



WILLISTOWN TROOP 78

2026 High Adventure – Spring Break Backpacking Trip

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

March 29 – April 4th



Hike the Appalachian Trail in the beautiful Great Smoky Mountains National Park, summit mountain peaks over 6,500 feet high, and catch breathtaking views across the valley below.

Enjoy a Troop 78 tradition of backpacking and camaraderie!

Dates:

- **Departure:** Participants arrive at the Cabin on **Sunday morning (March 29) at 9:00AM**. We will drive & camp the night south of Roanoke, VA & on Monday morning, we will proceed to the Great Smoky Mountains
- **Return:** Arrive back at the Cabin at approximately **3:00 PM on Saturday (April 4th)**. Scouts will call when we are 30 minutes from the Cabin on our return
- **Mandatory Packing Meeting:** Saturday, March 28th @ 7:00pm is the mandatory packing meeting for ALL PARTICPANTS. Bring your unpacked backpack and your personal gear (stuff you'll be packing) to the cabin packed in a SEPARATE duffel bag. You will then repack your personal gear, food and patrol equipment in your backpack. If you will be using your own backpack, please bring it to the packing meeting – but have your gear in your duffel bag for the meeting! PACKED BACKPACKS WILL BE LEFT AT THE CABIN ON Saturday NIGHT.

Cost: Free, covered under the high adventure scouting budget.

Schedule:

Date	Route	End	Miles Hiked / Hours Drove
Sunday (March 29)	Depart Troop 78 Cabin @ 9am	Camp Powhatan BSA (Hiwassee, VA)	7 hours drive
Monday (March 30)	Drive/park at Newfound Gap, start hike	Mt. Collins Shelter (6,197 ft)	4 hours drive + 4.6 Mi hike
Tuesday (March 31)	Summit Mt Kuwohi (6,643ft)	Mt. Collins Shelter (6,197 ft)	7 Mi Hike
Wednesday (April 1)	Mt. Collins Shelter (6,197 ft)	Icewater Shelter (6,218ft)	7.7 Mi Hike
Thursday (April 2)	Summit Charlies Bunion & sawtooth ridge	Mt. Le Conte Shelter (6,575 ft)	8.3 Mi Hike
Friday (April 3)	Hike off the mountain get the bus	Camp Powhatan BSA (Hiwassee, VA)	5.2 Mi Hike + 4 hr Drive
Saturday (April 4)	Drive to Troop 78 Cabin	Troop 78 Cabin @3pm	7 hour drive

Requirements:

- 1st Class Scout Rank
- +14 years or older
- Must have attended 1 week of Summer Camp in 2025
- Registered & active in the troop (50% min participation)
- Completed BSA Medical Form (A, B and C)

We need Dads to join, please consider joining your son!!

QUESTIONS? Talk to Mr. Campbell (610.999.1776 | cac360@gmail.com)

WHAT TO BRING:

REMEMBER - LESS IS BEST, KEEP IT LIGHT. The total weight of your pack (including patrol gear) should not be more than 25-30% of your total body weight. **No Cotton – bring synthetic, wicking gear!**

- Hiking boots (**IMPORTANT no sneakers or Crocs on the trail**)
- Sneakers (to wear in camp)
- Wool or synthetic socks – wear a pair, bring TWO PAIRS
- Backpack (Troop has a **limited number available** for loan)
- Sleeping bag **AND** ground pad
- Small flashlight or headlamp, with good batteries
- AT LEAST **two (2) filled one QT/L water bottles** or a full Camelbak/hydration system
- Durable Drinking cup
- Durable Plastic bowl or large cup & utensil
- Toilet paper (about a quarter-roll. Pack in a plastic sealed bag)
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Small bottle hand sanitizer
- Pocketknife and/or fixed blade
- Compass
- Mole skin
- Warm & comfortable hiking cloth
- **Layers** (sweatshirt/jacket that can be removed during hike... be prepared for changing weather)
- Brimmed hat, sunglasses and sunscreen
- Warm hat and gloves (weather dependent)
- Rain gear
- Pack cover or 2 large trash bags for rain cover
- **Optional:** Stuff sacks for easy cloth & gear storage in backpack
- **Optional:** Small hiking pillow or cloth in stuff sack works great too!



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Pack your bag and reserve your spot by completing this form by the **February 6, 2026** to the scoutmaster's office at the cabin or email a completed form to Mr. Campbell (cac360@gmail.com) .

Scout/Scouter name: _____

Patrol: _____

E-mail address and MOBILE phone number: _____

Emergency Contact Information: _____

Allergies – please indicate any food allergies, dietary restrictions or other relevant allergies:

Willistown Troop 78 2026 Great Smoky Mountains High Adventure Permission Form (Scout ONLY)

I, _____ (parent), give permission for my son _____ (scout) to travel with members of Scouting America Troop 78 (15 Mill Rd, Malvern, PA 19355) to hike in the Great Smoky National Park during March 29, 2026 through April 4, 2026. My son has permission to travel with troop scoutmaster Robert Duff.

Willistown Troop 78 2026 Great Smoky Mountains High Adventure ("Trip") Release Form (SCOUT & SCOUTER)

If I am signing for a Scout: I am the parent/legal guardian of the Scout/guest named above, and my signature below constitutes my permission for my son to attend the Trip. By signing this form, I represent that I have read the Troop 78 COVID-19 guidelines found [at this link](#), and commit that the person for whom I am signing this permission slip has also read, understands and will abide by those guidelines. My signature below also: (a) authorizes any registered Willistown Troop 78 leader in attendance to obtain medical treatment for my son if, in the discretion of such registered leader, such treatment is warranted; and (b) serves as my agreement, on behalf of myself, my son and our respective legal successors and assigns, to hold Friends of Troop 78, Inc., Willistown Troop 78, and the directors, officers, leaders and their respective successors and assigns harmless of and from any and all claims, demands and/or causes of action whatsoever, occurring on or in connection with the Trip. If my child cannot attend the trip for *any reason*, I promise that my son will call both his Patrol Leader and Mr. Campbell (610.999.1776) no later than 7 days before the scheduled departure time.

If I am an adult attendee: By signing this form, I represent that I have read the Troop 78 COVID-19 guidelines found [at this link](#), and commit that I understand and will abide by those guidelines. My signature below also: (a) authorizes any registered Willistown Troop 78 leader in attendance to obtain medical treatment for my son if, in the discretion of such registered leader, such treatment is warranted; and (b) serves as my agreement, on behalf of myself, my son and our respective legal successors and assigns, to hold Friends of Troop 78, Inc., Willistown Troop 78, and the directors, officers, leaders and their respective successors and assigns harmless of and from any and all claims, demands and/or causes of action whatsoever, occurring on or in connection with the Trip. If I cannot attend the trip for *any reason*, I promise that I will call Mr. Campbell (610.999.1776) no later than 7 days before the scheduled departure time.

Name (Printed) _____ Signature _____ Date: _____

Address: _____
(parent signature, or signature of adult attendee if submitted by attending adult)