

**Uwharrie Panther Creek
Troop 9 Backpacking and Campout
13-14 December 2008**

Description

The hike is the northern section, 8.45 miles of the 22 miles of the Uwharrie National Trail. Departing from State Road 109 northbound 5.1 miles from downtown Troy, the Troop will hike north to the Dark Mountain northern terminus 2.5 miles east of Ophir on State Road (SR) 1306. The trip will be under full pack carrying all food, with water available along the trail.

The original trail, conceived by Joe Moffitt and constructed with the help of his and other Boy Scout troops, included an additional 15 miles of trail north of the current northern terminus. Seven and a half miles of that segment remains as the Birkhead Wilderness Trail and will not be included in this trip. Access to the 7.5 mile connecting link with the remaining Uwharrie Trail has been lost due to private land conflicts. As a reference point, this portion of the Uwharrie is approximately sixteen miles south and very slightly west of Asheboro. The climb is light; typical ascents and descents are two to three hundred feet per mile with occasional climbs of up to five hundred feet on as little as a half mile.

Schedule

Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Depart for Uwharrie from Subway - Timberlyne, 1129 Weaver Dairy Rd. Chapel Hill
	~10:00 am	Ferry one vehicle to trail terminus at Barnes Creek, and another to the trail crossing at highway 1136 in case of emergency. Cooler lunch before beginning hike
	~11:00 am	Begin Hike on Panther Creek Trail to Panther Creek campsite, appx. 5 miles
	Afternoon	Work on Orienteering Skills
	Sunset (5:09 pm)	Overnight at Panther Creek primitive campsite
Sunday	Sunrise (7:21 am)	Reveille
		Breakfast
		Scouts Own
		Break Camp
		Hike out 3.3 miles to Barnes Creek
		Ferry back to get cars at trail head
		Cooler lunch
	3:00 p.m.	Arrive at Timberlyne in Chapel Hill

Personal Equipment

Pack for potentially cold, wet weather. Expect highs in the 40s F and lows in the 20s F.

See Troop 9 website guidelines for backpacking: <http://t9ch.org/Docs/Equipment/Backpacking.html>

Food and Group Equipment

Scouts completed Duty Rosters at the Tuesday night meetings. Scouts who are unsure of their responsibilities should contact their patrol leader.

Group equipment will be checked out to the patrols at Tuesday's meeting. Scouts who check out group equipment need to remember to bring it on Saturday morning.

Messages and Emergency Contact

May try telephone contact, much of the area has poor cell phone coverage.

Gregg Gerdau (919) 593-0037 (cell)

Wayne Vanderburg (919) 260-2792 (cell)

Water

Drinking water is available at the campsite. Be sure to bring two filled, 1-liter canteens or water bottles for the hike in.

Troop water pump.

This is primitive camping.

Driving Route Estimated travel time is two hours from Chapel Hill (~102 miles)

- 15-501 29 mi. South to Pittsboro
- 64 38 mi. West to Asheboro
- 220 28 mi. South to Biscoe
- 24/27 7 mi. West to Troy

THEN

- 109 5.1 mi. North to the trail crossing
- 2.0 mi. to the community of Uwharrie is an overshoot landmark

OR

- 109 8.1 mi. North to Uwharrie
- SR 1303 5.1 mi. North to Ophir
- SR 1306 2.5 mi. East to Dark Mountain Terminus at Barnes Creek
- Watch for parking lot on the right