

Spring 2018 Hiking Schedule

All Hikes Depart From **SEE LOCATION IN RED**

Pace Codes:

Leisurely: Nature or historical walk; frequent stops for observation

Moderate: Steady, 1 to 2 miles per hour

Brisk: Steady, 2 to 3 miles per hour

Fast: 3 to 4 miles per hour; very short breaks; a workout

Terrain Codes:

Paved: Solid pavement/sidewalk

Easy: Soft ground/sand/carriage trails; nearly level; few rocks or obstructions (roots)

Rugged: Some rocks/roots/obstructions; climbs and descents totaling up to 1,000 feet possible

Strenuous: Steep hills, rocks/roots/obstructions likely; frequent climbs and descents with a total of more than 1,000 feet

Extremely Difficult: Usually more than 12 miles; **some** or **all** of these features possible or likely: rocks, roots, obstructions, unbridged stream crossings, non-technical rock climbing/scrambling, boulder fields, bushwhacking, climbs and descents totaling well over 1,000 feet

Friday, Saturday, Sunday April 13th, 14th, 15th - Anytime

Hike or Bike on your own

Hike Leader: You

Driving Time: 0 (Just walk out of the hotel)

Hiking Distance: You choose!

Terrain: Easy

Pace: Any

Hike Rating: Easy

Reason for Rating: You choose your hike/bike options.

Description:

- Lehigh Gorge State Park, 26 miles of Rail Road bed.
- Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, 165 miles of Rail Road bed and Canals

Highlights: views, explore tunnel, canal

Type of Hike: Linear – out and back

Equipment Recommendations: Sturdy foot wear, Bike, water, lunch, snacks, camera

Friday April 13th, 10:30 a.m.

AT - KTA Section

Hike Leader: Paul Shaw

Driving Time: 30 minutes, 14 miles

Hiking Distance: 10 miles

Terrain: Strenuous

Pace: Moderate

Hike Rating: Strenuous, rugged

Reason for Rating: Steep up and down

Description: MEET AT: Hotel at 10:00 or meet at Lehigh Gap Nature Center, 8844 Paint Mill Rd, Slatington, PA 18080 at 10:30.

Highlights: Views

Type of Hike: Loop

Equipment Recommendations: Sturdy footwear, water, lunch, snacks, camera, warm clothes, trekking poles.

Friday April 13th, 12:00 p.m.

Trexler Nature Preserve

Hike Leader: Lucy Cantwell

Driving Time: 45 minutes, 25 miles

Hiking Distance: 4 miles, about 2 hours

Terrain: Easy to moderate

Pace: Leisurely, stretch legs after drive

Hike Rating: Easy to moderate

Reason for Rating: Partly ridge and wooded trail with some rise in elevation, part hard flat surface.

Description: MEET AT: Trexler Nature Preserve, 5150 Game Preserve Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078

The Trexler Nature Preserve is a 1,108 acre expanse founded by Gen. Harry C Trexler as a way to protect endangered bison and elk at the turn of the century. This hike will take us through sections of the preserve where we will most likely catch a glimpse of these animals in their natural habitat.

Highlights: Possible elk and/or bison sightings; covered bridge.

Type of Hike: Loop

Equipment Recommendations: Sturdy foot wear, water, snacks, camera

Friday April 13th, 1:00 p.m.

D & L Trail Weissport to Jim Thorpe

Hike Leader: Karen Gradel, Cindy Paetow

Driving Time: 20 minutes

Hiking Distance: 4.5 miles

Terrain: Easy

Pace: Moderate

Hike Rating: Easy

Reason for Rating: Improved Rail Trail System

Description: MEET AT: Lehigh Canal Park 24 Bridge St Weissport, PA GPS: 40.831516 – 75.700648

This will be a shuttle hike along the Lehigh River from Weissport to Jim Thorpe.

