

Discover Tucker Geology on a Family Mini-hike

Here's something interesting that Scouts and their families can do while going on a beautiful weekend morning walk together. (While you're getting a bit of fun family exercise, be sure to notice the bird songs you hear! See Backyard Bushcraft issue #4.)

- Start in the Tucker Highschool parking lot. Take water bottles in case you get thirsty.
- While staying safely on the sidewalk away from the fast-moving cars, walk down Chamblee-Tucker Road, going towards Livsey Elementary School.
- Notice that most of the side-streets on both sides of Chamblee-Tucker Road drop downhill, but their slopes go in opposite directions.

Why? What's going on?

The reason why the side-streets drop downhill is because this part of Chamblee-Tucker Road is located exactly on top of North America's Eastern Continental Divide!

- To learn more about other places where the Eastern Continental Divide is located, see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Continental_Divide
- This geological feature affects how Tucker streams flow. For example, all the streams on the Livsey Elementary School side of Chamblee-Tucker Road flow generally westward and join the Chattahoochee River, which empties into the Gulf of Mexico. The water from Lake Erin leaving from Henderson Park eventually ends up in the Gulf!
- However, the streams and rivers on the Troop 129 Scout Hut side of Chamblee-Tucker Road tend to flow eastward. For example, the lake in Kelley Cofer Park next to the Scout Hut empties into Lucky Shoals Creek. Downstream, that Creek forms Lake Ivanhoe. Eventually all that water empties into the Atlantic Ocean.

Many members of our Troop have helped with Tucker's annual "Rivers Alive" trash clean-ups:

- We often have worked in the upper part of South Peachtree Creek, just south of downtown Tucker.
- Downstream from Tucker, South Peachtree Creek flows south and then turns west. It flows through the Clyde Shepard Nature Preserve in Decatur and later through the Emory University campus.

- Meanwhile, North Peachtree Creek starts in a marshy area near the intersection of Pleasantdale Road and I-85. North Peachtree Creek flows southwestward alongside of I-85.
- South and North Peachtree Creeks eventually merge. Joined together they form Peachtree Creek, which flows westward and empties into the Chattahoochee River.
- This means that water from these two Creeks starts its journey in Tucker and eventually ends in the Gulf of Mexico.
- This also means that Troop 129's "Rivers Alive" community service projects not only have helped clean up the headwaters of South Peachtree Creek, but we also have kept that trash from getting into the Chattahoochee River and the Gulf of Mexico. Pretty cool to think about it that way! 😊