

2026 Pine Grove Furnace State Park Year Round Event

Keystone State Volkssport Association © 2026

Emergency Phone Number: 911; Event Assistance: Tom Jackson @ 717-309-6088

Please use either the Online Start Box (OSB) or Physical Start Box (PSB) to register and complete the event. Do NOT mix and match, for example, by registering using the OSB then completing your event using the PSB nor signing the PSB log sheet. The sponsoring club only receives credit for an OSB participation when an OSB registration has been completed online by entering your participation date, distances, and any special programs using the OSB.

Start Location: Restrooms at the Gravel Parking Lot next to the Furnace Stack Area, Pine Grove Furnace State Park, 1100 Pine Grove Road, Gardners, PA 17324. Note: this address will get you to the Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Just follow the signs to the Furnace Stack Area.

Driving Directions:

a. From the north: Take the Newville exit (Exit 37) off of I-81. Follow Rt 233 for 9 miles to a “T” intersection. The Pine Grove Furnace State Park Office is across the street. Stay on Rt 233 as it turns right. Right after the Appalachian Trail Museum, turn left onto Bendersville Rd. Pass the Pine Grove Furnace General Store on the right and following the signs to the Furnace Stack Area, turn left. Pass the Furnace Stack and turn left into a large gravel parking lot. A large pavilion will be on the left and restroom will be on the right).

b. From the west: From US-30 between Gettysburg and Chambersburg, turn onto Hwy 233/Pine Grove Rd. Go 13.7 miles. Pass the entrance to Caledonia State Park. Cross Shippensburg Rd (road sign points right to Arendtsville and left to Shippensburg). Pass the Ironmaster’s Hostel and turn right onto Bendersville Rd. Pass the Appalachian Trail Museum on the left and the General Store on the right. Turn left following the signs to the Furnace Stack Area. Pass the Furnace Stack and park in the gravel area between the pavilion and the restrooms.

c. From the east: From Rt 34 between Biglerville and Mt Holly Springs, turn onto Hwy 233/Pine Grove Road. Go 6.7 miles. At the Pine Grove Furnace State Park Office, Rt 233 turns right. Stay on Pine Grove Road. Pass the Appalachian Trail Museum on the left and the General Store on the right. Turn left following the signs to the Furnace Stack Area. Pass the Furnace Stack and park in the gravel area between the pavilion and the restrooms.

Parking: Park in the large parking lot between the Pavilion and the Restrooms. To the right of the restrooms, there are a few parking spots marked “Appalachian Trail”. Leave these spaces for hikers camping overnight.

Walk Descriptions:

The 0.9K Historic Trail is within the historical area of the park and passes the General Store, Appalachian Trail (AT) Museum, and Park Office.

The 5K Koppenhaver Walk consists of the Historic Trail plus the 4K Koppenhaver Trail. It does not qualify for the AVA Appalachian Trail Special Program.

The 10K Appalachian Trail Walk uses the Historic Trail plus does a loop by taking the AT up to the Pole Steeple Vista, the Pole Steeple Trail down to Laurel Lake, and then the Old Railroad Bed Rd back to the Historic Area of the Park.

Walkers may obtain 14K credit by doing the Historic Trail once, the Koppenhaver Walk, and the Appalachian Trail Walk.

None of the walks are suitable for wheel chairs and strollers. The Koppenhaver Walk is rated 1C and the Appalachian Trail Walk is rated 3C.

AVA Special Programs:

Special programs this walk qualifies for:

- Anniversary Hurrah
- Appalachian Trail
- Par for the Course (playground past Fuller Lake)
- Rails to Trails (Cumberland County Hiker/Biker Trail)
- Walk the USA, A-Z (“G” for Gardner)
- KSVA Counties Program (Cumberland)

Restrooms:

- The restrooms at the Furnace Stack Parking Lot are open year round.
- The restrooms at the Pine Grove Furnace General Store are usually open only when the General Store is open.
- The bathhouses at Fuller Lake and Laurel Lake are seasonal and usually open only when the lakes are open for swimming (between Memorial Day Weekend and Labor Day Weekend).

