

GBO Day – Monongahela National Forest



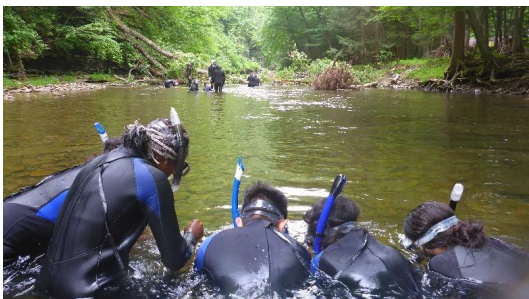
Get Black Outside (GBO) is a global platform designed to acknowledge, support, and unite black-led organizations and facilitators that bring outdoor programming to black audiences. GBO recognizes that collaboration is essential to growth. By creating a space for black outdoor organizations and facilitators to collaborate and share resources, GBO will push for nature equity, with a goal that people of color especially all African-Americans have the opportunity to engage in nature, via an authentic and culturally tailored experience.

The GBO Annual Snorkeling, Citizen Science & Camping event will be held in partnership with the US Forest Service Freshwater Snorkeling Education Program (and the National Association of Black Scuba Divers (NABS)). This GBO experience will engage youth, adults, and families across several states to share in a unique exposure experience that:

- Brings people of color to programmed forestry events.
- Introduces the long-standing historical, cultural, and recreation value of the Forestry Service.
- Raises the awareness of the connectedness of the Nation's waterways by focusing on water quality, aquatic life, and riparian zones.
- Engages participants in crowd-sourcing Citizen Science to help advance research in both the National Forest and local regions.
- Celebrates the recreational facet of snorkeling in freshwater systems.

In addition to the aforementioned objectives, participants will also gain a myriad of benefits provided by traditional camping including mindfulness and relaxation. Increased fitness from grounding, hiking, kayaking, and restful nights in greenspace. Having the ability to unplug and unwind from the fast-paced, and congested conditions of urban areas. Along with simply enhancing “black joy” by building and deepening supportive relationships in nature.

Why river snorkeling? We know people connect to the outdoors when they see animals in the wild, and connected people want to learn about what they've seen and share the experience with others. Connecting to rivers is a challenge because fish and many other aquatic animals are hidden beneath the surface of the water. River snorkeling instantly creates a powerful connection to rivers by immersing people in a world of fish, crayfish, turtles, salamanders and many other amazing creatures. Seeing these fascinating animals up close opens the door to learning about rivers and sharing stories and experiences with others.



Site Description: Horseshoe Run and the CLA Horseshoe camp are nestled in a scenic valley in the Monongahela National Forest. Horseshoe Run is a medium-sized, scenic, mountain stream featuring pools with a maximum depth of approximately 4-5 feet, shallow riffles, and a few mellow rapids. The pools at the Forest Service campground and picnic area have been popular swimming areas since the Monongahela was established. There is gently sloped access into the pools which allows swimmers and snorkelers to choose their preferred depth. The stream water is usually very clear, and visibility is excellent unless there has been recent rain; water temperature is cool but increases as summer progresses. Expect to see a variety of native fishes, crayfish, and salamanders. There are no dangerous animals in the stream. Although non-venomous snakes are spotted occasionally, they pose no threat to humans.

Accommodations for the weekend will be the CLA Horseshoe Camp. This is a residential camp for youth throughout the year. It features private grounds for outdoor tent camping, rustic cabins with electricity, and multiple facilities with showers and toilets. There is a pavilion on-site (for eating and congregating), as well as field games, fire pit, hike trailheads, and indoor kitchen for food prep.



Tentative Agenda:

Saturday

- Snorkel event 11-2
- Lunch
- Free time (games, hikes, meet n greet, rock climb)
- Dinner
- Campfire
- Night hike

Sunday

- Morning hike
- Breakfast
- Departure for some
- Optional excursions: Fishing, trip to shop in town, kayaking/whitewater, or Blackwater Falls and Lindy Point field trip
-

Contact for Monongahela: Erika Hood, erika@syattcle.org , 216-536-5443