

Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation Fact Sheet for Friends Groups—Easter Egg Hunts

This fact sheet was compiled with suggestions and tips from friends groups that host Easter egg hunts. Hosting a community event such as an Easter egg hunt takes planning and preparation, but it's a great way to raise money and build community relationships.

Planning: Coordinating and planning will take some time and effort, so be sure to speak with your park manager well in advance to organize the date, time and location within the park. Keep in mind that there will be children in attendance, so deciding on a safe and contained location for hiding the eggs will be very important. If your local park has a picnic area or family camping area, talk with your park manager about using that space as a location for the event.



Your egg hunt has the potential to become very popular indeed.
Photo: Friends of Prince Gallitzin

Some friends groups include craft workshops for the kids, volunteer run or park staffed programs, games, concessions available to purchase, and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny, so you can make

this event as small or as large as you'd like. Prepare a budget.

Spring is also a fickle time of year with weather conditions, so plan ahead for potential rain

or chilly weather. Typically friends groups make their Easter egg hunts a rain or shine event, so prepare accordingly.

Promoting: Getting the word out about the event is important, so utilize your local resources to help the news spread to your community. Posting flyers in your state park, putting announcements in the local

newspaper or on DCNR's website and using social media sites like Facebook and Twitter can all be great ways of promoting the hunt. Some newspapers will post nonprofit events for free, so become familiar with your local media.

Participation: Friends groups have unanimously decided that the easiest way to maintain some organization during their Easter egg hunts is to divide the children in attendance into age brackets. The Friends of Prince Gallitzin divide participants into three age groups. This is a great way to stay organized and keep track of the kids. These children will also be accompanied by their parents or guardians, and the Friends of Codorus found that having a designated viewing area for the adults to watch has meant less confusion. Park rangers are available to help with communication and safety, so ask your park manager about having a few park rangers available for assistance.

You might choose to use the hunt as a fundraiser, and charge a participation fee or simply set up a donation box. The Friends of Prince Gallitzin use an ever-growing food concession as a big part of their fundraising efforts



Is the Easter Bunny a member of your Chapter? Be sure to enlist his help
Photo: Friends of Keystone

for the event, with hot sausage sandwiches, hot dogs, nachos, sloppy joes and drinks on the menu.

Supplies and Prizes: The most important thing about an Easter egg hunt is the prizes. Small candies, toys or coupons for local businesses can be great little egg stuffers. Building relationships with local businesses and organizations in the community can be a rewarding method for offering prizes and fostering long-term connections. The Friends of Prince Gallitzin work with Hubcaps Pizza (just a few miles from the park) to include 100 “golden tickets” good for a free slice in their eggs.

Like any first-time event, determining how large a crowd to expect can be something of a guessing game and, when it comes to planning for the number of eggs to stuff, it is admittedly hard to know what to do.

In 2009, the Friends of Prince Gallitzin were stuffing 3,000 eggs; in 2015, the Friends hid 6,000 eggs for their hunt, putting 3-4 pieces of candy inside each egg. The Friends of Keystone allow each child to collect between 10-12 eggs so that everyone could have a chance at winning prizes.

Other supplies such as tarps, tables, rope for designating certain areas, and craft supplies and games are other supplies to consider in your event budget.

Resources: There are many ways of preparing and hosting this kind of event, so have fun and get creative. Below are some resources and websites to help you get started with preparing and planning your Easter egg hunt.

Where to Get Supplies

- Oriental Trading Company— <http://www.orientaltrading.com/>
- Party City (or any party store in your area)
- Dollar General/Family Dollar/Five Below, etc.



Honestly, the Bunny gets around!
Photo: Friends of Prince Gallitzin

How To Plan

- WikiHow—<http://www.wikihow.com/Plan-an-Easter-Egg-Hunt>
- Real Simple—<http://www.realsimple.com/holidays-entertaining/holidays/easter-egg-hunt>

Friends Groups Resources:

Friends of Codorus—717.630.2183
Friends of Keystone—724.339.1885
Friends of Prince Gallitzin—
814.684.4097

Reminders

- If you hold a raffle as a fundraiser, be sure to follow the *PPFF Policy for Fundraising Raffles* and to have your raffle permit in place before conducting the raffle.
- If you plan to have vendors on site selling their own goods, please be sure to obtain their sales tax identification numbers in accordance with the *Vendor List—Sales Tax ID Tracker*.



The hunt is a great time to add games and other activities.
Photo: Friends of Codorus