

Shenandoah OVERLOOK

Shenandoah National Park

Summer/Fall - 1998



Visitor Guide

Facilities & Services Pages 4 & 5

Ranger Programs Page 8

Information and Related Messages
540-999-3500

Lodging Reservations
1-800-999-4714 or
540-743-5108

Emergency Only
1-800-732-0911

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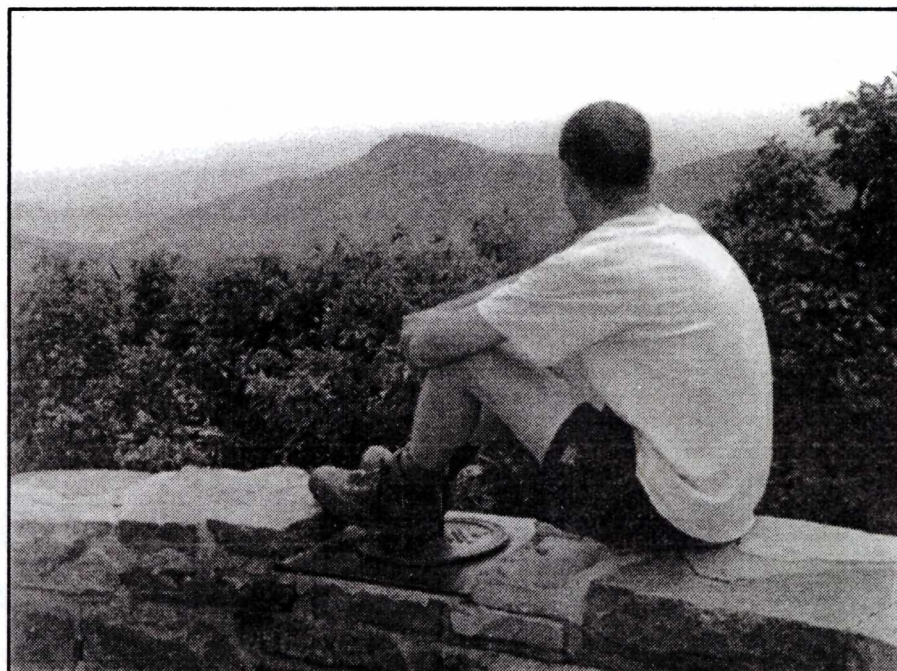
Partners in Preservation

We're partners—you, and park personnel, and all the others who enter Shenandoah National Park. This world of unforgettable beauty quite literally depends on us, working together, to sustain it. Forest and rocks and streams, animals and flowers, and all the peace of a world set apart. . . they'll all be here for our children and the generations after them, because we who love the park today are partners in preservation.

Little things mean a lot in this job of preservation. For example, if we observe the 35-mile-per-hour speed limit on Skyline Drive, we won't endanger the deer and bears who frequently cross. We'll have a safer drive, too. And anytime we wish to enjoy a view, we find lots of overlooks where parking is provided and where we won't block the Drive for others.

Those of us who hike are preservers, too. To save them for those who follow, we won't pick a flower or put a rock into our pack. We stay on the trail instead of trampling down the undergrowth. And we always keep a pet on a leash.

And preservers, whether drivers or hikers, never feed the deer! Did you know that the white-tailed deer in the park find plenty of food and shelter—on their own? Did you know that human food damages a deer's digestive system? That deer accustomed to getting food from humans are more likely to be injured—by



vehicles on the Drive, by illegal hunters? Those who know all this are not even tempted to feed the deer, no matter how appealing they are!

Pet owners have the special responsibility of following the park rules for pets. Yes, a dog can walk on most of the trails, if he/she is on a 6-foot lead. But a few trails are rocky, or designed for family groups; and one trail is accessible to the handicapped. For the protection of the park, and also for the dog's safety and the safety of others, a few trails, listed here from north to south, are not open to pets:

- Fox Hollow Nature Trail (mile 4.6)
- Traces Nature Trail (mile 22.2)
- Stony Man Nature Trail (mile 41.7)
- Limberlost Trail (mile 43)

- Old Rag Ridge Trail
- Old Rag Saddle Trail (above Old Rag Shelter)
- Dark Hollow Falls Trail (mile 50.7)
- Story of the Forest Nature Trail (mile 51)
- Bearfence Mountain Trail (mile 56.4)
- Nature Trail (mile 79.5)

Even though it may appear long, this list totals fewer than 20 miles of the 500 miles of trails in the park!

Of course, some things we do to preserve the beauty of Shenandoah are important everywhere. Not leaving trash, for example. But we come to this park because it is special, a natural world set apart from the developed world of cities and highways. And a special place needs special care, from all of us who are partners in preservation.

How Are We Doing?

We need your help! The National Park Service is requesting assistance from visitors to measure the success of two of the national goals in its Strategic Management Plan:

Park Visitors are satisfied with appropriate park facilities, services, and recreational opportunities.

Park visitors understand and appreciate the significance of the park they are visiting.

During this season, a park employee will ask some visitors to each of the 378 units of the National Park Service to fill out an official park survey card. Here in Shenandoah National Park, 250-400 of you will get this card.

The staff at Shenandoah National Park is working hard to provide you with excellent experiences that make your visits to this park both enjoyable and meaningful. But we really need your input to do this.

If you receive an official survey form, we ask that you fill it out completely and return it. If you do not receive the form—please write to us to let us know just what you think about "How we are doing."

Douglas K. Morris
Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park
3655 US Hwy 211 E
Luray, VA 22835

Measure, field and seal

Your Opinion Counts!

You can help the National Park Service maintain its high standards by rating this park's facilities, services and recreational opportunities. Your feedback helps us improve our operations and serve you better. Please only fill in one circle per line.

Current mark: ☐ Not used or not available ☐ Very Good ☐ Good ☐ Average ☐ Poor ☐ Very Poor

Category	Not used or not available	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Park Facilities						
• Restrooms						
• Walkways and trails						
• Visitor center						
• Picnic areas						
• Exhibits (indoor and outdoor)						
Visitor Services						
• Park map or brochure						
• Assistance from park employees						
• Commercial services in the park (fuel, lodging, etc.)						
• Ranger-led programs						
Recreational Opportunities						
• Sightseeing						
• Outdoor recreation (camping, fishing, hiking, etc.)						
• Learning about nature, history or culture						
Overall quality of facilities, services and recreational opportunities						
In your opinion, what is the special significance of this park?						
Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your visit?						

