

Cambridge/Guernsey County Visitors & Convention Bureau Encourages Travelers to Plan Their Summer Play List Early

CAMBRIDGE, Ohio (Jan. 21, 2020) – Your summer “play list” should include more than great music. It should include memorable adventures with family and friends. And the best time to begin planning for that time off is now.

The Cambridge/Guernsey County Visitors & Convention Bureau is partnering with destinations around the country to promote National Plan for Vacation Day on, Tuesday, January 28.

More than half of American workers (55%) failed to use all their time off last year. That’s a stockpile of 768 million unused vacation days just in the last year, of which 236 million were forfeited completely. What’s the key to using more vacation time? Planning. But nearly half of American households (46%) don’t do this simple step—and they lose out on their time off and the benefits it brings.

“The beginning of the year is the time to pull out the calendar and start planning for the entire year. Before you know it, life happens, and you may find yourself in November with weeks left to use and simply not enough time left in the year to schedule your vacation days,” said Debbie Robinson, Executive Director for the Cambridge/Guernsey County VCB.

National Plan for Vacation Day is the perfect reminder for Americans to plan to use those well-earned days off to explore this great nation. Research shows that individuals who plan are more likely to use all of their time off, take more vacation days at once and report greater levels of happiness at work and at home.

“The landscape of Southeast Ohio, specifically Guernsey County, threads together an amazing tapestry of outdoor recreation, small town charm, and great local fare,” Robinson said. “Southeast Ohio is the place to plan your vacation in 2020!”

Your summer play list should begin with **Salt Fork State Park**, Ohio’s largest state park. It is surprisingly located only a 15-minute drive from downtown Cambridge. The park boasts 17,229-acres with 14 scenic hiking trails, ranging from easy to moderate. It also has the largest inland beach in the state (there’s nearly 3,000 acres of water), a four-star golf course, a mini-golf course, 200+ campsites, and the Salt Fork Lodge, which itself has 53 cabins and 148 rooms (and yes, it’s overlooking the lake at just the right point). Parks.OhioDNR.Gov/SaltFork

Another perfect spot to explore is **Seneca Lake**. Thirteen miles southeast of Cambridge, Seneca Lake is Ohio’s third largest inland waterway, and it has all the lake activities you might expect: fishing for bluegills and bass, boating, waterskiing, swimming, camping...all that and geocaching.

The park oversees all new geocache submissions, ensuring they meet guidelines, and gives you a chance to explore the area around the lake on a scavenger hunt in the great outdoors — whether you're an avid 'cacher or a first-timer. SenecaPark.MWCD.org

The area is also home to **The Wilds**, one of the largest and most innovative wildlife conservation centers in the world. Visitors may board a guided safari tour to see and learn about endangered species living in open-range habitats May-Oct. Horseback, fishing, and zipline safaris are also available. TheWilds.org

If you're seeking family fun and games, **Rocky Fork Recreation** has 850 acres of outdoor opportunities including paintball, guided horseback rides, canoeing, hiking trails, mini-golf, pizza-sub shop, and more. It is open seven days a week and year-round. RockyForkRanchResort.com

Deerassic Park Education Center offers unique outdoor opportunities with a herd of deer, fishing pond, and trails. Special events are schedule throughout the year, including field trips for classrooms and youth groups. DeerassicClassic.com

Finally, enjoy a leisurely stroll with your family or an invigorating 12-mile bike ride enjoying the solitude and beauty along the **Great Guernsey Trail**. This paved, low-grade path offers an unforgettable natural setting as you disappear into the serene woods. Travel over three bridges; stop for an ice cream cone; or make it a great workout. GuernseyCountyCDC.com

“Using vacation days to travel could also improve the U.S. economy, create American jobs and have a positive impact on our health and overall well-being. In fact, if Americans used all their time off to travel, our economy could see a boost of \$151.5 billion in travel spending and an additional 2 million U.S. jobs,” Robinson said.

For more information on planning a vacation, contact the Cambridge/Guernsey County VCB office at 627 Wheeling Avenue, Suite 200 in downtown Cambridge, call 740-432-2022, email info@VisitGuernseyCounty.com, or log onto VisitGuernseyCounty.com.



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