

Troop 39's Grayson Highlands State Park Camping Trip – May 2-4, 2008

This trip will be divided into 4 different itineraries:

- “New Scouts” Backpacking trip – 5-Mile Hike Requirement – 1st Class
- Older Scouts Backpacking on the AT
- Philmont Trek 709A-(Crew) 1
- Philmont Trek 709A-(Crew) 2



Wild Pony Herds!

The Philmont Crews are self contained – the older Scouts will form Patrols for this event.

Travel will be by Church Vans/Buses and other approved registered vehicles. The troop will need to leave the church by 5:30 PM on Friday. We will travel Interstate 77 North to US 21, taking it through Sparta, NC. At Twin Oaks, NC we will use US 221 and then onto State Road 93, north to US 58 in Virginia. With the exception of Philmont Crew 1 – the troop will enter the Grayson Highlands State Park. Philmont Crew 2 will park and then Backpack out of the Park to the Appalachian Trail. The Older Scout and the New Scout Group will check in with the Ranger and then proceed to the reserved camping spaces inside of the Park.



Wild Ponies!!

Philmont Crew 1 will continue West on US 58 and then North on SR600 to the Elk Garden crossing of the Appalachian Trail. Note: The Philmont Crews MUST pass each other on the trail on Saturday in order to exchange keys for the buses.

First Year Scouts Patrol (Moose and Cobra – combined):

Friday Night: Park the bus and each car (up to 5) in one of the 6 assigned camping spaces Set-up according to the pre-determined camping space assignments. .

Saturday: Break camp but leave tents in place and go north to the Horse Trail East going west towards Massie Gap. Eat Lunch and then either 1) take the Virginia Highlands Connector North to the Appalachian Trail. Take the AT north to the fence at the Park's boundary returning via the VHC trail south to the RHO and back to Massie Gap (a Loop) or 2) take the Cabin Creek Trail Loop. Then return to camp via the Horse Trail East going east. (5-Mile Hike Requirement – 1st Class)

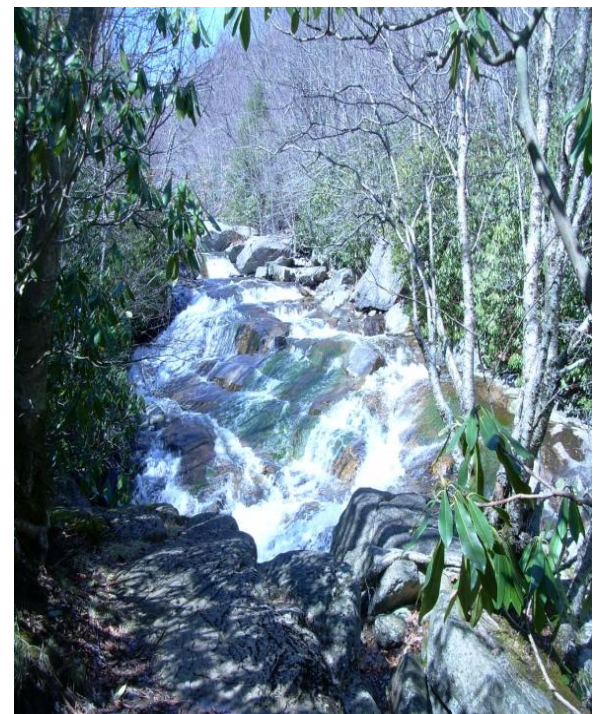
Sunday: Break Camp, return in vehicles to the long term parking lot in order to re-group for the ride home.

Older Scout Patrol(s) (may have to have more than one patrol)

Friday Night: Park the bus and each car (up to 5) in one of the 6 assigned camping spaces (Same as First Year Patrols). Set-up according to the pre-determined camping space assignments.

Saturday: Break camp and go north on the Wilson Creek Trail to **Wilson Creek for breakfast. (Right)** Take the WCT to the Seed Orchard Road north out of the Park to the AT. Continue South/SW/West on the AT past the Wise Shelter (lunch (?)). Stay on the AT (cross over the Virginia Highlands Connector Trail) cross back out of the park into the Wilderness area (Fence) and set-up camp. Recommend the second campsite (actually on the VHC) on the left-hand side of the trail. Can day-hike the Wilson Ridge Trail, The Rhododendron Gap Trial, the Crest Trail or the AT to Mount Rogers.

