



Shenandoah Overlook

America at Its Best . . .

"...with the smell of the woods, and the wind in the trees, they will forget the rush and strain of all the other long weeks of the year, and for a short time at least, the days will be good for their hearts and for their souls."

—President Franklin Roosevelt speaking about vacationers to national parks in his speech at Shenandoah National Park’s dedication, July 3, 1936.

Aaaaaaah... the sound of relief, winding down, changing perspective. There’s no better place to do it than Shenandoah National Park. Shenandoah was designed from the ground up for an escape to nature. As you enter the park and navigate the gentle curves of Skyline Drive, you have to slow down! For one thing, the speed limit is 35mph, but even if it weren’t you’d be compelled to let up on the gas to take in the breathtaking views at every turn and the wildlife grazing by the road. And if one of those views tempts you to pull off at an Overlook, get out of your car, take a deep breath and say, “Aaaaaaah.”

It seems that these days, more than ever, we all need a place to get away from the stress of daily life, to “forget the rush and strain of all the other long weeks of the year.” A quiet evening watching the sun sink into the distant ranges or an early morning skirting Big Meadows to hear the symphony of migratory birds will go a long way toward renewing the spirit and reminding us of cause for optimism in our nation: our national parks.

Writer Wallace Stegner wrote, “National parks are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst.” And it’s a great time to focus on America’s best. Legendary documentary maker Ken Burns agrees. His newest project, *The National Parks: America’s Best Idea*, airs in 12 parts on public television in 2009. “National parks embody an idea as uniquely



American as the Declaration of Independence: that the most magnificent and sacred places in our land belong not to royalty or the rich, but to everyone and for all time. All that is required of us is that we visit this property once in a while and check it out, and that we pass it on to our children.”

This film is filled with the stories of people from all walks of life who have sought their parks in times of joy and in times of trouble and made incredible personal connections and memories that last a lifetime. The film is a reminder of the significance and value of our national parks.

So, thanks for stopping by to check on your property! We hope your time here becomes one of those memories that last a lifetime.

Park Emergency Number
1-800-732-0911

Shenandoah Online

To learn more about Shenandoah, or to plan your next visit, visit our website: www.nps.gov/shen



Your Pet in the Park

Pets are welcome in the park—if they do not disturb other visitors or the animals who call this park home. To ensure this, keep your pet on a six-foot lead at all times. If you need a leash, you can find one in the bookstore section of the visitor centers.

Pets are not permitted on Ranger-led programs. In addition, to ensure your pet’s safety and the safety of others, pets are not permitted on the following trails:

- Fox Hollow Trail (mile 4.6)
- Traces Trail (mile 22.2)
- Stony Man Trail (mile 41.7)
- Limberlost Trail (mile 43)
- Dark Hollow Falls Trail (mile 50.7)
- Story of the Forest Trail (mile 51)
- Bearfence Rock Scramble (mile 56.4)
- Frazier Discovery Trail (mile 79.5)
- Old Rag Ridge Trail
- Old Rag Saddle Trail

These trails total only about 14 miles! Since the park has over 500 miles of trails, you and your pet on a leash can have a wonderful time hiking in the park.



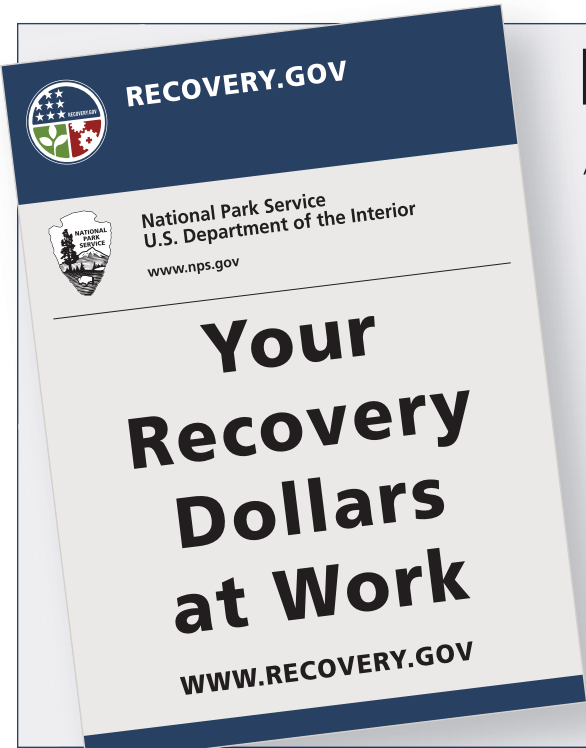
Look for These Signs!