6407

Thank you

Ice on the Mountain

A major ice storm in February damaged trees from one end of the park to the other. Countless trees were broken under the weight of hundreds of pounds of ice. 300 miles of park trails were obstructed by broken limbs and treetops and fallen trees. 81 miles of Skyline Drive were clogged with fallen trees and branches. The Drive is now clear, but work on trails continues. The park trail crew and volunteers from the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club have logged hundreds of hours clearing park trails. On an average day, a six-person crew can clear one mile of trail. The goal is to clear all park trails for hiking by early summer, but hazards resulting from the ice storm will be present for many years to come.



PATC

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), a volunteer organization, was founded in 1927 by a small group of hiking enthusiasts with a dream of a 2,000-mile footpath from Maine to Georgia. PATC members built a portion of that trail, 101 miles of which are within Shenandoah National Park. Through cooperative agreements with the National Park Service, PATC members for almost 70 years have helped to care for the AT and many other trails in the park and to maintain hiker shelters and several cabins.

PATC membership is open to all who enjoy hiking and have a commitment to trail stewardship. For information, contact:
PATC • 118 Park Street, SE • Vienna, VA 22180 • 703-242-0693

Shenandoah Natural History Association: Partners in Visitor Service

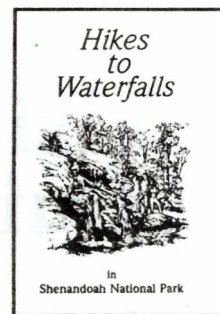
Perhaps you want more information about what you've experienced in Shenandoah National Park. Or perhaps you've just arrived and you're not sure what you want to do. You may be a birder, or a hiker, or an amateur photographer, always on the lookout for new items in these fields. If so—you should check out one of the three visitor centers in the park and find some great resources, all sold by the Shenandoah Natural History Association (SNHA).

The Shenandoah Natural History Association has been the cooperating association for the park since 1950. This non-profit organization sells books and other materials dealing with the natural and cultural resources of the park. And the "non-profit" in the description means this: the profit from any item you buy at a visitor center is returned to the park to help support its interpretive and educational programs. Last year alone, SNHA gave over \$60,000 to the park. So you can see that every purchase you make helps!

SNHA Wins Big!



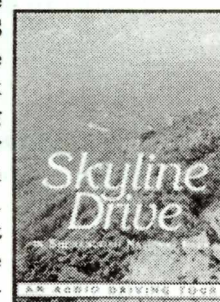
In March, 1998, the association received three awards from the 1997-1998 National Park Service Publications Competition. SNHA won first place in the category of "trail guide" for its most recent publication, *Hikes to Waterfalls in Shenandoah National Park*. The booklet, written by park volunteer Joanne Amberson, is an inexpensive guide to the nine waterfalls in the park. You will have to walk to see the waterfalls, since they are not visible from Skyline Drive, but this book will serve as your guide. It gives you a point-by-point description of each hike, with a map and other details, such as starting points, distances, and elevation changes.



Birds of Shenandoah National Park: A Naturalist's View received honorable mention. Written by naturalist Terry Lindsay and his wife, writer/editor Patressa Lindsay, the guide covers 55 birds that live in or migrate through the park, describing individual birds and their habitat, appearance, calls, nesting and personal habits. Rob Simpson, photographer/naturalist, provided a crisp color photograph of each bird. The book will help bird enthusiasts recognize, understand, and appreciate the birds they are most likely to encounter in the park. Readers will feel that they have actually met the birds and will want to look for them.



The Auto Tour Along Skyline Drive cassette also won an honorable mention in the NPS competition. This 100-minute audio-cassette tour, researched and written by park volunteer Rock Comstock, starts at Front Royal and continues south along the 105 miles of Skyline Drive to Waynesboro. You'll hear about trails to explore, about the families who once lived in these mountains, about Shenandoah's plants and animals. You'll be directed to overlooks where you can learn about the valley towns below or see the snake-like loops of the Shenandoah River and the many mountain peaks. The audio tour is an excellent introduction to the park.



Join Us!

The association invites you to become a member. As a member, you'll receive a 20% discount on purchases in the visitor centers and on registration fees for field studies. You'll also get a copy of the association newsletter, *The Trillium*, and the park newspaper, *Shenandoah Overlook*. As a member, you'll learn more about the park and have the opportunity to participate in more park activities. Your membership fee helps the park, too.



For more information, contact:
Shenandoah Natural History Association
3655 US Hwy 211 E • Luray, VA 22835 • 540-999-3582
www.nps.gov/shen/snha/snhahome.htm

Thoughts on Whiskey

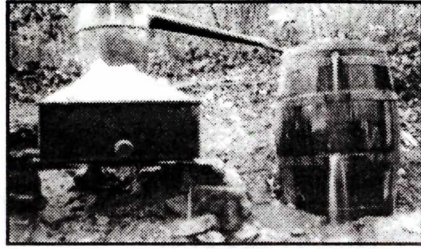
You know what "moonshine" is. Perhaps you have an image of Appalachian Mountain people as overly inclined to the bottle because some of them had stills to produce alcohol in the backwoods. Perhaps you think of Appalachian moonshiners as somewhat ridiculous figures, to be laughed at for being so out of step. Right?

Actually, not so right. A careful look at American history reveals that, in commerce and in everyday life, alcohol was once very important to almost everybody.

For this reason, the 18th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the prohibition amendment, would never have been ratified in an earlier age. Although there were indeed advocates of prohibition from the 1830s on, the American population before the 20th century was too rural and too agricultural to support a movement that threatened the farm and homestead economy and the national taste for "demon rum."

