

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

Three Nights

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Shenandoah National Park
Emergency: 1-800-732-0911



Hannah Run and Hot-Short Mountain, 3 nights

Standard - Circuit

Level: Experienced

Total Length: 11.3 miles

Trip Description: Cascading streams, swimming holes, park history; access from Old Rag parking

Entry: Weakley Hollow Boundary

Exit: Weakley Hollow Boundary

Map(s): PATC #10 Central District

Central District; East side; Route 600 - Nethers

Central District; East side; Route 600 - Nethers

Day One

Campsite: Hannah Run - backcountry

2.6 to 3.6 miles

Hike from parking area to Nicholson Hollow trailhead, up to 0.6 mile.

Hike up Nicholson Hollow Trail, 2 miles.

Turn right onto Hannah Run Trail and look for a place to camp in the next mile.

Day Two

Campsite: Hazel Mtn Trail - backcountry

2.7 to 3.7 miles

Continue hiking on Hannah Run Trail 1.5 to 2.5 miles (depending on campsite).

Turn right onto Catlett Mountain Trail and hike 1.2 miles, picking up water at the stream.

Turn right onto Hazel Mountain Trail and find a place to camp in the next 0.5 mile.

Day Three

Campsite: Nicholson Hollow Trail - backcountry

2.1 to 4 miles

Finish hiking Hazel Mountain Trail (up to 0.5 mile depending on campsite).

Turn right onto Hot Mountain-Short Mountain Trail, hiking 2.1 miles.

Look for places to camp either upstream or downstream from the intersection with the Nicholson Hollow Trail.

Day Four

1 to 4 miles (depending on campsite location)

Hike downstream on Nicholson Hollow Trail ; it is 1.8 miles to the road from the Hot-Short Trail.

Hike to your vehicle, up to 0.6 mile..

Notes

The Hughes River, which runs through Nicholson Hollow can run very high in the spring or after heavy rains (knee to waist high). The trail crosses the river several times, so be prepared. The plus side is the excellent swimming holes that exist even in drought.

While this is a popular place on the weekends, during the week you can often have this wilderness area to yourself.

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Options

While each day is planned to be short, there are many other trails to explore if you still have energy at the end of the day. Set up camp, be sure to properly store your food items, then find a place to swim, or another trail to walk.

Two-night (three-day) option: You can finish on day three by hiking 4.5 to 5 miles to your vehicle.