Sunday: Return to the Grayson Highlands State Park via the AT and then return to the parking lot via the AT and the RHO trails through Massie Gap. Re-group and return home.



Wilson Creek

Philmont Crew 2:

Friday Night: Park the bus in the parking lot near the public toilets near Massie Gap. Hike out of the State Park via the Virginia Highlands Connector and the AT. On the AT go North (left) and cross the fence in the wilderness area. Get back on the VHC and try to camp within 100 feet of the AT. ***Try for the second Campsite on the left hand-side of the trail. (Right)***

Saturday: Hike the AT South/East/North back into the GHSP and then back out again to the Wise Shelter for Breakfast. Continue on the AT to the Scales Trail and go North to the Scales. At the Scales, get on the Crest Trail going West/SW/South to Rhododendron Gap. Get back onto the AT. Go to the Mt. Rogers Spur Trail. Hike to the top of Mt. Rogers via the Spur and then return to the AT via the same route. Continue on the AT through Deep Gap. Camp on the Ridge past Deep Gap – may be able to see the Elk Garden Crossing Parking Lot. (West/SW).

Sunday: Continue South/SW/West on the AT to the Parking lot at the Elk Garden Crossing. Load the bus, return south on SR600 to US 58, go east to the entrance of the GHSP. Return to the Parking lot near the Public Toilets. Re-group and return home.

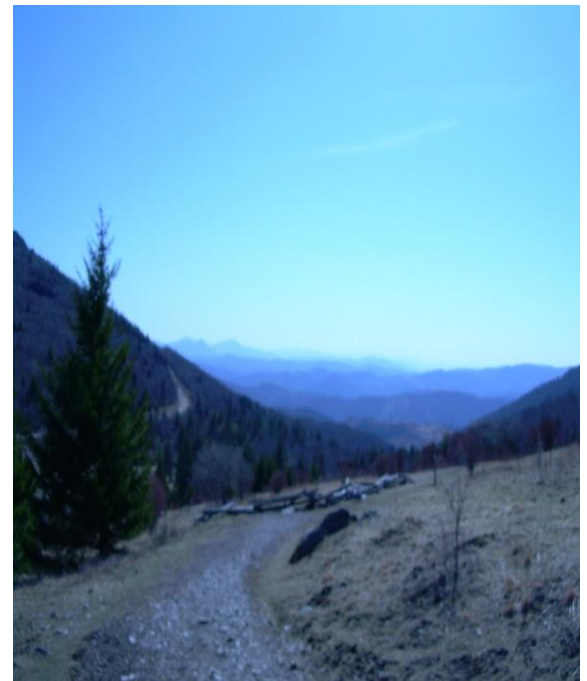


Philmont Crew 1:

Friday Night: Camp in the woods off of the AT behind the parking lot at the AT/SR600 crossing at Elk Garden, VA. IF the sites are occupied – hike approximately ½ mile down the Elk Garden Trail past the Molasses Extraction site and setup camp in the dirt road on the shoulder.

Saturday: Hike AT to Deep Gap for Breakfast. Hike AT to Mount Rogers Spur Trail. Hike to the top of Mt. Rogers via the Spur and then return to the AT via the same route. Hike the AT to Rhododendron Gap. At RDG go North/NE on the Crest Trail. Stay on the Crest Trail to the Scales. At the Scales, Go South/SW on the Scales Trail. Take the Scales Trail to the AT. At the AT, go South/SW/West past the Wise Shelter. Camp within 1/4 mile of the shelter.

Sunday: ***Continue South/SW/West on the AT to the Virginia Highlands Connector Trail to Massie Gap. (Right)*** Follow VHC South back into the Grayson Highlands State Park. The bus will be parked near the public toilets in the Long term parking spaces on the road. Re-group and return home.



On Sunday – all groups are to meet in the long-term parking areas – the Philmont Crews will have to switch buses or at least get their uniforms on for traveling – in order to return to Matthews as a group. The Troop will stop for Lunch on the way home. The group needs to leave Grayson Highlands State Park by 10:00 AM in order to arrive back in Matthews by 2:00 PM.

All Equipment will have to be cleaned and hung prior to dismissal around 3:00 PM.