As you travel Skyline Drive, you’ll see that the historic roadway, begun in 1931, is getting a much needed facelift thanks to the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**.

Shenandoah will receive a share of the \$750 million investment in the National Park Service (part of the \$3 billion total investment in Department of the Interior agencies) to take on some important projects that will make your future visits even better. Most visible will be reconstruction and rehabilitation along Skyline Drive and at its historic Overlooks. We’ll also be working on culverts, buildings, and access roads.

Look for the Recovery Act symbol to see Shenandoah’s projects that are improving our national treasure and creating lasting value for all Americans.

Visit www.recovery.gov for more information.





National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Shenandoah National Park

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(540) 999-3500
www.nps.gov/shen

*The National Park Service cares
for the special places saved by the
American people so that all may
experience our heritage.*

Park Accessibility

Restrooms and Buildings

Most are accessible or accessible with assistance.

Lodging

Accessible overnight accommodations are available at Lewis Mountain, Skyland Resort, and Big Meadows Lodge. (800) 999-4714.

Picnic Grounds and Campgrounds

Accessible sites are available at all park picnic grounds and campgrounds. Accessible shower and laundry facilities are available at Big Meadows, Lewis Mountain, and Loft Mountain campgrounds. Restrooms at picnic grounds are accessible or accessible with assistance.

Information

Information or assistance may be obtained by telephoning the Virginia Relay Center at (800) 828-1120 (TDD) or (800) 828-1140 (Voice) or by writing to the park:
Shenandoah National Park
3655 US Hwy 211 East
Luray, VA 22835
(540) 999-3500
www.nps.gov/shen

Welcome!



New Superintendent Martha Bogle welcomes you to Shenandoah National Park. Ms. Bogle arrived in the park last fall and is looking forward to seeing lots of visitors enjoying Shenandoah. "I encourage you to participate in one or more of Shenandoah's Ranger-led programs and walks. I feel confident that your visit will be much more rewarding by doing so."

Born and raised in Tennessee, Ms. Bogle began her career as a seasonal Park Ranger in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. She brings to her new position over 30 years of experience in 11 National Park Service sites.

Leave No Trace!



Ensuring that future generations can enjoy Shenandoah National Park is everyone's responsibility. Follow the Leave No Trace guidelines to help take care of Shenandoah.

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

For more information, visit www.LNT.org

On the Rocks . . .

The many rocks and rock formations in Shenandoah are old—granite over a billion years, greenstone and quartzite 500 million or more years. Rocks, like the plants and animals, are protected in the park, so you should not take a rock away: it belongs here! Moreover, rock outcrop and cliff areas, so popular with visitors, support rare plant and animal populations.

A comprehensive study of these areas (2005-2007), called the Rock Outcrop Management Project (ROMP), is leading to a plan that will help the park protect natural resources while still providing for visitor enjoyment of cliffs and rock outcrops.



Shenandoah National Park Trust



The Shenandoah National Park Trust is one of the park's partner organizations. The Trust's mission is to support Shenandoah through fostering public awareness, encouraging private philanthropy, and seeking public support.

These are exciting times for the SNP Trust. Early last spring the Trust joined with another of the park's partners, WVPT, to host **Ken Burns** at a fund-raising gala where he previewed his film on national parks and inspired both groups with his commitment to our national parks and his special connection with Shenandoah. Shenandoah was the first park Mr. Burns ever visited.

The funds raised at this and other similar events, as well as through donations



and endowments, will be used to support special projects in Shenandoah. Recently, funding from the Trust was

used to create a cache of rescue equipment on Old Rag Mountain, giving park medical personnel the ability to reach injured hikers more quickly. The Trust has also funded several educational projects, a historic preservation project, and the restoration of the CCC-built Old Rag Overlook (pictured below) at mile 46.5.

If you'd like to know more about the Shenandoah National Park Trust and its exciting future projects, visit their website at www.snptrust.org, or contact:

Susan Sherman
414 E. Market Street, Suite D
Charlottesville, VA 22902.



To Keep Them for Tomorrow – *Don’t Feed Them!*

Humans can be dangerous to wild animals! If you care about the deer and bears and other wild animals in the park, you won’t feed them.

