

Excursion Descriptions

Pharaoh Wilderness

Going East / West: Jr. Trip, Rating A, Must be strong Backpacker.

These two trips are exactly the same except one trip heads East, and the other heads West and they cross somewhere in the middle of Pharaoh Wilderness. You will find yourself camping near Grizzle Ocean, a small remote pond near Putnam State Park. Your trip will also be spending a night next to the spectacular Pharaoh Lake in one of the several lean-to's that surround this large body of water. The trip will take you up and over Treadway Mt. and Pharaoh Mt., the two highest peaks in the Pharaoh Wilderness Area. This is a true backpacking trip because you will stay at different campsites each night as well as carrying your back pack the entire time.

Lilly Pad Pond/ Oxeshoe Pond, Jr. Trip, Rating B,

Lilly Pad Pond and Oxeshoe pond are great introductions to the Pharaoh Wilderness Area. For both excursions, you will backpack into your respective pond and set up camp. The next day, plan on day hiking either Pharaoh Mt. or Treadway Mt., or hiking down to Pharaoh Lake. Finally, on the third day, you will hike back out to your pick up spot.

Pharaoh Bushwhack, Jr Trip, Rating A

This excursion tastes the true wild side of the Pharaoh Wilderness Area. The itinerary will be flexible as the group and excursion leaders decide what attractions to search for as they make their way through the south regions of the wild forest. The true test will be to make it back to your drop-off location in Brant Lake by the time the bus arrives on the third day.

High Peaks

Dix Mountain North & South: Sr. Trip, Rating A-, Must be a strong hiker

Dix Mountain is the fifth highest mountain in the Adirondacks. After a long bus ride, you will backpack about 5 miles into your campsite pausing only for a quick summit up Noonmark or Round Mts. The next day, you will leave your heavy packs behind and challenge yourself for a 4 mile day hike up Dix Mt. Depending on the time, you might cross over the ridge another mile to Hough Mt. before you head back down to your campsite. The last day of the trip will be hiking back out to the trailhead possibly hitting another lesser summit along the way.

Giant Mt.: Sr. trip, Rating A, Must be a strong hiker

From the point your bus drops you off on route 9N, a 5-mile backpack in will position yourself at your campsite. It is possible to summit Hopkins Mountain as well, but that can make for a long first day. The next day, you will leave your packs behind and climb about 2 miles / 2000 feet to the summit of Giant Mt. From the summit of Giant, you and your group will traverse the Rocky Peak Ridge admiring the spectacular view the entire time. From there your group will head back to your campsite. The last day will be spent packing your bags and backpacking back down to your pick up spot.

Hurricane Mt.: Sr. Hike, Rating A, Must be a strong hiker.

After being dropped off by the bus, you and your group will backpack 4 miles up and over Hurricane Mt. Ridge leaving your packs behind for a short ascent to the summit of Hurricane from the Ridge. At the top of Hurricane, you will be able to see the majority of the high peaks region and the entire length of Lake Champlain. Picking up your packs, you will hike down the other side of the ridge to your lean-to at the remote Lost Pond. Day two will be spent day-hiking around the Nun-Dagao Ridge topping out over Weston Mt, Little Crow Mt, and Big Crow Mt. before you head back to Lost Pond - a total distance of about 6 miles. On your last day, you will backpack up and over Hurricane Ridge back to the pick up spot.

ADK Wilderness Adventure: Sr. Hike, Rating A

With the help of the excursion leaders the trip will be planned around the Johns Brook Lodge area of the High Peaks Region. The group can camp at a lean-to or campsite about 6 miles from the Garden trailhead and enjoy climbing some of the popular over-4000 ft peaks.

Lake George Region:

Shore Trail - Canoe Swap & Canoe - Shore Trail Swap: Sr. Trip, Rating A. Must have 220 swim.

