

Pack 350 Hiking Program

So why did your son want to join scouting...he wanted to do out-of-door stuff, hike, camp, *explore the out-of-doors*.

One of the easiest and most fun ways to get your scouts out is to take a hike!

The hiking program provides the pack and dens the opportunity to enjoy an outdoor activity that is healthy for boys, their families, and leaders. These hikes are a pack function helping to build pack cohesion, while getting these boys ready for Boy Scouts.

The basics:

- The hiking coordinator, Cubmaster or Den Leaders schedule hikes at a variety of locations. Miles are reported to the Cubmaster or hiking coordinator who keeps track of each boy's miles.
- A system of rewards provides boys and adults with continuing recognition for miles completed. Scouts are awarded patches at intervals including 5, 10, 20 and 25 miles.
- The presentation of a hiking stick at the 25-mile mark is great motivation for new hikers. Each stick, made by the hiking coordinator, Cubmaster or other leader, displays the name of the hiker, the pack number, and "25-mile Club" stamped into a leather grip.
- Hikers receive awards at pack meetings.
- Den leaders can take dens on additional hikes and turn in miles. This is left up to the Den Leader on how to run this. These hikes have a service or educational component, for example, pulling up invasive plants at a park's workday or finding animal tracks in the snow during a forest preserve event, not just walking around the mall.
- Webelos Scouts can count miles hiked at an overnight or at a Boy Scout event.
- At a boy's last pack meeting, he receives a certificate showing his miles, which he takes to a Boy Scout troop.
- ***The pack always files a tour permit with Atlanta Area Council. All Den's should notify the Cubmaster or a scheduled hike.***
- Always use the buddy system.

Who can come along?

You can bring the whole family if you wish, but remember we will be walking. Most places that we go will not accommodate strollers. We will be hiking a minimum of 2 miles on any given hike, so make sure everyone in your party can handle a good walk. Sorry, pets will not be allowed.

Do I need any special equipment?

There is no need for any special equipment, but it is recommended that you have a good pair of hiking shoes or boots and dress appropriately for the weather. Some other suggested items are: Personal first-aid kit, compass, whistle, and water. Depending on the hike, other supplies might be suggested.

The program's benefits include:

- Built pack/den cohesion
- An outdoor experience and physical activity that prepares Cub Scouts for the transition to a Boy Scout troop's outdoor program.
- Hikes can include opportunities for passing Cub Scout requirements and learning lessons.
- Webelos Scouts can lead a pack hike, read maps, and choose trails, with the aid of an adult.
- The program may attract new Cub Scouts to the pack.
- Families have memorable outdoor experiences together.

What miles can I "log"?

Only miles that you hike with the Pack and/or Den are eligible for logging. Den's leaders should notify the Cubmaster and the Hiking Coordinator of any scheduled hikes, its participants and number of miles hiked.

How to Choose & Plan a Hike:

With these criteria's in mind:

- A hike should be at least two or three miles long. Tiger's have no problem with 2 or 3 mile hike. Just make sure that the parent has plenty of water along, and a few snacks (for both of them).
- On longer hikes you will typically eat lunch on the trail (practicing "Leave No Trace" at all times). Scouts will carry water bottles and may use day packs (or parent acts as the beast of burden). On warm weather hikes, a small water bottle is not enough for even the smallest scout.
- Plan for variety. "Each hike is unique,"
- Mix variety with old favorites.
- Dress properly. In cold weather, before driving to the hike location, check if everyone has the necessary winter clothing. Pack 209 we'll wait for anyone who must go home for a hat, mittens, etc.
- Warm or hot weather, it is especially important to carry an adequate supply of water.
- ***An adult leader is assigned to the "tail" position. No one is allowed behind this individual.***
- The Pack or Den hikes as a unit. You start together, break together, etc., with everyone following the same trail.
- You may allow an older Scout to "Lead". You will usually work in map reading with them, with a map from the Forest Preserve. It's up to the Scout to sort out to sort out the forks, etc., in the trail. However, they will have their parent with them also.

On our hikes we will be following the "Leave No Trace" principles.