You may see a black bear in the park, especially during the summer. Generally, bears will run away when they detect humans, and park staff work hard at keeping them wild. However, a small number of bears around campgrounds or picnic grounds may become habituated to humans—and to human food, if they have gotten it.

The deer in the park are many times more numerous than bears. You may be tempted to offer them human food. However, although they seem tame to you, they are in fact wild animals. They have their own sources of food within the park, food which is not bad for their digestive systems, as human food can be. What’s more, being fed will cause deer, too, to lose their fear of humans.

With easy access to human food, deer and black bears may become nuisances. When this happens, the bears will have to be relocated and the deer, unfortunately, may have to be destroyed.

Don’t feed the wild animals in the park!



Living **Green** in the Park

“Reduce, Reuse, Recycle”

Often called “The 3 R’s,” this short motto sums up a few simple things we can all do to “live green” and lessen our impact on the earth. You probably recycle glass and plastic at home and paper at your office or school.

But what about “living green” when you are on vacation? Here in Shenandoah, you can do many things. Whether it’s beginning your day with a cup of shade-grown coffee, wearing a fleece jacket made from recycled plastic bottles, or simply walking rather than driving, there are choices you can make to live green in the park.

As for the 3 R’s, the park has provided places for you to recycle for many years. This year there are two more options—to reduce and reuse.

- **To recycle, continue to use the bins provided for glass, plastic, and aluminum in the park campgrounds, lodges, and visitor centers.**
- **To reduce, take only one copy of this guide, park brochures, and maps.**
- **To reuse or recycle this guide, park brochures, and maps, bring your used copies to a visitor center, entrance station, or campground office. Give them to a Park Ranger or place them in the designated containers. The material will be reused by other park visitors or, if worn out, will be recycled.**

Reducing the number of brochures the park prints, reusing them when possible, and recycling the rest will save paper, trees, and thousands of gallons of water.



Emerald Ash Borer

Visitors are asked not to bring firewood into the park.

The Emerald Ash Borer, a non-native beetle from Asia discovered in the U.S. in 2002, feeds on ash trees with devastating results—and ash trees are a significant component of the forest in Shenandoah National Park. This beetle is now found in sections of several states, including Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. To prevent the beetle from entering the park on firewood, you are asked to gather firewood from dead and down wood *inside* the park or to purchase firewood from local sources.

If you have already entered the park with firewood from other than local sources, you are asked to *burn it all immediately and thoroughly*.



Deer Ticks – What You Need to Know

Deer ticks transmit Lyme Disease. Some cases are documented each year in the park and, of course, elsewhere in the East, including your backyards. How can you keep from getting Lyme or other tick-borne disease? The best ways:

- **Conduct frequent clothing and body checks for ticks.**
- **Tuck your pants legs in under your socks.**
- **Wear light-colored clothing (to more easily spot ticks).**



Remember—deer ticks are hard to see. They are about the size of a pinhead!



If you develop a rash or flu-like symptoms, see your doctor immediately.

>> More information at www.cdc.gov (search “tick-borne illness”)

What’s with the Air?

Here in Shenandoah National Park you’ll usually breathe fresh mountain air. However, sometimes (not often) the air in the park has high ozone levels.

In the stratosphere, ozone is good: it is a colorless gas which shields the earth from the sun’s ultraviolet rays. But ground-level ozone is different: it is created in warm, sunny conditions by a chemical reaction between pollutants. If concentrations are high (usually May-September), ground-level ozone threatens plants, animals, and humans. Some people may have respiratory problems when exercising strenuously.*

The National Park Service provides an Ozone Advisory System to alert you when high levels are detected. You can then adjust your outdoor activity as needed.

*** Visit the website tracking ozone information: www.deq.virginia.gov/airquality/511130003.html/**



SNPA . . . Do You Know Us?

The Shenandoah National Park Association (SNPA) wants to help you enjoy your visit to the park. We invite you to stop at our Park Stores—in Byrd Visitor Center (milepost 51) and Dickey Ridge Visitor Center (mile 4.6).

Today the Association sells a variety of items that will help you enjoy and learn more about Shenandoah: books and maps for planning hikes and guides and nature guides for learning more about the trees, birds, wildflowers, and wildlife. A Junior Ranger backpack filled with field guides, magnifying lens, binoculars, and an activity booklet is available for rental for the day. GPS Ranger, a GPS-based video and audio tour of four different hikes in Shenandoah, features historic images and footage. Profits from sales go to the park and are used by SNPA to support many interpretive and educational activities, including printing of this visitor guide.

