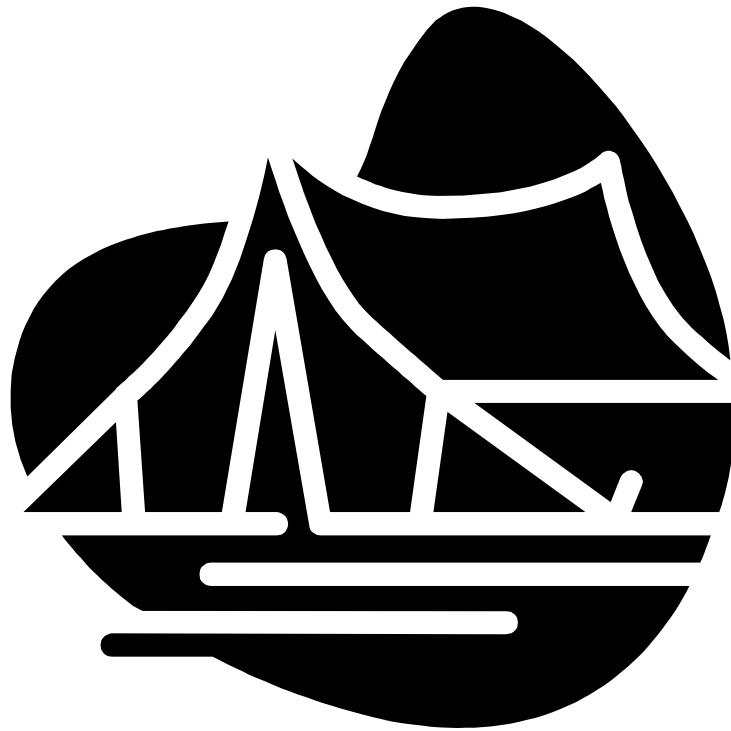


# Where to go Camping Guide



**Washington DC District**  
**National Capital Area Council**  
**Boy Scouts of America**

*Thanks to Chad Deschane, Scoutmaster, Troop 343 for preparing this guide*

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**Note: All distances are from center of Washington. Mileage will vary from start location. Fees and information are current as of publication and are subject to change.**

## **Camping Locations 0-50 miles from Washington**

### **Maryland**

#### **Cedarville State Park, Waldorf MD - 22 Miles**

Fee: \$15 per site per night. Huge sites will fit any Troop. Closed December-March.

Reservations: Phone 1-888-432-CAMP or online at <http://reservations.dnr.state.md.us/>

Parking: Most sites have parking for 2-3 vehicles additional parking nearby.

Activities: Hiking, Archery, LNT campouts, and Wilderness Survival. Large space for most events. Great camporee location.

Trash: Dumpsters

Latrine: Hardened flush toilets and showers

Water: Spigots

#### **Little Bennett Regional Park, Clarksburg MD - 41 Miles**

Fee: \$21 per site per night for tent sites. Group site is \$110.

Reservations: Phone 301-528-3430

Parking: Most sites have parking for 2-3 vehicles.

Activities: Orienteering, Hiking and golfing.

Trash: Dumpsters

Latrine: Hardened flush toilets

Water: No water available on site.

#### **Swain's Locke, Potomac MD - 45 Miles**

Fees: No reservations, fees, or permits are required. It's totally, first-come, first-served camping. 5

Sites are available

Parking: Road. Must pack short distance

Activities: Hiking, Biking, Wildlife, Fishing

Trash: Must pack out trash

Latrine: Four (4) port-a-johns

Water: There is one water source to serve all of the sites that are turned off during the months on November through March.

**All campers must be mindful of the relative close proximity of the campsites to the banks of the river. Not recommend for Wolf and Bear Den's activities.**

#### **Greenbelt Park, Greenbelt MD - 16 Miles**

Fee: \$16 per site per night

Reservations: Phone (301)344-3948 or online at [www.nps.gov/gree](http://www.nps.gov/gree)

Parking: Max two vehicles per site

Activities: Hiking, Wildlife and basic skills

Trash: Dumpsters

Latrine: Hardened flush toilets

Water: Spigots

**This park requires an insurance certificate from the NCAC. Request one when you send in your tour permit.**

### **Marsden Tract, Potomac MD - 21 Miles**

Fee: \$20 per site per night. Sites fit 15-35 campers.

Reservations: Phone (301) 767-3731

Parking: Ample parking at great falls (additional fee). Approximately 1 mile hike from parking to sites.

