after the show.

The airport receives no support from the county so they depend on fund raisers such as this to keep the airport open. All the performers donate their time and efforts. The Vinton County Pilots and Boosters thank you in advance for your generous support of the Vinton County Airport.

The airport is located off State Route 93 just six miles north of McArthur on Airport Road. Signs will be posted. Visit them on the internet at [www.vintoncountyairport.com](http://www.vintoncountyairport.com).



**26. Rose Lake** - is a beautiful 17-acre spring-fed lake accessible from State Route 374. A 1/2 mile trail to Rose Lake through a pine forest is a great hike even if you don't like to fish! A parking lot for fisherman or hikers is located on the opposite side of

the trail to the lake. Contact [www.ohiodnr.com](http://www.ohiodnr.com) for fishing license information

## **27. The Hocking Hills Archery Range**

The Hocking Hills has an archery range near Old Man's Cave State Park. Bring your bow and arrows and have a little target practice while you are visiting. There is no fee to use this range and parking is directly in front of the range. They also have a 3D target practice range in the woods.



**28. Treehouse Treats & Treasures** - is located beside Adventure Golf in Remple's Grove next to The Olde Dutch Restaurant and Gift Shop. Visit the Treehouse for hand dipped ice cream, toys, gifts, souvenirs, candy and fudge. They are open April - thru December 740-385-0400. They are located at 12793 State Route 664 South, Logan, Ohio 43138 across from Walmart which also has Hocking Hills souvenir T-shirts.



**29. Paul A Johnson Pencil Sharpener Museum** - Stop in and take a look at the Pencil Sharpener Museum. The collection of over 3400 pencil sharpeners was started over twenty years ago by Rev. Paul A. Johnson. It is located at The Hocking Hills Welcome Center.



This collection has been featured in national magazines and local newspapers. It has the reputation of being the largest collection of its' kind in the country.

The museum is open during the regular hours of the Hocking Hills Welcome Center.

The sharpeners are put into the same categories that Rev. Johnson had originally placed them in such as: Animal, Body, Cats, Christmas, Disneyland, Dogs, Easter, Food, Games, Globes/World, Halloween, Hearts, History, Horses, Misc., Religion, Space, Spain, and Zodiac Symbols.



**Pencil Sharpener Museum**



**Hocking Hills Welcome Center**

**30. The Welcome Center** - is located at the intersection of State Route 33 and State Route 664. It is just eleven miles from Old Man's Cave. They have a Kids Corner for children while you look at all their brochures about the Hocking Hills and surrounding areas. Ask them any questions you may have. They have a wealth of information. I know because I have volunteered there since 1995.

If you call 1-800-HOCKING you can leave a message or talk to a travel counselor and have a Hocking Hills Visitors Guide sent to you or you can request a visitor's guide on the internet at [www.explorehockinghills.com](http://www.explorehockinghills.com). They will mail one to you which takes about two weeks for you to receive it by bulk rate mail.

**31. Old Man's Cave** – Old Man's Cave State Park is the largest of all the Hocking Hills State Parks. It was named after the hermit Richard Rowe who made it his home before the Civil War.



**The Upper Falls at Old Man's Cave**

Old Man's Cave boasts of several popular areas: The Upper and Lower Falls are beautiful every season of the year. Old Man's Cave has many features to accommodate visitors to the area including a lodge with public swimming pool.



**Hocking Hills Lodge**



**Lodge Public Pool**

The Lodge has a restaurant that is open year around. The pool has a small daily admission price.



**Lodge Restaurant**

Old Man's Cave State Park is located on State Route 664, 11 miles from Logan, Ohio. It is open 365 days a year, closes at dark, and has no admission price – just as all state parks in Ohio are free to the public.

**32. Cedar Falls** - Early settlers in the Hocking Hills Region mistook the towering hemlock trees that surrounded one of their

favorite waterfalls as cedar trees and hence forever more we will call these falls “Cedar Falls”.

The falls plunge 50 feet into a pool below and at one time in the 1800’s a grist mill was located just above the falls. Picnic areas are located just a short walk from the falls.



