

# Oct Pathfinder Pathways...

A Publication of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Pathfinders

October 2007

## 57 Cents

Here is a truly inspirational story.....

A sobbing little girl stood near a small church from which she had been turned away because it was too crowded. "I can't go to Sunday School," she sobbed to the pastor as he walked by.

Seeing her shabby, unkempt appearance, the pastor guessed the reason and, taking her by the hand, took her inside and found a place for her in the Sunday School class. The child was so touched that she went to bed that night thinking of the children who have no place to worship Jesus.



Some two years later, this child lay dead in one of the poor tenement buildings and the parents called for the kind-hearted pastor, who had befriended their daughter, to handle the final arrangements.

As her poor little body was being moved, a worn and crumpled purse was found which seemed to have been rummaged from some trash dump. Inside was found 57 cents and a note scribbled in childish handwriting which read, "This is to help build the little church bigger so more children can go to Sunday School".

For two years she had saved for this offering of love.

When the pastor tearfully read that note, he knew instantly what he would do. Carrying this note and the cracked, red pocketbook to the pulpit, he told the story of her unselfish love and devotion. He challenged his deacons to get busy and raise enough money for the larger building.

But the story does not end there! A newspaper learned of the story and published it. It was read by a realtor who offered them a parcel of land worth many thousands. When told that the church could not pay so much, he offered it for 57 cents.

Church members made large donations. Checks came from far and wide. Within five years the little girl's gift had increased to \$250,000.00 – a huge sum for that time

(near the turn of the century). Her unselfish love had paid large dividends.

When you are in the city of Philadelphia, look up Temple Baptist Church, with a seating capacity of 3,300 and Temple University, where hundreds of students are trained. Have a look, too, at the Good Samaritan Hospital and at a Sunday School building which houses hundreds of Sunday scholars, so that no child in the area will ever need to be left outside during Sunday School time. In one of the rooms of this building may be seen the picture of the sweet face of the little girl whose 57 cents, so sacrificially saved, made such remarkable history. Alongside of it is a portrait of her kind pastor, Dr. Russel H. Conwell, author of the book, "Acres of Diamonds" -- a true story.

-- Author Unknown --

## Outreach Activity Ideas

Adopt a "grandfriend" Write your "grandfriend" a letter or write letters for an elderly person. Spend time reading with your grandfriend.



## Counselor's Corner Pathfinder Reading Requirements



This website has links to many of the reading requirements for the AY Class Levels. Links to all the Bible texts in the Daily Bible Reading, links to online books and current newspaper articles are also available. Fabulous resource that will save Counselors HOURS of work.

<http://users.erols.com/vathomas/reading.php>

Life is like a ten-speed bike. Most of us have gears we never use.

- Charles Schulz

## Safety Tip

### How to safely cross a stream

The mountains are very beautiful and serene but can also be a very dangerous place. The landscape offers much to absorb but do not allow the beauty and the natural environment to lull you into feeling totally safe. The fact that your wilderness areas and National parks are monitored by Rangers and others does not mean that you should relax and not be on your toes. Many people fail to realize that these areas, even though protected are still wilderness areas that include wild animals, killer storms and also unstable waterways.



A remarkable number of drownings have occurred in the back country and even the most experienced hiker and backpacker is not immune. Safety

is a key issue and knowing first hand what to do and how to cross a stream will give you the edge on saving a life; possibly yours.

Never underestimate the force of the water. Sure, it may look calm and serene and you may even be able to see the bottom of the stream in spots but remember the undercurrent. Undercurrent is just that, a current that moves swiftly under the surface of the water. Undercurrent can sweep you downstream in minutes and also take you underwater and hold you there. Water that moves at five to seven miles per hour, or seven feet per second carries over a hundred pounds of pressure per square foot. This means that once an undercurrent takes hold the pressure of the water holds you there and literally crushes you.

To bring up the obvious and say use a bridge if available may seem unnecessary but many will avoid a natural or man made bridge for the experience of crossing the water itself. That bridge is there for a reason; please do not avoid it but stick to your safety knowledge and first test the bridge for stability, then cross once you have determined it is safe.

If you do have occasion to cross through water always cross upstream and try to cross in the morning when the water is much calmer. This theory works provided the waterway your crossing is not at or close to flooding stage and there have been no recent large rains in the area.