Walk Completion and Credit: Be sure to log back into the OSB system to finish/complete your online registration after doing the event. The OSB system does not deduct any event fee from a participant’s Event Bank until they have submitted event completion info including the date the event was walked, the distance walked, and the selection of applicable special programs that person is participating in. Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded PDF is deducted from the user’s Event Bank when the PDF is downloaded. Later, any PDF fees are credited back to a user’s Event Bank when he/she submits the event completion info as a paying for credit participant. Note, however, the \$2 coupon for the downloaded PDF will expire in 60 days.

2026 Pine Grove Furnace State Park – 5, 10, & 14K

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Emergency Phone Number: 911 or State Park at (717) 486-7174

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Driving directions from Rutters to Pine Grove Furnace:

- A. Depart Rutters and turn left on US30/Lincoln Hwy. You will cross the AT.
- B. Go 2.3 miles and turn left at the traffic light onto Hwy 233/Pine Grove Rd. Pass the entrance to Caledonia State Park.
- C. Go another 7.1 miles (total of 9.4) and cross Shippensburg Rd (road sign points right to Arendtsville and left to Shippensburg).
- D. Go another 6 miles (total of 15.4), pass the Ironmasters Hostel, and turn right.
- E. Pass the Appalachian Trail Museum on the left and the General Store on the right. Turn left following the signs to the Furnace Stack Area.
- F. Pass the Furnace Stack and park in the gravel area between the pavilion and the restrooms.

0.9K Historic Area Trail

This trail must be done with the Koppenhaver Trail for 5K credit. It must also be done with the Appalachian Trail for 10K credit.

1. The start is from the front of the restrooms in the Furnace Stack Area. From the restrooms, veer left through the parking lot.

2. Turn right on the paved road (Quarry Road)

Pass the furnace stack.

The cold-blast furnace was the heart of Pine Grove. The furnace operation was changed and modernized several times; however, the essential ingredients of iron production remained the same. Native ore was the source of iron. Charcoal provided the heat to smelt the iron ore. Limestone was used as a flux to separate ore impurities from the molten iron. These three ingredients were loaded into the top of this stack.

Near the base of the furnace, the tuyere arch provided a space through which blasts of air were forced. At first, a waterwheel powered the bellows; later a steam powered blowing engine was installed.

When the furnace was “tapped”, molten iron was drawn from the base of the stack into sand canals to form pig iron bars. Skilled molders also ladled molten iron into tightly-packed sand molds to create hollowware and decorative stove plates.

3. Turn right at the “T” intersection (stop sign) at Bendersville Road.

Pass Paymaster’s Office on right and the Iron Master’s Mansion Hostel on the left.

Records of furnace materials, furnace output and workers’ wages were kept in the Paymasters Office. As years passed, the office was used by the South Mountain Railroad, the Hunter’s Run and Slate Belt

Railroad, and the Fuller Slate and Brick Company. It is now used as a rental cabin by the state park.

Traditionally, ironmasters and their families lived in large mansions (The “Big House”) that overlooked the furnace operation. The Pine Grove mansion was home to several members of the Ege family. Members of the Ege family were also successful ironmasters at the Carlisle and Boiling Spring furnaces.

The Mansion was a stop on the Underground Railroad. The basement has a secret chamber that is only accessible via an entrance in a closet.

Pass Pine Grove Furnace Store on the left.

This building was originally the stable for the mules and horses that worked at the Ironworks. The Pine Grove Furnace Store is now best known as where the Appalachian Trail (AT) Thru-hikers celebrate reaching the mid-point of the AT by eating a half gallon of ice cream in one sitting.

4. Veer right on the red brick pathway and go to the Appalachian Trail Museum which is located in the old Grist Mill.

The AT Museum, opened in Jun 2010, tells the story of the AT from its inception to the present, including those who hike it, those who maintain it, and everything in between. It is the first and only hiking museum of its kind.