Cedar Falls is located one mile west of State Route 664S on State Route 374. Be sure to see this beautiful falls in the springtime after the last of winter snow has melted. That is when it is the most spectacular. During the summer months the water flow is less but it is still a great hike.

**33. Other Parks** – The Hocking Hills is a general term that refers to the six state parks that are in one county of Southeastern Ohio. There are also other state parks in neighboring counties. My guidebook “The Best Kept Secrets of the Hocking Hills” goes into specific details for each of the additional parks.

What I give you in this report is the “cave area” which is the most popular – Ash Cave, Cedar Falls, and Old Man’s Cave State Parks plus Rock House State Park and Rockbridge State Nature Preserve which are two more of my personal favorites.

This is a listing of additional parks:

- Cantwell Cliffs State Park
- Lake Hope State Park
- Conkle’s Hollow State Nature Preserve
- Tar Hollow State Park
- Clear Creek Metro Park
- Lake Logan State Park

So as you can see there is a LOT to do in one general area which is why the Hocking Hills is the second most popular destination in the State of Ohio. It follows only after Lake Erie.

**34. Beaches and Swimming Locations** - One of the best fishing lakes in Ohio is at Lake Logan State Park. The lake has northern pike, bass, bluegill, crappie, catfish and saugeye.



**Lake and Beach at Tar Hollow**

Lake Logan also has a 527-foot swimming beach for those who would rather relax by the water. Contact [www.ohiodnr.com](http://www.ohiodnr.com) for fishing license information. Lake Hope State Park is located at 30443 Lake Logan Road in Logan, Ohio.

Tar Hollow State Park has a lake and public beach with a diving walkway across the lake. Lake Hope State Park has a 600 foot swimming beach with beach house. The Lodge at Old Man's Cave State Park has a public swimming pool and the city of Logan has a local pool and the city of Nelsonville has a water park.



**Lake Logan Boat Rental**

**35. Boat Rental** – Lake Logan State Park also has boat rental. They rent pontoons, row boats, canoes and paddle boats for those who prefer to be on the water. They are located at 30443 Lake Logan Rd, Logan. Call them at 740-380-2956. They open daily at 9 am.

Visit them on the web at [www.lakeloganmarina.com](http://www.lakeloganmarina.com).

Boating is allowed at Lake Hope State Park on the 120 acre lake. They have canoes, kayaks, and rowboats for rent. The park office is located at 27331 State Route 278 in McArthur Ohio. The park office number is 740-596-4938.



**Lake Hope State Park**



**Paddle Boats at Tar Hollow**

Tar Hollow State Park rents paddle boats to use on Pine Lake. Tar Hollow is located at 16396 Tar Hollow Road close to Laurelville. The Park Office phone number is (740) 887-4818. Visit them on the web at: [http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/tar\\_hollow](http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/tar_hollow)

**36. Plan a Picnic** – Having a picnic in the summer is a tradition for families and each of the state parks in the Hocking Hills has picnic tables on a first come basis. Reservations are usually required at the shelters.

For an example, there are six shelter houses that can be reserved through the park office at Tar Hollow State Park, while the others are available on a first-come, first-served basis.



**Picnic Shelter at Tar Hollow**

Tar Hollow is located at 16396 Tar Hollow Road close to Laurelville. The Park Office phone number is (740) 887-4818.

**37. Buckeye Trail** - And if you have older kids, there is a six mile trail that connects Ash Cave to Cedar Falls State Park and Old Man's Cave. It is part of the Buckeye Trail and is called "Grandma Gatewoods Trail" named after the Ohio mother of eleven who hiked the entire Appalachian Trail (2,150 miles) by herself and became

the first woman to do so at the age of 57 and in the year 1958. This trail in Ohio was one of her favorites.



This is the same trail the Winter Hike takes which has a bus at the end of the trail to take you back to the starting point at Old Man's Cave State Park. You can start at any of the three parks and hike half way and hike back. The trail has blue blazes that mark the trail. They are 2" x 6" vertical markings on trees and utility poles every few hundred feet along the trail.

