

LOCAL & STATE

GET ACTIVE

Outdoor enthusiasts inspire in Adventure Series

By Debbie Juniewicz
Contributing Writer

Inspirational and informational, the 2026 Next Destination Outdoor Adventure Series can be the first step in a year of adventure.

Sponsored by the City of Springboro's Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Franklin-Springboro Public Library, the winter speaker series offers a variety of free events with topics ranging from cycling and hiking to stretching and bike-packing. The series, in its current format, began a decade ago after the city and library combined two separate but similar programs they were running.

"We thought let's put these programs together, we'd have lots of outreach and a big network," said Dan Boron, community planner, City of Springboro said. "It's been very well received."

The series moved into the spacious Springboro Performing Arts Center a few years ago, allowing for as many as 140 audience members.

"We've come close to filling it more than once," Boron said.

Local and regional outdoor enthusiasts share their successes and knowledge with aspiring outdoor adventurers on a variety of topics. Cycling? Check. Backpacking? Check. Hiking? Check.

"People want to learn," Boron said. "And, in the winter, when it's cold, many people wonder, 'what can we do now.' This is an opportunity to prepare for what to do next."



Hands-on presentations, like that of speaker Justin Kellermeier, make the Next Destination Outdoor Adventure Series presentations both informative and useful. CONTRIBUTED

Presenter Andy Niekamp of the Dayton Hikers agrees.

"This is the time to inspire other people to have adventures of their own," Niekamp said. "I have a quote: 'once you achieve, you have a duty to inspire others,' and that's what the Next Destination series is about. Everyone there is inspiring others."

The presentations last about an hour with additional time allotted for questions. Some people also choose to speak with the presenters after the formal program is over.

"Everyone is very approachable," Niekamp said. "I'm excited to be one of the presenters, it's an honor."

MORE DETAILS

**2026 Next Destination Outdoor Adventure Series
Bikes, E-Bikes, & More: The Law of Riding & Walking Around**
When: 6:30-8 p.m. Jan. 27
Where: Springboro Performing Arts Center, 115 Wright Station Way

Flexibility for Outdoor Adventures with Donna Gambino
When: 6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 3
Where: Springboro Library, 125 Park Lane.
More: Attendees should bring a fitness mat and small towel and dress for movement.

Bikepacking the KATY Trail with Cami and Jordan Hart
When: 6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 19
Where: Springboro Performing Arts Center, 115 Wright Station Way

Conquering the Camino: Learn How to Plan Your Camino de Santiago Adventure with Andy Niekamp
When: 6:30-8 p.m. March 10
Where: Springboro Performing Arts Center (BPAC) 115 Wright Station Way



Presenter Andy Niekamp (left) is excited to again share his adventures as part of the Next Destination Outdoor Adventure Series. CONTRIBUTED