Current exhibits include a trail shelter that was built by hiker legend and York County native Earl Shaffer. The shelter, which has been replaced with a more modern one, was painstakingly disassembled at its former site on Peters Mountain in Pennsylvania and reassembled in the new Museum. In addition, there are artifacts that belonged to other hiking pioneers such as Grandma Gatewood, Gene Espy, and Ed Garvey.

The grist mill housed the large stones used to grind the grain grown on company-owned cropland. A waterwheel was located at the rear of the building. Races were dug to channel water from the streams to the mill. Traces of the race for the mill remain across the road above the mill.

5. After visiting the museum, take the steps down to the basement level. Follow the path downhill.

6. Turn left on the gravel driveway and go uphill to the front of the large, white wooden building (Park Office/Visitor Center)

The Park Office was originally the second Ironmasters Mansion. The Park Office contains a gift shop and a nature museum

7. Depart the Park Office and retrace your steps through the parking lot and the gravel driveway. Go downhill and return to the restrooms where you started from. (.9K)

4K Koppenhaver Walk (must also do the **0.9K Historic Trail** for **5K credit**). (Note this walk does not qualify for the **AVA Appalachian Trail Special Program**).

1. The start is from the front of the restrooms in the Furnace Stack Area. From the restrooms, veer left through the parking lot.

2. Turn left on the paved path and go around the yellow barrier. A wooden sign on the right says “Appalachian Trail Maine to Georgia”.

Continue to follow the asphalt path and white blazes marking the AT.

The asphalt path is following the route of the former South Mountain Railroad.

Pass picnic area and parking lot on the left.

Pass brown wooden Snack Bar building on right (seasonal restrooms).

The asphalt path will become gravel. Pass gravel road going left and uphill towards maintenance building.

After the gravel path bends right, there is a short gravel path going right towards several picnic tables.

3. At this path, turn left and go across the center of the grass field towards a wide grass path.

Pass sign for Koppenhaver Trail and cross the wooden bridge (0.9 K).

4. Immediately turn left and follow the Koppenhaver Trail as makes a large circle back to this bridge.

The Koppenhaver Trail is marked with yellow blazes and there are directional signs at most intersections.

Cross the bridge (2.7 K) and go across the grass field.

5. Turn left on the gravel path.

Cross the bridge with brown metal railings.

6. At Fuller Lake, turn right onto a gravel path. Do not cross the wooden bridge to the left.

Fuller Lake was originally the iron ore pit. Groundwater became a problem as the hole approached 90 feet in depth. After furnace operations ceased, the hole gradually filled with water.

7. Cross white sandy beach and veer left on gravel trail passing a playground.

Pass small wooden building on left (restrooms).

8. Go around yellow barrier and turn right on paved road.

Cross bridge with yellow metal railings.

9. Turn right into gravel parking area and finish at the restrooms (3.8 K)

Special programs this walk qualifies for:
- Par for the Course (playground past Fuller Lake)
- Walk the USA, A-Z (“G” for Gardner)
- KSVA Counties Program (Cumberland)

10K Appalachian Trail Walk

1. Start by doing the .9K Historic Area Trail.

Pass the restrooms where you started from.

2. Turn left on the paved path and go around the yellow barrier. A wooden sign on the right says “Appalachian Trail Maine to Georgia). (.9 K)

Continue to follow the asphalt path and white blazes marking the AT.

Pass picnic area and parking lot on the left.

Pass brown wooden building on right (restrooms – these are the last restrooms until the end of the walk).

3. When asphalt path ends, continue on gravel path following white blazes marking the AT.

Cross wooden bridge with brown metal rails and a second wooden bridge with wooden rails. (The lake is behind you to the right. Later you will return and go straight and pass the lake.)

You are now on the Cumberland County Hiker/Biker Trail which follows the route of the former South Mountain Railroad.

