

**Camping Sites  
For  
Scout Troops  
In  
Laurel and Alleghany  
Districts  
2010**

*By*

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# Kerr Scott Dam

Kerr Scott Dam in North Wilkesboro is a great place to camp if you want to stay close to home while enjoying the beauty of nature. This dam and recreation facility is overseen by the Army Corp of Engineers. The rangers offer different educational programs and instructions on outdoor conservation. These programs are offered to groups at no charge when you call ahead to request it.

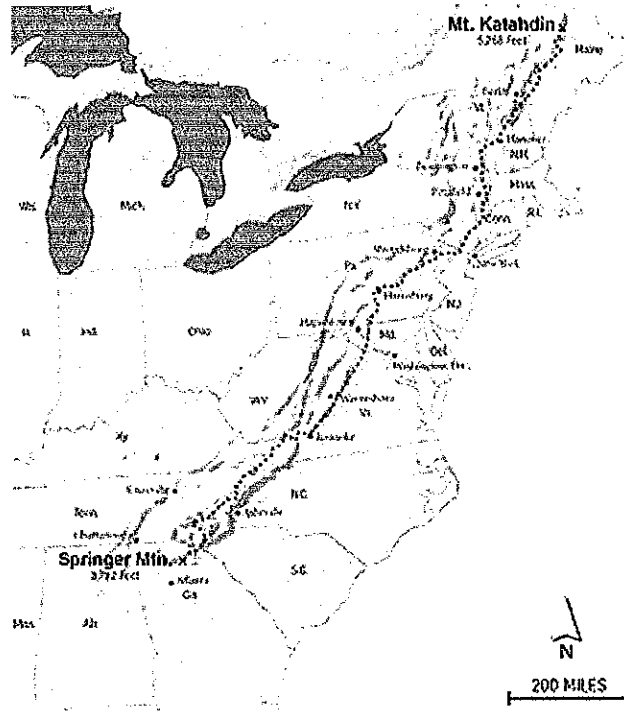
There are several campgrounds available as well as grassy areas that scout troops may use. The campgrounds have bath houses, electricity and running water. There are nature trails to hike and also bike trails available. If your troop has a BSA certified lifeguard, there are special areas designated for swimming. Fishing is also a favorite pastime at Kerr Scott Dam.

More information is available by clicking on the link below:

<http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/WKScott/index.htm>



# The Appalachian Trail



The Appalachian Trail is a 2,174 mile hiking and camping trail that runs from Maine to Georgia. It crosses through many other states as it winds through the Appalachian Mountains. Most of the trails are through wilderness which provides a great experience for scout troops to learn about backpacking and camping. Day hikes are also available for troops that do not want to camp.

The portions of the trail, that call North Carolina home, range in elevation from 1,725-5,498 in feet and consists of 88 miles of trails. The best time to go is between mid-May and October.

Many endangered animals and plants live in the areas along the Appalachian Trail. This provides key opportunities for scouts to view nature that they would never see outside of a zoo or television.

Several websites are available to help plan your trip. A few of these are listed below:

[www.appalachiantrail.org](http://www.appalachiantrail.org)

[www.nps.gov/appa](http://www.nps.gov/appa)

[www.fred.net/kathy/at/atstate.html](http://www.fred.net/kathy/at/atstate.html)



# Stone Mountain

Stone Mountain is located in Traphill, NC. It is part of the North Carolina State Park system. A welcome center greets you as you enter the park. A variety of educational displays are available in the center that you may view at your leisure. Park rangers are also accessible to answer any questions scouts or scout leaders may have.

Stone Mountain gets its name from the 600 hundred foot granite dome that sits in the park. You may hike to the top of the mountain if you desire. There are over 16 miles of trails to hike. There are also lots of streams and trout fishing is a favorite local pastime.

The wildlife is also abundant at Stone Mountain. Deer will greet you at your campsite as you return from a day of hiking. Lots of tourists drive through Stone Mountain just to view deer in their native habitat.

A campground is open to the public with reservations. There also grassy areas reserved for large groups. You may also backpack in to the forest with the correct permits.

More information is available at: <http://www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/stmo/main.php>



# **Mount Rogers**

## **National Recreation**

### **Area**



Mount Rogers is a wonderful place to visit to enjoy nature's best show. It is part of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest. The highest elevation is 5,729 feet high. The park runs from Abingdon, Virginia to Whitetop, North Carolina. There are over 400 designated trails that range logging roads, railroad grades and primitive trails. Some popular trails running through or near Mount Rogers are the Virginia Creeper, Appalachian Trail, Iron Mountain and the Daniel Boone Heritage Trail.

There are specially designated areas in Mount Rogers' park that are called Wilderness areas. These are to be maintained as primitive areas that you may only enter on foot or by horse. These are great places for scouts to practice their navigation skills and Leave No Trace principles.

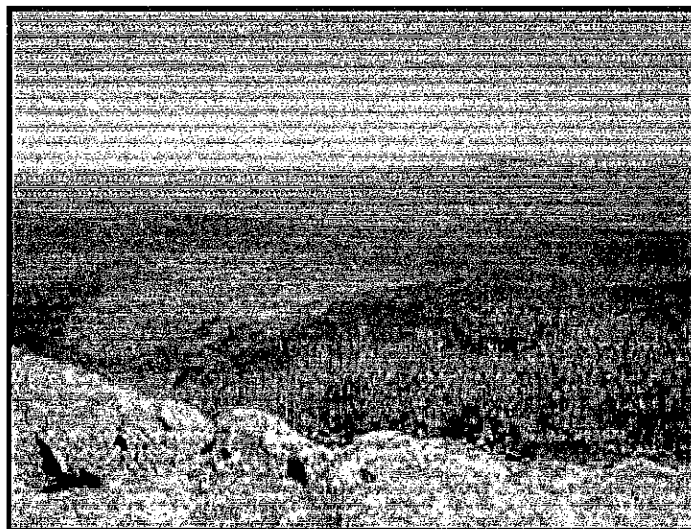
Wildlife is abundant at Mount Rogers. Many different types of birds can be identified including hawks and the peregrine falcon. Animals that can also be seen include deer, wild ponies, black bear and bobcats.

Scouts can work on many merit badges or just practice their outdoor skills at Mount Rogers while enjoying nature's beauty. More information can be found at the following links:

[www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj/mr/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj/mr/)

[www.radford.edu/~fldsch/.../MountRogers/MtRogersIndex.html](http://www.radford.edu/~fldsch/.../MountRogers/MtRogersIndex.html)

[www.virginia.org/site/description.asp?attrID=13358](http://www.virginia.org/site/description.asp?attrID=13358)



# **Hanging Rock**

## **State Park**



Hanging Rock State Park is located in Danbury, NC near the triad area. It is part of the North Carolina State Parks system. Cliffs, forests and waterfalls are part of the beauty that the park has to offer. A fire tower is located on one of the peaks and offers great views where you can see for miles on a pretty day. The rock that Hanging Rock State Park gets its name from is also a great hike with spectacular views.

Many events are planned throughout the spring and summer months. Conducted by park rangers, these events can offer scouts a variety of activities to learn about the outdoors. These activities take you on canoes, to caves, identifying snakes and Indian tools and games.



There are 12 hiking trails that encompass 18 miles of the state park. These trails are loaded with wildlife, forests and vegetation for scouts to identify and learn more about. A lake and streams are also available for swimming, canoeing and fishing.

More information can be located at:

<http://www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/haro/main.php>

[www.northcarolinaoutdoors.com/places/.../hangingrock.html](http://www.northcarolinaoutdoors.com/places/.../hangingrock.html)



**Moore's Knob**