

Seven Ponds Nature Center Presents:

Adirondacks in the Spring

May 24 – 29, 2026



Come explore “new mountains from old rocks” with Seven Ponds as we immerse ourselves in the springtime beauty of the Adirondack Park. Established in 1892, the Adirondack Park is over six million acres, and is a patchwork of public and private lands with quaint little towns dispersed amongst the wilderness in upstate New York. In late May, the mountains will be awash with leaves in hues of light greens and pinks, spring ephemerals blanketing the forest floors, and the rivers and waterfalls rushing with freshly melted snow. Migrating birds moving through, along with year-round bird residents, will add to the kaleidoscope of colors. Adirondack Park is not only rich in natural history, but human history is tied very closely to these lands. Iroquoian people, Mohawk (Kenyengehaga) and Oneida (Oneyotdehaga), as well as the Algonquian people, Mahican, call this place home, and their ancestors hunted, made pottery, and practiced agriculture throughout the mountains. During the Gilded Age, the Adirondacks became a destination for elite families wanting to get away from the “evils” of city life, and inspired them to build luxurious retreats that blended into the natural surroundings. This trip will allow us to delight in our senses, as we explore the wonders of the Adirondack Mountains.

Sunday, May 24 – Arrive at Garnet Hill Resort and Lodge



Garnet Hill is one of the few classic Adirondack lodges that remain today. The lodge or Log House, as it is known, is reminiscent of an Adirondack Great Camp, and the original structure was built in 1936. Garnet Hill's location, on gentle hills overlooking pristine Thirteenth Lake surrounded by forever wild protected state land, will allow us to imagine what the wilderness was like.

hundreds of years ago. Check in at the lodge any time after 3:00 p.m. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. for a short orientation meeting to meet everyone and go over what to expect during our adventure. After the meeting we will have a delicious family style dinner at the Log House Restaurant in Garnet Hill.

Monday, May 25 – Adirondack History and Great Camps

After breakfast and packing our lunches, we will spend the day exploring the human history of the region, starting at the

Adirondack Experience – The Museum on Blue Mountain Lake and finishing at the **Great Camp Santanoni**. The Adirondack Experience preserves and interprets the diverse stories of Adirondack history, culture, and people. With more than 20 buildings, in an open-air campus, nestled across 120 acres overlooking Blue Mountain Lake our visit will be a truly unique experience. We will spend our time



learning about life in the Adirondacks, the artists that find inspiration from this wild place, boats, work in the woods, and so much more. After lunch we will make our way over to the Great Camp Santanoni to see how the elite enjoyed the woods. The 13,000-acre preserve is one of the earliest examples of an Adirondack Great Camp. We will explore the three historic areas of the Great Camp, the Gate Lodge, Farm, and Main Camp, from a horse drawn wagon via a well-maintained historic carriage road. After, we will head back to Garnet Hill for dinner.

Tuesday, May 26 – Geology and Stars

After breakfast and packing our lunches we will make our way to the Hudson Gorge Wilderness to hike the **Blue Ledge on the Hudson** trail. The Hudson River travels through the heart of this

wilderness, and some of its wildest moments lie deep within the gorge the river has curved for itself. Our 5-mile (there and back) trail will take us across a stream, next to a beautiful lake, through a hardwood forest, to the rim of the Hudson Gorge, and finally finishing at the river with bluish gray limestone cliffs towering over us. This trail is rated easy to moderate with the beginning swampy in places and rooty and rocky in other places. We will eat our lunch on the shore of the Hudson River. After

lunch, we will make our way back to the lodge to relax before dinner. After dinner, we will spend the evening at the camp fire listening for owls and looking at stars.



Wednesday, May 27 – Hiking and Canoeing

After breakfast and packing our lunches, we stay close to our home base by exploring the Garnet Hill Lodge grounds, and canoeing Thirteenth Lake. We will hike the **Balm of Gilead trail**. This trail will take us through a beautiful beech-maple forest, up a steady incline through bedrock outcrops, finishing at a summit with a spectacular view of Thirteenth Lake and the mountains beyond. The summit will have plenty of space for us to



sit and enjoy our lunch while taking in the incredible view. After our hike, we will head to **Thirteenth Lake** and enjoy the crystal clear water at lake level. We will spend the afternoon exploring some of the shoreline of this large, stream-fed lake by stopping at a couple rustic lakeside campsites to check out the birds and botany inhabiting the area. After a day of hiking and canoeing, we will unwind with a delicious dinner at the lodge.

Thursday, May 28 – Waterfalls and Rail biking the Adirondacks

After breakfast and packing our lunches, we spend the morning and afternoon exploring the southeastern part of the Siamese Ponds Wilderness. We will discover two of the wilderness's small, but beautiful, waterfalls. Our first stop will be **Auger Falls**. This trail is less than a mile, but will take us through a forest of roots and rocks, along the Sacandaga River to Auger Falls where the river is squeezed into a gorge of rocks and sent gushing down huge boulders. From this trail, we will drive to the East Branch Gorge Trail to check out the **Square Falls**. The trail begins on a wide path under eastern hemlocks to a small stream (we will rock jump or walk through), along the Sacandaga River to the small, but geologically interesting, Square Falls. Around the falls will be the perfect location to enjoy our bag lunches. After a day of waterfalls, we will head back to the lodge for dinner. This evening we will travel the short distance to the town of North Creek to experience the Adirondack Park from old rail ways for a twilight rail bike tour. On our 4-seat rail bikes we will set out on a magical guided adventure through forests and over a bridge on an old railroad. This will be the perfect way to end our Adirondack experience.



Friday, May 29 – Good byes and So longs

One last breakfast and another opportunity, as a group, to share all of our memories of our adventures in the Adirondacks before we make our separate ways home.

Trip Leaders

Carrie Spencer is an experienced naturalist who enjoys sharing her knowledge and love of the natural world with others. She has lead many trips, and is excited to explore the Adirondack Mountains with each and every one of you.

Madison Christol is a naturalist and enthusiastic birder. She is overjoyed to share the magic of the mountains with the group.

Accommodations

For all five nights we will be staying at Garnet Hill Lodge and Resort in the southeastern part of the Adirondack Park. Their address is 39 Garnet Hill Road, North River, New York 12856, and the phone number is 518-251-21502. The lodge is nestled in the mountains of the Adirondack Park, near the Hudson River and Gore Mountain. We will spend most of our time around the protected lands surrounding Garnet Hill.

Meals

On this tour, dinner from Sunday night to breakfast on Friday morning is included in the tour fee. All of our meals will be prepared by The Log House Restaurant at Garnet Hill Lodge. Breakfast will be buffet style with rotating menu items. Lunches will be packed by participants with a selection to choose from. Dinner will be family style or buffet. The Log House Restaurant uses fresh and local ingredients, and we will have gorgeous views of Thirteenth Lake and the mountains.

Transportation

Participants will travel to Garnet Hill Lodge in North River, New York on your own. Participants may want to carpool to the lodge with other members of the group. A list will be provided for those who wish to arrange transportation with someone. Once we are in the Adirondack Park, drivers will be expected to assist with transportation of group members during activities and will be reimbursed for days of driving. We will have radios in the vehicles in order to communicate directions and natural history information as we travel around the area during the tour.

Equipment

One suitcase per person should suffice, plus a day bag for carrying your lunch, field guides, rain gear, refillable water bottle, sunscreen, and other items on hikes. Either boots or tennis shoes are fine for hiking, depending upon your preference, as long as they are sturdy, well broken in, and without a smooth sole. Bring clothes which can be put on and taken off in layers. It can be cool in Upstate New York, but late spring weather is unpredictable and may include colder temperatures. Additional equipment to consider includes binoculars, hiking poles, head net, camera, hat, sunglasses, notebook, wildflower and bird field guides, and hand lens.

Smoking or Vaping

We ask that all participants refrain from smoking or vaping in vehicles and in all situations where participants are in close proximity.

Trip Fee

The fee for this trip is \$1930.00. The fee includes a double-occupancy room for five nights, all meals from Sunday night to Friday morning breakfast, all our activities costs, leader fees, and pre and post information. For those interested in a single room, the single supplement fee is \$400.00 and is based on the availability of the lodge. Please email Carrie (cspencer@sevenponds.org) or Madison (mchristol@sevenponds.org), or call the nature center, 810-796-3200, if you are interested in a single supplement.

To register, please visit www.sevenponds.org/field-tours. The deposit for this trip is \$600.00 and is due upon registration. Full payment is due May 1st, 2026.

Cancellation Policy

In the event of cancellation, refunds will be made according to the following schedule. If cancellation occurs by March 24, 2026, a full refund including deposit will be made. If cancellation occurs between March 24 and April 24, the deposit is not refundable, but any payments covering the balance of the trip will be refunded. If cancellation occurs after April 24, we will only be able to provide a refund for the portion of the trip fee which is recoverable by Seven Ponds.

Additional Information

If you have questions or need additional information please contact Carrie Spencer, cspencer@sevenponds.org, or Madison Christol, mchristol@sevenponds.org, or call Seven Ponds at 810-796-3200.