

Troop 255:

In place of the ski trip that was cancelled for this weekend (1/21 & 1/22) - we will be doing a backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail (AT) at Annapolis Rocks. It is short notice, but the youth leadership has thrown together this excellent contingency plan. Here is where we test our experience and adaptability.

This trip will be on a section of the AT. Start point is where the AT crosses US-40, off I-70, in Maryland, just beyond Fredrick (about 1 hour drive)(see directions below). From here we will hike north. The new trip is a delightful trek of moderate challenge. There will be a short (less than 2 miles) backpack up the Appalachian Trail to a vista known as Annapolis Rocks. There is an excellent view at this location. Just beyond Annapolis Rocks is another vista known as Black Rocks and a campground named Pogo. The Troop will continue on to the Cowall AT shelter for the night. There is road access near this shelter on route 17. Total hike distance 8.8 miles – literally a walk in the park

Items to bring:

Backpack with all your normal winter gear – see Pack Lists at <http://www.t255.com>

2 liters (or quarts) of water for hike

Ready-to-Eat lunch for Saturday

Ample snacks for both days

Money for fast-food for Sunday lunch

\$5 to cover transportation expenses, unless your parent is driving

Rain gear

Plenty of clothing for layering against the cold and for changing into if you get wet

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### TROOP 255: Annapolis Rocks/Appalachian Trail BACKPACK/CAMPOUT

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WHEN: January 21-22, 2006 (Sat-Sun)

ASSEMBLE: 7:30am on Saturday (1/21) at the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church (CCUMC) parking lot.

RETURN: 1:00pm Sunday (1/21) at CCUMC parking lot.

EMERGENCY CONTACT: Mr. Rose's cell phone 301-807-6441.

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OVERVIEW: The Troop will hike part of Section 3 of the Maryland Appalachian Trail (PATC Map 5 & 6).

The Appalachian Trail (AT) is a continuous, marked footpath extending from Mount Katahdin, in central

Maine, some 2,000 miles south, traversing 14 states to Springer Mountain in Georgia. It is a skyline route along the crest of the ranges generally referred to as Appalachian; hence the name of the trail.

The AT is marked by white paint blazes and standardized plaques. The paint blazes (2"x6") have been placed at frequent intervals along the trail. A double blaze (2 blazes, one placed above the other) is placed as a warning sign. It may indicate a turn or change in direction that might otherwise not be noticed.

Maintained side trails are marked by blue blazes. Important intersections are marked with wooden signs.

There will be a single privy provided near the camp area and the troop will provide toilet paper.

We must bring our own drinking water and remove all of our trash. The troop will also provide water purification chemicals.

There is some downed wood for camp fires. As always we can't cut down any trees.

The Troop will provide supplemental fire wood and water at the shelter.

We will start at the spot where I-70 and US-40 converge.

0.0 miles: The trail ascends from 1250 ft to 1750 ft (500 ft) in 1 mile to Pine Knob.

1.0 miles: The trail descends 200 feet in 0.25 mile.

1.25 miles: Then there is a gradual rise (200 feet) for 1 mile to a side trail for Annapolis Rock (view).

2.25 miles: ANNAPOLIS ROCKS  
Side trail descends sharply 0.2 mile to Annapolis Rock, an overhanging cliff with an excellent westward view that includes Greenbrier Lake. (Trail leads 0.2 miles and 40 ft downhill to spring in small draw.)

2.25 miles: Trail continues slightly uphill (100 ft)

for 1.0 mile to Black Rock Cliffs (view).

3.2 miles: Several unmarked trails lead 40 yd left to Black Rock Cliffs. This 180-degree westward view is the best in this section.

3.2 miles: Trail descends for 0.7 miles to Pogo Memorial Campsite.

3.9 miles: Pogo Memorial Campsite (privy available) in area of former Black Rock Hotel. Camping on both sides of Trail. (At north end of campsite unused, gravel Bagtown Rd descends over 0.9 miles to trailhead parking at end of Oak Rd, a residential public road off Crystal Falls Rd. Blue-blazed trail leads 70 yd down gravel road to spring on right. In camping area to left of AT is smaller spring to left.) AT continues straight ahead. AT rises for about a mile, then it is relatively level for 3 miles before dropping down to Cowall Shelter.

