

STARVED ROCK STATE PARK

2668 875th Road
Oglesby, IL 61348
815-667-4726



Starved Rock State Park, located along the Illinois River, is well-known for its beautiful canyons and waterfalls. This park is very scenic, and is a great park for day hiking. Have a picnic by one of the many waterfalls in the back canyons, or climb the stairs to the scenic overlook of the Illinois River and dam. For the history buffs, hike up the stairs and learn about the history of Starved Rock, or enjoy the Nature and Visitor Centers' fun exhibits and souvenirs. For the adventurers, explore the back of the park, where some of the more majestic canyons reside, such as LaSalle Canyon.

Campfire Rules: Campfires are only permitted in designated firepits. The campground has a campground store that opened in 2009 that sells firewood ice, and other camping essentials.

Seasonal Information: The park is open year-round, but the best time to go is the Spring. With the melting of the snow, the waterfalls are in full effect, and the flowers are in full bloom. If you plan on playing in the water, however, you may want to wait until it gets warmer in the later summer months. Winter can be very scenic as well, with beautiful ice formations from the waterfalls. There are plenty of events hosted year-round at the park, including Oktoberfest, nature hikes, and classes to learn about the park history, nature, and geology of the park. Take a look at the calendar of events at starvedrockstatepark.org.

Activities inside the park: Starved rock State park has 13 miles of clearly marked trails. The main trails at the front of the park are paved and/or planked, but the back of the park (near the best waterfalls and canyons) are dirt. Fishing is available, and catfish, bullhead, white bass,

sauger, walleye, carp, and crappie may be caught in the Illinois River. Boats can be launched at the west end of the park, and paddleboats are available for rental.

Additional Comments: If hiking in warm weather, bring a towel and sandals. It's going to be hard for your scouts to resist playing in the water under the beautiful waterfalls. Have a picnic next to/behind one of the waterfalls during the day, and don't forget to relax every now and then to take in the sights. The best trails are in the back of the park.

Interesting fact about the park: On March 14th, 1960, three women were murdered in St. Louis Canyon. A lodge employee named Chester Weger confessed to robbing and killing the three victims, and is currently serving a life sentence.

Must do before you leave: Make sure you visit the canyons in the back of the park. If you have time, a visit to the Scouting Museum in Ottawa can be very fun and educational. Many troops visit Starved Rock State Park without any knowledge that the Scouting Museum is only a short drive away (15 – 20 minutes).



Authored by Chris Brown