The truth is that for early settlers of America, alcoholic beverages were the coffee and cola upon which the frontier was tamed. As one historian put it, "Tree fruits were grown primarily to drink, frequently to feed hogs and only incidentally to eat." This historian reported that almost every farm home in Pennsylvania had a barrel of hard cider "constantly on tap." The same was true elsewhere in the colonies. The tutor in the Carter family of Virginia reported that the family consumed 560 gallons of rum and 150 gallons of brandy in a single year—and he did not even mention the hard cider and beer consumed! Of course, fruit was not the only source of alcohol. For example, much of the corn and rye produced by early settlers was marketed as whiskey.

Simple economic forces helped to drive this taste for alcohol. Agricultural commodity prices were tremendously variable in the 18th and 19th centuries, those times long before federal price supports. When good



crop years were followed by declining prices, alternative products seemed a sensible solution. It was found that 10 gallons of whiskey could be distilled from a barrel of rye flour. Thomas Jefferson himself, who brewed beer, saw the sense in distilling his own grain and fruit. Market reports in these centuries consistently reported the price of hard cider and peach brandy, but not that of fresh fruits and vegetables, which were rarely grown for the markets. In fact, at one time in some areas whiskey was the one commodity that had a standard value, and products like corn, salt, and tobacco were valued according to the amount of whiskey they could bring.

The limited transportation system was another reason for the massive production of whiskey, brandy, and hard cider. Country roads in those days simply could not support large shipments of farm products—except for whiskey. You see, a packhorse could carry only four bushels of rye as grain—but it could carry twenty-four bushels of rye as whiskey!

The 18th amendment finally did pass, in 1920. There had been social and economic change, and the transportation system had improved. Even then, however, very rural and mountainous areas like Shenandoah remained, where the copper boiler continued to turn bulky crops into liquid gold.

And so the copper stills in the Shenandoah National Park collection are not humorous display objects meant to ridicule the mountain people. Instead, they represent the final chapter in a centuries-old American agricultural tradition.

Very Important People

At Shenandoah National Park, V.I.P. has two meanings: Very Important Person and Volunteer in Park. All visitors are important, but a few go the extra step and become volunteers.

These generous people donate their time and talent working alongside paid employees. They can be very visible, in uniform at visitor centers and campgrounds or on trails. Others work behind the scenes and scenery, in offices and workshops.

Who volunteers? Many persons. Some are students who take time from their weekend to pick up trash. Others are park neighbors, who over the winter care for the birds of prey that are featured in summer ranger programs. The list goes on. Retirees host at campgrounds, helping to ensure that visitors leave with happy memories.

One group deserves special mention. Members and volunteers with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club have worked in the park for years. Individually and in teams, they have trimmed back brush, built water bars, trimmed branches, and cut trunks. After this winter's unprecedented ice storm, they donated thousands of hours of labor clearing park trails.

If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer in Park, here at Shenandoah or at another National Park, you will find application forms at the visitor centers, headquarters, and entrance stations. Applications—and some current volunteer positions—are also posted on the NPS volunteer website: www.nps.gov/volunteer. If you have questions, write to the Coordinator, Volunteers in Park, at the Shenandoah National Park, 3655 US Hwy 211 E, Luray, VA 22835 or call 540-999-3181.

What inspires people to volunteer? The reasons vary, but there are common themes. Love of park, sense of duty, kinship with nature, curiosity about the past are often listed. Some volunteers seek the chance to learn, to share what they know, or to lead. Others enjoy meeting former park residents, their descendants, and visitors from around the world.

The chance to tell a good story is one reward. For years, a volunteer did his part to keep the park and visitors intact by writing backcountry camping permits. The first line on the permit is for the name. One day, the Secretary of the Interior walked in for a permit. "I'm your boss," he said with a grin. "Yes, you are!" the volunteer replied. And he filled in the name correctly.

The volunteer patch, the National Park Service arrowhead atop a shield that says "Volunteer," is a source of pride. The arrowhead includes a mountain, tree, and buffalo; together, these images represent the scenery, natural and historical objects, and the wildlife that NPS employees and volunteers protect. One former volunteer asked if he could be buried in his uniform. His supervisor agreed.

Camp Hoover: As It Once Was

In 1933, when President Herbert Hoover left his fishing camp in what is now Shenandoah National Park, he could not have realized what dramatic changes 65 years would bring to it. Today, most of the original buildings are gone and the remaining ones altered; pond and waterfall and fountain have disappeared; and even the name is different, for Rapidan Camp is now Camp Hoover.

If you had visited Rapidan Camp in the early 1930s, you would have seen a complex of over 60 buildings, for President Hoover brought the work of his office with him when he came to the camp. Then, after his defeat by Roosevelt in 1932, Hoover and his wife, Lou Henry, deeded the Rapidan property to the Commonwealth of Virginia, to be included in the proposed Shenandoah National Park.

The camp had to be altered in various ways, for use by VIPs and (in the 1950s) the Boy Scouts. Many changes came in 1961 when the Park Service, faced with the disrepair in the 13 buildings in the main part of the camp, demolished 10 structures and "rehabilitated" the remaining three cabins—The President, The Prime Minister, and The Creel.

With the 1990s, however, came a deeper realization that Shenandoah is more than a natural world—that it is also a rich cultural resource. In 1995, the management of Shenandoah National Park made the restoration of buildings and cultural landscape at Camp Hoover a priority. The return to the past is now well underway.

- The 1962 kitchen addition on The President has been removed; the original windows that it covered have been restored.
- Hoover's bathroom in The President has been stripped of its 1960s coverings and the original wooden shower stall is being restored.
- The President has been reroofed (though green asphaltic shingles will be put on when the restoration is completed).

Even more restoration is to come. Architectural, archaeological, and landscape investigation and archival research have led to exciting discoveries: the "drinking fountain" in the center of the camp was, in fact, an ornamental fountain that fed seven pools in Lou Henry Hoover's rock garden; and a trout pond and waterfalls were originally constructed next to The President. Preliminary field investigation suggests that these features remain today, simply backfilled after the Hoovers left. When further investigation documents their construction, restoration can begin. Finally, within the next months, Shenandoah will complete plans for the proposed restoration of the original walk system, the interpretation of the cultural landscape, and the identification of all original cabin sites.