Where the trail changes direction it is double marked, the upper mark showing the new direction. Side and alternate trails are designated in white marks.

If you would like to obtain more information about maps and an order form, write to: The Buckeye Trail Association, PO Box 254, Worthington, Ohio 43085 or call them at 740-832-1282. Or check out their website at [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org) or email them at [info@buckeyetrail.org](mailto:info@buckeyetrail.org)

**38. The Hocking Hills Market and Mini Golf**– You can have a great time exploring and shopping The Hocking Market which is separate from the Hocking Hills Flea Market at the same location. At last count there were a dozen places to shop and more than one place to get a bite to eat.



Shopping at Hocking Hills Market



Hocking Hills Mini Golf



While you are at the Hocking Hills Market take a break and play a game of miniature golf at the Hocking Hills Mini Golf course. It is open daily at noon and on the weekends from 10 am to 9 pm weather permitting. Call them at 740-974-1138 for more information. They are even wheel chair accessible.

The Hocking Hills Market is located off US 33 & St. Rt. 374, 26790 U.S. Route 33, Rockbridge. Call them at 740-974-7991 or 740-974-1138 or visit them on the web at: [www.hockinghillsfleamarket.com](http://www.hockinghillsfleamarket.com)



**39. The Hocking County Fair** - The Hocking County Fair is at the Hocking County Fairgrounds in Logan, Ohio and takes place every September. Call 740-385-6704.

**40. Stay in a Gypsy Wagon** – There are lots of places to camp in the Hocking Hills. There are even camper cabins that are very economical. Full details are in my “Budget Watchers Report”.

The Gypsy Wagon has a door that lock, a ceiling fan, fridge and microwave, screened windows, lights, and outside bath and shower house. It is an authentic reproduction of a British wagon. They have two to choose from. A stay includes breakfast between 8 and 9:30 am at Ravenwood Castle.



You will need to provide air mattresses and bedding for the queen-size carpeted sleeping areas that can sleep two adults and two children. The outside porch has two chairs and a picnic table is provided. You can reserve dinner at the Castle and a lunch is available as well May thru November.

You can see more detail at their website at:  
<http://www.ravenwoodcastle.com/gypsy-wagons>.

Ravenwood Castle is located at 65666 Bethel Road; New Plymouth, Ohio 45654. You can call them at 740-596-2606.

**41. Go to a Drive-In Movie** – I think going to the drive-in is becoming a thing of the past. Well, in Lancaster, Ohio just west of the Hocking Hills on State Route 33 you can pile the kids in the car and see not one but two currently running movies at the Skyview Drive-in Theatre.



Take your fold up chairs and watch a movie under the stars. I have done this with my children during the summer months and it is a lot of fun.



Among Ohio's oldest Drive-ins, the Skyview solo screen has been lit since 1948. It has been handed down through the years as a well-maintained example of a very traditional Drive-in. The current owner/operators since the spring of 1994 were well prepared and knew what they were in for.

They had worked the Skyview for three decades before acquiring it from the original and previous owner. Check out their website at [www.skyviewdrivein.com](http://www.skyviewdrivein.com) to see what's playing before you leave the Hocking Hills. Open seasonally, screening two features for one low admission (April-October): \$8 for ages 12 & up; ages 4-11 \$4, and under 3 free.

Warning: If you watch both movies you won't get out until about 1:00 am. Keep this in mind if you have to drive back to your cabin in the Hocking Hills. It could take you up to an hour or more to get home.



Also be sure you know the way back to your cabin in the dark. I wouldn't want you getting lost at that hour of the night. Hocking County is VERY dark, so use some caution.

Skyview Cruise-in Theatre: 740-653-5517 A map on the website shows Logan, Lancaster and the location of the drive-in. Ticket office opens at 6:30 pm and movies start at dusk.

They also have a toll-free telephone number: 877-286-6843 or 877-AT-MOVIE. The Skyview is located on Route 22 which is Main Street of Lancaster at 2420 East Main Street, Lancaster, Ohio 43130. From Logan, take State Route 33 into Lancaster.