Highlights: The trail offers views of the river, the trout-filled canal, lock and building remnants, and forested mountain slopes

Type of Hike: Loop

Equipment Recommendations: Hiking boots or sturdy sneakers. Water, snack, lunch.

Friday April 13th, 1:00 p.m.

Penn Forest Tract, Weiser S.F.

Hike Leader: Paula Uhrin

Driving Time: 25 minutes, 15 miles

Hiking Distance: 7 miles

Terrain: Rugged

Pace: Brisk

Hike Rating: Rugged

Reason for Rating: Ups and downs

Description: **MEET AT: Meet at 299 Stony Mountain Road, Jim Thorpe PA trail head parking lot at 12:45 p.m.** *If you're coming from Jim Thorpe drive north on 903 and follow that until you reach the PA NE Extension. If you're on the PA Turnpike NE Extension there is an exit for Route 903 North that accepts EZPass only, no cash. Once on 903 North turn right at the first intersection after the PA Turnpike interchange and then another immediate right onto Dogwood Drive. That will turn into Stony Mountain Road and weave through a development. Follow that until the road takes a hard left turn and then the parking lot is about a half mile ahead on your right. There's a very clear sign for Penn Forest Tract Weiser Forest District at the parking lot.*

Highlights: Views

Type of Hike: Loop

Equipment Recommendations: Sturdy footwear, water, lunch, snacks, camera, warm clothes, trekking poles.

Friday, April 13th, 1:00 p.m.

Switchback Railroad Section

Hike Leader: Ed Lawrence

Driving Time: 15 minutes, setting shuttle vehicles

Hiking Distance: 8 miles

Terrain: Rugged

Pace: Moderate

Hike Rating: Moderate

Reason for Rating: Long steady uphill with steep downhill at end.

Description: **MEET AT: The Inn at Jim Thorpe**

Starting at Mauch Chunk Lake Park we will hike on historic rail bed with graded ascent with steep descent at the end of hike.

Highlights: Historic venue

Type of Hike: Linear w/shuttle

Equipment Recommendations: Sturdy hiking boots and poles.

Saturday April 14th, 8:30 a.m.

Appalachian Trail – Lehigh Gap West

Hike Leader: Pam Root and Pat Leith

Driving Time: 30 minutes, 14 miles

Hiking Distance: 6 miles, 4-1/2 hours

Terrain: Strenuous

Pace: Moderate

Hike Rating: Moderate

Reason for Rating: 1000 ft. ascent over 1 mile, 1000 ft. descent over 1 mile, rocky

Description: **MEET AT: Lehigh Gap Nature Center, 8844 Paint Mill Rd., Slatington PA 18080**

Starting from Lehigh Gap Nature Center, hike Woodpecker Trail through rocky ground to Appalachian Trail. Climb steadily up the AT (southbound), pass a spring on the right, then reach George W. Outerbridge Shelter where we will enjoy a break. Continue ascending up the AT to the scenic North Trail where we will see fantastic views of the Lehigh River valley, Palmerton, and Bowmanstown. Learn a brief history of the New Jersey Zinc Company and efforts of the Superfund cleanup. Hike along the ridge, through grasslands, until we reach the third communication tower. Turn left onto the Appalachian Trail (northbound). Enjoy lunch at a campsite before descending back to Woodpecker Trail and Lehigh Gap Nature Center.

Highlights: Scenic views, historical, shelter

Type of Hike: Loop

Equipment Recommendations: Sturdy hiking footwear, trekking poles, 2 liters of water, lunch, camera

Saturday, April 14th, 8:30 a.m.

Glen Onoko

Hike Leader: Michelle Hinkle

Driving Time: None. Leave from hotel.

Hiking Distance: 6 miles

Terrain: Rugged

Pace: Leisurely

Hike Rating: Rugged

Reason for Rating: Short, steep climb at Falls

Description: **MEET AT: The Inn at Jim Thorpe**

Easy walk to Falls, steep climb at Falls, woods trail, easy return

Highlights: waterfall, views, explore tunnel

Type of Hike: Linear – Out & Back

Equipment Recommendations: Sturdy foot wear, water, lunch, snacks, camera, flashlight, warm clothes, trekking poles

Saturday, April 14th, 8:30 a.m.