Visitors can hike to Camp Hoover all year. In 1998, however, the camp area may be closed to visitors for much of the summer because the severe storm damage to trees has created safety hazards. But on Hoover Day in the park—this year, August 9—bus transportation is available from Byrd Visitor Center and rangers will offer programs and conduct tours through the buildings.

Visitors see the natural world that Hoover found here—the tall hemlocks, the beauty, the peace. Soon they will also see some of the camp itself (the remaining buildings and the landscaping) as it was in the early 1930s—when Rapidan was the name, and a President came to visit.



Facilities and Services

Dickey Ridge

(Mile 4.6)



Visitor Center

April 3- Late Fall
Open Daily 9:00am - 5:00pm

Mathews Arm Campground

(Mile 22.2)



June 1 - November 1
No trailer hookups or sewage disposal. First-come, first-served. \$14

Elkwallow

(Mile 24.1)



The Wayside offers a variety of breakfast selections and sandwiches and grilled items for lunch/dinner, with seating outside on the patio or at picnic tables. Other services include sales of groceries, wood, ice, gifts, camper supplies, and gasoline.

Open Daily

April 3 - May 14
9:00am - 5:30pm

May 15 - November 1
9:00am - 7:00pm

Food Service

April 3 - November 1
9:00am - 5:30pm

Panorama

(Mile 31.5)



Panorama is located at the base of the popular Marys Rock hiking trail and operates a dining room and gift shop. The varied menu includes soup, salads, sandwiches, and pizza. Panorama is open for breakfast and lunch.

Open Daily

May 14 - June 19
8:00am - 5:30pm
Saturday 8:00am - 6:30pm

June 20 - September 6
8:00am - 6:30pm

September 7 - September 25
8:00am - 5:30pm

September 26 - November 1
8:00am - 6:30pm

Pinnacles

(Mile 36.7)



Skyland

(Mile 41.7 & 42.5)



Skyland offers visitors a variety of lodging, from comfortable rooms overlooking the Shenandoah Valley to rustic historic cabins to spacious suites.

Lodging & Services

5:00pm April 2 - 12:00 noon Nov. 29

Dining Room - Daily

Breakfast 7:30am - 10:30am
Lunch 12 noon - 2:30pm
Dinner 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Mountain Room - Daily

Cont'l Breakfast 10:30am - 12 noon
Lunch 2:30pm - 5:00pm

Craft Shop

8:00am - 9:00pm

Taproom

3:00pm - 11:00pm

Stables

One-hour and two-and-a half-hour rides are available. For reservations and information, call 540-999-2210.

Big Meadows

(Mile 51 and 51.2)



Harry F. Byrd, Sr. Visitor Center

April 3 - Late Fall
Open Daily 9:00am - 5:00pm

Campground

April 3 - November 29
No trailer hookups, but there is sewage disposal. Reservations can be made up to 5 months in advance by calling, 1-800-365-CAMP. \$17

Wayside

The Wayside houses a full-service dining room with carryout service, and offers a varied menu of regional favorites and contemporary food. Other services include a gift shop with souvenirs, handicrafts, and apparel; a campstore with a large selection of groceries, camper supplies, and picnic items; and gasoline. At the entrance to the Big Meadows Campground is the accessible shower/laundry building, which also sells wood and ice.

Hours of Operation

April 3 - June 19
9:00am - 5:30pm

June 20 - September 6
8:00am - 8:00pm

September 7 - September 25
9:00am - 5:30pm
Saturday 8:00am - 8:00pm

September 26 - October 25
9:00am - 6:30pm
Saturday & Sunday 8:00am - 8:00pm

October 26 - November 29
9:00am - 5:00pm

Breakfast

April 3 - April 24
September 26 - November 29
9:00am - 11:00am (weekdays)
8:00am - 11:00am (Sat., Sun., Holidays)

April 25 - June 19
September 7 - September 25
9:00am - 11:00am (Sat., Sun., Holidays)
—Weekdays breakfast available only at Big Meadows Lodge—

June 20 - September 6
8:00am - 11:00am

Lunch/Dinner (All Season)
11:00am - Close

Wood/Showers/Laundry

April 3 - June 19
September 7 - November 16
7:30am - 7:00pm

June 20 - September 6
7:30am - 8:00pm

November 17 - November 29
9:00am - 11:00am
3:00pm - 6:00pm
Saturday & Sunday 7:30am - 7:00pm

Lodge

Accommodations at Big Meadows range from rooms in the historic main lodge to rustic cabins and motel-type rooms and modern suites. The dining room offers regional or contemporary cuisine; family-oriented evening entertainment is offered in the Taproom.

Lodging & Services

5:00pm April 24 - 12 noon Nov. 1

Dining Room

Breakfast

April 25 - June 19
September 8 - September 25
7:30am - 11:00am
7:30am - 10:00am (Sat., Sun., Holidays)

June 20 - September 7
September 26 - November 1
7:30am - 10:00am

Lunch

April 25 - June 19
September 8 - September 25
12 noon - 2:30pm (Sat., Sun., Holidays)
—Weekdays lunch available only at Big Meadows Wayside—

June 20 - September 7
September 26 - November 1
12 noon - 2:00pm
Saturday & Sunday 12 noon - 2:30pm

Dinner

April 24 - October 31
5:30pm - 8:30pm

Craft Shop - Daily

8:00am - 9:00pm

Taproom - Nightly

4:00pm - 11:00pm

Lewis Mountain

(Mile 57.6)



Lewis Mountain offers the only housekeeping cabins in the park. The cabins have covered patios with picnic tables and grills for outdoor cooking. Other services include groceries, camper supplies, souvenirs, wood, ice, and an accessible shower/laundry.

Campground

April 30 - November 1
No trailer hookups or sewage disposal. First-come, first served. \$14.

Lodging & Services

9:00am April 30 - 12 noon Nov. 2
April 30 - June 19
September 1 - September 30
9:00am - 5:30pm

June 20 - August 31
9:00am - 5:30pm

October 1 - November 2
9:00am - 6:30pm

South River

(Mile 62.8)



Loft Mountain

(Mile 79.5)



Information Center

Open Daily 9:00am - 5:00pm

Campground

May 14 - November 1
No trailer hookups, but there is sewage disposal. First-come, first-served, \$14.