You will either canoe to shelving rock for lunch and then north to the narrows, or backpack from camp 6-7 miles along the shore to Black Mtn. Point. On the 2nd day, both groups will decide when to swap the canoes and each group will have the opportunity to day hike to the summit of Black Mtn or canoe over to Montcalm Pt and hike up the Tongue Mtn. Range to French Pt Lookout. The third day one group returns to camp from the narrows via canoe and the other will backpack back along the shore trail.

Aluminum Canoe: Sr. Trip, Rating B+, Must be strong in canoeing skills, and have 220yds swim test.

On Monday, you will pack your aluminum Grumman Canoes with all the gear, clothing and food you will need for three days. While keeping close to the shore, you and a partner will paddle north towards the Narrows islands on Lake George, stopping along the way on the shore or an island to eat lunch. After setting up camp, you might go for another canoe hike, go swimming, or develop your encampment skills. The next day, you will find yourself canoeing around the lake, or to the shore where you will go for a short day hike up one of the spectacular Lake George Mountains.

War Canoe: Jr. Trip, Rating B, Canoeing, Island camping & day hike summits! Must have 220 swim.

The group will use two of our 26-foot war canoes. Paddle about 5 miles north of camp to the Narrows to camp on an island or a shore campsite. Spend the middle day hiking part of the Tongue Mtn. Range. Black Mt is a challenge the second day and Shelving Rock falls is another area that can be explored on the departure or return day.

Kayaking, Sr. Hike Rating B. Must have 220 swim test

On day one you kayak from camp to shelving rock bay for lunch and then continue to the narrows to campsite. On day 2 you kayak to black mountain or Montcalm point and do a day hike to the respective summit. On the 3rd day you paddle back to camp. Gear will be dropped off and picked up via powerboat.

Tongue Mt. North ♂ & South ♀: Sr. A Trip. Technical Backpacking

Tongue Mt, is the stretch of land you see to the right of Dome Island reaching into the lake. Both these hikes hike the entire 12-mile ridge from Montcalm Pt., to Silver Bay or vice versa. The top of Tongue boasts one of the best views of Lac Du Saint Sacrement (AKA Lake George). On your first day, you will find yourself in a powerboat motoring to your drop off spot. Then you will hike up to your campsite for the night. Since there is little water on the top of Tongue, the second day will be spent hiking down to the lake for a quick swim and lunch! The last day you will hike out to your pick up spot where your group will be whalered back to camp! A side trip to Deer Leap Mt. will offer spectacular views of its own!

East shore North ♂ & South ♀: Sr. A- Excursion. Backpacking trip with several day hike opportunities.

Hike the 16 miles deep into the woods along the East Shore of Lake George. You will backpack up and over Buck Mt, Black Mt, and possibly hit other summits like Sleeping Beauty and Erebus Mt.

You will camp near Dacy's clearing and at Fishbrook or Mill Brook Pond. There will also be a boat ride to or from Black Mt. Point.

Sleeping Beauty North ♂ & South ♀: Jr excursion, Rating A-. Lots of full pack hiking

From Pike Brook Rd hike 3 miles with packs on the first day to Millman pond, or from Hogtown hike 1.6 miles with packs to Dacy clearing, set up camp, and then go on a short day hike. On day 2 hike 3.5 miles with full packs up and over sleeping beauty mountain to Dacy clearing, or hike 3.5 miles to Millman Pond. On the 3rd day hike to Hogtown, 1.6 miles with packs, or hike to Pike Brook road, 3 miles with packs.

Black Beauty: Jr. A+ hike, Sr. B- hike. Short backpack, day hikes and swimming opportunities.

From Pike Brook Rd backpack about 3 miles to Black Mt. Pond lean-to. There are options on this day to summit Black Mt. or explore Lapland Pond or Black Mt. Pond. Day 2 take day packs with lunch and head to Black Mt. Point. If you did not summit Black Mt. you can do that on your way to the point and go for a swim. Then hike back to the lean-to for an enjoyable dinner. Mileage for this day not including the summit will be about 5.5 miles. Day 3 pack up camp and backpack back out to Pike Brook Rd, about 3 miles.

