

Raven Cliffs Falls Family Day Hike – Important Instructions:

When: **Saturday, May 20, 2023.** Families and Scouts should arrive at the Raven Cliff Falls trailhead parking lot **no later than 8:00 AM.**

Where: The address for the Raven Cliffs Falls trailhead parking lot is 3000 Richard Russell Highway, near Helen, GA. Copy and paste these latitude and longitude geocoordinates into your smartphone navigation app to get there:

34.70948584723064, -83.78929166294479

Driving Time Estimate: The trailhead parking lot is approximately 80 to 85 miles from Tucker each way. The driving time is approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes. So to arrive by 8:00 AM on May 20, families should leave Tucker no later than 6:20 AM after eating breakfast at home.

Parking Fee and Transportation Arrangements: There will be a parking lot fee = at least \$5.00 cash per car. **Drivers should bring this parking fee money in dollar bills (not credit cards).** Scouts and families are responsible for their transportation to and from the hike location. Families may wish to carpool. Scouts who are attending without their families should arrange with other families to get a ride.

Who: All Scouts and other family members are welcome! Scouts and all family members who are attending should please add their names on the Troop's signup sheet for this event.

Trail Description: The forested trail is well-maintained in most places. It moderately gains altitude for most of the distance, and gets steep as we get closer to the Falls. As we hike, we will see beautiful mountain streams and many small unnamed waterfalls next to the trail in many places.

What to Bring:

- All Scouts and family members should wear properly fitting hiking boots and clothes
- All Scouts and family members should have a personal daypack with the following items:
 - **LARGE and FULL water bottles for each person!** There is no safe piped drinking water available on the hike. We do not want anyone to have a dehydration medical emergency!
 - Personal raingear
 - Toilet paper

- Lunch food and related cooking/eating supplies: See “Cooking Merit Badge Option” below.
- Camera: this is a beautiful trail!
- Other family gear as needed (first aid supplies, etc.)

Cooking Merit Badge Option: We are encouraging all Scouts and families to use a backpacking stove to cook their lunch while we are out on the trail. In addition to being a fun activity for everyone, Scouts also can use this opportunity to complete some requirements for Cooking Merit Badge. This is a required badge for attaining the Eagle rank. Mr. Jim Carey is the Troop’s counselor for Cooking Merit Badge. Scouts and families who want to cook their lunches should be aware of the following:

- During the **regular Troop meeting on Tuesday, May 16**, Mr. Carey will show and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of different types of backpacking stoves. To learn more about backpacking stoves, all interested Scouts and family members are welcome to attend.
- Scouts and families who want to cook lunch during the May 20 hike must bring their own stoves and other necessary supplies (fuel, matches, cooking and eating utensils, all food ingredients safely stored in their backpacks, etc.). For Scouts and families who may not own backpacking stoves, the Troop has a limited number of stoves that you may wish to borrow during the May 16 Troop meeting.
- Each Scout who wants to work on Cooking Merit Badge should complete requirements **6a, 6b, and 6c** at home **BEFORE** the May 20 hike. These requirements are available here: [Cooking Merit Badge \(usscouts.org\)](http://usscouts.org) Parents may need to assist or advise their Scout on how to complete these three requirements, but the Scout himself should do the work --- not Mom or Dad!
- During the May 20 hike, the Scout should use the backpacking stove to prepare and serve one of the two meals described in Cooking Merit Badge requirement **6d**. After the meal is done, he can discuss with Mr. Carey how the meal went (requirement **6e**). During another Troop hike or backpacking trip in the future, the Scout can prepare and serve his second meal for finishing **6d** and **6e**.