Wayside and Campstore

The Loft Mountain Wayside has a dining room which provides counter service, with seating either inside or outside on picnic tables. The menu includes a variety of breakfast selections, sandwiches, and grilled items. Other services include a gift shop and gasoline. Located near the Loft Mountain Campground, the Loft Mountain Campstore offers camping supplies, groceries, wood, ice, and a shower/laundry (not accessible).

Services & Facilities

9:00am April 18 - 12 noon Nov. 2

Food & Gift Shop

April 18 - May 13
9:00am - 5:30pm

May 14 - November 1 (Mon.-Thurs.)
9:00am - 5:30pm
Friday 9:00am - 6:30pm
Saturday 8:00am - 6:30pm
Sunday/Holidays 8:00am - 5:30pm

May 14 - November 1 (Mon.-Thurs.)
9:00am - 5:30pm
Friday 9:00am - 6:30pm
Saturday 8:00am - 6:30pm
Sunday/Holidays 8:00am - 5:30pm

Campstore (Extended Hours)

June 20 - September 6
8:00am - 8:00pm

Showers/Laundry

May 14 - November 2, 12 noon
7:30am - 8:00pm

Dundo
(Mile 83.7)

Group Campground

By reservation only: 540-298-9625

Park Accessibility

Restrooms and Buildings - Most are accessible or accessible with help.

Lodging - Accessible overnight accommodations are available at Lewis Mountain, Skyland and Big Meadows Lodge (1-800-999-4714).

Picnic Grounds and Campgrounds - Accessible sites are available at all park picnic grounds and campgrounds. Shower and laundry facilities are accessible at Big Meadows and Lewis Mountain campgrounds. Restrooms at picnic grounds are accessible with assistance.

Trails - The Limberlost Trail is an accessible trail, a gently sloping 1.3-mile loop featuring a 5' -wide, hard-packed surface. The trail circles through old-growth forest with magnificent hemlocks and includes a 65' bridge and 150' boardwalk.

Written information, interpretive trail booklets, taped narrations of the park brochure, history and bird identification guides, some trail booklets, and tape players are available at the visitor centers.

Further information or assistance may be obtained by telephoning the Virginia Relay Center at 1-800-828-1120 (TDD) or 1-800-828-1140 (Voice) or by writing to:

Shenandoah National Park
3655 US Hwy 211 East
Luray, VA 22835

Also Available



Private Campgrounds

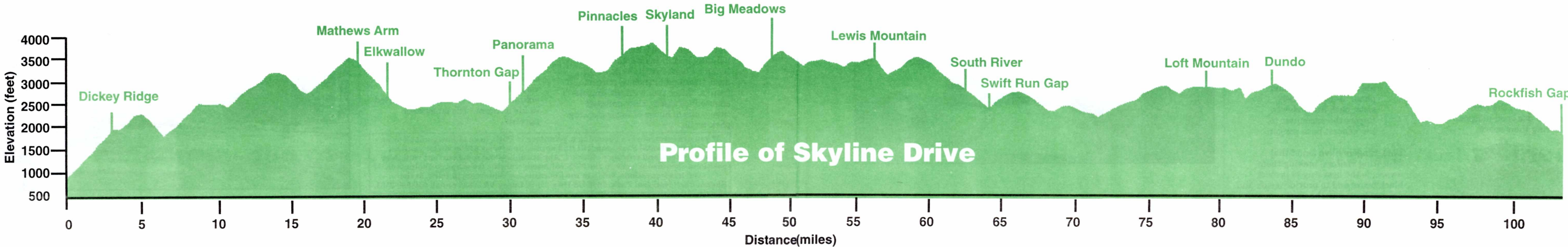
For a listing of private campgrounds in the Shenandoah Valley, please contact: Shenandoah Valley Travel Association at 540-740-3132.

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 entrance stations. 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.

Backcountry Cabins

Six locked, primitive cabins, maintained by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (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 noon and 2 p.m. Thursday - Friday. Or write to: Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
118 Park Street, SE
Vienna, VA 22180



Browsers of the Park

At first glance, cows and deer seem to have little in common. One is rotund and plodding; the other slender and fleet. One has hollow horns that it keeps all its life; the other has bone antlers that it sheds each year. But they are both hooved animals and they both chew a cud. And although cows are grazers and deer are considered browsers, grasses and leafy plants are important to a deer's diet, too, in addition to woody browse. To help them digest plant food, both animals have four-part stomachs. Deer, in a sense, could be considered "cows of the forest."

Deer like to feed along edges of meadows or near breaks in the forest. Their preferred foods vary with the season. In spring, they look for new shoots, buds, twigs, and leaves. In summer, they eat mature leaves. In fall, acorns are the main target. In winter, deer eat anything available, including pine needles, fungi, grasses, twigs, bark, and evergreen leaves. Deer swallow a lot of food in a short time as they move toward a sheltered spot. Eventually, they lie down in a safe place and chew their cud, bringing up food from one stomach compartment and sending it to another to digest slowly.

Deer, like cows, are attracted to the salt and sugar in "people" food. But no farmer would purposely feed his cows potato chips, candy, crackers, or other picnic food. Deer stomachs are designed to break down cellulose (plant fiber); unnatural foods can cause painful stomach and intestinal blockages.

Likewise, no farmer would intentionally overfeed his cows on apples or other fruit, even though they're "natural." Shenandoah National Park gets almost 2 million visitors each year. If only a small percentage of them fed apples to deer, the deer could become ill. Moreover, deer accustomed to handouts from people lose their wildness. They become beggars. The same deer that is lured with food for a close-up vacation photo can be lured to a poacher later.

No matter how tame they seem, deer are wild animals. Their sharp hooves can injure people. Bucks are unpredictable and moody during the mating season, with antlers and hooves that can be used as weapons against anyone they deem to be a threat.

The park asks you to help keep deer wild—and yourselves safe.

- ◆ Observe and take pictures from a distance, just as you would stay back from a farmer's cows or bulls.
- ◆ Do not approach fawns, which are easily startled and may run from the protection of their mothers.
- ◆ Keep your dog on a leash at all times.