SNPA, organized in 1950, has worked closely with the park

since then. The Association co-sponsors many of the park’s special events, like Wildflower Weekend, Wilderness Weekend, the annual CCC Reunion, and the educational seminars.

If you want to learn more about SNPA or become a member, just ask at the sales desk at the visitor centers. Members receive a 20% discount on purchases at the park visitor centers and receive special discounts from the park concessioner at restaurants and gift shops and from Luray Caverns. You can check out the SNPA website or call SNPA at 540-999-3582 for more information or to order items.

Shenandoah National Park Association
3655 U.S. Highway 211 E
Luray, VA 22835
Email: snpa@shentel.net
Online Park Store: www.snpbooks.org



What’s New at SNPA?



- **A Works Progress Administration (WPA) lithograph** of Shenandoah modeled on the famous 1930s series.
- **2010 Shenandoah National Park Calendar** – our annual scenic splendor of Shenandoah images.
- **Scavenger Hike Adventures** (a hiking guide for all ages) – a new and exciting way to experience the park!

Get Them from SNPA!

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016, noted filmmaker Ken Burns and production partner Dayton Duncan have created a documentary film to be shown on PBS in the fall: *The National Parks: America’s Best Idea*.



SNPA is now selling the soundtrack of the film. By October, SNPA will sell the 12-hour film on DVD and also a companion coffee table book. For information, inquire at a visitor center or call SNPA.

These items can be purchased at Park Stores along Skyline Drive or online at www.snpbooks.org

Shenandoah National Park: 75 Years—and Counting!



In 2011 Shenandoah National Park will celebrate its 75th anniversary! In a three-part series, Shenandoah Overlook offers a glimpse into a few events of 75 years ago. This 2009 issue looks back to 1934, before there was a park.

IN 1934 . . .

Conflict: The Commonwealth of Virginia was buying properties through eminent domain, so that the park could be established. Robert H. Via, unwilling to give up his land, took his case to the U.S. Supreme Court. Some feared that “there wouldn’t be any national park here in 1934, maybe not in 1935, or ever.” But the Supreme Court dismissed Via’s appeal on November 25.

Activity: The “boys” of the CCC (the Civilian Conservation Corps, President Roosevelt’s program to

provide work for young men during the Depression) had been hard at work in the proposed park for a year: planting trees and bushes, building cabins and shelters, cutting trails, constructing fire towers, removing and then using the wood of the blight-killed chestnut trees, building stone guard walls along Skyline Drive, and much more.

Achievement: On September 15, Skyline Drive from Thornton Gap to Swift Run Gap—the central section of the proposed park—was opened for public use. Marys Rock Tunnel, roughly completed in 1932, was being widened to provide room for a pedestrian walkway and a gutter. Still no park—but this section of Skyline Drive had been crowded with cars even before it was paved.

Nature: There were few, if any, deer or bears. However, visitors enjoyed wide-open valley views from newly-built overlooks.

Facilities: There were as yet few facilities along Skyline Drive. Visitors were a hardy lot! However, George Freeman Pollock was still operating Skyland, the summer resort which had opened in the early 1890s.

Rescue: CCC boys battled through six-foot snow drifts on mountain roads to carry a very ill park resident to a hospital.

Fun: Big Meadows had been designated a “National Soaring Site” for gliders. The CCC constructed a runway and hangar in the meadow for sailplanes, where one “flying in formation” demonstration drew attention worldwide, featuring sailplanes which reached 9,000 feet. Gliders were towed and released at Big Meadows, ultimately drifting to the Page Valley. Another popular sport: downhill skiing in winter.

The 2010 issue of *Shenandoah Overlook* will look back at 1935, when the park was about to be born!



Things To Do...

- 1. Put your usual "to do" list on hold.
- 2. Make a new list for your visit to Shenandoah!



Sunrise...Sunset Does the sky seem bigger than usual? Without the intrusion of buildings and night lighting, just gazing at the stars or watching the sun rise and set is a whole new experience. The many overlooks along Skyline Drive provide the perfect vantage points for sky-watching.



For Kids Don't forget to ask about kids' activities, too. The many Ranger-led programs include hikes, talks, and evening campfire programs. Kids ages 7-12 learn and have fun while becoming a Junior Ranger, and those ages 13 and up discover the plants, animals, and history of the park while doing the activities in the Ranger Explorer Guides. Also check out the ARAMARK special events on page 7.



