

## For Leaders and Parents

The Trout Adventure Trail weaves through the national forest, about an hour and a half north of Atlanta and 45 minutes from Blue Ridge, Ellijay, Blairsville or Dahlonega, Georgia. Use the map and information displayed in this brochure to plan your trout adventure hike. The hike may take 30 minutes to 2 hours, depending on the route you take. Hands-on education complements the hiking experience.

The Trout Adventure Trail features a hands-on education and discovery experience enjoyed during hikes on the Appalachian and Benton MacKaye trails in the Chattahoochee National Forest. The educational component informally and subtly complements the hiking experience and should be fun!

### TEACHING POINTS

Educational materials for scout leaders, professional educators, parents, guardians and mentors are always in development under the combined planning initiatives of the US Forest Service, Trout Unlimited and Boy Scouts of America. Currently, the scope of our materials are directed at conservation with an underlying emphasis of clean water and stream fauna, including trout; but the scope of education also includes ancillary topics such as hiking, map reading, outdoor safety, leave no trace, photography, forest habitat, forestry, and outdoor careers.

## For More Information

For more information about the educational components of the Trout Adventure Trail, please visit [www.TroutAdventureTrail.org](http://www.TroutAdventureTrail.org).

Learn more about our trout waters and their conservation at the websites of our partners, which provide additional educational materials:

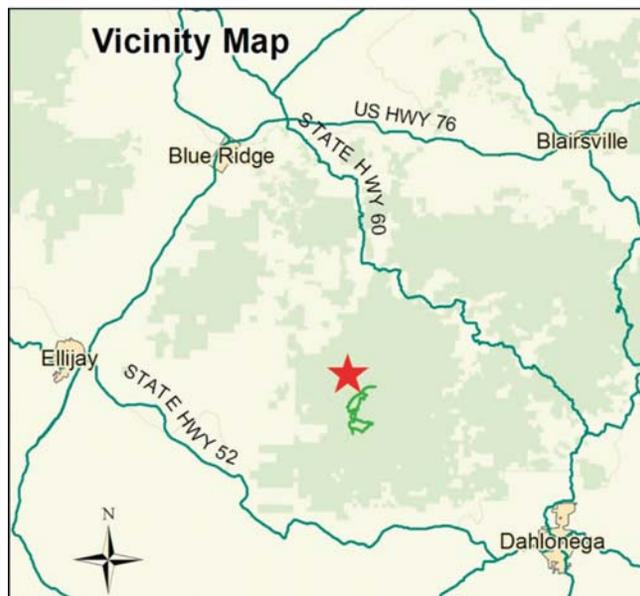
- Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited, Chapter #692 -- [blueridgetu.org](http://blueridgetu.org)
- Chattahoochee National Forest -- [fs.usda.gov/conf](http://fs.usda.gov/conf)



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Trout Adventure Trail

## Directions to the Parking Areas

**SPRINGER MOUNTAIN PARKING AREA** -- Located on Forest Service Road 42, the upper (higher elevation) starting point holds limited parking space. On most days parking room is ample, except on week. A US Forest Service billboard is on site with information about the Trout Adventure Trail and other useful information for visitors. There are no restroom facilities at this trailhead.



**THREE FORKS PARKING AREA** -- Located on Forest Service Road 58 (also known as Noontootla Road), this parking area marks the crossing of the Appalachian and Benton MacKaye trails. There is no designated parking area but off-road pullouts and parallel parking along FS 58 where the road widens sufficiently usually provides plenty of room for parking safely. There are no restroom facilities at this trailhead.

### SHUTTLE YOUR HIKERS

Springer Mountain Parking Area and Three Forks are connected by Forest Service Roads, so it is possible to drop off hikers at one parking area and pick them up at another by shuttling cars between locations. Drive time between trailheads is about 10 minutes one way.

# Trout Adventure Trail

A cooperative program for independent learning in the great outdoors



[www.TroutAdventureTrail.org](http://www.TroutAdventureTrail.org)

Plan your own hiking and learning experience on existing famous trails along the southernmost reach of the Appalachian Mountains

The Trout Adventure Trail® is a "do it yourself" and "plan your own" hiking and learning experience for kids of all ages along legendary trails in the Chattahoochee National Forest in north Georgia. It is designated by the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce as one of the top-12 wintertime activities in the region.

The Trout Adventure Trail offers individual hikers, families and organized groups the opportunity to hike, learn and earn a distinctive commemorative award patch as recognition of the commitment to outdoor education, conservation and accomplishment.

## A Trout's World

The streams on the Trout Adventure Trail are small, but they are COLD and CLEAN and provide a HEALTHY HABITAT for trout to thrive.



Here, in the Chattahoochee National Forest, some of the streams along the Trout Adventure Trail include Stover Creek Long Creek and Noontootla Creek. Stover Creek and Long Creek flow into Noontootla Creek near Three Forks, and Noontootla Creek flows into the Toccoa River. Along with many other small streams, these creeks are part of the Toccoa River Watershed.

## Watershed Issues

Watersheds start at the highest mountains or hills with runoff from rain, snow or springs flowing to small streams that flow into larger streams that flow into rivers and eventually to the sea.

Every part of a watershed plays a part in keeping the water cold enough for trout, even in the summertime. In addition to cold, clean water trout need FOOD and COVER. Cover helps trout hide from predators. FOOD, mostly aquatic insects, comes to them by drifting on or under the water or crawling on the bottom. Trout will eat insects, as well as fish eggs, other fish and small animals.



Some streams have lots of food for trout, but small mountain streams usually

have less food, which means trout need the best places to find food, such as below riffle areas where there are a lot of aquatic insects.

**Dangers to trout: HOT WEATHER, DROUGHT, SEDIMENT or OTHER CONTAMINATION or POLLUTION.**

**Ways to help trout survive and thrive:**

- PROTECT FORESTS
- POLLUTION
- CLEAN UP POLLUTION OR TRASH

2.25 miles to Doublehead Gap Road and Blue Ridge

