



AUTUMN HIKE EDITION

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Fall is here! With leaves changing colors and crispness in the air, it's a great time for a hike. That's one of Scouting's most enjoyable adventures - just make a plan, gather some friends and gear, then start putting one foot in front of the other.

WHERE TO GO

Favorite trails of summer take on new beauty as autumn weather sets in. Head for a familiar pathway and see how it has changed with the changing of the seasons. Try new routes, too, and expand the territory where you roam.



Robert Birkby photo

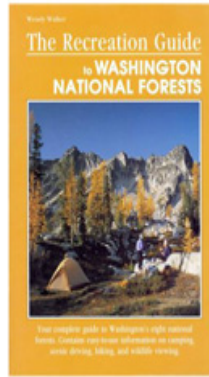
Autumn Colors Paint a Mountainside Trail

Many neighborhoods and urban parks are inviting for a few hours of hiking, and even crowded cities offer interesting pathways. ScoutStuff.org will help you discover the possibilities with guidebooks keyed

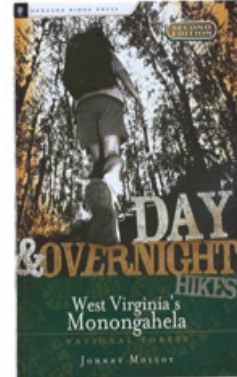
to many parts of America. Here's a sampling of what you can find to help you find your way:



Complete Guide to Outdoor Gear Maintenance and Repair Book



Recreation Guide to Washington National Forests



Day and Overnight Hikes: West VA Monongahela National Forest

WHAT TO DO

Going on a hike doesn't need a reason other than getting out and about. Plenty that is interesting will appear along the way to grab your attention and fill the miles with hours of learning and fun.

Of course you can check for events in your community to weave into a walk. A hike to a pumpkin patch could be just the thing for Tiger Cubs picking out what they need for Halloween.



How about a bike hike? Pedaling back roads and designated bicycle trails can show you the autumn outdoors in special ways. You'll want to wear your helmet every time you ride, and have your bike in good condition wherever you decide to travel.



Scouts roll through an autumn forest

Your next hike might be with your Boy Scout troop, Cub Scout den, or Venturing crew. Perhaps your destination will be a historic location, a picnic ground, or a place to view wildlife. The point is to have fun, build friendships, and cover some miles.



Hiking has always been an exciting part of Scouting

The BSA encourages hiking by including it as a Cub Scout activity, as a requirement for Boy Scout rank advancement and the Hiking merit badge, and as a National Outdoor Award segment.



Cub Scout Academics and Sports
Belt Loop - Hiking



Hiking Merit Badge



National Outdoor Award

Hiking segment

WHAT TO TAKE

For a walk around the neighborhood in good weather, you'll need little except clothing for the season and perhaps a bottle of water. As distances and time away from home increase, it's good to carry the Scout Basic Essentials:

SCOUT BASIC ESSENTIALS

- Pocketknife
- First aid kit
- Extra clothing
- Rain gear
- Water bottle
- Flashlight
- Trail food
- Matches and fire starters
- Sun protection
- Map and compass

ScoutStuff.org features most of the Basic Essentials and many more items for making your outdoor adventures comfortable, and safe. To carry your hiking needs, check out these versatile packs selected by the BSA's ScoutStuff.org for day hikers everywhere:



Kelty® Day Pack



Osprey® Stratos 24

WHAT TO WEAR

The first Boy Scout Handbook explained that appropriate footwear for hiking was any shoe that was comfortable and right for the conditions of the moment.

** Shoes:* Any good shoe that is made up for the purpose of ease, and comfort in tramping will serve the boy scout's needs. The Boy Scout shoe is convenient, inexpensive and especially designed for scouting. Price \$2.50.



1911 Boy Scout Handbook

An advertisement in that Handbook featured *The World-Famous Boy Scout Shoe*. It came in olive, tan, and black, and sizes for "Little Boys," "Boys," and "Big Boys and Men."

World Famous "SCOUTS" Now on Sale!



Now's your chance to get the "Boy Scout" Shoe, boys—that world famous shoe about which you have read so much in the magazines. It's making just as big a hit in this town as it has made in the big cities. Boys are "wild" about them—say they never saw anything like them for baseball, running, jumping, and all outdoor sports.

The "Boy Scout" Shoe



Toughest, lightest, most sensible, everyday shoe made. Uppers are soft as gloves. Soles wear two to three times as long as ordinary soles. No linings. Coolest and most healthful boy's shoe ever invented.

COLORS
Olive, Tan and Black

Tell your pa that "Boy Scouts" outwear two to three pairs of ordinary shoes.

Little Boys',
size 10-13½, \$2.
Boys',
size 1-3½, \$2.50.
Big Boys' and Men's,
size 5-10, \$3.

Good-Luck Charm FREE with each pair of genuine **BOY SCOUT SHOES**

Write us direct if your dealer does not handle them and we will forward booklet immediately.

The Excelsior Shoe Co., Portsmouth, Ohio

1911 Boy Scout Handbook advertisement

Many chose the official shoe, but not everyone. Wearing high-laced leather boots, these Venezuelan Scouts completed a two-year 8,000-mile hike from Caracas to Washington, D.C., to attend the 1937 National Jamboree.



Harris & Ewing collection Library of Congress

Rafael Petit and Juan Carmona walked from Venezuela to the 1937 Jamboree

These shoes from the 1959 BSA catalogue had soles that left footprints with images of merit badges and the Scout emblem.



1959 Boy Scout Handbook advertisement

Footwear options have continued to grow as outdoor equipment companies market a wider range of boots and hiking shoes. The 1985 Fieldbook showed the two serious options of that time. They are still good choices today.

Sturdy hiking boots ▼



Lightweight hiking boots ►



1985 Fieldbook

Often made of leather, sturdy hiking boots are designed for rugged cross-country travel, snowy conditions, and whenever keeping out water is important. Their lightweight cousins, made primarily of nylon, can save pounds of lifting with each step, making them ideal for open trails.

THE CHARMS OF HIKING

With terrific boot-shaped items, you can show everyone you celebrate going afoot. Whittle a neckerchief slide, pin a boot on your jacket, and give the gift of a Hiking Boot Charm. They're all available from ScoutStuff.org.



Wood Carving Neckerchief Slide
Boot



Embroidered Hiking Boot
Pin



Hiking Boot Charm

Of course, the key to happy hiking in the autumn - or any time of year - is simply to go do it. Get started. Set off to see what's around the next corner, and soon you can find yourself discovering the world.



(This edition of the *Be Prepared Newsletter* was developed and written by Robert Birkby, author of the current editions of the *Boy Scout Handbook*, *Fieldbook* and *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History*.)