AT – KTA Section

Hike Leader: Janet Penner

Driving Time: 30 minutes, 14 miles

Hiking Distance: 7 miles

Terrain: Strenuous

Pace: Moderate

Hike Rating: Strenuous

Reason for Rating: Two steep uphill climbs, distance

Description: MEET AT: 4940 Lehigh Drive, Walnutport PA 18088. AT east parking lot. Gps 40.781994-75.602741

Very steep climb, 1000 ft. elevation in 1 mile to top of mountain, down winter trail, cross bridge, hike up steep hill, 1000 ft. elevation to Outerbridge Shelter, then blue trail to top of mountain, down LGNC trail, visit Osprey House nature center, cross bridge to cars.

Highlights: Views, shelter, nature center

Type of Hike: Two loops

Equipment Recommendations: Sturdy foot wear, water, lunch, snacks, camera, flashlight, warm clothes, trekking poles

Saturday April 14th, 8:30 a.m.

D & L Locks

Hike Leader: John McCarty

Driving Time: None. Leave from the hotel.

Hiking Distance: 5 miles

Terrain: Easy

Pace: Moderate

Hike Rating: Easy

Reason for Rating: Canal & Rail to Trail, flat, stoned

Description: MEET AT: The Inn at Jim Thorpe

Leave hotel, cross trestle to round table, side trip to lock #1 & #2. Cross Car Bridge. Check out new pedestrian bridge and return to hotel

Highlights: views, historical

Type of Hike: Loop

Equipment Recommendations: Sturdy foot wear, water, lunch, snacks, camera

Saturday, April 14th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (option to continue)

Lehigh Furnace Gap Boundary Workday

Hike Leader: Kathy Corpora

Driving Time: 30 minutes, 14 miles

Hiking Distance: 3 to 4 miles

Terrain: Rugged - Off-Trail, rough and rocky; bushwhacking and rock scrambling required

Pace: Moderate, but with frequent stops (see description below).

Hike Rating: Strenuous

Reason for Rating: Work will be mostly off-trail, bushwhacking and rock scrambling required.

Description: Meet at 4940 Lehigh Drive, Walnutport PA 18088. Lehigh Gap East parking lot. AT east parking lot. GPS 40.781994-75.602741 by 8:45 a.m.

The “corridor” is the buffer zone on each side of the AT. Monitoring the corridor involves walking the Trail boundary, refreshing the yellow blazes (farther apart than on the AT), using GPS coordinates to locate the small, round metal “monuments” and nearby reference trees that mark the boundary, keeping the “line of sight” clear and checking for any signs of inappropriate use along the boundary line and within the corridor. The morning work session will end at 12:30. Those who wish to continue working in the afternoon will break for lunch and

the rest will be free to leave or will be transported back to Lehigh Gap if necessary. The afternoon work session will end around 4:00.

Highlights: Spend a few hours giving back to help protect and maintain the trail you love! Learn about reading a map, using GPS coordinates and what's involved in corridor monitoring. ATC Corridor Stewardship Program Manager Ryan Seltzer and staff will be on hand to share their expertise.

Type of Hike: Part loop, part out and back, considering we may be going out on one side of the corridor and coming back along the other side.

Equipment Recommendations: Work gloves, hiking boots or trail shoes, snacks and water. Wear clothes you won't mind getting dirty. Those who plan to continue working in the afternoon should bring a lunch.

Saturday, April 14th, 9:00 a.m.

