

OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL ASSOCIATION



2009 Reenactment Schedule



www.ovta.org

Our Vision: *The Overmountain Victory Trail Association shall forever preserve & commemorate the route and the story of the volunteer army whose victory at the Battle of King's Mountain was a turning point in the struggle for America's independence. The OVTA will ensure the trail will provide the opportunity to experience a deep sense of these events, the lands on which they occurred, and of the people who lived them.*

Our Mission: *The Overmountain Victory trail Association will protect, preserve and interpret the route of the Overmountain Men to the Battle of Kings Mountain.*

General Information:

The annual reenactment of the Campaign to Kings Mountain is **NOT** a backpacking wilderness experience. It is a combination of woods trail, road walking and car camping. Most of the roads the Overmountain Men followed in 1780 have become the roads of today. Of the 258 miles from Abingdon to Kings Mountain, less than 100 miles remain that can be safely walked because of highway traffic and speed. Over the years, a “reenactment route” has emerged that offers walkers a chance to get off highways and into the woods or on back roads. There are some 40 miles of off-road walking—much of that on remnants of the original roadbeds.

The marchers come together at each night’s campsite. The next morning, we follow the Trail on to the next campsite, shuttle back for our vehicles and then repeat the process over again all the way down the trail.

We do take frequent breaks—usually every hour or so—to give everyone a chance to rest. On the more difficult segments everyone is allowed to walk at their own pace. Most people find the trail becomes less difficult and demanding as the March progresses because the terrain becomes easier once we cross the mountains and conditioning is improved by the daily walking.

The atmosphere of the reenactment is informal with a strong sense of camaraderie developing quickly. Participants expect each person to be able to take care of themselves. The marchers respect the individuality of each other and recognize that people come to the march for different reasons and take different experiences back home with them. Participants are free to find their own niche providing they stay within the safety guidelines, common sense and courtesy.

Liability: OVTA carries liability insurance. However, it is the responsibility of each participant to act and conduct themselves safely and with respect for others to minimize the risks of accidents or incidents.

This narrative sets forth the rules, policies and expectations for everyone participating in the March. **Each participant in the reenactment will be asked to sign a release form.**

Daily Schedules: Each day begins with a wakeup call at 6:00 AM followed by breakfast about 7:00 AM. The days march begins at 8:00 AM. **You Must Be Ready To Depart At 8:00 AM Sharp!** Lunch is some time around midday. Supper is between 5:30 and 7:00 PM. While there is no set bedtime, quiet-time in camp begins at 10PM.

Weather: You should be prepared for almost any weather conditions ranging from scorching heat to freezing temperatures to drizzle and heavy rains

Vehicles: Having your own vehicle is a necessity. Otherwise, you must rely on someone else to store and transport your possessions and equipment as well as finding yourself a ride.

Vehicle shuttles are usually done in the afternoon after reaching that day’s campsite. Generally, County Marshals are responsible for getting the marchers back to their vehicles to run the shuttle. We will make all group movements in convoy. Please follow these procedures:

1. A front and rear vehicle that knows the route to the destination will be selected. Please stay between these two vehicles.
2. Do not run red lights or stop signs. All rules of the road and liability still apply.
3. Be aware of non-convoy vehicles—especially if they cut into the convoy (don’t follow the wrong car).

4. Keep the car ahead and behind you in sight. If the car behind you falls back for some reason, slow down to ensure you keep it in sight. This will help adjust the speed of the entire convoy and keep everyone together.
5. If you get stopped at a red light or stop sign--especially while going through towns--**DON'T PANIC!** The vehicles in front of you will likely stop and wait when they notice you are gone. If not, you will have a vehicle behind you that knows the way and can take over the lead. If you do pull over for some reason, make sure it is safe to do so and that there is enough room for all the vehicles behind you to pull off also.
6. Those who are familiar with the route and wish to make a stop are asked to not join in the convoy. Otherwise, they might confuse those behind them when they pull off.

Programs: Programs are given to schools and community groups along the trail to educate people about the significance of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail and the contribution the Overmountain Men made in winning America's Independence. Every effort has been made to ensure the programs do not interfere with walking off-road segments of the Trail. Programs will range from a basic lecture to demonstrations to an "interactive" format using skits and re-creations to depict historical events.