Activities: Hiking, Fishing and Scout Skills

Trash: Must pack out trash

Latrine: Porta-Johns

Water: Must carry in

**All campers must be mindful of the relative close proximity of the campsites to the banks of the river. Not recommend for Wolf and Bear Den's activities.**

### **Isaac Walton League Bethesda Chevy Chase Chapter, Poolesville MD - 38 Miles**

Fee: Donation based

Reservations: Online <http://old.bcciwla.org/campground.htm>

Parking: Ample

Activities: Large site (523 acres) for just about any outdoor activity

Trash: Pack out

Latrine: Pit toilet

Water: Pump spigot

### **Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel MD - 28 Miles**

Fee: First come first served with fees. They were revising fees at publication and did not have current numbers.

Reservations: Online [http://www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent/FTP/09CampRequest\\_for\\_camping\\_revised\\_12-29-08.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent/FTP/09CampRequest_for_camping_revised_12-29-08.pdf)

Parking: Ample

Activities: Visitors center. MB programs and ranger assistance. <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/Patuxent/scoutvisits.html>

Trash: Pack out

Latrine: Primitive

Water: Pack in

### **Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis MD - 39 Miles**

Fee: \$12 per night max 30 people. Closed December-March.

Reservations: Phone 1-800-432-CAMP or online <http://reservations.dnr.state.md.us/homeLeft.do?mode=submit&topTabIndex=CampingSpot>

Parking: Ample

Activities: Fishing, Boating, Hiking, Crabbing and Swimming

Trash: Pack Out

Latrine: Pit Toilets

Water: Spigot

### **Smallwood State Park, Marbury MD - 27 Miles**

Fee: \$26.75 per night. Closed December-March.

Reservations: Phone 1-888-432-2267 or online <http://reservations.dnr.state.md.us/>

Parking: Ample

Activities: Fishing, Hiking, Boating, Fishing and Historical Sites.

Trash: Pack Out

Latrine: Pit Toilets

Water: Spigot

### **Patapsco Valley State Park, Ellicott City MD - 43 Miles**

Fee: \$16.75 - 196.75 depending on site size per night. Closed November-March.

Reservations: Phone 1-888-432-2267 or online <http://reservations.dnr.state.md.us/>

Parking: Ample

Activities: Fishing, Hiking, Boating, Fishing and Biking.

Trash: Pack Out

Latrine: Hardened Flush Toilets

Water: Spigot

## **Virginia**

### **Prince William Forrest, Triangle VA - 32 Miles**

Campsite Fee: \$40 per night for group site. \$5 per vehicle.

Cabin Fee: \$30 per night for 4 person. \$40 for six person. \$50 for 10 person. \$5 per vehicle. 6 month lead time for reservations

Reservations: <http://www.nps.gov/prwi/planyourvisit/upload/Turkey%20Run%20Application.pdf>

Parking: Ample

Activities: Orienteering, Hiking, Fishing and Biking.

Trash: Dumpsters

Latrine: Pit Toilets

Water: Spigot

### **Pohick Bay Regional Park, Lorton VA - 23 Miles**

Fee: \$5.50 per person per day for county residents. \$6.75 per person per day out of county residents.

Reservations: Phone 703-352-5900 or Online [http://www.nvrpa.org/camping\\_reservations.php](http://www.nvrpa.org/camping_reservations.php)

Activities: Boating. Golf, Frisbee golf, Hiking, Fishing and Mini Golf

Trash: Dumpster

Latrine: Hardened flush toilets (Closed during winter months)

Water: Spigot

**Bull Run Regional Park, Centreville VA - 38 Miles**

Fee: \$5.50 per person per day for county residents. \$6.75 per person per day out of county residents.

Reservations: Phone 703-352-5900 or Online [http://www.nvrpa.org/camping\\_reservations.php](http://www.nvrpa.org/camping_reservations.php)

Parking: Ample

Activities: Frisbee Golf, Boating, Hiking, Shooting Center (Archery, Skeet and Rifle), Boating and a Waterpark

Trash: Dumpsters

Latrine: Hardened Flush Toilets

Water: Spigot

**Burke Lake Park, Fairfax Station VA - 27 Miles**

Fee: \$6 per person per night

Reservations: Phone 703-323-6600

Parking: One car per site. Additional parking at lot.

Activities: Boating, Miniature Train Rides, Golf, and Fishing

Trash: Dumpsters

Latrine: Hardened flush toilets

Water: Spigot

**Camping Locations 50-100 miles from Washington**

**Maryland**

**Catoctin Mountains, Thurmont MD - 70 Miles**

Fee: \$30 for 25 person group site per night.