Switchback Railroad Loop

Hike Leader: Ed Lawrence

Driving Time: 15 minutes, 4 miles

Hiking Distance: 11 miles

Terrain: Moderate to rugged, one steep climb

Pace: Moderate

Hike Rating: Moderate to strenuous

Reason for Rating: Length with one steep climb

Description: **MEET AT: The Inn at Jim Thorpe**

Starting at Mauch Chunk Lake Park we will hike the entire Switchback Railroad Loop in a counter clockwise direction. The first third of the hike will be relatively flat hiking into Jim Thorpe which will bring us to the bottom of the historic incline and culminating in the ascent, views and lunch. The remainder of the hike will be a long gradual descent on the historic rail bed back to our vehicles.

Highlights: Historic rail bed tread way with views.

Type of Hike: Loop

Equipment Recommendations: Sturdy hiking boots with walking poles.

Saturday, April 14th, 9:00 a.m.

AT Lehigh Furnace Gap – S. Blue Trail – N. Blue Trail – Lehigh Gap

Hike Leader: Carl Rush

Driving Time: 30 minutes, 14 miles

Hiking Distance: 6 miles

Terrain: Strenuous

Pace: Moderate

Hike Rating: Strenuous

Reason for Rating: Boulders, rocks

Description: **Meet at Lehigh Gap Nature Center, 8844 Paint Mill Rd. Slatington PA 118018**

Start at LGNC. Shuttle to AT Ashfield Road, Lehigh Furnace Gap. AT north to south Blue trail, ROCKS. Join AT, Take north blue Trail, to AT to Outerbridge Shelter, to LGNC Trail to car.

Highlights: Views, scenery

Type of Hike: Linear w/shuttle

Equipment Recommendations: Bring snack, water, lunch, sturdy hiking boots, trekking poles

Saturday, April 14th, 9:00 a.m.

Jim Thorpe History Hike and D & L Lock Walking Tour

Hike Leader: Barb Wiemann

Driving Time: None. Leave from hotel.

Hiking Distance: About 5 miles

Terrain: Easy

Pace: Leisurely in town, and moderate on rail trail.

Hike Rating: Easy

Reason for Rating: Paved sidewalks, gravel rail trail, and short distance on level old towpath. There is a hill to climb in town to the plane and a return descent.

Description: **MEET AT: The Inn at Jim Thorpe**

From the hotel, we will walk down Broadway past the Courthouse to Josiah White Park and the Train Station, where we will go inside to look at the display, which features a town time line. We will continue up Race St., passing St. Mark's Church and the Historic Stone Row. Then we will return to Broadway to view the buildings along this historic street, before climbing Hill St. to South Ave. We will walk to Sam Miler Park Field to see the Pisgah Plane of the Switchback Railroad and then descend to the Asa Packer Mansion and the D & L Trail. We will walk north on the rail trail less than 2 miles, crossing the Lehigh River, and then take a level footpath about ¼ mile to see Lock 2. We will retrace our route back to Jim Thorpe and the hotel.

Highlights: Pisgah Plane, Lock 2, Jim Thorpe historic buildings

Type of Hike: Loop

Equipment Recommendations: Bring snacks and water. If the weather is nice, we can eat lunch along the rail trail or in the park.

Saturday, April 14, 9:30 a.m.

Lehigh Gap Nature Center

Hike Leader: Sam Carlson

Driving Time: 30 minutes, 14 miles

Hiking Distance: 6 miles, about 3 to 3.5 hours

Terrain: Moderate

Pace: Moderate

Hike Rating: Moderate

Reason for Rating: Dirt trails, flat, some elevation

Description: **MEET AT: Lehigh Gap Nature Center, 8844 Paint Mill Rd., Slatington PA 18080**

Hike the trails on LGNC. 750 acre wildlife refuge with 13 miles of trails with connections to the Appalachian Trail, D&L and Lehigh River Water Trails. Recovered superfund site.

Highlights: Great views, grasslands, birds, Osprey Visitors Center

Type of Hike: Loop

Equipment Recommendations: Sturdy foot wear, water, lunch, snacks, camera

Saturday April 14th, 10:00 a.m.

