

## NEWS RELEASE

May 17, 2011

### Back-to-Back Special Event Weekends

#### To Be Held at Pine Grove Furnace State Park

GARDNERS, PA -- **Pine Grove Furnace State Park** and the **Appalachian Trail Museum**, in conjunction with many of its partners, are preparing for two straight weekends of outdoor events and family programming; **National Get Outdoors Day on Saturday, June 11** and the **First Appalachian Trail Festival June 18 & 19**.

**Pine Grove Furnace State Park**, recently named the **2010 Park of the Year**, the South Mountain Partnership, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy are sponsoring **National Get Outdoors Day** to provide outdoor and education opportunities for the entire family. Events for the day begin at 8:00 a.m. with a half marathon and 5K run to support the **Friends of Pine Grove Furnace**, a non-profit organization that helps promote volunteerism and assist with events at the park. Other morning events include trail hikes to local scenic vistas and historical sites, a wildflower walk, a historical scavenger hunt and kayaking for beginners.

Lunch will be available at the **Central Pennsylvania Conservancy's** newly renovated **Ironmaster's Mansion**. Meals will include hamburgers, hot dogs, Sloppy Joes, potato salad, watermelon, dessert and drink for only \$7.

"The afternoon of **National Get Outdoors Day** will feature the South Mountain Ramble as part of the South Mountain Speaker Series," said Jason Zimmerman, manager of **Pine Grove Furnace State Park**. "This will be a fun interactive 1.5 mile hike for the whole family that will explore the area's rich history. Topics will include local Native American history, the Underground Railroad in South Mountain, the South Mountain Iron Industry, a local history of the natural world, Appalachian Trail Balderdash and history at the Appalachian Trail Museum, and the history of Camp Michaux."

Registration is required for all events and, with the exception of the half marathon and 5K run, are free. To register, visit the DCNR Calendar of Events for Pine Grove Furnace State Park at

[http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar/view\\_event.asp?CalendarID=18511&Location=List](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar/view_event.asp?CalendarID=18511&Location=List) or call the Park Office at [717-486-7174](tel:717-486-7174).

**The Appalachian Trail Museum** will hold its first festival on June 18-19 at the park. "The festival will celebrate hiker culture and feature a new traveling exhibit developed by the museum," Zimmerman said. The kick-off for the festival will be the inaugural Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame Banquet on the evening of June 17, at Allenberry Resort in Boiling Springs. At the banquet, the first class of six honorees will be inducted into the Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame, which will be located in the museum's building at **Pine Grove Furnace State Park**. The festival will feature a hiking program, music, storytelling, crafts, competitions and history programs. There also will be a variety of activities for children on both days. Additional information on the **Appalachian Trail Museum** and the festival weekend events can be found at

[www.atmuseum.org](http://www.atmuseum.org).

Steeped in natural and historical features, the 696-acre Pine Grove Furnace State Park is in a beautiful mountain setting in southern Cumberland County. Surrounded by Michaux

State Forest, Pine Grove Furnace features two lakes, 25-acre Laurel Lake and 1.7-acre Fuller Lake, a historic area and the Appalachian Trail. The park is easily reached from I-81. Visitors should take Exit 37 to PA 233 south then travel for eight miles. For more information on DCNR, visit [www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us).