8.8 miles: Cowall Shelter - Named in honor of Ensign Cowall. We will spend the night here. This is a relatively modern shelter, in excellent and clean condition, with a loft, and large enough to sleep all the youth – IF NO OTHER CAMPERS ARE PRESENT. Mr. Tillman and Mr. Rose stayed here last summer while hiking the AT. It has one open side looking onto a picnic table and fire place. An outhouse and excellent spring are nearby. It is about one quarter mile northeast of the AT crossing of route 17. Elevation is 1430 feet. Location is 1033 miles north of Springer Mountain, Georgia and 1134 miles south of Mt. Katahdin, Maine. GPS coordinates 18S 280461E 4389565N. Lat/Long 39° 37' 40"N, 77° 33' 29"W.

#### ROAD-TO-FIRST-CLASS:

This activity will help partially satisfy participation and campout requirements T2, S2a & F3 for scouts still seeking 1st class.

**COST:** There is a fee of \$5 for transportation (unless parent is driving).

Scouts should bring money for a fast food lunch on the way home.

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**PERMISSION SLIP:**

Turn in at parking lot 1/21/2006.

**EQUIPMENT:** Scouts should bring the usual backpacking items.

Refer to troop web site at

<http://www.t255.com>

**CLICK ON PACK LISTS IN LEFT COLUMN**

Two liters (or quarts) of water are a must since potable water may not be available, however, the Troop does plan to purify water from the streams, if available, and supplemental water will be available at campsite.

Scouts should pay extra attention to their foot gear and be sure they are properly equipped (e.g. thick soles and ankle support). Extra socks should be packed.

You should be aware that the Appalachian Trail in Maryland will be farther north and at a higher elevation than Washington DC and so will usually be somewhat cooler and windier than home. You are reminded to dress in layers.

Be prepared for rain and plan for a low of 20 deg at night & 40-60 deg high in the day.

**UNIFORMS:** Optional.

**MEALS:** A READY-TO-EAT LUNCH SHOULD BE TAKEN.

Patrols should plan meals for Saturday dinner and cracker barrel and Sunday breakfast.

**WE WILL STOP FOR FAST FOOD ON TRIP HOME-BRING MONEY.**

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DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL HEAD FROM CCUMC:

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By car from CCUMC:

(total time is about 60 minutes; mileage around 52)

- . MD 185 (Connecticut Ave) North to I-495 West.
- . Take I-495 West to I-270 North.
- . Take I-270 North to I-70 West  
(after exit 31B - @ mile post 32).
- . I-70 West to exit 42, MD 17 North toward Myersville.

Note: In Myersville you need to take a right to stay  
on MD 17 North.

- . Left on US 40 West.
- . Parking lot is on the left.

NOTE: The bulletin board with roof @ parking lot.

NOTE: If you go over I-70 at the Washington County  
line then you have gone too far !

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APPROVAL / PERMISSION SLIP

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Approval/permission is granted by the parents/guardians of Boy Scout

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for their son/scout to participate in the activities of Troop 255, Chevy Chase, Maryland, National Capital Area Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Approval/permission is granted to the adult members of Troop 255 to authorize treatment of the Boy Scout named above in the event of an accident or emergency. Adult members of Troop 255 that authorize treatment of the Boy Scout in the event of an accident or emergency shall be released from any or all liabilities.

Local and national tour permits will be obtained by Troop 255 when necessary.

This approval/permission is valid for the January 21-22, 2006 Appalachian Trail Hike and Campout.

PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BRING \$5 FOR TRANSPORTATION (Unless parent is driving)  
ALSO BRING MONEY FOR FAST FOOD STOP SUNDAY-LUNCH  
ALSO BRING READY-TO-EAT LUNCH FOR SATURDAY & SNACK FOOD FOR HIKE

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Parent Signature

Parent Name (Print)

Date

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