Visitor Centers A stop at the visitor centers is a must (miles 4.6 and 51). There you'll find exhibits, films, Rangers to answer your questions, and all the other information you need.



Walk or Hike There's something for everyone. If the day is clear, choose one of the hikes to a beautiful vista. A cloudy day is great for hiking down to one of 16 waterfalls. If you just want to wander, Big Meadows is full of interesting plants and critters. Looking for a shady walk in the woods? Along a trickling stream, maybe? We've got that, too. Your best bet is to stop by a visitor center, campground office, or entrance station and ask for a map to the destination of your choice. Rangers can suggest areas to suit the weather and your physical abilities.



Campfire Evening programs are a coveted National Park tradition and the perfect way to end a perfect day in Shenandoah National Park!



Join a Ranger Check out the back cover for a list of Ranger Programs. You can see live birds of prey, explore the meadow, or get a taste of the Appalachian Trail. There's more—and seeing some of Shenandoah with a Ranger is the best of all!



The Meadow An early morning walk around Big Meadows (milepost 51) is a great way to see and hear Shenandoah's wildlife.



3. Call the boss to get a couple of extra days off – there's so much to do in Shenandoah!!

Visitor Services: September 8 – November 29

- > **Lodging Reservations:** Online www.visitshenandoah.com or (800) 999-4714
- > **Campground Reservations:** Online www.recreation.gov or (877) 444-6777

Dickey Ridge Visitor Center (mile 4.6)

Highlights: information, exhibits, orientation movie, park store, picnic grounds
September 8 - November 7: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Daily)
November 8 - November 29: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Thursday-Monday); Closed Thanksgiving Day

Mathews Arm Campground (mile 22.2)

Closes November 1 (noon), \$15, some sites reservable, group sites available, sewage disposal, no trailer hookups

Elkwallow Wayside (mile 24.1)

September 8 - November 8 (6:00 p.m.)
Highlights: grill and carry-out, groceries, gas, camping supplies, gift shop, picnic grounds
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (Sunday-Thursday)
9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Friday/Saturday)

Skyland Resort (miles 41.7 and 42.5)

September 8 - November 29 (noon)
Highlights: dining room, lodging varying from comfortable rooms overlooking the Shenandoah Valley 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 - 2:00 p.m.
Dinner: 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Taproom: 2:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. (food service ends & last call at 10:30 p.m.)

Gift Shop: 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Stables: September 8 - November 28 - Call 540-999-2212 for reservations
1 hr. rides: 8:45 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon, 1:15 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3:45 p.m. (Daily)

Big Meadows (milepost 51)

Byrd Visitor Center:

September 8 - November 7: 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (Daily)
November 8 - November 29: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Daily); Closed Thanksgiving Day
Highlights: information, exhibits, ranger programs, movies, park store

Wayside: restaurant and carry-out, gift shop, groceries, camping supplies, gas

September 8 - October 31: 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Daily)

November 1 - November 29:
8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Sunday-Thursday)
8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Friday/Saturday)

Big Meadows Lodge

September 8 - November 8 (Noon)

Highlights: historic dining room, taproom, live entertainment, gift shop, pet-friendly rooms available, 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 and last call at 10:30 p.m.

Gift Shop: 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Campground: Closes November 29 (noon), reservations accepted, \$20 through November 7; \$17 all other times; group sites available, sewage disposal, no trailer hookups

Showers/Laundry/Woodyard:

September 8 - November 29: 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Daily)
Wood and ice available at gas station when attendant not on duty.

Lewis Mountain (mile 57.6)

September 8 - November 8 (Noon)

Cabins: covered patios, picnic tables and grills, secluded forest setting

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)

Campground: \$15, first-come, first-served, no trailer hookups

Loft Mountain (mile 79.5)

Loft Mountain Information Center:

Open weekends. Closes November 1

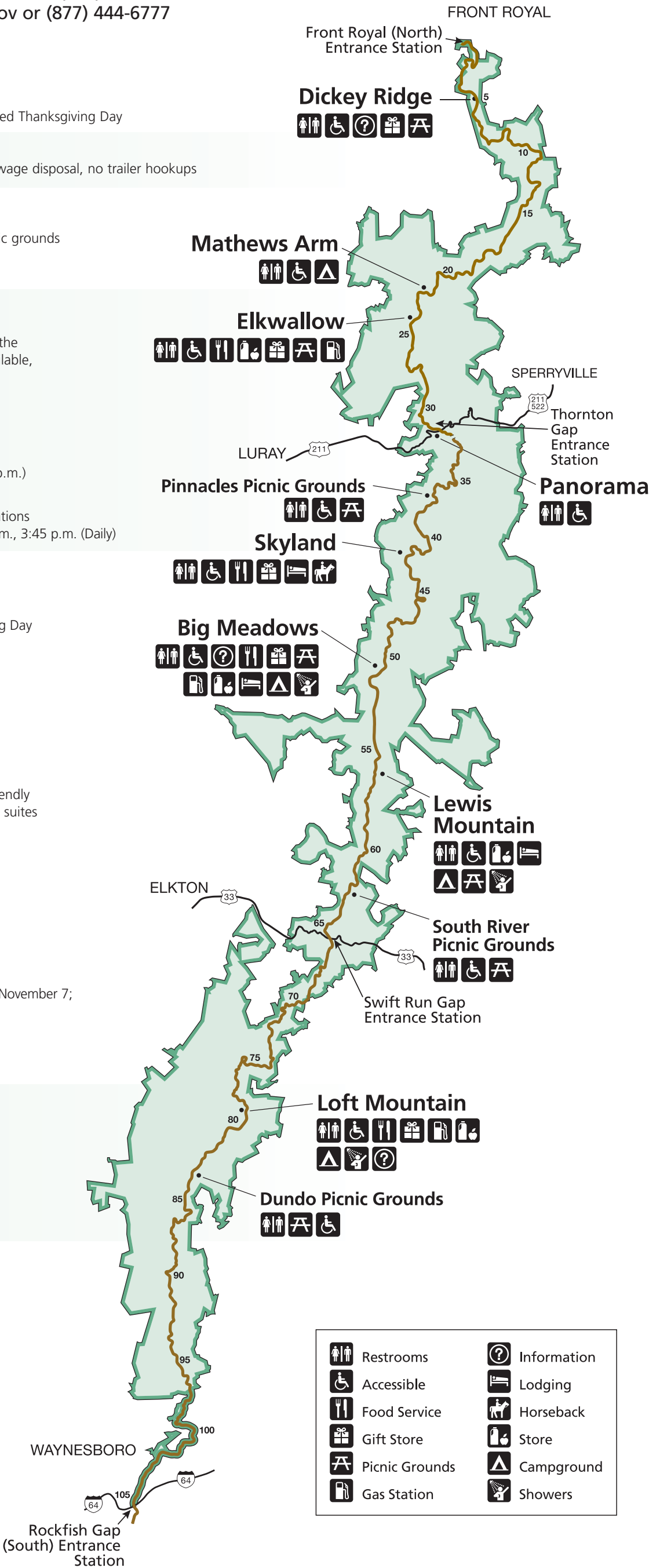
Wayside: restaurant, gift shop, gas

September 8 - October 31:
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (Sunday-Thursday)
8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Friday/Saturday)
November 1 - November 8: Closes November 8
9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Daily)

Campstore: groceries, camping supplies, wood, ice
September 8 - September 30: 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Daily)
October 1 - November 1: Closes November 1 (noon)
8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Sunday-Thursday)
8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Friday/Saturday)

Campground: Closes November 1 (noon), \$15, some sites reservable, group sites available, sewage disposal, no trailer hookups

Showers/Laundry: Closes November 1 (noon)
September 8 - November 1: 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m (Daily)



ARAMARK Lodging, Dining, and Family Activities



The official Park concessioner, ARAMARK, offers 286 rooms ranging from quaint, comfortable cabins to the more traditional style rooms and suites. Some of the rooms face west toward the Shenandoah Valley and some are situated in wooded areas. There are a limited number of pet-friendly rooms available at both **Skyland Resort** and **Big Meadows Lodge**. Cooking is not permitted in the rooms or grounds but designated picnic areas are within a short

distance of both properties. Full service restaurants featuring regional cuisine and taprooms with limited menu fare and free nightly entertainment are available to all visitors.

Lewis Mountain features 10 rustic cabins and 1 tent cabin with an adjacent covered patio, fire pit, and picnic table for outdoor cooking. There is no refrigeration so guests must provide their own coolers and food as well as utensils.

