

**Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of State Parks**

**2016 Educator's Newsletter
Experience the NEW Falls of the Ohio State Park**

The Interpretive Center has re-opened and you will *love* the new exhibits. During our gallery evaluations with school groups, we heard this recurrent comment: "This is like (or better than) The Children's Museum of Indianapolis." Our exhibits are geared for the full spectrum of grade levels and adults. The new exhibits are interactive and immersive with these themes: An Ancient Sea (Devonian life); A Changing Land (The Ice Age, Ohio River, paleontology vs. archaeology, prehistoric people); Converging Culture (the Shawnee, early America, Clark's military campaign, Lewis and Clark at the Falls); and The Falls Today (flora & fauna and conservation).

Some changes to school group fees, programs and visitation procedures:

- Admission is \$7 per student, which includes a guided tour of the gallery and a naturalist-led program of your choice.
- We offer more options for your students. New labs and hands-on activities are part of a menu of program options (described on our website).
- One chaperone for every five students is free, regardless of grade level. Additional chaperones are \$7 each.
- To improve your experience, we have time blocks (morning, mid-day, late afternoon) so that you need not worry about another large group intruding into your program.
- Free orientation to walk you through your group visit experience. Contact us to schedule between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- Activity sheets are optional, because the interactive exhibits effectively engage students. (More than 500 students, grades 1 through 12, went through our gallery so we could test their durability and monitor interest before we opened.) New activity sheets are on the fallsoftheohio.org website.

Student numbers / Duration of visit

10 to 62

2 hours

63 to 90

2 hours 30 minutes

More than 90

Split into morning and afternoon groups or come on different days

As always, our school programs meet state education standards.

Relevant Falls of the Ohio web pages for educators:

fallsoftheohio.org/educator.html - General information for teachers and links to other pages.

fallsoftheohio.org/FallsStudentPrograms.html - Program descriptions.

fallsoftheohio.org/FallsStudentPrograms.html - Reservation request form.

If you have any questions (content specialties listed below) or want to schedule a visit or an outreach program at your school, please contact interpretive naturalists Alan Goldstein or Jeremy Beavin. Reservations can be made by calling (812) 280-9970, or emailing:

Alan Goldstein, agoldstein@dnr.IN.gov, Specialist in geology programs, Waldron Shale Project, volunteer and service learning opportunities.

Jeremy Beavin, jbeavin@dnr.IN.gov, Specialist in history programs, Scout programs, Charlestown State Park program opportunities.