Shenandoah Overlook

Behind the Scenery of Shenandoah

You have arrived! You are about to begin your Shenandoah experience. Views, wildlife, deep lush forests, clear mountain streams, historical sites, ranger programs and walks, places to sit and relax, and places to climb and hike—whatever your reason for visiting Shenandoah National Park, we are committed to making your national park experience one that you’ll never forget.

And what’s more, we are committed to this national park experience for the coming generations: the children of today and the years to come will have the same opportunity to experience the great outdoors and learn the stories of our heritage here in Shenandoah.

It sounds simple and straightforward: keep what’s here today for whoever comes tomorrow. But although your national parks are precious heirlooms, they can’t be packed away in acid-free paper in a trunk in the attic. No, the challenge behind the scenery is making enduring connections with the visitors of today while preserving it all “in perpetuity”—that means forever!

Seeing white-tailed deer in their native habitat is one of the many treats of the park. But did you realize that we must manage the deer herd to ensure its health and safety and yours? Currently we are closely watching the situation with a disease that is affecting deer in nearby areas. Our natural resource scientists are monitoring our deer and have developed a plan should Chronic Wasting Disease show up in Shenandoah’s deer. (See article p. 4.)

The views from Skyline Drive and the park’s vistas are an important part of your experience. When you hike miles up a steep trail, we want you to be rewarded with a spectacular view. Unfortunately, we don’t always have control over the air quality and visibility. But that doesn’t mean we sit idly by. Shenandoah’s scientists study and monitor the air and other natural resources in the park in order to understand the changes that are occurring both here and beyond our boundaries. Better understanding leads to more effective management and a healthier environment for us all. (See article p. 5.)

Even the tiniest plant has a place in the ecosystem. Anytime a species, plant or animal, becomes extinct, it affects every living thing. Shenandoah has recently begun a program to understand and protect some of the rare and endangered plants that live in the park. (See article p. 5.) Throughout the park you will see evidence of threats to our native species. And everywhere there is a threat, there is a plan and hope.

Part of that hope lies in your understanding of today’s environmental challenges. You can help by learning what’s behind the scenery at Shenandoah. Visit www.nps.gov/shen
SNPA and You Make a Difference

In 1950 the Shenandoah Natural History Association (SNHA) was formed as the official nonprofit cooperating association to support the interpretive and educational programs in Shenandoah National Park. Now 57 years later and with a revised name, the Shenandoah National Park Association (SNPA) is larger and stronger than ever. But the mission is still the same: to aid Shenandoah National Park in its stewardship of the park.

When you enter the Byrd Visitor Center (milepost 51) or the Dickey Ridge Visitor Center (mile 4.6), you will have a chance to visit the Park Store and purchase a book, a map, a video, or other item that will help expand your visit to Shenandoah. Then you may take that item home and share your park experience with a friend, a neighbor, or a co-worker. What you may not know is that you show your support to the park with each purchase you make at the visitor centers. Profits are used by the Association to aid the park. Your purchase does make a difference!

New for 2007

SNPA is proud to announce the arrival of the new coffee table book for Shenandoah. Shenandoah National Park, Simply Beautiful, is published by Farcountry Press, with photography by Ann and Rob Simpson and the introduction by writer Patressa Kearns. The new book has 142 color photographs depicting the beauty of Shenandoah through the seasons. Copies can be purchased at visitor centers and concession facilities throughout the park.

Join Us!

Now that you know the role the Association plays in Shenandoah National Park, perhaps you want to do more. We invite you to become a member of SNPA. As a member, you'll receive a 20% discount on purchases in our visitor centers and the SNPA online bookstore. You'll also receive discounts from the park concessioner, ARAMARK, and from local attraction Lucky Caverns. As a member, you'll learn more about the park and have the satisfaction of knowing that you're doing more to take care of it.

The Shenandoah National Park Trust

You care about Shenandoah National Park and you want to help protect and preserve it—but you don’t know how? Here is one way you can help: the Shenandoah National Park Trust.

Established as recently as 2004, the Trust accepts individual, corporate, and foundation donations in its efforts to help the park and to enhance the experience of park visitors. In less than three years, the Trust has contributed to several projects, including:

- It has provided funds to expand the Junior Ranger program, including a new Ranger Explorer Program for older kids.
- It has helped to support the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program for 15-17 year-olds, who work on park projects while learning about the park and environmental issues.

As a non-profit organization, the Trust relies solely on private funds to accomplish its mission. Working closely with National Park Service personnel, a local Board of Trustees oversees management of the organization and use of its funds. The Trust accepts gifts of any size, from fundraisers by school children to bequests. To find out how you can help the trustees that is Shenandoah National Park, please contact the Trust.

Cathy McNair, Executive Director
Shenandoah National Park Trust
Post Office Box 3274
Staunton, Virginia 24401
cmcnair@comcast.net

The new park store at Byrd Visitor Center (milepost 51) offers visitors an array of park-related items.

New Book Wins Award

A Hiker’s Guide to the Geology of Old Rag Mountain in Shenandoah National Park recently won Honorable Mention in the Association Partners of Public Lands Media Competition in Sacramento, California. The booklet was published by the Shenandoah National Park Association last summer and is an easy-to-read, easy-to-use guide to one of the most popular hiking trails in the park. Written by geologist Paul Hackley, this guide provides fascinating details on the many geological features of Old Rag Mountain along with beautiful photos taken along the trail. Check out the visitor centers and gift shops along the Drive to purchase your copy today.

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The new park store at Byrd Visitor Center (milepost 51) offers visitors an array of park-related items.
There’s sunshine in the heart of me,
My blood sings in the breeze;
The mountains are a part of me,
I’m fellow to the trees....

There lives and there leaps in me,
A love of the lovely things of earth,
And a passion to be free.

To pitch my tent with no prosy plan,
To range and to change at will,
To mock at the mastership of man,
To range and to change at will;

To seek Adventure’s thrill;
Carefree to be, as a bird that sings;
To seek Adventure’s thrill;
To seek Adventure’s thrill;

To go my own sweet way,
To rock not at all what maybefall,
But to live and to love each day.
To pitch my tent with no prosy plan,
To go my own sweet way,
To rock not at all what maybefall,
Wildlife You May Not Have Known


Over 60 park streams and their tributaries contain wild populations of native eastern brook trout, which need cold, unpolluted water and deep, clear pools as habitats. Most of the brook trout found within park streams are historic—descendants of original native stock or of historic restocking programs. There were few, if any, deer and bears in the park when it was established, but there were eastern brook trout.

However, this long-established native species now faces some dangers. Pollution and over-harvesting are two dangers. Non-native, predatory fish are another, particularly brown trout.

Brown trout, native to Europe and Asia, are now here in Shenandoah National Park at Rose River, Hughes River, and Brokenback Run, where they could threaten eastern brook trout populations. Brown trout are larger than brook trout, occasionally exceeding 18 inches in length. In recent years brown trout have experienced large population surges. Today, as stewards of the park, the staff is trying to control these non-native brown trout populations with special regulations for harvesting and disposing of them.

Think beyond the animals roaming forests and meadows in the park. Think of a native population that is still robust in cold, cold streams. Think of eastern brook trout.

Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic wasting disease—What is it? Chronic Wasting Disease, or CWD, is a progressive neurological disease that affects deer, both captive and free-ranging. It causes brain lesions that result in significant weight loss, behavioral changes, and eventual death.

Is CWD here in Shenandoah National Park?

As this publication went to press, No. But it has been detected in West Virginia within a 60-mile radius of seven national parks, including Shenandoah.

Can I catch CWD?

No. There is currently no evidence that the disease is transmissible to humans or to domestic livestock.

What is being done in response to the threat of CWD?

The National Park Service is working on a plan to respond to this potential threat. The plan will develop a range of strategies for the detection of and initial response to CWD in white-tailed deer in the event that diseased deer are detected in or near Shenandoah National Park.

Is there anything I can do about this threat?

Yes. While you’re here in the park, be alert for unusual behavior in a deer (e.g., deer seems lethargic or unresponsive) and for changes in appearance (e.g., severe emaciation, severe head or ear drooping). If you see such suspicious behavior or appearance in a deer, notify park staff immediately. It is important that you note the location of the deer so that you can pass along that information also.

Wild and Free

Many of you come to the park especially for its wild animals. You see a bear, and your day is made! But if you really care about the animals, you won’t feed or approach them, whether deer or bears, raccoons or squirrels.

Don’t feed wild animals.

Animals have their own sources of food in the park; your food can only hurt them. Moreover, if they get used to human food, wild animals will become nuisances, losing their fear of humans and trying to get food from picnic tables, tents, and backpacks. You haven’t done these animals a favor by feeding them: you’ve made them dangerous to humans, and thus subject to being killed.

In the past, deer or bears who have become nuisances were relocated. But those days are over for deer. Deer can no longer be relocated because of Chronic Wasting Disease (see article this page). Bears do not contract Chronic Wasting Disease, and trapping and relocations will continue in the park. But frequently relocations are not satisfactory solutions: some bears return to their origin and some end up becoming nuisances at new locations.

Finally—if you feed wild animals in the park, you’re breaking the law.

Don’t approach wild animals.

Admire and photograph from a distance. If their behavior changes, you’re too close.

Store food and dispose of your trash properly.

Otherwise, wild animals can get it, and they will suffer the consequences.

By following these rules, you will help the park protect the animals here in their natural home. Then your children and grandchildren will also experience the exhilaration of seeing them, wild and free.
From the rough ridges of Old Rag to the distinct profile of Stony Man, you will find many cliffs and rock outcrops in Shenandoah National Park. But cliffs and rock outcrops are more than just convenient places for you to enjoy the view. They are islands of unique habitat providing a place to live for rare plants and animals found nowhere else in the park.

The Rock Outcrop Management Project is an ongoing collaboration between park staff and outside scientists to inventory the plants and animals and to understand the human uses of rock outcrops and cliffs. The goal is to find ways to protect the rare species found on rock outcrops and cliffs, while still providing ways for visitors like you to use these popular areas.

2005 and 2006 were years of numerous discoveries. The Project documented hundreds of species in the park, including four insect, 20 plant, and two mammal species that are rare in Virginia. Here the higher peaks provide habitat for—

• the state threatened Peregrine Falcon,

• the state rare Rand’s Goldenrod,

• and the globally rare High Elevation Greenstone Barren plant community. This land community is a unique combination of plant species that occurs on fewer than 10 acres world-wide, and is of very high conservation value.

Other discoveries include six lichen species new to science, and a tree measuring only seven centimeters (2.75 in.) in diameter that is 133 years old. As the project progresses, more information will be available at the park website (www.nps.gov/shen).

Learn more at www.wilderness.net
Shenandoah Overlook

Dickey Ridge Visitor Center (mile 4.6)
September 4 - November 10, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (daily)
November 11 - November 25: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Thursday-Monday)
Highlights: information, exhibit, movie, park store, picnic grounds

Mathews Arm Campground (mile 22.2)
September 4 - October 28 (noon)
$15, some sites reservable, sewage disposal, no trailer hookups

Elkwallow Wayside (mile 24.1)
Highlights: grill, groceries, gas, camping supplies, gift shop, picnic grounds
September 4 - November 4:
9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Sunday - Thursday)
8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Friday/Saturday)

Skyland Resort (miles 41.7 and 42.5)
September 4 - November 25 (noon)
Highlights: dining room, lodging varying from modern rooms to historic cabins to spacious suites, pet-friendly rooms available, gift shop, programs, and live entertainment
Dining Room:
Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Lunch: noon - 2:30 p.m.
11:30 - 3:30 (October Sat/Sun)
Dinner: 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Gift Shop:
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Taproom:
2:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. (food service ends & last call at 10:30 p.m.)
Stables:
For reservations, call 540-999-2212
September 4 - November 24:
8:45 a.m., 10:00 a.m., noon, 1:15 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3:45 p.m.,

Big Meadows (milepost 51)
Byrd Visitor Center: September 4 - November 25, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (daily)
Highlights: extensive exhibit, programs, movies, park store, information
Wayside: restaurant, gift shop, camping supplies, gas
Closes November 25, 5:30 p.m.
September 4 - November 24: 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (daily)
November 25: 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Big Meadows Lodge
September 4 - November 4 (noon)
Highlights: historic dining room, taproom, live entertainment, lodging includes rustic cabins, motel-type rooms, and modern suites
Dining Room:
Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Lunch: noon - 2:00 p.m.
Dinner: 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Taproom:
4:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. (Monday-Friday)
2:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. (Saturday, Sunday)* - *food service ends & last call at 10:30 p.m.
Gift Shop:
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Campground:
September 4 - October 27: $20, reservations accepted
October 28 - November 25: $17, first-come, first-served

Showers/Laundry/Woodyard:
Wood and ice available at campground when attendant not on duty.

Lewis Mountain (mile 57.6)
September 4 - November 4 (noon)
Cabins: covered patios, picnic tables and grills, intimate forest setting
Campground: $15, first-come, first-served, no trailer hookups
Campstore: groceries, camping supplies, gifts, wood, ice, showers/laundry
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (Sunday-Thursday)
9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Friday/Saturday)

Loft Mountain (mile 79.5)
Wayside September 4 - November 4: restaurant, gift shop, gas
8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Sunday - Thursday)
8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. (Friday, Saturday)
Campground: September 4 - October 28 (noon)
$15, some sites reservable, showers/laundry, sewage disposal, no trailer hookups
Campstore: groceries, camping supplies, wood, ice
Closes Oct. 28 (noon)
September 4 - September 27: 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (daily)
September 28 - October 27:
8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Sun-Thu)
8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Fri/Sat)
ARAMARK Presents . . .

Fall Programs & Events

Continuing a tradition set by George Freeman Pollock, who founded a resort at Skyland before Shenandoah National Park was established, ARAMARK, the park's concessioner, offers a variety of activities, such as "Tea With the First Ladies" (pictured above.) A few of the offered activities are highlighted here. For a full list of activities and their dates and times, see ARAMARK's activities brochure, or call (800) 999-4714, Option 1, or visit the website at www.visitshenandoah.com

Guided Outdoor Programs

Come experience the beauty of Shenandoah National Park firsthand and explore miles of trails, including the Appalachian Trail. The Guided Outdoor Adventure Programs offer a variety of hikes that range from easy to difficult and are led by the certified, licensed guide staff of the Shenandoah Mountain Guides. Trips feature hiking along selected segments of the Appalachian Trail for views from mountain summits or hiking to Shenandoah's beautiful waterfalls. As with all travel into pristine areas, Leave No Trace travel will be emphasized. Supportive walking shoes are a must and a camera is highly recommended.

- $89.99 per person fee for each hiking day includes a trail map of the area, lunch, transportation to the starting points, and the guide.
- May through early November - Check the 2007 schedule for exact dates.

Shenandoah Seasonings Culinary Workshop

Skyland Resort in Shenandoah National Park will conduct its first annual Shenandoah Seasonings Culinary Workshops featuring the talents of Executive Chef Terry Sheehan. Workshop rate will include a Meet the Chef Reception, two workshop demos, hodging, plus a wine and dinner evening featuring sustainable and regional foods. Call for full details and reservations to this unique event.

- September 9-11 and 23-25

Walk for Sunshine

Award-winning author and ESPN-commentator Jeff Alt will share his Appalachian Trail experiences with park visitors. Jeff uses music, slides, narration, and lots of humor as he talks about his personal adventures along the 2,175-mile footpath. Free.

- 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the Massanutten Room at Big Meadows Lodge.

Saturday, October 20

Apple Butter Celebration

Apples are just everywhere—along with fresh apple butter, apple candy, apple arts and crafts. Come to the Conference Hall area at Skyland Resort for the 8th Annual Apple Butter Celebration! For two days copper kettles on the fire will be boiling the apples. Watch the process, and then take home some fresh-from-the-kettle jars of apple butter. A country store featuring apple products will be open 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

- Friday and Saturday, September 14 & 15

Basket Making 101

Local basket artisan Clyde Jenkins returns to Shenandoah National Park to share his talent of basket making. Clyde teaches participants how to make a Colonial-style, white oak basket with techniques handed down through the generations. All materials are provided to make one basket.

- 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. $40 per person. Reservations are requested.
- Thursday: September 6 & 20, October 4, 11, 18 — all at Big Meadows Lodge.
- Thursday, Friday: September 13 & 14 – at Skyland Resort, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A 2007 Must-See!

A stop at Shenandoah's Byrd Visitor Center at milepost 51 is a must this year. The long-awaited Byrd Visitor Center exhibit is ready for visitors!

Visitors to the new exhibit can experience Shenandoah's history in innovative and exciting ways. The untold stories of the park are revealed and old favorites are relived through hundreds of historic photos, documents, and artifacts. Meet the people of Shenandoah's past, visit the recreated Lewis Mountain Store, play the decision/consequences activity, and stroll through wilderness—all inside Byrd Visitor Center! Plan a stop to see the result of years of research, collaboration, planning, and rehabilitation. You won't be disappointed.

“Iron Mike”

This life-size bronze statue, nicknamed “Iron Mike,” represents a young man of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni commissioned the statue in the 1990s, with the goal of having the work of the CCC commemorated in every state. The family of Louise Painter Barlow and Russell Barlow (who served in the CCC in Shenandoah) donated money for the park’s statue. When “Iron Mike” was dedicated at Byrd Visitor Center in Shenandoah National Park on September 30, 2006, Virginia became the 32nd state to have a statue.

Proposed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933, the CCC program lasted for 9 years. Over those years, thousands of CCC “boys,” as they were called, worked to build Shenandoah National Park. They landscaped Skyline Drive, planting hundreds of thousands of bushes and trees; built overlooks and picnic grounds; installed facilities and wastewater systems; constructed campgrounds, buildings, and trails. The exhibit at Byrd Visitor Center introduces you to the massive amount of work done by the CCC in Shenandoah. The statue in front of the visitor center stands as a memorial to all the young men of the CCC who worked here, helping to make the park what it is today.

