



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Appalachian National Scenic Trail  
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## National Park Service News Release

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### Appalachian National Scenic Trail Is Modifying Operations To Implement Local Health Guidance

Roanoke & Botetourt Counties, Virginia – The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is announcing additional modifications to operations in accordance with Virginia Governor’s Executive Order 55, and due to recent heavy visitation in violation of CDC guidelines.

Effective 04/05/2020, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail is closing all access and use to 27 miles of NPS-owned land in Central Virginia known as the “Triple Crown.” The “Triple Crown” closure includes all National Park Service owned land between VA Route 624 (Newport Road) and VA Route 652 (Mountain Pass Road). This area includes McAfee Knob and Tinker Cliffs. Access to Dragon’s Tooth, which is on U.S. Forest Service-owned land, has already been closed.

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is continuing to take steps to implement the latest guidance from the White House, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), and local and state authorities to promote social distancing and sanitization standards to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is announcing modifications to its operations in support of federal, state, and local efforts to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, volunteers, partners, and local communities. The decision aligns with state and local measures to contain the COVID-19 outbreak, and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Guidelines for health and safety, recommended by the CDC, are available at: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html).

We will notify the public when we resume full operations and provide updates on our website ([www.nps.gov/appa](http://www.nps.gov/appa)) and social media channels.

The NPS encourages people to take advantage of the many digital tools already available to explore the Appalachian National Scenic Trail including:

- **An interactive webmap, 3D Explorer, and an app for iPhone users, all available on our website at:** [www.nps.gov/appa/learn/photosmultimedia/virtualtour.htm](http://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/photosmultimedia/virtualtour.htm)

The health and safety of our visitors, employees, volunteers, and partners is our number one priority. The National Park Service (NPS) is working service-wide with federal, state, and local authorities to closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic. Updates about NPS operations will be posted on [www.nps.gov/coronavirus](http://www.nps.gov/coronavirus).

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

*About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 419 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov), and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).*

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