Since we are indeed interpreting history in our programs, it is important that the participants be authentic in their facts and in their dress. Only those marchers appropriately attired in 18th century period dress will participate in historic programs.

Safety During the Reenactment

Safety is a serious concern during the reenactment since we walk along roads and highways, carry real weapons and are occasionally joined by school children and other groups. We are proud that we have never had a serious injury since the March started in 1975. It is important that all participants understand that any breach of the safety rules will be dealt with quickly and decisively. Safety is the responsibility of every individual. Each participant must be careful to ensure that their actions do not endanger themselves or others. Here are the safety rules.

1. The Grand Marshal and the Safety Marshal are in command of the reenactment. Failure to follow their instructions or directions can result in dismissal from the reenactment, particularly if the safety of others is threatened.
2. Any participant whose behavior disrupts the reenactment or threatens the safety or well-being of others will be asked to leave. Assistance from local law enforcement agencies will be called for if necessary.
3. On walking days, a point and a rear guard will be selected each morning. Please stay between these guards.
4. Do not leave the trail or campsite for any reason, even if for a brief period, without first notifying the Grand Marshal or the Safety Marshal.
5. Do not cross roads until road guards are in position and the command to cross is given.
6. When walking on roads following vehicles or being escorted by local police, keep to the right, walking **with the direction of traffic**. Do not cross the centerline or move to the left of the vehicles. Stay well behind the lead vehicles and well in front of the trailing vehicles.
7. When not escorted by vehicles keep to the shoulder **facing** traffic. Keep off the road and as far from the pavement edge as possible. This seems to be a chronic problem with marchers so please do your best to cooperate.
8. Be alert to passing vehicles. Pass along traffic warnings as needed by calling out "FRONT" or "REAR" to indicate the direction that vehicles are coming from.
9. When marching with school children, be alert to safety problems they may create or find themselves in. Report those problems to their teacher or leader immediately. **It is the responsibility of their teachers or leaders** to supervise the children while they are with us.
10. When marching on off-road trails, be careful, alert and watch your step. While poisonous snakes are rare, yellow jackets, hornets, poison ivy, trip hazards and a myriad of other things that occur naturally in the wild pose risks. Be aware of those risks and act with common sense. Do not drink any water found along the trail unless you treat it first.
11. Participants are asked to complete a medical form indicating whether you have any conditions that we should be aware of. Notify the Grand or Safety Marshal immediately if you have any type of physical or medical problems.
12. "Open" alcohol or controlled substances not prescribed by a doctor are prohibited.
13. Since the marchers live together in close proximity for 2 weeks, respect and decorum are essential to ensure an enjoyable environment for all. Profanity, obscene or off-color talk or inappropriate behavior will not be allowed.

14. Appropriate Age is usually stated as 8 to 80, but anyone who is physically capable of making that day's march is welcome to join us. However, do not count on having "support" vehicles along in which to ride if you tire. This is especially true with children. If you bring children, you will be completely responsible for them. You must ensure that they are well behaved and quiet at the appropriate times and do not become a distraction to other marchers or during programs.