Reservations: Phone (301)663-9388 or online [www.nps.gov/cato](http://www.nps.gov/cato)

Parking: Ample

Activities: Rock climbing, hiking, Backpacking (have access to Adirondack trail type lean-to) and wildlife

Trash: Dumpsters

Latrine: Pit toilets

Water: Spigot

**Point Lookout State Park, Scotland MD - 81 Miles**

Fee: \$25 per night. Campsites not available October-April

Reservations: Phone 1-888-432-2267

Parking: Ample

Activities: Swimming, fishing, boating, camping, and civil war re-enactments

Trash: Dumpsters

Latrine: Hardened flush toilets

Water: Spigot

**Calvert Cliffs State Park, Lusby MD - 56 Miles**

Fee: \$15 per site per night with Maryland youth pass. Campsites not available October-April

Reservations: Phone 1-888-432-2267

Parking: Ample

Activities: Fishing, Hiking, Wildlife and Fossil Hunting

Trash: Dumpsters

Latrine: Hardened flush toilets

Water: Spigots

**Antietam National Battlefield/ Rohrbach Campground, Sharpsburg MD - 75 Miles**

Fee: \$25 two nights. Additional \$4 per night for anyone over 17.

Reservations: Phone (301) 432-6236 or online [www.nps.gov/anti](http://www.nps.gov/anti)

Parking: Ample

Activities: Antietam battlefield. 10.5 mile hike with a patch for completion. Caving tours via Go-Adventuresports (240) 603 4150

Trash: Dumpsters

Latrine: Porta-Johns

Water: Water Buffalo

**Tuckahoe State Park, North East MD- 70 Miles**

Fee: \$21.75 per night. Closed December-March.

Reservations: Phone 1-888-432-CAMP or online at <http://reservations.dnr.state.md.us/>

Parking: Ample

Activities: Multiple youth courses including a COPE course [http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/pdfs/tuckahoe\\_youthgroup\\_info.pdf](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/pdfs/tuckahoe_youthgroup_info.pdf). Also Fishing, Boating (Rentals Available), Mountain Biking (Rentals Available) and Hiking.

Trash: Pack Out

Latrine: Hardened Flush Toilets

Water: Spigot

**Gambrill State Park, Thurmont MD - 61 Miles**

Fee: \$16.75 per site per night. No youth site available.

Reservations: Phone 1-888-432-CAMP or online at <http://reservations.dnr.state.md.us/>

Parking: Ample

Activities: Biking, Fishing, Hiking, and Nature Center. Programs available at center.

Trash: Pack out

Latrine: Hardened flush toilets.

Water: Spigot

**Greenbrier State Park, Boonsboro MD - 70 Miles**

Fee: \$21.75 per night. Closed December-March.

Reservations: Phone 1-888-432-CAMP or online at <http://reservations.dnr.state.md.us/>

Parking: Ample

Activities: Hiking, Boating, Fishing, Geology, Swimming and Biking.

Trash: Pack Out

Latrine: Hardened Flush Toilets

Water: Spigot

**Washington Monument State Park, Boonsboro MD - 71 Miles**

Fee: \$26.75 per night. Closed December-March.

Reservations: Phone 1-888-432-CAMP or online at <http://reservations.dnr.state.md.us/>

Parking: Ample

Activities: Hiking, Tourism of first monument to General Washington, and Bird watching.

Trash: Pack Out

Latrine: Hardened Flush Toilets

Water: Spigot

**Fort Frederick State Park , Big Pool MD - 97 Miles**

Fee: \$11.75 per night. Closed December-March.

Reservations: Phone 1-888-432-CAMP or online at <http://reservations.dnr.state.md.us/>

Parking: Ample

Activities: Pre Revolutionary War Fort, Boating, Fishing, Hiking and Biking.

Trash: Pack Out

Latrine: Hardened Flush Toilets

Water: Spigots

**Cunningham Falls State Park, Thurmont MD - 74 Miles**

Fee: \$21.75 per night. Closed November-March.

Reservations: Phone 1-888-432-CAMP or online at <http://reservations.dnr.state.md.us/>

Parking: Ample

Activities: Waterfalls, Swimming, Hiking including some strenuous hikes, Boating, and Fishing.

Trash: Pack Out

Latrine: Hardened Flush Toilets

Water: Spigots

**Virginia**

**Lake Anna State Park, Spotsylvania VA - 85 Miles**

Fee: \$16 per site per night. The sites will fit 4 medium size tents.

Reservations: Phone (800) 933-7275 or online at <http://www.reserveamerica.com/campgroundDirectoryList.do?contractCode=va>

Parking: Each site has space for 2 vehicles

Activities: Great for waterskiing, swimming, fishing and hiking.