A variety of activities are offered, including Guided Outdoor Adventure Programs, Horseback and Pony Rides, Basket Making Workshops, Tea with the First Ladies: Lou Hoover and Eleanor Roosevelt,



Apple Butter Celebration, Virginia Wine Tasting, Jack Tale Storytelling, Possum Ridge String Band, 1930s and 40s Musical Entertainment, Shenandoah Valley Cloggers, and many more.



Pick up a copy of ARAMARK's 2009 *Calendar of Events* for a complete list of activities.



Looking Ahead at Shenandoah . . .

Like all national parks, Shenandoah has the mission of preserving what is here for generations to come. Park Rangers, then, have the job of looking to the future, looking ahead.

Looking ahead may mean looking back. For example, last year park cultural resource specialists looked to the past to restore the façade of Dickey Ridge Visitor Center, which is part of the National Historic Landmark designation of Skyline Drive. Skyline Drive itself is an example of the landscape work of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, so Shenandoah has begun to rehabilitate some of the historic overlooks along the Drive by repaving them and repairing the stone walls.

Park landscape architects also look to the past to see the original purpose of these overlooks. They may clear an overlook vista so that visitors may enjoy the views originally intended; they may plant trees and shrubs to restore a particular landscape to its original appearance. Park botanists are working to preserve what is left of the largest meadow in the park (at Big Meadows), whose pathways are always popular with visitors and deer. Park biologists work to re-introduce threatened peregrine falcons to nesting areas on high, rocky cliff sites.

Of course, natural resource preservation for the future is often not about restoring resources to past conditions: ecosystems are dynamic and usually cannot be frozen in time. For example, the park will change as our forest responds to disturbances caused by storms and fire. Or natural resource management may mean removing or mitigating human-caused change, as when park foresters work to control damaging defoliators like the gypsy moth or the hemlock woolly adelgid.

Whatever their job, though, park scientists and other rangers look ahead—to Shenandoah's 75th anniversary celebration in 2011 and to years far beyond—as they work (often “behind the scenes”) to preserve this park for future generations.



(Top) Recently released peregrine falcons find a new home on the cliffs at Hawksbill Mountain. July 2008
(Bottom) A spray plane treats portions of the park's forest for the damaging gypsy moth. The park used a biological pesticide, *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Btk), to treat 2500 acres in May 2008.

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. Eight trailside huts along the Appalachian Trail are available for long distance hikers. These huts are operated by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC). Other trail shelters are for day use only.

Six locked, primitive cabins, maintained by the PATC, are located in the park. The cabins are equipped with mattresses, blankets, and cookware. Some cabins will accommodate as many as 11 persons. To get additional information or to make reservations, call PATC at (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 the club:

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
118 Park Street, SE
Vienna, VA 22180
www.potomacappalachian.org

Ranger Programs: September 8 – November 1



Dickey Ridge (mile 4.6)		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Terrace Talk - Spend 10 minutes learning about a special feature of Shenandoah National Park. Check at Information Desk for talk schedule. <i>Dickey Ridge Visitor Center.</i>		Check at the Information Desk for talk schedule.						

Skyland (miles 41.7 and 42.5)		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Ancient Volcano Hike – Imagine fiery lava and rivers of molten rock in Shenandoah! Walk along the remains of an ancient volcanic rift. 2 miles. 2 hours. <i>Meet at Timber Hollow Overlook (mile 43.3).</i>		10:00 a.m.			10:00 a.m.			
Wild About Bears – Learn about the unique lifestyle of Shenandoah’s largest mammals during this 20-minute talk. <i>Skyland Dining Hall.</i>		1:30 p.m.		1:30 p.m.		1:30 p.m.		1:30 p.m.
Historic Massanutten Lodge – Tour the restored 1911 bungalow home of Addie Pollock and learn about the figures and forces of early Skyland Resort. 1 hour. <i>Meet at Skyland Conference Hall (lower road).</i> Tours end for the year on Sunday, October 25, 2009.		4:00 p.m.		4:00 p.m.				4:00 p.m.
Little Stony Man Cliffs – Explore a sheer cliff face and breathtaking views of the Shenandoah Valley during this scenic hike that rises in elevation 270 feet. 1.5 miles. 1.5 hours. <i>Meet at Stony Man Mountain Overlook (mile 38.6).</i>			10:00 a.m.			10:00 a.m.		
A Change of Season – Sleeping colors awaken, seeds mature, and animals prepare and adapt during this season of change. Join a Park Ranger to discover more about these seasonal changes during this 20-minute talk. <i>Skyland Dining Hall.</i>			1:30 p.m.		1:30 p.m.		1:30 p.m.	
Discovery Walk – Slow down, look up, under and around – explore with a Ranger and see what you can discover today! 1 hour. <i>Meet at Skyland Amphitheater.</i>			3:00 p.m.					3:00 p.m.
Stony Man Hike – Some of the most incredible views in Shenandoah are closer than you think; hike to the park’s second tallest peak. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. 1.6 miles. 2 hours. <i>Meet at Stony Man Trailhead (mile 41.7, the north entrance to Skyland Resort).</i>				10:00 a.m.			10:00 a.m.	
On Silent Wings – Meet live owls while discovering the adaptations and behaviors that make them successful hunters of the night. 1 hour. <i>Skyland Amphitheater.</i>								10:00 a.m.
Evening Stroll on the Limberlost – Visit this dramatic forest at a magical time. Dress warmly for cold mountain nights. 1 hour. <i>Meet at the Limberlost Trailhead (milepost 43).</i>								7:00 p.m.

