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**National Trails Day Backpacking Adventure**

**Mohawk Trail – Appalachian Trail Loop**

Thank you for joining Reach Your Summit in the first ever backpacking adventure to celebrate National Trails Day (CT Trails Weekend)! I’m excited that you will be a part of this event and look forward to hitting the trails with you. Below you will find our group itinerary and a separate gear list spreadsheet document for this specific trip. The gear list is meant to give you an idea of what you may want to consider bringing with you and, aside from specific “brands,” is what I will be personally bringing with me. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me. Thanks! – Mat Jobin, owner/guide

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**Trip Logistics**

**Trip Date:** Saturday June 3, 2017 – Sunday June 4, 2017

**Trip Time:** 9:30am (June 3) – 6:00pm (June 4)

**Trip Duration:** 32 ½ hours

**Group Size:** 10 people

**Meeting Location:** Rte 7 Parking Lot in Cornwall Bridge, CT (GPS Coordinates: 41.8214130, -73.3756910)

**Trip Location(s):** Cornwall Bridge, Cornwall, Falls Village, Sharon, Ellsworth

**Weather:** TBD

**Know Before You Go**

**Rules & Regulations:** Permit required for camping in designated spots on Mohawk (I have the necessary permits for entire group for this trip). Campfires permitted in designated rings only on Mohawk, not allowed on the AT. Leave No Trace Principles.

**Daylight:** 15 hours 3 mins – Sunrise: 5:21am, Sunset: 8:20pm (Sat.)

**Temperature:** Avg High – 79F Avg Low – 53F, Record High – 98F Record Low 31F

**Precipitation:** Avg 4.17” of rain

**Ground Cover:** Rocky, rooty terrain, some pavement

**Vegetation:** High grasses possible, mountain laurel, rhododendron bushes along trail

**Sun Exposure:** Minimal due to constant tree cover

**Wildlife & Insects:** Black bear, bobcat, red fox, deer, “mini bears”, snakes, ticks, mosquitoes, horse flies, bees, hornets

**Remoteness:** Minimally remote in some areas, cross roads after every few miles, may see hikers on AT

**Possible Natural Hazards:** Trees down, water crossings, quick passing strong thunderstorms, wind

(The **Know Before You Go** section above works in relation to the planned gear list for this trip. It is meant to help achieve trip objectives, provide safety and comfort, and avoid redundancy which can lead to extra weight, bulk or possibly leaving items behind accidentally.)

**Itinerary**

**First Day (roughly 19.8 miles of hiking)**

- Meet at our meeting location 9:30am

- Make introductions

- Check personal gear, supplies & make final decisions

- Begin hiking (discuss foot care, wildlife precautions & encounters, first aid)

- Short Lunch On Top of Mohawk Mountain (15 mins)

- Water refill East Branch of Shepaug River (State Forest entrance) (discuss water quality & treatment)

- Water refill (alt) after Overlook Mountain

- Snack break near Lake Rd

- Arrive at camp 6:00pm (+/- 30 mins) (GPS Coordinates: 41.91105, -73.32452), learn and discuss campsite selection, campsite setup, bear bag hanging, fire starting, stove usage, meal prep and dinner

(This designated campsite does have a lean-to that can sleep up to 6 hikers. You may sleep there if you’d like, though **I would like for all hikers on this trip to still carry a personal backup shelter.** In my experience, a shelter can be full, may be temporarily closed or may not give you the adequate protection you can get from a personal shelter. It is always good practice to have a backup if needed or desired. This campsite has a designated fire pit, a privy (composting toilet) and a water source nearby.)

- Meal, clean-up, discuss meal planning and layering

- Personal time, group discussion/lights out

**Second Day (roughly 15.2 miles of hiking)**

- Breakfast, campsite breakdown by 9:00am (We may be out sooner if the sunlight wakes us, in which case our finish time will be adjusted. Our group stays together and looks after eachother at all times during this trip so we won’t be leaving until everyone is all set to go.)

- Begin hiking (9:05am)

- Enjoy the view of Dean’s Ravine

- Discuss basic navigation

- Short lunch atop Mt Easter (15 mins)

- Water refill near Pine Swamp

- Water refill (alt) Carse Brook

- Discuss gear repair

- Take in view from Pine Knob (Quick snack break)

- Water refill Hatch Brook

- Arrive at parking lot 6:00pm (+/- 1 hour) (GPS Coordinates: 41.8214130, -73.3756910)

- Sort through personal gear

- Goodbyes