Trash: Dumpsters

Latrine: Hardened flush toilets

Water: Spigots

**Elizabeth Furnace Recreation Area, Edinburgh VA - 80 Miles**

Fee: 1-25 \$30 26-50 \$55 51-75 \$85 per day

Reservations: [http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj/lee/recreation/camping/group\\_camping.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj/lee/recreation/camping/group_camping.shtml)

Parking: Ample

Activities: Hiking, Wildlife and Fishing

Trash: Dumpsters

Latrine: Pit toilets

Water: No water available

**Sky Meadows State Park - Delaplane VA 70 Miles**

Fee: \$122 per day for 36 person group site. \$13 for smaller primitive sites.

Reservations: Phone 1-888-933-Park or Online [http://www.reserveamerica.com/va/Sky\\_Meadows\\_State\\_Park/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?subTabIndex=0&contractCode=VA&parkId=140182](http://www.reserveamerica.com/va/Sky_Meadows_State_Park/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?subTabIndex=0&contractCode=VA&parkId=140182)

Parking: Ample



Activities: Hiking, skills work, and civil war battlefields.

Trash: Dumpsters

Latrine: Pit Toilets

Water: Pack in



## Camping Locations 100-200 miles from Washington

### Maryland

#### **Pokomoke State Park, Pokomoke City MD - 150 Miles**

Fee: Free with Maryland youth pass. Closed January -March.

Reservations: (410) 632-2566 x115 or email us at pocomokepaddler@dnr.state.md.us.

Parking: Ample

Activities: Biking trails, boating, fishing, hiking and pool

Trash: Dumpsters

Latrine: Hardened flush toilets

Water: Spigots

#### **Assateague Island National Seashore, Ocean City MD - 150 Miles**

Fee: \$20 a night. Campsites not available October-April

Reservations: Phone 1-877-444-6777 or online <http://www.recreation.gov>.

Parking: Ample

Activities: Swimming, surfing, shell collecting, biking, ocean fishing, canoeing/kayaking and wildlife (wild horses)

Trash: Dumpsters

Latrine: Pit toilets

Water: Spigot

### Virginia

#### **Bear Creek Lake State Park Cumberland, VA - 158 Miles**

Fee:

Reservations: Phone 1-800-933-PARK or online [http://www.reserveamerica.com/va/Bear\\_Creek\\_Lake\\_State\\_Park/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?](http://www.reserveamerica.com/va/Bear_Creek_Lake_State_Park/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?subTabIndex=0&contractCode=VA&parkId=140156)

[subTabIndex=0&contractCode=VA&parkId=140156](http://www.reserveamerica.com/va/Bear_Creek_Lake_State_Park/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?subTabIndex=0&contractCode=VA&parkId=140156)

Parking: Ample

Activities: Fishing, Swimming, Hiking, Cycling, Boating (rentals available)

Trash: Dumpsters

Latrine: Hardened flush toilets

Water: Spigots

#### **Holliday Lake State Park, Pamplin VA - 188 Miles**

Fee: \$22 a night (no group site)

Reservations: Phone 1-800-933-PARK or online [http://www.reserveamerica.com/va/Holliday\\_Lake\\_State\\_Park/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?](http://www.reserveamerica.com/va/Holliday_Lake_State_Park/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?subTabIndex=0&contractCode=VA&parkId=140173)

[subTabIndex=0&contractCode=VA&parkId=140173](http://www.reserveamerica.com/va/Holliday_Lake_State_Park/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?subTabIndex=0&contractCode=VA&parkId=140173)

Parking: Ample

Activities: Fishing, Boating (rentals) and Hiking

Trash: Dumpsters

Latrine: Hardened flush toilets

Water: Spigot

**James River State Park, Gladstone VA - 172 Miles**

Fee: \$25 per night (no group camp)

Reservations: Phone 1-800-933-PARK or online <http://www.reserveamerica.com/va/>

[James\\_River\\_State\\_Park/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?](http://www.reserveamerica.com/va/James_River_State_Park/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?subTabIndex=0&contractCode=VA&parkId=140189)

[subTabIndex=0&contractCode=VA&parkId=140189](http://www.reserveamerica.com/va/James_River_State_Park/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?subTabIndex=0&contractCode=VA&parkId=140189)

Parking: Ample

Activities: Swimming, Boating Hiking, and Fishing

Trash: Dumpsters

Latrine: Pit toilets

Water: Spigot

**Pocohontas State Park, Chesterfield VA - 130 Miles**

Fee: \$25 per night (no group camp)

Reservations: Phone 1-800-933-PARK or online <http://www.reserveamerica.com/va/>

[Pocahontas\\_State\\_Park/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?](http://www.reserveamerica.com/va/Pocahontas_State_Park/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?subTabIndex=0&contractCode=VA&parkId=140180)