Shenandoah National Park provides a rare opportunity to admire and learn about wildlife. But humans, who are visitors to the world of the deer, need to use good judgment while sharing their space.



Bears With Us!

One of the most captivating nature scenes I've ever witnessed was an adult black bear feeding high up in an oak tree. I watched the bear as rain began to fall and fog rolled past, giving me only glimpses. For ten minutes, the bear stripped the acorns from that branch and any others it could reach. I was amazed at how it supported and balanced itself on a branch no thicker than my wrist. I've seen many bears in my life. But I remember this sighting most vividly because it epitomized a truly wild animal in its natural habitat.

National Parks are places where you can observe such a natural scene. They are also among the few remaining sanctuaries where native plants and animals can perpetuate with minimal human influence. Even so, park managers sometimes find it difficult to keep human food and wild animals apart. When black bears receive handouts or are allowed to access improperly stored food or garbage, they often lose their wildness and their fear of humans.

One reason black bears may seek human food is that they are opportunistic feeders. They use their extraordinary sense of smell to seek out food and garbage in campgrounds. Camp food is high in protein and fat, too—another reason a bear preparing for winter would be attracted to it. Once a bear develops a taste for human food and is regularly raiding campsites or panhandling, it is considered a problem bear.

Problem bears are often responsible for property damage and are potential threats to people. Moreover, problem bears are more susceptible to getting killed by a car or shot by a poacher. In fact, recent studies show that wild bears live 23% longer than problem bears.

When a problem bear cannot be "managed" back to wild behavior, the only option park biologists have is to capture and relocate the bear. In 1997, Shenandoah National Park had to relocate five problem bears from two campgrounds. Several factors led to this increase in problem bear activity; but the main factor was that some campers did not properly store food or clean their campsites.

In order to keep the black bears wild, the park needs the help of all visitors who hike or camp in bear country.

- ◆ Never feed the bears or other wildlife.
- ◆ Secure all food and scented products—in a locked vehicle, if you're in a campground, even when you leave your site only briefly; over a branch at least ten feet off the ground, if you're in the backcountry.
- ◆ Clean up food scraps and foil before leaving your site.
- ◆ If a bear approaches your site, pack up all food and trash. If necessary, scare the bear away by shouting or banging pots and pans. If the bear persists, back away slowly. Report the encounter to the nearest park ranger.

Park rangers have found that educating visitors, making them aware, is the best way to protect black bears and to provide a safe and enjoyable stay in the park.

Your Money Is at Work!

If you've visited Shenandoah National Park before, you must have noticed that—this time—you can see more. Yes, the 79 historic overlooks along the Drive are being cleared of trees and brush which have accumulated over the years. When their restoration is complete, the overlooks should offer unimpeded views of the Shenandoah Valley to the west or the Piedmont to the east. Several miles of vistas along Skyline Drive are also being cleared.

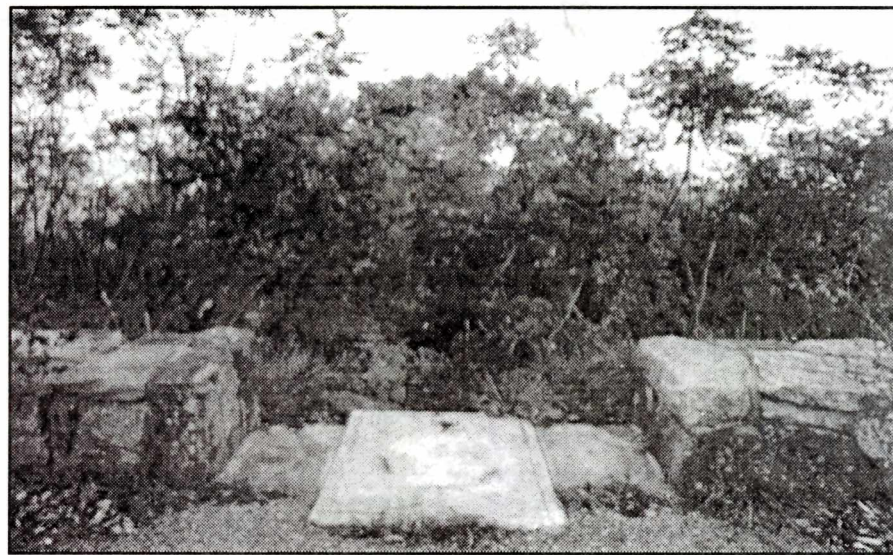
And it's your money that's paying for the work! In 1997 your entrance fee was increased—beginning a three-year recreational fee demonstration program implemented by the Department of the Interior. The purpose of the program? To pay for the millions of dollars of maintenance needs that had accumulated in national parks over the last decade. After the cost of collection is covered, revenue from entrance stations and campgrounds will be used to pay for specific projects to benefit you as well as the resources of the parks.

Besides vista clearing, here are some of the projects for 1998:

- ◆ Providing handicapped-accessible restrooms for Dickey Ridge and Big Meadows picnic grounds and Big Meadows campground.
- ◆ Repairing the wastewater treatment plan at Mathews Arm campground to provide for restroom facilities for campers.
- ◆ Improving the amphitheater at Big Meadows.
- ◆ Restoring the native chestnut log building, constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, that serves as the Big Meadows campground registration station.
- ◆ Working on the water systems at Pinnacles and Big Meadows to improve the water quality.
- ◆ Replacing deteriorating siding and repairing the roof on the historic Rockfish Entrance Station building.
- ◆ Restoring historic trees and shrubs at overlooks.

Without you, none of these restorations, repairs, and improvements would be possible. The larger fee you pay is really helping. Perhaps you will experience some inconvenience now while work is underway; but for years to come, your visits to Shenandoah National Park may be safer—and more pleasant.

The Point Overlook (mile 55.6) Before and After Clearing



1998 Naturalist's Calendar

For nature's denizens, Shenandoah National Park is where the action is. Every month of the year, plants and animals are doing something. If you pay attention, you can see and hear a world of activity. Here's a sampling. To find out what else is going on, ask a ranger.

