

The

ROCKSPIRIAN

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CAMPING AT CAMP SASSAFRAS in the autumn is special for several reasons, not the least of which is the beautiful colors and temperate weather. The campground is most often used in the springtime as campers are anxious to get out and enjoy the end of winter weather. However, in the autumn campers experience the dramatic transformation of the forests as the leaves turn color and fall to the ground revealing previously unseen treasures and vistas. In addition, the wildlife is actively scurrying about in preparation for the winter months.

When Rockspire was first established in October of 1997, the only accommodation was a tent pitched at the campground's cliff edge. Now we have five tent sites, a redwood deck for the dining tent, and a fire pit for cooking. Camping gear is stored at each tent site in large hermetically sealed steel containers for that quick, unplanned, weekend camping adventure. And for those who wish to bring their RV, we can accommodate.

Rockspire is a great place to create memorable experiences year 'round, but fall camping is special!



Camp Sassafra in the Autumn

Photos from Rockspire's Archives

LIVING AT ROCKSPIRE PRESENTS CHALLENGES, but also many creative opportunities. As the list below suggests, we have lots of questions to address. We'd love to hear your ideas. Maybe you've come across something unique in your research and travels.

Opportunities: Challenges

- o **Affordability:** Is a Rockspire home out of my reach? What about financing? Life-cycle cost?
- o **Diversity:** Is living at Rockspire for everyone?
- o **Accessibility:** If I'm young, old, or limited mobility can I access Rockspire easily and safely?
- o **Community:** Friends, family, responsibility, caring, group well-being, privacy considerations?
- o **Longevity:** Will I be able to age-in-place? In-home care and emergency response as I age?
- o **Continuity:** Will Rockspire outlive us? Who will carry-on when we're gone?
- o **Resiliency:** Will the infrastructure and homes at Rockspire last? Disaster-proof?
- o **Experimentation:** Am I willing to step outside my "comfort zone"?



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October After Dark in the Ozarks

VOICES FROM THE SILENT CITY is a guided, living history tour of the cemetery in Eureka Springs, also known as *The Silent City*. These tours feature actors in period costumes sharing stories of the cemetery’s permanent residents. This year’s theme was “Silent No More”, featuring residents of the Silent City who were buried in pauper’s graves or were not considered “prominent citizens” of Eureka Springs. One such person featured was the town’s “bad boy” who murdered two men and was hanged after his trial in Ft. Smith before the famous “Hanging Judge Parker”. As the young man who portrayed this character put it ... “*I really messed up this time!*” We tried to get his picture, but not surprisingly he wouldn’t step into the light so we could see his face. One of the men he murdered is also buried in *The Silent City*.

The annual enactment of the resident’s unique and colorful pasts is one of the main fundraisers for the Eureka Springs Historical Museum. The tours have been conducted every October for the past 11 years. Below are five pictures taken at this year’s *Silent City* enactment.



Photos by, G. Myers 10.25.19

THE NORTH FOREST LIGHTS at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art features several artist’s installations of dramatic lighting along the approximately one-mile long trail through the North Forest at Crystal Bridges in Bentonville, Arkansas.



Most of the light sculptures are kinetic displays set to music which wafts through the woods as patrons stroll along the self-guided tour. Pictures 1-3 are three of these kinetic lighting displays. Picture #4 is one of Crystal Bridge’s permanent sculptures by the world renown glass sculptor, Dale Chahuly. And picture #5 is called “The Whispering Tree”, as patrons can walk up to the base of the tree and alter the lighting displayed in the tree by speaking to it.

Photos by, G. Myers 10.27.19