Cub Scout Hiking Manual

Hike Number: 25

Hike Location: Paw Paw Tunnel C&O Canal and Tunnel Hill Trail Oldtown, MD 21555

Travel Distance: 83 miles from Ashburn Elementary School

Trail Head Location: MD Rte.51 at the Potomac River. C&O Canal access.

Parking available at the C&O Canal Paw Paw Tunnel

Campground. Just across the Potomac River from Paw Paw WV

Blaze Color: N/A

Map Number: 25-1





Ability Level:

Difficulty: Challenging, 6.8 mile loop with a 3100’ tunnel.

Description: After accessing the C&O canal from the parking area, follow the towpath toward the Paw Paw Tunnel (NE direction) just prior to the tunnel, the Tunnel Hill path will be on the right. The Tunnel Hill trail will ascend continuously for .6 miles to the top of the mountain. There are several scenic views along this stretch. At the top of the mountain, continue to follow the Tunnel Hill trail down to the C&O Canal Tow Path. At the bottom of the trail, turn left on the tow path and follow it through the tunnel and back to the parking area.

Along the Tunnel Hill trail there are several signs describing plants, historical and geological features. At the top of the mountain wildlife observations are good. On the north side of the tunnel, the geology of the mountain is visible in the cut for the canal.

Facilities: Water at the Paw Paw Tunnel Campground. Water may require treatment. Privy at the campground.

Hazards: Tunnel Hill trail is steep and rocky. Several fall hazards around the towpath and canal. Trail surface inside the tunnel is muddy. The tunnel is very dark in the middle. Flashlight is required.

Cub Scout Adventure Requirements:

Bear: Bear Necessities 1B,2,3

Fur Feathers and Ferns 1,2,4,5

Webelos: Webelos Walkabout 1,3,6

Earth Rocks 2,3

Arrow of Light: Outdoorsman (Option B) 1,2,4