June

Listen for the dawn chorus of birdsong. It is strongest in mid-May and early June, after all of our migratory birds have returned. As summer goes on, the woods will get noticeably quieter as males no longer need to defend territory or attract mates.

Mountain laurel, one of Shenandoah's most splendid shrubs, is in bloom. Other wildflowers blooming now include black cohosh, fly poison, golden ragwort, trumpet honeysuckle, blue-eyed grass, bluets, cow parsnip, dwarf iris, and wild columbine.

It's fawning time. Newborn white-tailed deer fawns stay hidden in tall grass or under shrubs for two or three weeks before venturing out with their mothers. (Please don't get close to fawns lying curled up and still. They can be easily startled and separated from their mothers.)

Warm weather brings out the wood ticks. These blood-sucking relatives of spiders wait on leaves or tall grasses for mammals to walk by, and they hitch a ride. They can transmit disease, so when you hike in meadow or woods, periodically check for ticks. Remove them carefully.

It's mating season for black bears. Males leave after the mating period, and females raise the cubs alone.

July

Wild strawberries are ripe.

Bobwhite quail may still be calling their name, "bob-white!," in the Big Meadow. By July, family groups join in a flock, or covey, of up to 30 birds. They all nestle together at night.

Black rat snakes lay their eggs, which will hatch in September. These non-poisonous snakes eat mostly mice and rats.

Mid-summer is showtime for flowers that do best in open, sunny places. Many are non-native, such as butter-and-eggs, clover, yarrow, Queen Anne's lace, daisy, knapweed, hawkweed, and chicory.

August

Fall webworm caterpillars spin massive nests in trees along Skyline Drive. These native insects do little over-all damage to trees. Small white moths will emerge next spring.

Wasps and yellow jackets seem to be everywhere. Until now, each nest was attended by sterile workers. In August, the last batch of eggs hatches into fertile male and female wasps that mate. Now unemployed, the workers drift about looking for something to do, such as disturbing your picnic.

Hawk migration begins. Broad-winged hawks start their travels southward by the end of August. They are well known for migrating in large groups. They winter in Central and South America.

Blueberries and huckleberries are ripe.

Goldfinches, the park's latest nesting songbirds, are raising their broods. They wait until thistles bloom at the end of July before building their nests. They line their nests with thistle-down and feed the seeds to their young.

September

Deer are shedding their reddish-brown summer coats. The new winter fur is thicker and a dull gray-brown, enabling them to blend into the winter woods. Fawns lose their spots.

Katyids, relatives of grasshoppers, begin their raspy song: "Katy did; Katy didn't."

Apples ripen. Apple trees mark many former homesteads in the park.

Barn swallows depart for South America by mid-September. These insect eaters return to the park each April to build mud nests on the sides of buildings.

Allegheny stonecrop blooms on the rocky ledges along Skyline Drive. Other flowers blooming in September include butter-and-eggs, Canadian burnet, chicory, stiff gentian, Deptford pink, daisy, Queen Anne's lace, knapweed, viper's bugloss, wild columbine, and yarrow.

October

Fall color is generally at its peak in mid to late October.

It's mating season for deer. Bucks may wrestle each other for territory, clashing with antlers until one gives up and leaves the area. Bucks are very unpredictable at this time. Keep your distance.

Monarch butterflies are migrating south. Most will end up in a small area in the mountains of northern Mexico. They will begin the long trek north in the spring, but most will die along the way. Their children and grandchildren will somehow find their way back to the park.

Flowers still bloom. Look for bluets, chicory, closed gentian, goldenrod, aster, knapweed, violet, viper's bugloss, and yarrow.

Black bears are putting on a pound or more of weight each day. By November, many will have curled up in the dens they picked out earlier in the spring. These bears will doze through the winter, emerging from their dens next April or May.

November

Witch hazel blooms. Other hardwood trees have gone into their winter rest period by now. This small understory tree is conspicuous with its wispy yellow flowers blooming after the leaves have fallen.

Many songbirds have headed south by now, but winter residents remain. These include chickadees, titmice, juncos, and nuthatches.

In mild Novembers, marsh marigold and viper's bugloss have been seen blooming in the park.

Northern harriers, unusual hawks with owl-like faces, migrate southward into Virginia from Canada and northern states. A pair has returned to spend the winter in the Big Meadow for several years.

Field Study Seminars

The stories continue and the ending may not be what you think! Come and enjoy the dynamic Shenandoah Field Study Seminars and see how the stories unfold and continue in your community.

Floods and Geology June 27, 1998
History Under Foot July 18, 1998
Air Issues - What's Up August 22, 1998
Wildland Fire - Death, Life, or Management September 26, 1998

June 27, 1998 - Devastating floods of 1995--or were they? On June 27, 1995 a tremendous rainstorm fell upon the Madison County area, forever changing the landscape and the people that live there. How did 21 inches of rain in a 16-hour period so dramatically change everything? Spend the day with field geologists exploring flood sites and learning the details of this story. Also witness the recovery and changes in the communities and landscapes that were altered by the floods of 1995.

July 18, 1998 - Rediscovering lifestyles of the past by discovering the remaining materials from hunters, farmers, and a president. Many stories have been uncovered through careful archeological studies of homesites and settlements. Many more stories are still untold. A July day in the mountains provides the perfect setting for exploring and better understanding the lives of people who once lived within the boundaries of Shenandoah National Park.

August 22, 1998 - Air currents move things around, but what are the current air issues? How do our local air quality issues impact mountains, valleys, rivers, and everything living in the larger Chesapeake Bay region? Discover the latest findings in air quality issues and learn how our choices today affect the quality of life tomorrow.

September 26, 1998 - You'll be fired up when you hear the rest of this story. Does fire mean life or death? The answer is both. Spend the day learning how proper wildland fire management benefits you and your community. If you own a home in a wooded area, you will also learn what you can do to safeguard your home and property against wildfires. This seminar is certain to get you moving!

Call the Education Office at **540-999-3489** to be a part of the **Shenandoah Field Study Seminars**. Advance registration is required. There is a 25 person limit for each seminar. The cost per seminar, per person is **\$25.00**. Shenandoah Natural History Association members receive a 20% discount.