AT Lehigh Gap East – A Tour of the New Growth at Superfund Site

Hike Leader: Dennis Hurley

Driving Time: 30 minutes, 14 miles

Hiking Distance: 9 miles

Terrain: Strenuous

Pace: Moderate

Hike Rating: Strenuous

Reason for Rating: One steep uphill climb, distance

Description: **MEET AT: AT parking/Lehigh Gap east, 4940 Lehigh Drive, Walnutport, PA 18088. AT east parking lot. (40.783556,-75.604587)**

Very steep and rocky climb (not for people with a fear of heights), 800 feet elevation in one mile to the top of the mountain (optional easier climb 1.5 miles up the Winter Trail –this is still a steep climb.), east on AT to power line, west on service road, down Winter Trail.

Highlights: Views, new growth forest

Type of Hike: Loop

Equipment Recommendations: Sturdy footwear, water, lunch, snacks, camera, warm clothes, trekking poles, leather gloves for the rocky climb.

Sunday April 15th, 8:30 a.m.

Trexler Nature Preserve

Hike Leader: Lucy Cantwell

Driving Time: 45 minutes, 25 miles

Hiking Distance: 5-6 miles, about 3 to 3.5

Terrain: Easy to moderate

Pace: Moderate

Hike Rating: Easy to moderate

Reason for Rating: Well-maintained trails, family-friendly County Park.

Description: **MEET AT: Trexler Nature Preserve, 5150 Game Preserve Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078**

Follow-up to Friday's hike to explore additional trails at this location. The Trexler Nature Preserve is a 1,108 acre expanse founded by Gen. Harry C Trexler as a way to protect endangered bison and elk at the turn of the century. This hike will take us through sections of the preserve where we will most likely catch a glimpse of these animals in their natural habitat.

Highlights: Possible elk and/or bison sightings; covered bridge

Type of Hike: Loop

Equipment Recommendations: Sturdy footwear, water, snacks, camera

Sunday April 15th, 8:30 a.m.

Glen Onoko

Hike Leader: Susan Meyer

Driving Time: None. Leave from the hotel.

Hiking Distance: 6 miles

Terrain: Rugged

Pace: Leisurely

Hike Rating: Rugged

Reason for Rating: Short steep ascent at the Falls

Description: **MEET AT: The Inn at Jim Thorpe**

Easy walk to Falls, steep climb at Falls, woods trail, easy return

Highlights: views, explore tunnel, waterfall

Type of Hike: Linear – out and back

Equipment Recommendations: Sturdy foot wear, water, lunch, snacks, camera, flashlight, warm clothes, trekking poles

Sunday, April 15th, 9:00 a.m.

AT – KTA Section: Little Gap to Lehigh Gap

Hike Leader: Jim Foster

Driving Time: 30 minutes, 14 miles

Hiking Distance: 5 miles

Terrain: Moderate

Pace: Moderate

Hike Rating: Easy-Rugged

Reason for Rating: Steep descent at the end of the hike.

Description: **MEET AT: 4940 Lehigh Drive, Walnutport PA 18088. AT east parking lot. Gps 40.781994-75.60274**

Jim Foster, Chair of the KTA A.T. section committee, will lead a 5 mile hike on the eastern portion of KTA's section. You'll learn about the history of the area, the remediation work on top of the mountain and the plans to re-route the A.T. section. The hike will be from Little Gap to Lehigh Gap, using the winter trail near Lehigh Gap. Meet at the Lehigh Gap East parking lot at 9 a.m. We'll take enough cars to get everyone to Little Gap, then hike from Little Gap to Lehigh Gap.

Highlights: Views

Type of Hike: Linear w/shuttle

Equipment Recommendations: Sturdy foot wear, water, lunch, snacks, camera, warm clothes, trekking poles

Sunday, April 15th, 9:30 a.m.