Shenandoah’s Backcountry

Backcountry Camping

Most of Shenandoah National Park is open to backcountry camping. Permits are required and are available free from park headquarters, visitor centers, and most entrance stations, as well as at the north and south entry points for the Appalachian Trail and Old Rag Fee Station. Seven trailside huts along the Appalachian Trail are available for long-distance hikers. These huts are operated by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. Other trail shelters are for day use only. See the park website (www.nps.gov/shen) for detailed backcountry hiking and camping information.

Backcountry Cabins

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATH) maintains six locked, primitive cabins in the backcountry of the park. To get additional information about cabins or volunteering for PATH, call (703) 242-0693 or (703) 242-0315 between 7 and 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday or between 12 and 2 p.m. Thursday-Friday Or write to: Potomac Appalachian Trail Club • 118 Park Street, SE • Vienna, VA 22180 Visit PATH online at www.PATC.net

Shenandoah Overlook 7
**Fall Ranger Programs**

### Dickey Ridge (mile 4.6)

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SEPTEMBER 4 - 30</strong></td>
<td><strong>10:30 a.m.</strong></td>
<td>Terrance Talk - Spend 10 minutes learning about a special feature of Shenandoah National Park.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Story of the Limberlost - 1.2 miles, 1.5 hrs. Meet at the Limberlost Trailhead (milepost 43).</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Massanutten Lodge - The early days of Skyland Resort come to life in this tour of recently restored Massanutten Lodge. 1 hour. Meet at Skyland Conference Hall (lower road).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Short Hike - Meet at the Skyland Hotel. Meet at Byrd Visitor Center.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hawksbill Mountain Hike - 2.1 miles, 2 hrs. Meet at Upper Hawksbill Parking Area (mile 46.7).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Appalachian Trail Hike - 2.1 miles, 2 hrs. Meet at Milam Gap Parking Area (mile 52.8).</td>
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<td>8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Evening Campfire Program - 45 minutes. Dress for cool nights. Big Meadows Amphitheater.</td>
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### Skyland (miles 41.7 and 42.5)

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<td>Junior Ranger Program - Have fun while learning about Shenandoah. For kids ages 7-12. Parent/adult must accompany child. 1.5 hrs. Meet at Skyland Amphitheater.</td>
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<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Appalachian Trail Hike - 2 miles, 2 hrs. Meet at Timberline Overlook (mile 43.3).</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Evening Campfire Program - 45 minutes. Dress for cool mountain nights. Skyland Amphitheater.</td>
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### Big Meadows (milepost 51)

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<tr>
<td><strong>SEPTEMBER 4 - 30</strong></td>
<td><strong>9:00 a.m.</strong></td>
<td>Rapidan Camp - Travel by van to Rapidan Camp, President Herbert Hoover’s summer retreat. 3 hrs. 13-person limit. Reserves by phone (540-999-3283) or in person at Byrd Visitor Center.</td>
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<td>Junior Ranger Program - Have fun while learning about Shenandoah. For kids ages 7-12. Parent/adult must accompany child. 1.5 hrs. Meet at Skyland Amphitheater.</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Appalachian Trail Hike - 2 miles, 2 hrs. Meet at Milam Gap Parking Area (mile 52.8).</td>
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<td>Appalachian Trail Hike - 2 miles, 2 hrs. Meet at Milam Gap Parking Area (mile 52.8).</td>
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<td><strong>OCTOBER 1 - 28</strong></td>
<td><strong>9:00 a.m.</strong></td>
<td>Rapidan Camp - Travel by van to Rapidan Camp, President Herbert Hoover’s summer retreat. 3 hrs. 13-person limit. Reserves by phone (540-999-3283) or in person at Byrd Visitor Center.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Appalachian Trail Hike - 2.1 miles, 2 hrs. Meet at Upper Hawksbill Parking Area (mile 46.7).</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Appalachian Trail Hike - 2.1 miles, 2 hrs. Meet at Upper Hawksbill Parking Area (mile 46.7).</td>
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<td>8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Evening Campfire Program - 45 minutes. Dress for cool nights. Big Meadows Amphitheater.</td>
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</table>

*HIKE! Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. Hawksbill hike has a 520-foot elevation gain.*

Programs will be cancelled in the event of lightning or other extreme conditions. Pets are not allowed on programs.