At Main Street, turn right. Go through downtown Lancaster and the drive-in is on the right side of the road past the Chase Bank. Check out their website: [www.skyviewdrivein.com](http://www.skyviewdrivein.com)



**42. Smores and Camping Outdoors**– Remember making smores as a kid? When staying in the summer months, try staying at a place that has a fire ring. Or better yet go camping. You can plan on roasting hot dogs over the fire or having pie iron pizzas. This is

the stuff memories are made from. (See #49 for a listing of camp grounds).

**43. Movies 10 and The Fun Barn** – Located 7 minutes north of Athens on Route 33 is a movie theatre with the latest movie releases and all the tickets for all ages and all times are just \$4. Check them out at 740-753-3400 or [www.moviesten.com](http://www.moviesten.com).

They also have an all-indoor arcade and an expanded menu of pizza, breadsticks, burgers and fries, sandwiches, desserts, milkshakes and more. Their large dining area is the perfect place to host a birthday party.

**44. Hocking Hills Gem Mine** – If you want to have the experience of panning for gold the whole family can purchase a bag of mine rough from the camp store at the KOA Campground. It contains gems from around the world.



**Hocking Hills Gem Mine**

You take your bag to the 75 foot long sluice where you place it in a mining box. You wash away the dirt to discover your gems. They are open April 1 to October 31. Their address is 29150 Pattor Road, Logan, Ohio 43138. Call them at 740-385-4295.

Visit them on the internet at [www.hockinghillsgemmine.com](http://www.hockinghillsgemmine.com).

**45. Youth Fishing Tournament** – In May at Lake Hope State Park Dam for ages 1-16. Trophies are awarded and there is a cookout. The fun begins at 9 am – 11 am. Call 740-596-3030 for more information.

**46. Kayak Lake Hope Sunset Wildlife Tour aka "Beaver Tour"** Enjoy a sunset kayak tour with a private guide. They take the time to make sure you're properly fitted with a kayak, lifejacket, and paddle, and that you are comfortable in your boat before we head across the lake.

Some folks like to hop in and go and others are more comfortable with a little more instruction first. We allow you to set your own pace for maximum enjoyment. Moving quietly through the water allows many opportunities to view wildlife for those who are willing to slow down and look around.

Great Blue Heron can usually be spotted fishing in the shallow water near shore but by far the most conspicuous wildlife that we observe on these trips are beaver. Beaver are the largest rodent in North America and their size never fails to impress people who haven't seen them up close.



The shorelines of Lake Hope are full of the signs of beaver.



They are known for their industrious nature and an unexpected tail slap mere feet from your kayak is sure to catch your attention. This adventure takes about 3 hours to enjoy. Reservations well in advance are encouraged for best availability.

This tour is provided by Touch the Earth Adventures. Visit them on the web at [www.hockinghills.com/earthtouch](http://www.hockinghills.com/earthtouch) and phone them at 740-591-9094.



**47. Camp Akita** - Camp Akita is a summer camp for kids, family retreats, weddings, family reunions, or corporate getaways. They started in 1948 with a donation of 160 acres by John Galbreath made in memory of his wife Helen. Since then they have acquired more acreage and have 1200 acres.

There are 15 miles of hiking trails and a 7 acre lake for fishing, swimming or canoeing. They have a nature sanctuary, rope

challenge course, basketball court, Frisbee golf course, and sand volleyball court.

Camp Akita can provide food and lodging to accommodate groups ranging in size from 2 to 200. There are five cabins to choose from. Plus some of the camp facilities are available for your smaller group. In 1999 a 4.5 million dollar recreation of the main lodge and cabins took place. Depending on the time of year the lake is available for use by cabin renters. Certified water safety instructors are NOT provided-you may use the waterfront at your own risk.



Camp Akita has one of Ohio's premier ropes and challenge course. It was built in 1996 by North Carolina-based Alpine Towers Inc., a leader in challenge course design. The Adventure Complex at Akita includes a 50-foot Alpine Tower, Rescue Exercise and Challenge Course (REACH), Climbing Wall and Giant Swing.