Usually people will carry extra footwear for crossing, like an old pair of boots or tennis shoes. Many use surf shoes that are designed for water wear purposes. Do not try to cross barefoot because of sharp invisible items that may

be lurking underneath. It is best to cross in boots with no socks. Always be sure to unhook your pack while crossing because if you were to fall and not be able to get out of your pack, the weight of that pack will carry you under.

Some people believe that the safest way to cross a stream that is deep or swift is to use ropes.

This is a dangerous practice; period. If someone should happen to stumble and go under there is no way to pull the victim to safety as they are being pulled upstream. If the victim is lucky the current will push them upward but that is not something you can depend on. More likely the rope will snag on a rock and then there is only one direction to go and that is down and of course under. Some will also argue that to have to spotters on each side of the rope is better, but again I caution not to do this.

This method is even more dangerous because if the person crossing stumbles then the current can cause the rope to become V shaped and each side will keep the victim from being pulled ashore. Neither spotter will have the strength against the current to pull against it and again the victim goes down. Never use ropes to cross any stream.

When crossing, the best way to accomplish your task is to cross at the narrowest points of the stream. Try not to just plunge in, but keep as dry as possible. Again with this method you may want to cross at a narrow point where the current is not showing signs of being strong at all. If at all possible find the shallow point of the stream and if you are lucky to find all these points together then you're on your way. Avoid crossing very rocky areas. Rocks can become very mossy and this can lead to your slipping and going under and possibly badly injuring yourself.



Also choose to cross in an area where the bank on the other side is not too steep or high. Climbing up these slopes can endanger your life. The possibility of falling backwards is high with the extra weight of your pack and these banks are usually slippery and unstable. Be sure to scour both sides of the stream and focus on all aspects of crossing before attempting to cross.

While in any wilderness area be sure to keep in mind your safety plan and utilize it to insure the safety of yourself and others in your party.

*Nothing changes more constantly than the past; for the past that influences our lives does not consist of what actually happened, but what men believe happened.*

-Gerald W. Johnson

## Camping Quick Tarp Shelter

A properly erected rain tarp can make all the difference in the world if you are stuck camping during rainy weather. If you have a tarp, you can sit, cook or relax in relative comfort in the foulest of weather. If you don't, you're going to be spending a lot of time in your tent.

Some campers carry a lightweight 10' x 12' tarp made of ripstop nylon and that has brass grommets around the perimeter. Although it was expensive when compared to the woven "tarps" available, it packs down to a very compact bundle and weighs next to nothing. If you are traveling with a larger group, you might choose to carry two of these.

The most common method of erecting a rain tarp is either "lean-to" style, sloping front to back; or a peaked "tent" style as shown in the photo above.

There is no magic formula for putting up a tarp. Nature doesn't always cooperate by putting four perfectly located trees at the corners where we require them. This means that we sometimes have to be creative about putting up the tarp. That fourth corner may have to be tied to a tree 50 ft. away, or to a small bush, or to an exposed tree root. Believe me, if it means getting out of a driving rain, you'll come up with some sort of system to get the tarp overhead.

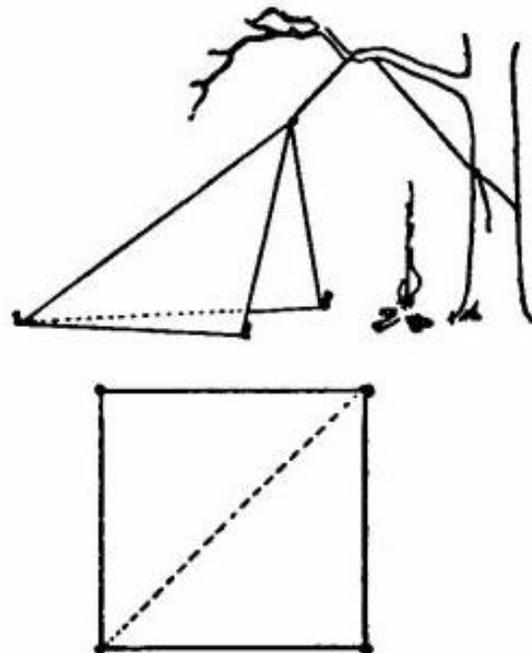
To erect a tarp "lean-to" style, orient the tarp so that the low end is towards the prevailing weather (usually west or northwest). The high end is tied to a rope stretched from tree to tree. The low end is anchored at or close to the ground to help deflect the wind. It is important to stretch the tarp as tight as a drum. If it is not tight, you will have the pleasure of listening to it flap in the breeze all night. A good idea is to make loops of elastic or bungee cord for the tarp grommets so that ropes automatically stay taut.