Lehigh Gap Nature Center

Hike Leader: Janet Penner

Driving Time: 30 minutes, 14 miles

Hiking Distance: 6 miles, about 3-3.5 hours

Terrain: Moderate

Pace: Moderate

Hike Rating: Moderate

Reason for Rating: Dirt trails, flat, some elevation

Description: MEET AT: Lehigh Gap Nature Center, 8844 Paint Mill Rd., Slatington PA 18080

Hike the trails on LGNC. 750 acre wildlife refuge with 13 miles of trails with connections to the Appalachian Trail, D&L and Lehigh River Water Trails. Recovered superfund site.

Highlights: Great views, grasslands, birds, Osprey Visitor Center

Type of Hike: Loop

Equipment Recommendations: Sturdy footwear, water, lunch, snacks, camera

Sunday, April 15, 2018 9:30 am

Loop Hike in Mauch Chunk Lake Park

Hike Leader: Cynthia Paetow and Michelle Hinkle

Driving Time: 6 minutes, 4 miles

Hiking Distance: 4-7 miles

Terrain: Rugged

Pace: Leisurely

Hike Rating: Moderate

Reason for Rating: Long steady uphill with steep downhill at end.

Description: MEET AT: Mauch Chunk Park Boat Launch A, 625 Lentz Trail, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229

We will make a 4 1/2 mile loop using the Switchback, Board Bottom, Fireline and Shoreline Trails. One steep ascent and one steep descent. We will take our time and enjoy the trail. For those interested, there is a beautiful section along the creek we can check out adding an additional 2 miles for a total of 6.5 miles.

Highlights: Historic, views, Lake

Type of Hike: Loop

Equipment Recommendations: Sturdy footwear, water, lunch, snacks, camera, trekking poles.

Sunday, April 15th, 10:00 a.m.

Tuscarora S.P.

Hike Leader: Paula Uhrin

Driving Time: 30 minutes, 18 miles

Hiking Distance: 7-9 miles

Terrain: Rugged

Pace: Brisk

Hike Rating: Rugged

Reason for Rating: Ups and downs

Description: MEET AT: Meet at 687 Tuscarora Park Road, Barnesville PA. *The street address is deceptive. On Tuscarora Park Road there will be a very clear sign for Tuscarora State Park at the park entrance, even though it may not be exactly where your GPS takes you. Once you enter the park keep staying straight on the park road to the very end and the parking lot there. Do not follow signs for the Park Office.*

Highlights: Lake views

Type of Hike: Loop

Equipment Recommendations: Sturdy footwear, water, lunch, snacks, camera, warm clothes, trekking poles.

Sunday April 15th, 10:00 a.m.

AT – KTA Section, Repeat Figure 8 Hike

Hike Leader: Dennis Hurley

Driving Time: 30 minutes, 14 miles

Hiking Distance: 7 miles

Terrain: Strenuous

Pace: Moderate

Hike Rating: Strenuous

Reason for Rating: Two steep uphill climbs, distance

Description: **MEET AT: 8899 PA Route 873 Slatington PA18080. AT west parking lot. Right after bridge. (40.781319-75.608707)**

Very steep and rocky climb, 800 ft. elevation in 1 mile to top of mountain, down winter trail, cross bridge, hike up steep hill to Outerbridge Shelter, then blue trail to top of mountain to view above the Devil's Pulpit, then back down the mountain to cars. Not for people with fear of heights.

Highlights: Views, shelter, nature center

Type of Hike: 1 loop & 1 linear –out & back

Equipment Recommendations: Sturdy foot wear, water, lunch, snacks, camera, warm clothes, trekking poles, -- **bring leather gloves for the rocks and put poles in your pack.**

Day TIME

Hike Name

Hike Leader:

Driving Time:

Hiking Distance:

Terrain:

Pace:

Hike Rating:

Reason for Rating:

Description:

Highlights:

Type of Hike:

Equipment Recommendations: