

# Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

One Night

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



## Hull School and Thornton River

Standard - Circuit

**Level:** Experienced

**Total Length:** 7.9 miles

**Trip Description:** Park history, fishing stream (open for harvest), poplar forest, secluded wilderness hollow

**Entry:** 27 MP - Neighbor Mtn Parking

**Exit:** 27 MP - Neighbor Mtn Parking

**Map(s):** PATC # 9 North District

### Day One

Campsite: Thornton River Trail - backcountry

3.4 to 5.4 miles

Hike uphill on Neighbor Mountain Trail to Byrds Nest, 0.8 mile.

Follow the grass/gravel road downhill to Skyline Drive, 0.4 mile.

Cross Skyline Drive and hike downhill on Hull School Trail 2.2 miles.

When you reach the junction with the Thornton River Trail, begin looking for a place to camp downstream or turn left on the Thornton River Trail and look for possible places to camp in the next 1.5 miles (usually on the opposite side of the stream from the trail).

### Day Two

2.5 to 4.5 miles

Continue hiking uphill on Thornton River Trail (a total of 2.9 miles from Hull School Trail).

Cross Skyline Drive and continue uphill on Thornton River Trail 0.3 mile.

Turn left onto AT, hiking south about 1.2 miles.

Turn left on the spur trail to your vehicle 0.1 mile.

### Notes

There are some high water crossings on this route which may be challenging or even dangerous, especially in the spring or after heavy rains.