

Centennial Event Guide



Iowa's state park system began nearly 100 years ago when Backbone State Park in northeast Iowa was dedicated on May 28, 1920. Iowa is will host a yearlong celebration to celebrate the centennial of the parks system with the following goals:

- Celebrate the importance of state parks to Iowa's history, culture and quality of life;
- Connect Iowans to natural resources in a personal and passionate way; and
- Inspire a high level of appreciation and stewardship of the Iowa state park system for the future.

As part of the celebration, the Department of Natural Resources invites you to participate in the creation of 100 Days of Events during 2020. These official "centennial" events will be branded with the centennial logo that should be used by the sponsoring organization. The DNR will promote the events and feature them in the centennial event calendar.

To qualify as a centennial event, the event must fit into one of the five main themes of the centennial celebration:

1. Healthy Lifestyles
2. A Welcoming Place for Everyone
3. Volunteerism
4. Nature's Wonders
5. Historical and Cultural Connections

In addition, the event needs to include public participation that creates better understanding and caring of state parks. Public participation can include:

1. Educational or interpretive demonstrations
2. Active participation such as hiking, biking, camping, etc.
3. Celebratory activities such as a festival, ribbon cutting, rededication or picnic

The following page provides some examples of events that could easily fit into one of the categories and include a public participation element.

If you wish to have your event sanctioned as a centennial event, you will need to complete the Iowa State Parks Centennial Event Application Form, which is available on the DNR's website at iowadnr.gov/parks2020

Please e-mail your completed application form to: Centennial.Events@dnr.iowa.gov. Your application will be reviewed and you will receive a notification that approves or denies your request to have the event sanctioned. If the event also requires a special event permit, the authorization will include permit terms and conditions. (see page 3 for more information on special events)

Please submit applications at least 30 days prior to the event date to allow time for review and response.



Examples of Centennial Events



Healthy Lifestyles

- First Day Hikes
- 5/10K runs/walks or triathlons
- Bicycle events
- Yoga in the park
- Kayak/canoe races/floats
- Geocaching
- Trail rides
- Cooking contests/demonstrations

A Welcoming Place for Everyone

- Melting pot mixer or picnic
- Every Kid in a Park event (May 2019)
- Senior citizen/nursing home tours/walks
- Take your grandchild to a park event
- Host a campout for underserved youth
- Host an equipment demonstration for outdoor recreation equipment people with disabilities can use

Volunteerism

- Organized work day (trash clean-up, tree planting, painting project, etc.)
- Sponsor a trail (adopt-a-trail program)
- Host a volunteer appreciation event

Nature's Wonders – Promoting and Preserving Natural Resources

- Fishing events (no closed tournaments)
- Stargazing program
- Photography program/event
- Seed harvest day
- Guided nature hikes
- Kayak floats
- Scavenger hunt
- Co-sponsor Iowa Wildlife Camps
- Host guest speakers who can talk about geology, the night sky, insects, plants, etc. in the park
- Interpretive programs
- Forestry field days

Historical and Cultural Connections

- Rendezvous-type events
- Sponsor guest speakers regarding local history or park history
- Sponsor Art in Park Program
- Interpretive programming on state park history
- Sponsor musical performances at a park



Special Event Permits



Some qualifying centennial events may require a special event permit. If your event meets one of the following criteria, a special event permit will be required:

1. An organized race, tournament, exhibition or demonstration, or other planned event in which an admission fee is charged, prizes are awarded, or competition occurs between participants;
2. A planned event that, due to its nature, potential or actual size, or length, would likely adversely impact the use of the area by the public;
3. An event in which there is a free will offering or donation request; or
4. An event in which private vendors will be selling food, souvenirs or other merchandise.

If your qualifying event requires a special event permit, DNR will use the centennial event application form as the special event application form. Do not complete the online application through the DNR's special event application system.

As a qualifying centennial event, DNR will process the special event permit as follows:

- The \$25 special event application fee will be waived.
- The liability insurance requirement may be waived on a case- by-case basis.
- All private vendors that will be part of the centennial event will be required to pay 5% of gross receipts earned at the event to the DNR or a friends group as defined in 571 IAC Chapter 44.

For groups such as friends groups that wish to partner with the DNR on a centennial event, please use the following guidance to determine whether a special event permit is required:

- No special event permit will be required if you, as a co-sponsor/partner, have shared event responsibilities and there is no money involved (registration fees, donations/free will offering, fund raising/raffles, etc.).
- A special event permit will be required if the co-sponsor/partner wishes to accept donations/free will offering, charge fees, raise funds or have private vendors at the event.

A special event permit will be sent to the sponsoring organization upon review and approval.