4. Go around the yellow barrier and follow the AT as it makes a right turn and goes uphill and around another yellow barrier).

5. Near the top of the mountain turn left at the trail intersection at a tree with three yellow stripes and a sign for “Pole Steeple”. Immediately turn left onto a blue blazed trail.



6. At a “Y” intersection, the trail to the right goes to the top Pole Steeple (a rock formation) which has great views of the area to the north and Laurel Lake at Pine Grove Furnace State Park.

The trail to the left has a sign for “Laurel Lake” and a log bench. Follow the trail to the left. If you take the trail to the top of Pole Steeple, return to this point and go towards Laurel Lake.



7. At the second “Y” intersection, the sign indicates that the trail to the left is “Less Steep”. A trail crew from the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club has installed stone steps on the trail to the right. This has made the trail to the right much easier.



About half way down the hill is the home of George, a 20” garter snake. George has a really bad attitude. Avoid George! Leave him alone!



8. At the bottom, turn left onto the paved road (unmarked – Cumberland County Hiker/Biker Trail). Pass parking lot and lake on the right.

Pass the end of Laurel Lake. Pass a trail with four upright posts and a bridge. Continue on the paved road.

Pass a pipe with water coming out of it on the left. The water is not treated but many people drink it.

9. Go around the yellow barrier (9.3K) and continue on the gravel path following the white blaze markers for the AT.

10. Cross a wooden bridge and continue with Fuller Lake on the left.

Fuller Lake was originally the iron ore pit. Groundwater became a problem as the hole approached 90 feet in depth. After furnace operations ceased, the hole gradually filled with water.

11. Cross white sandy beach and veer left on gravel trail passing a playground.

Pass small wooden building on left (restrooms).

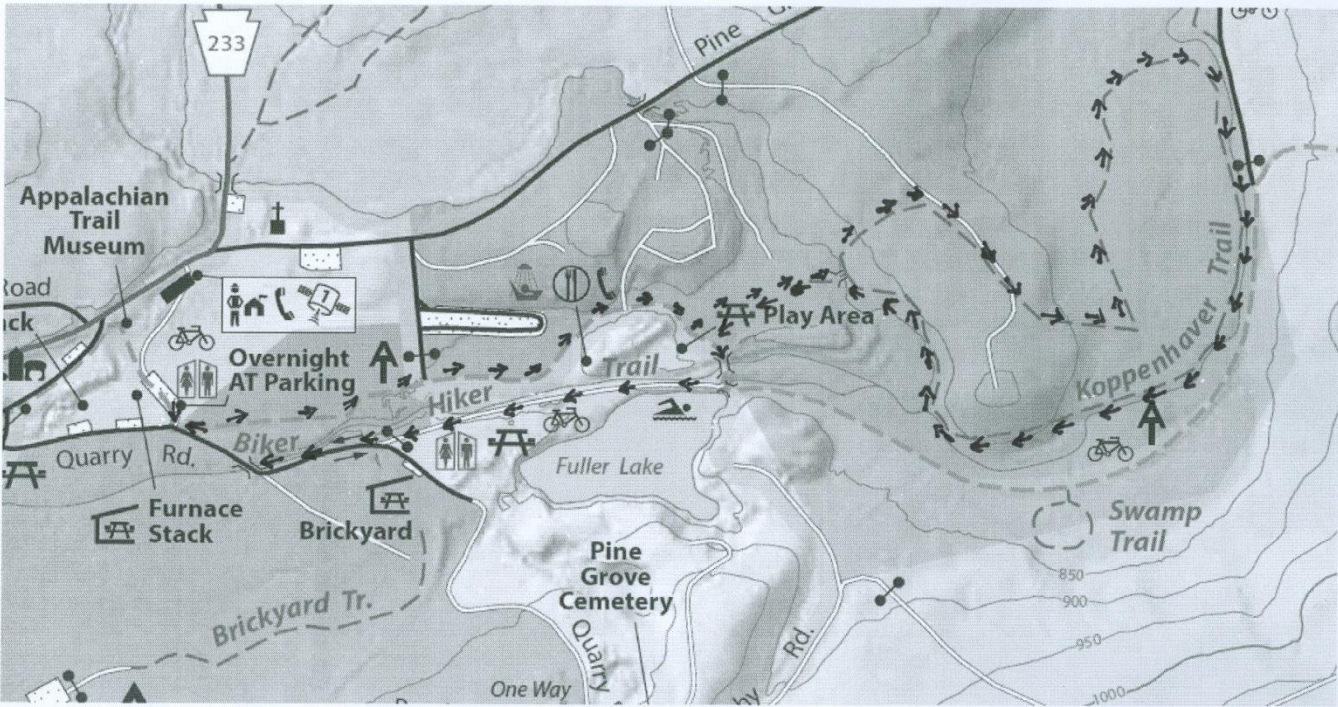
12. Go around yellow barrier and veer right on paved road.