This type of arrangement can sometimes require a lot of rope. Make sure you don't skimp on the quantity of rope you bring along.

The accompanying sketches show a few of the many different shelters which may be made from any available piece of cloth or canvas. The material need not be cut, nor its usefulness for other purposes impaired, except that rings or tapes are attached at various points as indicated.

In most of the shelters a ring for suspension is fastened at the center of one side. This may be supported by a pole or hung by means of a rope from any convenient fastening; both methods are shown in the sketches. Guy ropes may be required, but most of them are staked down to the ground.

Find a tarpaulin, a tent fly, an awning, or buy some wide cotton cloth, say 90-inch. All the shapes may be repeatedly made from the same piece of material, if the rings for changes are left attached. If your material is a large piece, more stakes and guy lines will be required than is indicated in the sketches. The suspension ring, 1 or 2 inches in diameter, should be well fastened, with sufficient reinforcement to prevent tearing out; 1-inch rings fastened with liberal lengths of tape are large enough for the stakes and guy lines. Also reinforce along the lines of the strain from peg to pole.



**Fig. 1. Tent from a square of canvas. A 7 x 7 sheet is ample for a one-man shelter; 9 x 9 will house two**

**Fig. 1.-**A square of material hung by one corner, from any convenient support, in a manner to make a comfortable shelter; it will shed rain and reflect heat. This square makes a good fly or a good ground cloth for any of the tents.

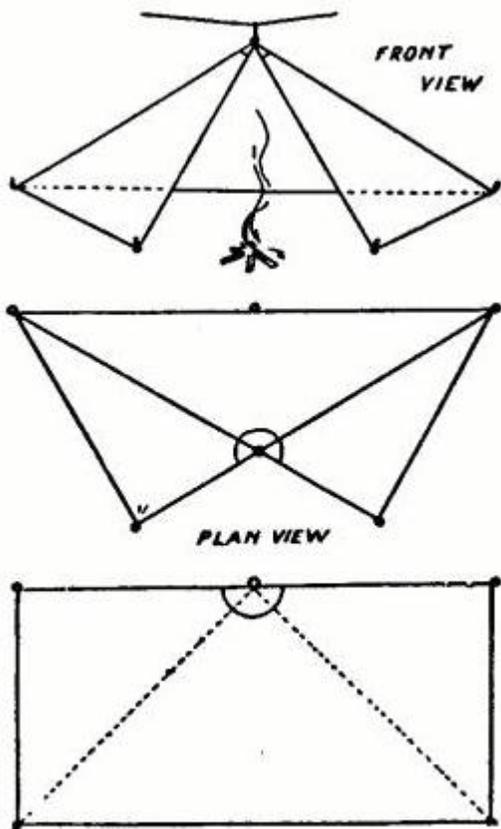


Fig. 2. Rectangle tent

Fig. 2.- A rectangle equal to two squares. A shelter roomy and warm, with part of one side open toward the fire.

<http://www.elbtipi.com/tent.htm>

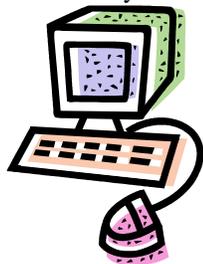
<http://www.purcelltrench.com/tarptips.htm>

<http://www.myccr.com/SectionTechnique/TheTrip/RainTarps.htm>

<http://www.angelfire.com/ia3/camping/tarps.htm#always>

## Computer Connection PowerPoint Presentations

Do you ever have to do presentations or would you like to put honor information into a PowerPoint slide show? Here's a website that has great information and tips. There are tips on how to create your own backgrounds, themes, and templates. There are also tips on writing and organizing the content for your presentation. You can sign up to get the monthly tip newsletter emailed to you.



<http://www.ellenfinkelstein.com/powerpoint.html>



If the first button of one's coat is wrongly buttoned, all the rest will be crooked.

- Giordano Bruno

## Knot this Month

### Making a knot board

Below is an example of a way to make a knot board. When teaching Pathfinders how to tie knots it's helpful to have a knot board or 2 around. A lot of the Pathfinders keep asking "is this right?" when they haven't got anything close to right! With the knot board you can simply ask them if they think it looks like what's on the knot board.



If you take a cork notice board sold with frame and pin your knots with sewing pins or tacks, you can use it for instructions. Here they used brass dolls-house nails.

On the brown cork bright colors were used, and as many different knots as possible were tied. There are some braids in the middle, practical knots to one side and fancy knots and mats to the other.

You can use whatever cord you want and make whatever layout works best for your needs and if you want you can make name-tags for of each of the knots.

[http://www.home.zonnet.nl/willeke\\_igkt/tables/knotboard\\_table-1.html](http://www.home.zonnet.nl/willeke_igkt/tables/knotboard_table-1.html)

*We should give as we would receive, cheerfully, quickly, and without hesitation; for there is no grace in a benefit that sticks to the fingers.*

- Seneca

## Nature Nugget

### Webs and Their Weavers

Among nature's beautiful designs, few can surpass the intricate beauty of a spider web glistening with dew drops in the early morning sun. And few are so immediately and obviously functional. To watch a fly's unsuccessful twistings and turnings in the sticky strands of a web is to observe what an effective device a web can be for trapping food for its maker.

To many, the spider is far less worthy of admiration than its web, but in fact, they are marvelous creatures. Here's an activity designed to encourage the Pathfinders to notice as many different spiders and webs as possible.

### Spider Hunt

Divide older children into pairs, younger children into small groups with a leader. Each group receives a Spider Hunt Card with the following list:

- A spider on a web.
- A spider not on a web (search flowers).
- An insect caught in a web.
- Part of a web that is sticky (look for liquid beads on the web, or lightly touch it).
- Part of a web not sticky.
- A web shaped like sheet with a funnel on one side.
- A web near the ground.
- A web in the corner of a building
- A web in a tree or bush.
- A web shaped like a wheel.
- A messy web.
- A spider egg case.

They should try to find as many items as possible, within set boundaries and a given time limit.

### Spider Sensations

**Objective:** To show how web-spinning spiders know by touch rather than by sight when they've captured prey in their webs.

Divide into groups of 6 and give each a wooden block, with yarn strands attached, to put on the floor. Designate one chilled to be the spider, crouched next to the block with eyes blindfolded, and the remaining 5 to be insects, who each take one strand of yarn and radiate out in all directions from the spider. The strands should be held taut, next to but not touching the ground. The spider's hands rest lightly on top of them in order to feel any vibrations. Leader points to one insect who plucks its strand once. The spider crawls to the end of the strand which moved, captures the insect and then they change places. If the wrong insect was captured, the spider gets one more try.

## Camp Cooking

### Cheesy Potato Wedges

12" Camp Dutch Oven

- 4 Russet potatoes
- ½ pound butter
- 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon seasoned salt
- Parsley flakes

Wash potatoes and cut each one into 8 wedges. Melt butter in Dutch oven. Coat potato wedges with butter on both sides. Arrange in the Dutch oven in a circular pattern. Mix cheese and spices and sprinkle over the potatoes. Sprinkle with parsley flakes and bake with 1/3 of the coals on the bottom and 2/3 of them on the top until you can pierce the potatoes easily with a fork. Watch the bottom heat; you may have to finish baking from the top. Don't overcook. Serves 4 to 6.

*Lodge Camp Dutch Oven Cooking 101*

### Hike of the Month

*'The journey is the destination'*

### Spruce Mountain Loop

The Spruce Mountain overnight loop is an outstanding two-night trip that covers a wide variety of terrain and trail conditions while offering a good opportunity for solitude. It must be noted, however, that a portion of the loop requires a short connection down a lightly used gravel road, which is closed to traffic in the winter. You'll leave the grassy [Cataloochee Valley](#) and ascend to the spruce-fir high country. Hikers with sharp eyes can spot the valley below to mark their progress.