[subTabIndex=0&contractCode=VA&parkId=140180](http://www.reserveamerica.com/va/Pocahontas_State_Park/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?subTabIndex=0&contractCode=VA&parkId=140180)

Parking: Ample

Activities: Pool swimming, Fishing, Hiking, and Boating (rental)

Trash: Dumpsters

Latrine: Hardened flush toilet

Water: Spigot

**Twin Lakes State Park, Green Bay VA - 166 Miles**

Fee: \$22 per night (no group camp)

Reservations: Phone 1-800-933-PARK or online <http://www.reserveamerica.com/va/>

[Twin\\_Lakes\\_State\\_Park/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?](http://www.reserveamerica.com/va/Twin_Lakes_State_Park/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?subTabIndex=0&contractCode=VA&parkId=140171)

[subTabIndex=0&contractCode=VA&parkId=140171](http://www.reserveamerica.com/va/Twin_Lakes_State_Park/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?subTabIndex=0&contractCode=VA&parkId=140171)

Parking: Ample

Activities: Swimming, Fishing, wildlife, Hiking, and Sailor's Creek Battlefield

Trash: Dumpster

Latrine: Hardened Flush toilets

Water: Spigot

The District would like to thank and acknowledge Pack 61's Christopher Barr for the following write ups regarding C&O Canal and the Appalachian Trail areas.

**Chesapeake and Ohio National Historical Park**

The C&O Canal starts just south of the Pennsylvania Ave. bridge over Rock Creek Parkway and follows the Potomac River for 184.5 miles to Cumberland, Md. It passes through the Coastal Plain, the Piedmont, the Blue Ridge, the Great Valley of Virginia and Maryland, and into the Appalachians. The canal route is full of history and natural beauty. There are campsites all along its length, for

hikers and bikers “doing long stretches of the Canal” (according to the NPS Park Handbook). The C&O Canal towpath trail is flat, easy hiking. A short or medium length drive out west allows a Webelos group to hike a long stretch on this remarkable resource.

The list of sites below is intended to suggest ideas for a camp out on the Canal, but planning a camp out should involve referring to one of the Canal guide books. Most detailed of all is the “Towpath Guide to the C&O Canal,” by Thomas F. Hahn (revised ed.)(American Canal and Transportation Center, pub.); Hahn’s guide is painstaking in its tenth-of-a-mile-by-tenth-of-a-mile review of the canal and its physical structures. “The C&O Canal Companion,” by Mike High (1997, The Johns Hopkins University Press) is an excellent historical account with a less detailed, but interesting stage-by-stage guide to the path from a hiker’s perspective. The Boy Scouts of America have a much shorter, less detailed but practical guide, “184 Miles of Adventure; Hikers Guide to the C&O Canal,” (1970, Baltimore Area Council, BSA). Finally, there is the “Chesapeake and Ohio Canal” Official National Park Handbook (1991, U.S. Dept. of the Interior), which is useful for general information, but is not sufficiently detailed to identify access points or other detailed information in choosing a section to hike. All should be available at the C&O Canal NPS offices in Georgetown and at Great Falls, Md.

Hikers along the C&O Canal can use the “hiker-biker overnighiter” campsites, each equipped with portajohns and water pumps. Camping is limited to one night. Some of the sites are only a short distance from parking lots, but they are not meant for carry-in car camping; hike a stretch on the canal!! Reservations are not needed, but they are first-come first-served, so if two or more scout groups reach the same site, it may get crowded. The following campsites can be reached by driving within one and one-half hours to the access points to begin a (relatively) short hike:

<u>Hiker/Biker Overnighter Site</u>	<u>Milepost</u> (from Georgetown)	<u>Road (parking) Access Points</u>
* * * *	<i>Montgomery County</i>	* * * *
Swain’s Lock	16.6	Downstream: 2.3 miles from Great Falls Park Upstream: 3.0 miles from Pennyfield Lock, at Pennyfield Lock Rd., off River Rd.
Horsepen Branch	26.1	Downstream: 3.3 miles from Seneca Aqueduct Upstream: 1.2 miles from Sycamore Landing Rd., off River Rd.
Chisel Branch	30.5	Downstream: 3.3 miles from Sycamore Landing Upstream: .3 miles from Edwards Ferry Rd.
Turtle Run	34.4	Downstream: 3.6 miles from Edwards Ferry Rd. Upstream: 1.1 miles from White’s Ferry Rd.
Marble Quarry	38.2	Downstream: 2.7 miles from White’s Ferry Rd. Upstream: 1.5 miles from Dickerson Regional Park parking lot, off Martinsburg Rd.
* * * *	Frederick County	* * * *
Indian Flats	42.5	Downstream: .2 miles from Monocacy Aqueduct Upstream: 2 miles from Noland’s Ferry Rd. (off Rt. 28).