Cross bridge with yellow metal railings.

13. Turn right into gravel parking area and finish at the restrooms (3.8 K)

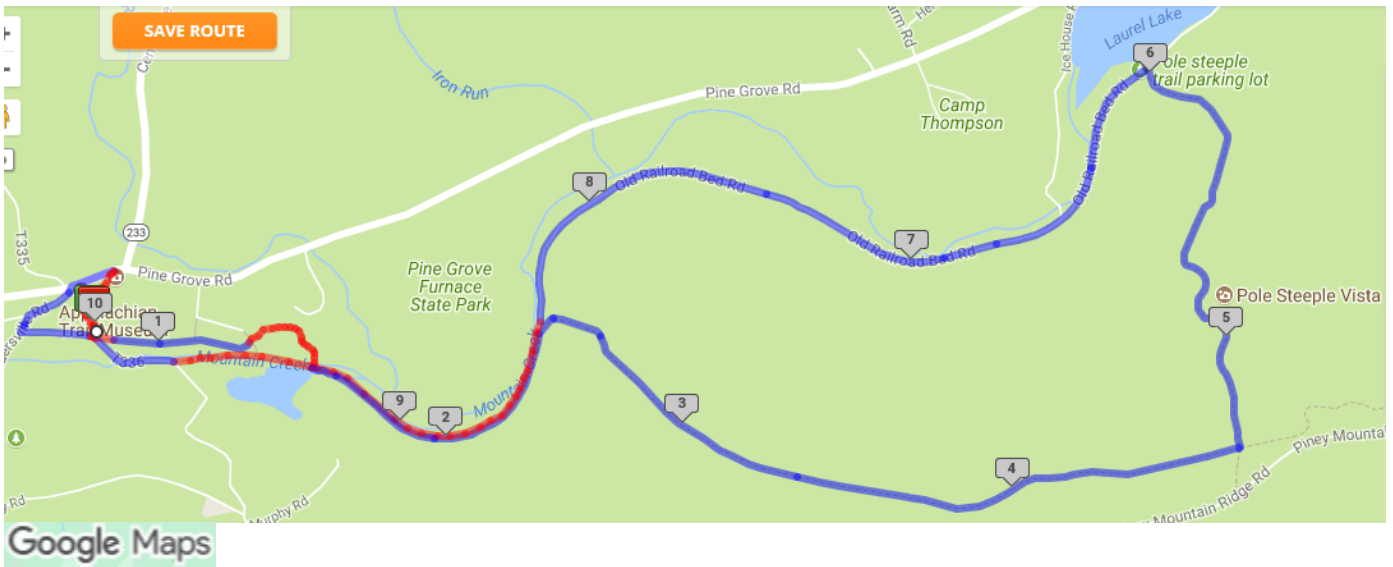
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4K KOPPENHAVER TRAIL

PA DCNR Brochure



10K Appalachian Trail Walk