Weapons Safety Rules

1. Only weapons that are representative of the 18th century may be carried on the Trail during the reenactment. This includes firelocks, bayonets, knives, tomahawks or hand axes, sabers, war clubs or other weapons appropriate to the period. NO cap locks are allowed
2. Black Powder Safety regulations presented during training by staff of Cowpens National Battlefield and/or Tennessee State Parks will be used.
3. The opinions, decisions or directives of the Grand Marshal, Safety Marshal or any trained black powder safety officer that is present at any demonstrations, ceremonies or programs shall be final in regards to any safety issues.
4. Each person carrying a firelock on the Trail or participating in any drills, demonstrations, ceremonies or programs must attend a safety briefing that will be conducted several times during the reenactment.
5. Weapon safety is paramount. Anyone handling any weapon in an unsafe or dangerous manner will be asked to put the weapon away or surrender it until the campsite is reached.
6. Any person, who because of physical conditions or limitations cannot safely handle their firelock during any drill or firing demonstration, ceremony or program, will not be allowed to participate.
7. Each individual is ultimately and completely responsible for the control and supervision of their weapons. **No visitors, particularly school children, should be allowed to hold or otherwise handle or touch any weapons of any type.**
8. All firelocks used in firing demonstrations **MUST** pass safety inspections. Safety inspections of each firelock will be held in the morning before the day's march begins and prior to all demonstrations or programs. That inspection includes:
 - a. Ensuring the barrel is empty and free of obstructions
 - b. The lock supports the weight of the weapon while at half-cock
 - c. The lock's cock will hold on full-cock when pushed with the thumb.
 - d. **All** firelocks must be equipped with a hammerstall (leather frizzen cover) and a flash guard.
 - e. Inspection of the gun bag and powder horn to ensure no "contraband" is present.
 - f. Any firelock, in the opinion of the Grand Marshal or Safety Marshal or black powder safety officer that may be present, that is too dirty or fouled or has other mechanical conditions that render it unsafe to be fired or used will be removed from the line.
9. OVTA will provide all black powder in pre-rolled cartridges. **NO black powder will be carried in a powder horn. All powder used in firing demonstrations will be loaded from paper cartridges. All powder horns must be empty! NO EXCEPTIONS!** Those using priming flasks or priming horns will provide their own priming powder.
10. **NO projectiles of any kind, including wadding or any other material, shall be rammed down the barrel at any time during the reenactment. NO RAMMING!**
11. All edged weapons including knives, tomahawks, swords, sabers, etc., are to be sheathed in such a way that no part of the edge is exposed.
12. No ball or other projectile that could be fired from that weapons will be carried during the reenactment. Note: The person "telling the story" may carry rifle and musket balls to demonstrate the difference in size that the opposing forces faced.
13. Anyone handling a weapon in a threatening or intentionally dangerous manner will be immediately reported to local law enforcement.

The 2009 Reenactment Schedule

Following is a day-by-day schedule of the reenactment including a short description of each days walk, logistics and planned activities. **Last minute changes to the schedule will likely occur so please be patient when that happens.**

The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail was a recipient of the National Park's Foundation \$50,000 2009 Active Trails Grant. The grant is being put in the communities to help them develop new or bigger events celebrating the Campaign of the Overmountain Men.

Please understand that OVTA is being called on to participate in many more community celebrations and ceremonies than in the past. As a result, we will have to forego some of the traditional road walking segments to meet those demands.

The 2009 reenactment Campaign Commander is Mike Dahl, 865-850-1797; miked@esper.com. Safety and Logistics during the reenactment will be handled by Fran Dahl, Dan King and Alan Bowen. Contact information for the county marshals and campsites are listed in the schedule in the event your family needs to contract you.

This year, for the very first time, the Nolichucky Settlements Chapter of OVTA will be commemorating John Sevier and the Nolichucky Men giving school programs in the communities along the route followed to Sycamore Shoals.

And lastly, know this. The march will be one of the most unique and memorable experiences of your life. Each participant will have the opportunity to find their place in commemorating the heritage and the Story of the Overmountain Men.

Here we Go!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20: MUSTER AND ENCAMP AT THE ORIGINAL "MUSTER GROUND" IN ABINGDON, VIRGINIA.

Address: 702 Colonial Road SW, Abingdon. No Phone.

Directions to The Muster Ground: Take exit 15 off I-81. Turn left and travel pass McDonalds about 1/2 mile to Highway 11. Turn right onto Highway 11. Go approximately .75 miles to Colonial Road and turn right. There is a sign for the city of Abingdon at this intersection. Follow Colonial road about 1/3 mile. The Muster Ground is on the right.

Washington County Marshal: Blair Keller: (276) 628-3070.

Daily Support: Supper on your own. Showers on site in the carriage house. Stores, gas, laundry & restaurants nearby. **Camping:** Sleep in your vehicle, set up your own tent or local motels.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21:

Abingdon: 9:AM to 2:00PM: Washington, Smith and Russell County, Virginia school programs. Expecting 400+ children each day.