Calico Rocks	47.7	Downstream: 3.1 miles from Noland's Ferry Rd. Upstream: .5 Point of Rocks town
Bald Eagle Island	50.3	Downstream: 1.4 miles from Point of Rocks town Upstream: .5 miles from Lander Rd.
* * *	* *	<i>Washington County</i> * * *
Huckleberry Hill	62.9	Downstream: 2.2 miles from Harper's Ferry Rd. Upstream: 2 miles from Dargan Bend Recreation Area, off Shinhan Rd.
Antietam Creek Group Camp	69.3	Access directly from Canal Rd., Antietam. THIS IS A CAR ACCESSIBLE GROUP SITE, BY PRIOR RESERVATION. It is also a narrow strip of campsites across the canal from a road and other signs of development.
Killiansburg Cave	75.3	Downstream: 1.4 miles from Snyders Landing, off Snyders Landing Rd. Upstream: 5.7 miles from Mercersville, off Taylor's Landing Rd.
Horseshoe Bend	79.7	Downstream: 2.9 miles from Snyders Landing Rd. Upstream: 1.3 miles from Taylors Landing Rd., at Mercersville.
Big Woods	82.5	Downstream: .9 miles from Taylor's Landing Rd. Upstream: 1.9 miles from Feeder Dam No. 4 parking, off Dam No. 4 Rd.
Opequon Jct.	90.9	Downstream: 2.8 miles from MacMahons Mill, off Charles Mill Rd. Upstream: 3 miles from Falling Waters Rd. access point to the Canal.
Cumberland Valley	95.2	Downstream: 1.3 miles from Falling Waters Rd. Upstream: 4.1 miles from Lock 44 in Williamsport town.
Jordan Junction	101.3	Upstream: .2 miles from parking area by the Hagerstown Filtration Plant. Downstream: 2 miles from Gift Rd. access.
North Mountain	110	Upstream: .4 miles from McCoy's Ferry Campground, from McCoy's Ferry Rd.  Downstream: 1.2 miles from Four Locks Recreation Area, off Four Locks Rd.

*The next hiker/biker overnigher is beyond Ft. Frederick State Park and beyond this listing.*



## Appalachian Trail

The Appalachian Trail stretches 2,147 miles from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mt. Katahdin in Maine and is one of the oldest and most famous hiking trails in the world. Portions of the trail are well within a one and one-half hour drive. Although the land is often in federal or state hands, the stretch of the Trail near D.C. is maintained by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club ("PATC"), a non-profit, largely volunteer organization.

Groups must hike a portion of the Appalachian Trail before camping on trail sites. Although how much hiking is required is not quantified, backpacks are a must, and hiking half a mile from the nearest car access would not seem to meet the test.

Like the Canal, the Appalachian Trail does not require (in general) reservations for groups to hike and camp overnight near the shelters. The shelter/camping areas typically have a portable toilet and natural sources of water (usually springs, which can run low or dry even in average summers, and always require purification through boiling or purification pumps). The shelters themselves should be left to true long-distance hikers who may be counting on a stop without having to pitch a tent; in addition, shelters are cramped in size and are not appropriate for a Webelos group; most have a major mouse problem. ***This is more serious camping than either the car-accessible group sites or the C&O Canal. In addition to caution on the water source, groups must practice bear safe camping and be prepared to deal with first aid without immediate transportation, among other contingencies. In a word, leaders must prepare adequately for the greater challenges.*** On the other hand, camping on the mountain ridge, by the fabled Appalachian Trail, can be a wonderful introduction to scout camping at its best. Sites vary considerably in their capacity for groups; some sites (like Devil's Racecourse in Washington County, MD) really are not good locations for multiple tents. Leaders should inspect them in person before the trip; in fact, it is strongly advisable for a leader to walk the entire (short) hike in advance to assess the difficulty of the selected hike.

Information: The key resources for an Appalachian Trail hike are: (1) the PATC map for the area and (2) the Appalachian Trail Guide book for the area. The PATC is responsible for maintaining the 240-mile section of the Appalachian Trail stretching from Pine Grove Furnace (near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania) to the southern end of Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. The PATC publishes a series of maps covering this entire segment, as well as a sort of "western bypass" alternate loop of the Trail known as the Tuscarora Trail. (The Tuscarora Trail is unfortunately largely beyond our campsite radius, but interested leaders might want to inquire with the PATC, because it is an interesting and comparatively very little used loop of the Trail.) ***PATC Maps.*** The PATC maps (\$5.00-\$7.00) show contours, campsites, nearby roads and features, and are essential. The maps for the Maryland portion of the Trail are Maps 5 & 6, which are published on a single sheet. The maps for the nearby portion of the Trail in Virginia include Map 7 (Potomac River, at Harpers' Ferry, to Snicker's Gap, where Rt. 7 crosses the Blue Ridge) and Map 8 (Snickers' Gap to Chester Gap, crossing Rt. 522 near Front Royal).