Trail Courtesy & Customs

1. Stay on developed trails. Cutting across switchbacks can trample down vegetation which holds topsoil in place.
2. Travel single file on most trails – leave some space between you and the person ahead of you.
3. Hikers coming up the trail have the right of way.
4. If you meet a person on horseback, stop where you are and stand quietly while the animals pass. This will prevent the horse from being spooked.
5. Do not pick, cut, or abuse any plants or animals. You are a visitor in their home.
6. Develop a low-impact (Leave No Trace) wilderness ethic for and in your group.
7. Leave all gates the way that you found them.
8. Do not repair trails or remove logs, branches, or boulders from the trail without prior approval.
9. Abide with all the rules and regulations of the area in which you are hiking. Report any infractions to the authorities.
10. Do not operate any audio devices, including radios, musical instruments, or other noise producing devices in a manner that will disturb other persons.
11. Pick up any litter you may see or encounter on the trail or campsite. A Scout leaves an area better than when he found it.

Sample Hikes within a short Distance

Allatoona Pass

Trail Length: *3.4 miles* **Type of trail:** *In and out*

County: [Bartow County, GA](#) **Our rating:** *Moderate*

Features: [lake](#), [historic](#), [family](#),
[60hikes](#) **Your rating:**

Usage: *Medium*

Added on: *October 16,
1998*

Last hiked: *May 18, 2006*

Updated on: *August 13,
2006*

[About these ratings](#)

Additional Trails

[Hiking trails in Bartow County,
GA](#)

This trail follows the original railroad grade of the Western and Atlantic Railroad into Allatoona Pass and proceeds to a scenic stroll along Lake Allatoona in [Northwest Georgia](#). Civil War entrenchments can be visited at the top of both ridges adjacent to the pass. The trail through the pass is flat, ending with a single turn so gradual that it may not be noticed. The climb to the interpreted trail on the mountains on either side of the pass is moderate.

One of the earliest roads in the northwestern portion of the state was named Sandtown Road. It ran from a town at [Montgomery's Ferry](#) on the [Chattahoochee River](#) to the southern end these Allatoona Mountains. Here the Alabama Road follows the top of the ridge to the west while a second thoroughfare bears left to Tennessee. While little visible evidence remains of the Alabama Road, the road to Tennessee is plainly visible.



Beginning at a small parking lot, the trail bears to the left shortly after the gated entrance to the park. Take a minute to walk out on the berm that forms Lake Allatoona for some long-range scenic views of the lake, then visit the state monuments a few feet further on the trail. Return to the Tennessee Wagon Road and turn right, climbing the hill. At the top the wagon road continues straight ahead to Lake Allatoona, but the start of the interpreted trail is to the right.

Follow the trail to the Crow's Nest. Here, a tree tall enough to be seen at Kennesaw Mountain served as a communication center for the fort. In constant contact with [General William Tecumseh Sherman](#)'s stronghold through a complex flag signaling system, the defenders received the following unsigned message: "Tell Allatoona hold on. General Sherman is working for you," but no men left the fortification at Kennesaw Mountain. They were concerned that the attack at Allatoona Pass was a ruse.

Return to the start of the loop trail visiting the eastern redoubt and the artillery stables, then continue straight ahead at the four-way intersection to the Regimental Headquarters of the 4th Minnesota. Regimental commander John Tourtellotte was



in charge of the fort until relieved of command by John Corse, who arrived from [Rome, Georgia](#). Continue on the path to the first view of "Deep Cut" (Allatoona Pass).

More than 170 feet high, and 95 feet long, this immense scar in the earth was dug through the rugged Allatoona Mountains to permit trains on the Western and Atlantic Railroad to get to [Chattanooga](#). It was an engineering marvel of its time. Only the tunnel at Tunnel Hill was more difficult to build.

[William Tecumseh Sherman](#) was so impressed with Allatoona Pass when he rode through it in 1844 that he avoided it during [The Atlanta Campaign](#) 20 years later. On [October 5, 1864](#) Rebels under the command of Major General Samuel French attacked Federal forces under the command of Brig. General John Corse during [The Battle of Allatoona Pass](#). It was actually the third engagement in the area, although the two other fights were little more than cavalry skirmishes.

At the pass the treadway turns right and begins a steady descent. Just before reaching the pass the drop sharpens and turns left, crossing a stone and dirt bridge. You are now in Allatoona Pass. Turn right and continue along the now level trail. Our trail now runs along the lake for a little over half a mile. It offers many scenic

views and some good shore fishing, plus a view of the site of the Unknown Hero, grave of a Rebel killed during the battle. The path continues along the lakeshore, offering a number of typical lakeshore views. One major sidetrail took us out on a peninsula where an eagle had built a nest on the top of a stand provided by the Corps of Engineers.