6:00PM: Presentation of Model Trail Community Award to the Town of Abingdon.

Sevier Route:

Greene County Schools: 9:30AM, Chucky Elementary, grades 4 & 5. 1PM, Debusk Elementary, grades 4, 5 & 8.

Washington County Schools: 9:00AM and again at 1PM, Johnson Middle School 8th grade.

Abingdon: Encamp at the Muster Ground.

Sevier Route: Encamp at Davy Crockett Birthplace.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22:

Abingdon: 9:AM to 2:00PM: Washington, Smith and Russell County, Virginia school programs. Expecting 400+ children.

Sevier Route:

Greene County Schools: 9:30AM, Nolichucky Elementary, grades 4 & 5. 12:30PM, Camp Creek Elementary, grade 4 & 5.

Washington County Schools:, 1PM, Lamar Elementary, grade 8.

Abingdon: Encamp at the Muster Ground.

Sevier Route: Encamp at Davy Crockett Birthplace.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23:

Abingdon: 9:AM to 2:00PM: Washington, Smith and Russell County, Virginia school programs. Expecting 400+ children.

Model Trail Community Award presented to the Town of Abingdon.

4:30PM: William Campbell's Gravesite ceremony in Seven Mile Ford. Depart at 3:30PM.

Sevier Route:

Washington County Schools: 1PM, Jonesborough Middle School, grade 8.

7:00PM: Davy Crockett Birthplace, evening telling the story program.

Abingdon: Encamp at the Muster Ground.

Sevier Route: Encamp at Davy Crockett Birthplace.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24: DEPART ABINGDON, VA. ENCAMP AT ROCKY MOUNT STATE HISTORIC AREA IN PINEY FLATS, TN.

Directions to Rocky Mount Campsite: Rocky Mount Historic Site is located on Hyder Road just off US 11E about 5 miles north of Johnson City, Tennessee. There are several directional signs that lead you to the site. There is a large entrance sign on Highway 11E just before you turn onto Hyder Road. The park entrance is about 100 feet up Hyder Road from US 11E. Address is 500 Hyder Road, Piney Flats, TN 37686-4630. The phone number is (423) 538-7396. Rocky Mount was certified as part of the National Historic Trail in 1997.

Planned Activities:

Abingdon:

Breakfast on our own in Abingdon.

8:00 AM: March out of Abingdon, Shuttle to Pemberton Oak for muster and ceremony.

8:30AM: Arrive Pemberton Oak.

10:00AM: Arrive Bluff City Middle School for day long festival. Story telling by stations. **This is an Active Trail Grant funded event.**

4:30PM: Arrive at Rocky Mount. (Note: Rocky Mount will have school programs going on all day. **This is an Active Trail Grant funded event.**)

5:30PM Supper provided at Rocky Mount.

7:00PM: Evening Candle light Tour Program—The Story. **This is an Active Trail Grant funded event.**

Sevier Route:

9:00AM, South Side Elementary School.

1:00 PM, West View Elementary School.

5PM: Plum Grove, John Sevier's home site, evening program, telling the Story.

Abingdon: Encamp Rocky Mount.

Sevier: Encamp at Plum Grove.

Daily Support: Breakfast and lunch on your own. Showers. Hot water. Restrooms. Small convenient stores and gasoline nearby. Larger stores 5 miles away in Johnson City. **Camping:** Camp at Rocky Mount Historic Site: Marchers may pitch a tent, sleep in their vehicles in the parking lot or find a local motel.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25: DEPART ROCKY MOUNT, ENCAMP AT SYCAMORE SHOALS STATE PARK IN ELIZABETHTON.

Directions to Sycamore Shoals State Park Campsite: The park is located on US 19E (West Elk Avenue) as you enter Elizabethton from the west. The park's address is 1651 West Elk Avenue. Phone: 423-543-5808. Sycamore Shoals State Park was the first Trail site to be certified in 1986.

Carter County Marshal: Sam Lloyd. (423) 282-5266. Johnson City, TN.