Big Meadows (milepost 51)		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Terrace Talk – Spend 10 minutes learning about a special feature of the park. Check at Information Desk for talk schedule. <i>Byrd Visitor Center.</i>		Check at the Information Desk for talk schedule.						
Live Birds of Prey – Meet live raptors and learn about their vital role in the ecosystem. 1 hour. <i>Big Meadows Amphitheater.</i>		10:00 a.m.			10:00 a.m.			
Tour the Historic Rapidan Camp – Travel by bus 30 minutes to President Hoover’s summer retreat. Visit the authentically refurbished President’s cabin with a Ranger, then explore on your own. 3 hours. 12-person limit. <i>Reserve by phone (540-999-3500 ext. 3283) or in person at Byrd Visitor Center.</i> Tours end for the year on Sunday, October 25, 2009.		1:30 p.m.		1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.		1:30 p.m.
Highest Point at Big Meadows – This is a short walk along the Applachian Trail to the spectacular view from the Blackrock Viewpoint. 1 hour. <i>Meet at Big Meadows Amphitheater.</i>		4:00 p.m.			4:00 p.m.			
Appalachian Trail Hike – Hike a portion of this famous mountain trail and discover its fascinating stories. 2 miles. 2 hours. <i>Meet at Milam Gap Parking Area (mile 52.8).</i>			10:00 a.m.			2:00 p.m.		
Wild About Bears – Learn about the unique lifestyle of Shenandoah’s largest mammals during this 20-minute talk. <i>Byrd Visitor Center.</i>			2:00 p.m.				2:00 p.m.	
A Change of Season – Sleeping colors awaken, seeds mature, and animals prepare and adapt during this season of change. Join a Park Ranger to discover more about these seasonal changes during this 20-minute talk. <i>Byrd Visitor Center.</i>				10:30 a.m.		10:30 a.m.		10:30 a.m.
More than a Meadow – Discover the wonders of a unique 130-acre meadow on this gentle walk. 1 mile. 1.5 hours. <i>Meet at Byrd Visitor Center.</i>				2:00 p.m.				2:00 p.m.
CCC Stroll – Celebrate the Civilian Conservation Corps legacy on this short walk to the site of a CCC camp. 45 minutes. <i>Meet at Byrd Visitor Center.</i>				4:00 p.m.			4:00 p.m.	
Junior Ranger Program – Unlock the mysteries of Shenandoah through fun and educational activities. Kids ages 7-12. Parent/adult must accompany child. 1.5 hours. <i>Meet at Byrd Visitor Center.</i>								3:00 p.m.
Evening Campfire Program – Join a ranger for this well-loved National Park Service tradition. Dress warmly for cold mountain nights. 45 minutes. <i>Big Meadows Amphitheater.</i>							7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.

Loft Mountain (mile 79.5)		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Discovery Walk – Slow down, look up, under and around – explore with a Ranger and see what you can discover today! 1 hour. <i>Meet at Loft Mountain Information Center.</i>								3:00 p.m.
Evening Campfire Program – Join a Ranger for this well-loved National Park Service tradition. Dress warmly for cold mountain nights. 45 minutes. <i>Loft Mountain Amphitheater.</i>								7:30 p.m.