On the return trip to the parking lot, walk up the set of stairs to the star fort. Although it is not visible, a ridge runs from the road to the fort. It was along this ridge that Samuel French decided to attack, overrunning a western redoubt and trapping 700 men within the confines of the star fort. It was here that General Corse successfully defended Allatoona Pass from the Confederate onslaught. A foot bridge connected the tops of the ridges during wartime, and when Corse ran out of ammunition he sent men across the bridge to get more.

For a quick day hike this trail is great. Its near [I-75](#), only 45 minutes from Atlanta. Its easy, even with the hike to the top of the ridge, and wide trails make it a good family hike.

Cooper's Furnace and Laurel Ridge Trails

Trail Length: *1.5 miles*

Type of trail: *Loop*

County: [Bartow County, GA](#)

Our rating:

Features: [picnicking](#), [historic](#),
[family](#), [bathrooms](#)

Your rating:

Usage: *Light*

Added on: *January 01,
1993*

Last hiked: *October 24, 2005*

Updated on: *November
25, 2005*

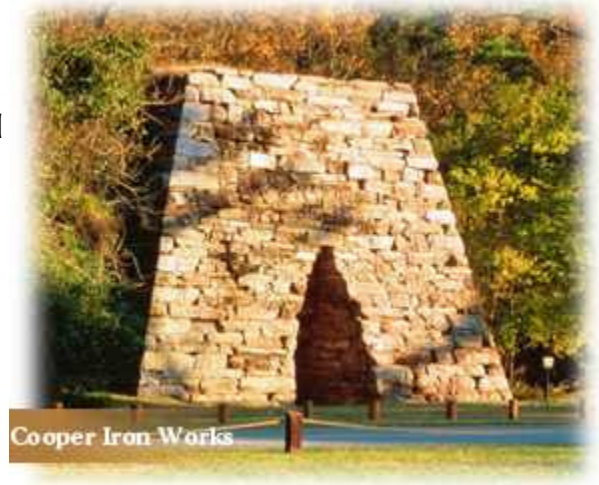
[About these ratings](#)

Additional Trails

[Hiking trails in Bartow County,
GA](#)

This trail begins at Coopers Furnace and follows an upgraded portion of an old logging road and a rail bed that was used to transport wood to the furnace. It then follows a ridge to an improved road, which returns to Cooper's Furnace. This is a great family hike and it is interpreted in places.

During the Great Locomotive Chase it was Mark Anthony Cooper's engine, The Yonah, that prevented the Raiders from burning the Western and Atlantic bridge over the Etowah River. This small engine also carried William Fuller and others to the Kingston railroad yard. During the [Atlanta Campaign](#) Confederate General [Joseph E. Johnston](#) positioned men at the top of these hills, the Allatoona Mountains. Union General Jacob Cox men advanced towards the furnace along the railroad bed. After a brief skirmish, the Rebels retreated south of the Etowah River and the Union Army captured the irons works and destroyed the surrounding city of Etowah, a major target of the Atlanta Campaign.



A gate past the iron furnace marks the start of the trail. Ascending near a small

creek the trail begins a loop at a lake formed by a beaver dam and fortified by the Army Corps of Engineers. Enhanced by non-intrusive birdhouses, the wildlife in the area is abundant. The old railbed which the trail follows, except for a single switchback, begins here. This south facing cove was heavily forested until the mid-1920's. After .4 mile the trail veers right and begins a moderate climb to the [Allatoona Lake Visitors Center](#). As the trail ascends an approach path from an additional parking area joins the loop trail.

At this point the footpath turns right, narrows, and the name changes to Laurel Ridge Trail. Follow the treadway to the right and shortly the first of two overlooks permits a stunning view of the cove any time of year. A section of the trail is banked with heavy stone, visible proof of the railway that ran here before the Civil War. Here the trail begins to follow a high ridge. At the Visitors Center, take a few minutes to see the displays and walk to the Lake Allatoona overview. This is one of the finest views south of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The trail then returns to the beaver lake over the upgraded portion of the old logging road.