The trip begins at the Big Fork Ridge trailhead with an immediate crossing over Rough Fork on a footbridge. Shortly, the trail passes an old pioneer farm site, as evidenced by the fields now being reclaimed by the forest.

Begin ascending the ridge, winding upwards to reach a gap in Big Fork Ridge at mile 1.7. Pass through the gap and enter the watershed of Caldwell Fork. Soon you'll hear its noisy waters. A footbridge makes for a dry crossing of Caldwell Fork. Climb briefly away from the creek to intersect the Caldwell Fork Trail at mile 3.1.

Turn right and follow the trail up along Caldwell Fork. Heavy horse traffic often renders this trail muddy. At mile 3.2, pass the McKee Branch Trail junction. A small side

trail leads uphill to a gravesite at mile 3.4. Two Union soldiers lie buried there. Continuing on, intersect the Hemphill Bald Trail at mile 4.5. Cross Double Gap Branch and arrive at the Caldwell Fork backcountry campsite, #41, at mile 4.6. This is your first night's destination.

The site offers many camping areas, either under shady hemlocks or out in the open at the former homesite. Explore the area, looking for signs of the early pioneers. Leave all artifacts in their place, as they comprise a living archaeological exhibit.

### Day Two: Tall Trees

After spending your first night out, proceed up the Caldwell Fork Trail as it begins to climb away from its namesake. At mile 5.2, come to a sign marking the side trail to the "Big Poplars." Nowadays, the prevailing term for these giants is "Tulip Tree," but no matter what you call them, these trees are huge.

Back on the Caldwell Fork Trail, climb away from the former farmland, passing through old growth forest to a prominent gap and beyond, to intersect the Rough Fork Trail at mile 6.3. Veer left and continue ascending, looking for views of the Cataloochee Valley below. At mile 7.8, come to an old railroad grade that makes for easy walking. Fragrant red spruces start to crop up, and Polls Gap and its parking area appear at mile 9.8.

Turn right and follow the rutted and rocky Polls Gap Trail up the ridge to top out on Cataloochee Balsam (elevation 5,970 feet) at mile 11.4. Leave the mountaintop, clambering over the many blown-down trees. After passing through Horse Creek Gap, the trail climbs again to Chiltoes Mountain at mile 13.0.

Turn right down the short side trail that is marked by a sign, at mile 14.2, to reach the Spruce Mountain backcountry campsite, #42. This is a small, lightly used camp, one of the higher backcountry sites in the park, lying over a mile high in elevation. A trail at the lower edge of the camp leads to a spring.

### Day Three: Rhododendron Tunnel

After a night in the cool high country, return to the Polls Gap Trail, turn right and continue 1 mile to intersect the Spruce Mountain Trail. (To the right, 1 mile distant, lays the top of Spruce Mountain and the former site of a fire tower, which makes a nice day trip from campsite #42.) Follow the Spruce Mountain Trail down to the left 1 mile to Balsam Mountain Road at mile 15.3 of your loop. Turn right on the gravel road and follow it 1.8 miles to the Palmer Creek Trail on the right. The trail quickly descends through a long rhododendron tunnel that emerges into a more open forest.

At mile 18.7, cross Beech Creek. Then, as the Palmer Creek valley narrows, cross Lost Bottom Creek on a log at mile 19.3. Continuing to descend, the Palmer Creek Trail intersects the Pretty Hollow Trail after crossing Pretty Hollow Creek on another log at mile 20.4.

Turn right, following Pretty Hollow Creek on a wide jeep trail through some clearings, passing the Little Cataloochee Trail junction at mile 20.9. A mere 0.8 mile farther is the loop's end at Cataloochee Road. Follow the road up the valley a short ways and return to your vehicle.

### Getting There

Leave I-40 at exit 20 to NC 276. In a short distance reach Cove Creek Road, which you follow nearly 6 miles to enter the park. Travel 2 miles beyond the park boundary, then turn left onto Cataloochee Road. Follow it to the end. The Big Fork Ridge Trail is on the left just before you reach the parking area.

Information from Gorp.com – [Spruce Mountain Loop](#)

## Children's Letters to God

Dear God, Did you mean for the giraffe to look like that or was it an accident.--Norma



Dear God,  
Please send me a pony. I never asked for anything before, You can look it up. - Bruce

Dear God,  
Thank you for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy - Joyce

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