***Trail Guides.*** The Official Appalachian Trail Guides provides history, general Trail and camping information, details about campsite identities, availability and rules, and highly-detailed descriptions of the trail hike, both from a north-to-south and a south-to-north direction. For the Trail areas covered here, the relevant books are, Appalachian Trail Guide to Maryland and Northern Virginia, (15th ed., 1995) (192 pp.) (\$7.00) and Appalachian Trail Guide to Shenandoah National Park (11th Ed. 1994) (352 pp.)(\$9.00).

***Where to find the maps and Trail Guides.*** Maps and Trail Guides are available from some local camp supply stores such as Hudson Trail Outfitters (Wisconsin Ave., N.W.), the ADC Map and Travel Center (17th and I St., N.W., D.C.) and from the PATC itself:



Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Inc.  
118 Park St., S.E.  
Vienna, VA 22180  
General Information: (703) 242-0315  
<http://www.patc.net/index.html>

It is not wise to plan a Webelos hike and camp out on the Appalachian Trail without having at least one leader make the hike and visit the campsite first. Not all trail sections are as they appear at first glance on the map, and not all sites are suitable for groups! It is very easy to miscalculate the time that it will take to hike a segment of the Trail unless you have tried it first yourself.

Cabins located along the Trail are usually locked and accessible only by PATC members, but some, as is noted above regarding **Morris Cabin** (nearby Bear Spring Cabin, Md. and Sunset Rocks shelter, Pa., may be reserved by the public; consult the Trail Guides).

Some of the nearby campsites, and distances from access points, follow. Most campsites are not directly on the Appalachian Trail, so consult the Guides regarding the spur trails to reach the camping areas.

### **Maryland (North to South):**

- Devil's Racecourse Shelter      Located only a short walk from Ritchie Road (due west of Catoclin Mountain Park north of Rt. 77). Devil's Racecourse is located in a boulder field/slope that appears very tough for tents and, is accessible by illegal car campers. *4.9 miles south of Pen-Mar Rd., .3 miles north of Richie Rd.*
- Hemlock Hill Shelter      Located off Wolfsville Rd., south of Smithsburg, south of Rt. 77, and due west of Cunningham Falls State Park. Not far from the shelter area are sites very suitable for tents. There is parking access only yards from the shelter, which should not be used for camping at the shelter. *.1 miles south of Wolfsville Rd. (MD 17), 4.8 miles south of the side trail entrance on Loy Wolf Rd. (which leads .9 miles to the ridgetop and 3.9 miles north to Hemlock Hill Shelter).*
- Pogo Campsite      Located on top of South Mountain, Pogo is unusual in that there is no shelter, and the campsite straddles the trail -- a distinct disadvantage for a Webelos group. The Official Trail Guide also states that the site is intended for "AT thru-hikers only." *4.4 miles south of Wolfsville Rd. (MD 17) and approximately 4.4 miles north of trailhead parking on U.S. 40, near where the Trail crosses I-70 on a footbridge. Pogo is also reached by eastern and western side trails; from Loy Wolf Road, on the east, it is approximately 1.5 miles uphill to Pogo, and from White Oak Drive, a residential street off Crystal Falls Rd. on the west, it is approximately .9 miles to Pogo.*
- Pine Knob Shelter      Located approximately one mile from the intersection of the Trail and U.S. 40 as it crosses South Mountain. The campsite overlooks I-70. *Pine Knob is approximately one mile north of the trailhead parking on U.S. 40 by I-70; and approximately 3.4 miles south of Pogo Campsite. (See above)*

Dahlgren Backpacker Campground This site has water and showers, but is not to be used by persons parking nearby off of Rt. 40. *Located .2 miles south of Alternate U.S. 40 and 1 mile north of Reno Monument Road.*

Rocky Road Shelter Near the shelter are at least two good camping areas for groups, with a spring immediately next to the shelter. The site, set off from the Trail by a side path, is a very good site. (Recommended) *This is located approximately 1.1 miles south of the intersection of the Trail and Reno Monument Rd, near Fox Gap (with a wide shoulder) and 3.3 miles north of the Bear Spring Cabin side trail (off Marker Rd.), or 5.3 miles north of Gapland Rd. at Gathland State Park.*