Picketts Mill

Trail Length: *3.2 miles*

Type of trail: *Loop*

County: [Paulding County, GA](#)

Our rating: *Moderate*

Features: [visitors center](#), [stream](#),
[historic](#), [bathrooms](#), [60hikes](#)

Your rating:

Usage: *Medium*

Added on:
November 17, 2004

Last hiked: *August 22, 2004*

Updated on:
November 30, 2004

[About these ratings](#)

Additional Trails

[Hiking trails in Paulding County, GA](#)

Pickett's Mill State Park has three different trails, the Red, White, and Blue. Each explores various aspects of the Civil War battle that began late in the afternoon on May 27, 1864. The trails combine gravel and historic roads with hiking trails through a second growth predominantly pine forest that covers rolling hills south of [Kingston, Georgia](#). This narrative is told combining the three trails into one to increase the length.

[Union General William T. Sherman](#) had come up with a plan to defeat his old friend, Confederate General Joseph Johnston. When he ran into Rebels, Sherman spread out along the Confederate line, searching for its end. By outflanking his opponent, the red-haired Ohioan would force a retreat, or possibly a devastating engagement where the smaller Army of Tennessee was decimated.



Entrance to visitor's center
at Pickett's Mill State Park

The Battle of Pickett's Mill was not supposed to happen. At noon, Union Generals George Thomas and O. O. (Oliver Otis) Howard had scouted the Rebel line to a salient, which they misread as the end of the Confederate entrenchments. Howard selected William B. Hazen to lead the attack, with Colonel Benjamin Franklin

Scribner in support. Opposite them was the best tactical commander in the Western Theater, General [Patrick Cleburne](#).

The initial attack, down a valley, stalled under the heavy fire of Confederate troops along the ridge. Two secondary attacks, one by Hazen's men and the other by Scribner's men, were launched to the Union left in support of the troops pinned down in the valley. Hazen's men did pierce a quickly established Rebel defensive position only to be halted about 100 feet later. Scribner's men became confused and ended up well to the left of the main force.

The Pickett's Mill trails retrace the events of the battle, combining for an exciting conclusion following the footsteps of Hazen's main body of troops down the valley west of Pickett's Mill Creek. From the wooden overlook follow the combined Red and Blue Trail to the right down a gravel road. At .1 mile the Red Trail turns right and the Blue Trail continues straight ahead. To your left at this intersection is the site of heavy fighting. The men trapped in the valley launched three attacks against this position. Confederates held the line in spite of not having time to entrench.

Turn right on the Red Trail and follow the gravel road as it curves around to the left, reaching a cornfield on the left at .3 miles where the trail reenters the woods. On the north end of this cornfield, the Rebels established the line that halted Hazen's secondary attack. Entering a mostly shortleaf pine forest the trail winds back to the Blue Trail where it turns right. Turn left on the Blue Trail. It was here that Hazen's secondary attack encountered a hastily constructed Confederate line, designed to delay the advancing bluecoats while a second line could be constructed behind the first. The delay worked as these men were stopped by a secondary Rebel line at the north end of the cornfield on the Red Trail. Continue an extended climb up the hill towards the visitors center.



Pickett's Mill Overlook

As you pass by the overlook and visitors center to your left, the Blue Trail becomes the White Trail and makes an easy turn to the right, along the western edge of the battlefield. Note the entrenchments on the left side of the road. The White Trail comes to a "Y" at 2.0 miles. Take the left path which quickly comes to an "area closed" sign. Just before the sign the trail turns right and falls to a numbered marker that indicates the position of the Union Troops after the battle. Turn around and follow the blazes to a three-way intersection with the Red and Blue Trails. Continue straight to a gravel road that comes off to the left.

As the trail steeply descends the hill, hikers enter the area where Union troops formed during the afternoon of [May 27, 1864](#). Continue on to Pickett's Mill Creek. Originally known as Little Pumpkinvine Creek, the Georgia legislature officially renamed the creek in the 1990's. There are a number of excellent creekside views in this area. Return up the hill along the combined Red and Blue Trails, to the intersection with the White Trail. Turn left.

As you follow the combined trails back to the overlook, the sides of the valley steepen and it is easy to see how a smaller number of Rebel soldiers could halt the advance of the Union troops. A numbered marker indicates the line of furthest Union advance. From this point, continue along the combined trails to the visitors center.