Participants, individually or in teams, climb various rope configurations with names such as the Corporate Ladder and Diabolical Seesaw, and swing on the giant swing. During climbing, all individuals are harnessed and secured with safety lines.

Participants, individually or in teams, can test their confidence by climbing up and down a 35-foot wall. Hand holds and overhangs allow participants to dial up or down the challenge. They have opportunities for all ages or type of group. All components are designed for various levels of difficulty.

Challenges abound for small children, teens, young and older adults, and people with disabilities. Groups numbering from six to more than 100 can be accommodated at one time.

Individuals and families are welcome for special events. Half-day, full-day, or multi-day program arrangements are available. Trained instructors can help groups tailor specific programs to meet their particular goals and abilities. The Adventure Complex is operated under the philosophy of challenge by choice. Each participant chooses what he or she wants to accomplish.

Camp Akita is located at 29746 Logan-Horsmill Road, Logan, Ohio 43138. For reservation and facilities inquiries contact Danita Wolfe by phone at 740-385-3827, ext. 222 to check availability.



Visit them on the internet at [www.campakita.org](http://www.campakita.org).

**48. Art Classes** - The Decorative Arts Center of Ohio in Lancaster, Ohio, offers art classes for grades K-8 from 10 am to noon. Lancaster is a short drive from the Hocking Hills. For a listing of classes: <http://www.decartsohio.org/k-8-classes.html>. They are located at 145 East Main Street in Lancaster, Ohio. Call them at 740-381-1423.

**49. Go Camping** - There are many beautiful places to camp in the Hocking Hills area. Camping has the added bonus of being one of the most economical ways to see the Hills.

Old Man's Cave State Park has camper cabins so you don't really even have to own a tent. Plus you have a floor beneath you and a roof overhead but you are still in the campground area of the park. If I were to camp, that is the way I would do it. And there is no putting a tent up and taking it down or getting soaked in the rain. Call the Hocking Hills State Park Campground number below and make your reservations early because they only have 3 of these camper cabins. My "Budget Watcher's Report" has more of these camper cabins listed.

My E-guidebook, “Hocking Hills Highlights” has a listing of the area campgrounds. What follows is the listing from that publication:

## Campgrounds in the Hocking Hills

At Boulders Edge 740-385-0707  
Campbell Cove Camping 740-823-2288  
Equestrian Ridge Camping 740-603-2523  
Happy Hills Campground & Cabins 740-385-6720  
Hawks Landing Retreat Center 740-596-4288  
Hocking Hills Adventures 740-385-4449  
Hocking Hills Canoe Livery Camping 740-385-0523  
Hocking Hills KOA 740-385-4295  
Hocking Hills State Park Campground 740-385-6165  
Hocking River RV Park 740-331-4840  
Secluded Sanctuaries Tipi 740-380-1119  
Smoke Rise Ranch Resort 740-767-2624  
Spotted Horse Farm Camp 740-332-RIDE  
Three Reasons Farm Horse Camp 740-380-2729  
Top of the Caves Campground and Cabins 740-385-6566  
Walnut Creek Campground and Resort 740-774-1203

Camping in the Hocking Hills really is a great way to experience the outdoors and makes for some fantastic memories.



**50. The Little Country Church –** And on a final note I want to make one more recommendation to you. On a weekend after you check out on Sunday morning you can make one more stop at a little country church in the Hocking Hills. The Pine Grove United Methodist Church is right next to Conkle’s Hollow State Nature

Nature Preserve at 24760 Big Pine Road. It was established in 1873. I personally know the minister and his wife and they welcome guests to their church.

The church looks like the little white churches with a steeple you see on Christmas cards or in a Currier and Ives print. Their Sunday



service is at 9:00 am. It is just like stepping back in history or visiting the era of Laura Ingalls Wilder's "Little House on the Prairie".

Dress is casual so come as you are. After the service you can take one last hike at Cockle's Hollow and head home. Your mind, body and soul will be refreshed and renewed from a stress free stay in the Hocking Hills.

**The End**