Crampton Gap Shelter This site has suitable places for group tents, but is far from other access points north and south of Gathland State Park. *Located approximately one half mile north of where Gapland Rd. crosses South Mountain at Gathland State Park, and 6 miles south of Reno Monument Rd.*

**Virginia (North to South):**

*(None of the sites listed below have been visited by the author, unlike the Maryland sites above, and these may or may not be suitable for groups; interested leaders will have to inquire and visit further. Distances are from road access points on the maps that may not have parking.)*

\* \* \* \* \* Map 7\* \* \* \* \*

David Lesser Shelter Located 3 miles from the intersection of Rt. 9 (Charles Town Pike) and the Trail and 3.7miles from the Blackburn Trail Center. The maps show several other side paths leading nearby to the Trail from smaller roads as well.

Blackburn Trail Center Located at the end of Appalachian Trail Road (6.7 miles from Rt. 9 on the north and 6.8 miles from Rt. 7 on the south). Campers at the campsite here are almost certainly expected to hike in from the trail, which can also be reached from several side trails in the area.

\* \* \* \* \* Map 8\* \* \* \* \*

Sam Moore Shelter Located approximately 3.6 miles south of Rt. 7, and 3.2 miles north of Va. 605 and 10.5 miles north of U.S. Rt. 50. It is also reached by a .1 mile side trail access.

Rod Hollow Shelter Located 3.8 miles south of Va. 605 and 3.7 miles north of U.S. Rt. 50, and a trailhead parking lot. Also located less than one mile from side trail access from on Va. Rt. 649 on the west side of the mountain.

Dick's Dome Shelter Located approximately 5.6 miles south of U.S. Rt. 50, or 4.5 miles south of the Sky Meadows State Park parking lot, or 2.1 miles south of a parking lot in the G. Richard Thompson State Wildlife Management Area (i.e., a hunting area to be treated with caution in the fall) There are other access trails to this shelter in the Wildlife Management Area; the closest to D.C. is a parking lot off Rt. 688, on the west side of the mountain, which in turn is

approximately four miles north of Exit 18 on I-66. Other parking access is available on the west side. From points further south, the shelter area is 6.9 miles from the PATC trailhead parking lot off Va. Rt. 725.

- Manassas Gap Shelter Located near various relatively short side trails from the G. Richard Thompson State Wildlife Management Area, ranging from a 2.9 mile route from Va. Rt. 638 just south of the Trico Fire Tower (not to be climbed) to less than a mile. It is 2.3 miles from the PATC trailhead parking lot on Va. Rt. 725.
- Denton Shelter Located approximately 3.0 miles south of the intersection of Va. Rts. 55 and 725, and 1.1 mile south of the intersection of the Trail and Va. Rt. 638 and 5.2 miles north of U.S. Rt. 522.
- Mosby Primitive Campsite No pit toilets; only a nearby spring for water. Located approximately two miles south of Denton Shelter (see above) and 3.3 miles north of the intersection of the Trail and U.S. Rt. 522 (Chester Gap, near Sperryville).
- The Appalachian Trail enters the Shenandoah National Park 1 mile south of the Moseby Primitive Campsite.

# The Adventures of Summer Camp: Cub World & Goshen



In the outdoors, youth have opportunities to acquire skills that make them more self-reliant. They can explore canoe paths and hiking trails and complete challenges they first thought were beyond their ability. Attributes of good character become part of a youth as he or she learns to cooperate to meet outdoor challenges that may include extreme weather, difficult trails and portages, and dealing with nature's unexpected circumstances.

NCAC provides three main camps for Scouts to use and explore. Cub Scouts can become familiar with the outdoors by attending themed **Day Camps**. Individual units of all levels, can camp overnight at **Camp William B Snyder**, which also hosts

**Cub World**, a themed summer camp program for Cub Scouts.

Webelos, Boy Scouts and Venturers can attend camp at

**Goshen Scout Reservation**, which offers both classic summer camp programs and high adventure programs. Check out **Promotional Videos**, and other information for all these camps and programs on the council web site: [www.boyscouts-ncac.org](http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org) .

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**Here is a recommended program progression for summer camp:**

**Cub Scouts now in 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grades attend a session at Cub World**

**Cub Scouts now in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade attend a Webelos session at Cub World.**

**Webelos Scouts now in 4<sup>th</sup> grade attend a Webelos camp (PMI or Ross) at Goshen.**

**Webelos Scouts now in 5<sup>th</sup> grade attend Goshen with their new troop.**

**Boy Scouts attend a week at Goshen.**

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