1998 Special Events

July 5 - Butterfly Count, co-sponsored with the North American Butterfly Association and the Xerces Society.

August 8 - Hoover Day in Madison County. For information call the Madison Chamber of Commerce at 540-948-4455.

August 9 - Hoover Day in the park. Bus transportation to Camp Hoover from Byrd Visitor Center; ranger programs at the Camp.

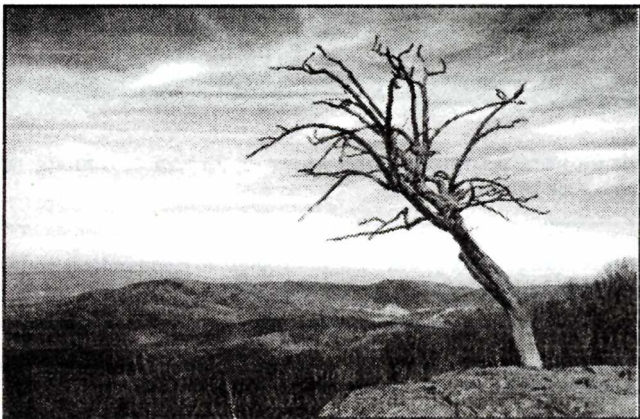
September 26 & 27 - Civilian Conservation Corps Reunion. Various programs and reunion activities.

December 20 - Christmas Bird Count, co-sponsored with the National Audubon Society.

For further information near activity time, call 540-999-3500.

Art in the Park

Hullihen Williams Moore has been focusing on Shenandoah National Park since 1981. As a landscape photographer, he seeks to capture the power and beauty of nature. Now, in 1998, he has loaned some of his work to the park for this season's Art in the Park exhibit at Byrd Visitor Center.



Mr. Moore studied with Ansel Adams in Yosemite National Park as well as with other noted landscape photographers. He works meticulously to enhance the nuances in each image, from the delicate highlights of water to the dramatic massing of clouds at an overlook. His photographs truly reveal the power and beauty of Shenandoah National Park's landscape, in all its variety and subtlety.

♿ = Accessible
✓ = Accessible with assistance

Ranger Programs

These programs run from September 8 to October 31, 1998.
For more details and additional programs, check the bulletin boards or inquire at the desk in the visitor centers and campgrounds.
Programs will be cancelled in the event of lightning or other extreme conditions.

Dickey Ridge (mile 4.6) - Programs begin at the Visitor Center.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
Dickey Ridge Visitor Center - Information, exhibits, sales publications, maps, backcountry permits and additional program listings. ♿	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm
Natural Beginnings - Begin your adventure in Shenandoah Natural Park with this short stroll that will introduce you to its stories. 1/2 mile; 30 minutes. ✓	11:00am & 2:00pm						11:00am & 2:00pm
Mathews Arm Campground (mile 22) - Programs begin at the Amphitheater. ✓							
Junior Ranger Program - Be an explorer in Shenandoah and discover its treasures. This program can help you earn a Junior Ranger badge or patch. 1 hour.	9:00am						2:00pm
The View from Here - Is this a healthy forest? Walk with a ranger and see the many faces of the changing forest. 1 1/2 miles; 1 1/2 hours.	11:00am					3:00pm	
Evening With a Ranger - Relax under the evening sky and experience the significance of Shenandoah National Park. 1 hour. ♿						8:00pm	8:00pm
Skyland (mile 42) - Programs begin at the Amphitheater unless otherwise noted.							
Junior Ranger Program - Be an explorer in Shenandoah and discover its treasures. This program can help you earn a Junior Ranger badge or patch. 1 hour.	10:00am						
Story of the Limberlost - Discover the hidden history of an ancient hemlock grove. Meet at Limberlost Trailhead (mile 43). 1 mile; 1 1/2 hours. ♿	3:00pm				10:00am		
Paradise On Earth - Historic Skyland-Walk back in time to the Roaring 20s and visit a mountain resort and Massanutten Lodge. 1 mile; 1 1/2 hours.					1:15pm		1:15pm
Evening With a Ranger - Relax under the evening sky and experience the significance of Shenandoah National Park. 1 hour. ♿						8:00pm	8:00pm
Big Meadows (mile 51) - Programs begin at the visitor center unless otherwise noted.							
Harry F. Byrd Sr. Visitor Center - Information, exhibits, videos, sales publications, maps, backcountry permits, first aid and additional program listings. ♿	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm
Junior Ranger Program - Be an explorer in Shenandoah and discover its treasures. This program can help you earn a Junior Ranger badge or patch. 1 hour.	10:00am						2:00pm
Birds of Prey - They dine on mice and snakes and are among our most exciting residents. Meet live owls and a hawk. Meet at Big Meadows Amphitheater. 1 hour. ✓		10:00am		10:00am			10:00am
Meadow Walk - Features of the meadow landscape reveal its past, present and future. Hear a ranger's interpretation. 1 1/2 hours.	2:00pm	2:00pm	2:00pm	2:00pm	2:00pm	2:00pm	2:00pm
Evening With a Ranger - Relax under the evening sky and experience the significance of Shenandoah National Park. Meet at Big Meadows Amphitheater. 1 hour. ✓	8:00pm				8:00pm	8:00pm	8:00pm
Loft Mountain (mile 79.5) - Programs begin at the amphitheater unless otherwise noted.							
Loft Mountain Information Center - Information, exhibits, sales publications, maps, backcountry permits. ✓	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm
Junior Ranger Program - Be an explorer in Shenandoah and discover its treasures. This program can help you earn a Junior Ranger badge or patch. 1 hour.	9:00am						9:00am
The View From Here - Is this a healthy forest? Walk with a ranger and see the many faces of the changing forest. 1 1/2 miles; 1 1/2 hours.	11:00am					3:00pm	
The First Resort - The past unfolds as you hike to Blackrock Summit and visit the site of the Blackrock Springs Hotel. Meet at Blackrock Summit Parking Area (mile 84.7. 1 1/2 miles; 1 1/2 hours.							2:00pm
Evening With a Ranger - Relax under the evening sky and experience the significance of Shenandoah National Park. 1 hour. ✓						8:00pm	8:00pm