

Bear Mountain Hike

December 1 & 2, 2007

Bear Mountain (2,316 ft) is the highest peak in Connecticut and is located in the north-west corner of the state and is part of the Appalachian Trail. Bear Mountain offers good views of the Taconic Range in addition to the highland views of the Berkshires to the north all the way to Mt Greylock (50 miles away). The remains of a tower built in 1885 mark the top of Bear Mountain. This hike will be a day hike and will begin at the intersection of Route 41 and the Undermountain Trail. We will follow the trail for 1.9 miles to the intersection of the AT. Once on the AT, we will swing north 0.9 miles to the summit of Bear Mountain. After reaching the summit, we will continue another 0.7 mile to the intersection of Paradise Lane Trail. We will follow the Paradise Lane Trail to where it intersects with the Undermountain Trail and then back to Rte. 41. This hike is about 6.7 miles in length but it is up very strenuous terrain. It is rated as a moderate hike if compared to the AT in Vermont.

We will be camping at the Housatonic Meadows State Park about 10 miles to the south of the trailhead. This is a car camping trip so it will be easy to bring extra sleeping bags or blankets for warmth. There are fire pits at each campsite with grates that cover the fire so it would be easy to prepare foil wrapped dinners on Sat.

Those going on the trip will meet Saturday morning (December 1st) at 7:00 am at the Lake Quonnipaug parking lot. We will go straight to the trail head so that we are off the trail by 3 pm and that will allow us plenty of time to then go to Housatonic Meadows to set up camp. We will return to Guilford Sunday morning after breakfast. There are water and toilet facilities at the campsite.

It is important that appropriate gear be brought on the day hike. The weather this time of year is changeable and we should be prepared for cold weather.

Use the Cold Weather Overnight list available on www.troop474.org

This may be a bit on the overkill side but our 3-season list is a bit on the light side. If you have insulated boots great, but a simple pair of hiking boots with wool socks is fine this time of year. You will want to hike in a good pair of boots – most insulated boots do not make that cut.

Because we are going directly to the trailhead you will want your hiking pack (this can be a day pack) ready to go. You will need: lunch, water, rain gear, warm gear to layer up including a coat, hat and gloves.

If you think that you will be going on the hike, please call or email me so that I can file a trip permit. Feel free to call if you have questions.

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