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**Date:** 12/1/2015 10:54:28 AM  
**Subject:** Military Invited to Friendly Competition at State Parks on New Year's Day

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Hey, guys, just want to make sure you received press release below, re: military competition at state parks on New Year's Day. A copy was sent to [agencyinfo@gov.sc.gov](mailto:agencyinfo@gov.sc.gov). Let me know if you have any questions.

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**SAVE THE DATE:** Mark your calendar for February 15 – 17, 2016 for the 2016 Governor's Conference on Tourism & Travel. Please visit [www.scgovcon.com](http://www.scgovcon.com) for more information.



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**From:** Dawn Dawson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 24, 2015 10:07 AM  
**To:** Terry Conway <tconway@scprt.com>  
**Cc:** Dawn Dawson <ddawson@scprt.com>  
**Subject:** Military Invited to Friendly Competition at State Parks on New Year's Day

For Immediate Release – Nov. 30, 2015  
Contact – Dawn Dawson-House, [ddawson@scprt.com](mailto:ddawson@scprt.com), 803-734-1779

## Friendly Competition For the Armed Forces on New Year's Day

### State Parks Invite Military to Compete at First Day Hikes

Columbia -- The State Park Service is inviting all military personnel in South Carolina to compete in First Day Hikes on New Year's Day, Friday, Jan. 1, to see which branch of the Armed Forces can hike the most miles in a single day. The winner will be announced on the Park Service's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SC.State.Parks>.

First Day Hikes are ranger-guided outings and special events held at more than 30 state parks across South Carolina, to give people an invigorating start to the new year. A complete list of First Day Hike events for 2016 can be found [here](#). Military personnel can opt to join scheduled hikes or take alternate trails in state parks as long as they check in with rangers first.

The parks are inviting members of the U.S. Army, the Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force to rack up miles for bragging rights. Park officials recommend finding state parks with significant trail systems like Kings Mountain in

Blacksburg, Poinsett in Wedgefield or Edisto Beach in Colleton County, and by visiting more than one park. Officials also recommend hiking in large groups and reporting each member's miles.

Admission to all state parks will be free on New Year's Day. Military personnel should stop by the park office to pick up an Ultimate Outsider guide and tell the park ranger on duty which branch of service he or she represents. They can go on hikes and then report back the number of miles each person covers.

For more information about First Day Hikes and the special competition for the Armed Forces, contact Dawn Dawson-House at 803-734-1779 or at [ddawson@scprt.com](mailto:ddawson@scprt.com), or visit [www.SouthCarolinaParks.com](http://www.SouthCarolinaParks.com).

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