Big Boulder: Jr. B+ Excursion, Slight bushwhack, short, steep backpack.

This hike will leave from camp the first day and hike the shore trail to a location near Phelps Island. At this point, the trip will bushwhack up the nearby stream to a campsite somewhere on the side of Buck and Little Buck Mts. The next day your group will either hike to Shelving Rock falls or attempt a summit bid on Buck Mt. before your return to your campsite. Day 3 you will break camp and head back to Chingachook stopping at first lookout along the way.

Little Buck Bushwhack: Jr A+, Sr. A excursion; A lot of bushwhacking; technical & experienced hikers.

This excursion will follow a map and compass and stay off the beaten path as much as possible. You will backpack up to Little Buck Mt. where you camp for the first night. The next day, your group will bushwhack up and over Buck Mt. and camp somewhere on the side of Pilot Knob Mt. Day 3 will be spent finding your way back to camp.

Behind Camp Hikes

Owl's Nest:, Jr Trip Rating B. Must have 220 swim test

On day one you will backpack to the lean-to and set up camp. You will have the opportunity to day hike Buck Mtn, Pilot Knob Lookout or Buttermilk brook trail. Shelving Rock Falls are also with a day hike. The choice is up to the group where y'all will venture.

Iroquois Meadow, Jr excursion Rating C

On the first day set up camp at Iroquois Meadow, explore the forest and work on encampment skills. On the 2nd day summit Buck or Pilot Knob Lookout. On the 3rd day break down the campsite and return to camp after lunch.

Rooster's Roost ♂ Jr. excursion, Rating B

On the first day set up camp and climb to the summit mighty Buck. On the second day venture to the summit of Pilot Knob and explore the area. On the 3rd day break down the campsite and return to camp after lunch.

Eagle's Landing Jr. excursion, Rating B

On the first day hike to Eagle's Landing via the red trail and work on encampment skills then hike to 2nd lookout and explore the area. On the 2nd day venture to the summit of Pilot Knob. On the 3rd day break down the campsite and return to camp after lunch.

Hawkeye's Lookout, Jr. excursion, Rating B

On the first day hike up to Hawkeye's, set up camp and explore the area. On the second day venture to the summit of Pilot Knob. On the 3rd day break down the campsite and return to camp after lunch.

Red Fox Hollow ♂, Jr. excursion, Rating C

On the first day set up camp at Red Fox Hollow, explore the camp area and work on encampment skills. On the 2nd day summit Buck. On the 3rd day break down the campsite and return to camp after lunch.

Panther's Lean-to, Jr. Hike, Rating C

On the first day set up camp at Panther's lean-to, learn about camping and nature, explore the area. On the 2nd day climb to the summit of mighty Buck. On the 3rd day break down the campsite and return to camp after lunch.

Specialty Trips

Black Bear Hiking & Climbing Jr. Trip Rating B. Must be enthusiastic about rock climbing

Camp at Black Bear Ledge. You will get to climb at the Hannaford tower, Chapel, and Black Bear Ledges, and Stuart's Ledges. The 3 days will allow you to perfect your climbing and camping skills at the same time.

Sailing, Sr. Trip Rating B-, must have 440 swim test OR 220 and be in swim lessons! Must be excited about learning to master sailing.

Expect to learn how to skipper one of Chingachgook's Rainbows! On the first day sail to Long Island for lunch and set up camp. Sail around Long island and Diamond Island area. On day 2 you sail to Shelving Rock and hike up for lunch. Day 3 sail back to camp.

Trail Maintenance, SR Trip Rating B+ reserved for the oldest seniors, UD selection

Expect to work within a co-ed group to explore the trail systems of the Lake George Wild Forest and make plans for clearing trails of debris, trees, and bushes. The group will camp in various locations as dictated by where the trails need maintenance. This group will use tools to manicure the forest trails that have served our community for over a hundred years.