Walking the Trail: With two short exceptions, this day is entirely road walking. The Trail departs Rocky Mount and follows River Road along the Watauga River. After 3.3 miles, the trail turns left onto a dead-end road where we walk through an open field along the river for 0.7 miles and then climb a steep hill and out on a paved road above the city of Watauga. We walk down the hill and into town. The morning walk is a little less than 5 miles.

After lunch the trail follows paved roads until it comes out down at the Watauga River again across from the city of Elizabethton. We walk west along the River Road for 0.3 of a mile and then veer off into the fields along the river. We follow the river through the fields for 0.25 of a mile to the crossing point of the river at the Sycamore Shoals where we will cross the river. You are advised to carry an old pair of tennis shoes to wade the river. The rocks are quite slick and can bruise your feet. The water is about 2 1/2 feet at it's deepest (mid-thigh). Sycamore Shoals State Park and the end of the days walk waits on the far bank. Total walking Distance is 8.5 miles with easy to moderate difficulty.

Sycamore Shoals is an Active Trails Grant funded event.

Planned Activities:

7:00AM: Breakfast on our own.

8:00AM: Walking group, if any are interested, may walk from Rocky Mount to the Quarry above the town of Watauga and then shuttle back for vehicles. Talking group will proceed to Sycamore Shoals to set up for programs.

9:00AM: Sevier Group in Jonesboro to lay a brick at the new Veterans Memorial.

9:30-2:00PM: **Sycamore Shoals Education Days for local schools. This is an Active Trail Grant funded event.**

10:30AM: Sevier group walks into Sycamore Shoals. Sets up to do stations on the Story.

1:00 PM: Cross the Sycamore Shoals of the Watauga River.

1:30PM: Full Story is told to school children.

5:30 PM: Supper provided by the Julius Dugger Chapter of the DAR in the Sycamore Shoals visitor's center museum.

7:00PM: Evening Program.

Daily Support: Showers and restrooms available in the museum basement. Laundry, gasoline, and a wide variety of stores including Wal-Mart are close by. **Camping:** Sleep in vehicles or pitch a tent or sleep in the basement of the visitor center.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26: DEPART SYCAMORE SHOALS. ENCAMP AT THE SHELVING ROCK HISTORIC CAMPSITE OR ROAN MOUNTAIN STATE PARK.

Directions to the Shelving Rock Campsite: The campsite is located 25 miles south of Elizabethton. Travel from Elizabethton on US 19-E. Turn right onto SR143 in the village of Roan Mountain. The Shelving Rock Campsite is located on your left about 1.5 miles along SR 143. Roan Mountain State Park is located about 2 miles along SR143 south of the Shelving Rock Campsite. The park's phone number is (423) 772-3303.

Carter County Marshal: Sam Lloyd. (423) 282-5266. Johnson City, TN.

Planned Activities:

9:00 AM: Samuel Doak's sermon at Sycamore Shoals visitor center by George Cobb.

10:00AM: Shuttle to the Shelving Rock Campsite at Roan Mountain.

11:00AM—2:00PM: Lunch on our own. Rest time.

2:00PM: Public Activities and story telling at Shelving Rock Campsite. **This is an Active Trail Grant funded event.**

5:30PM: Supper by Roan Mountain Citizens Club at the Park Conference Center.

7:00PM: Program at the original campsite across from the Shelving Rock. **This is an Active Trail Grant funded event.**

The Guilford Fife and Drum Corp will be Sycamore Shoals in the morning and the Shelving Rock in the afternoon.

Daily Support: Breakfast and lunch on your own. Showers and laundry available at the park's campground. The village of Roan Mountain, some 2 miles distance from the campsite, has a small grocery store, 2 small restaurants, a convenience store and gasoline. **Camping:** May camp on the historic campsite or return to Roan Mountain State Park for the night's encampment. Two cabins and a campsite have been provided by the Park Manager.

Moon phase: First quarter Moon

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27: DEPART ROAN MOUNTAIN STATE PARK. ENCAMP AT RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NORTH OF SPRUCE PINE, NC.

Direction to Riverside Elementary School: The school is located some 5 miles north of Spruce Pine on highway US19-E. **Mitchell County Marshal:** Bill Carson, Spruce Pine. (828) 765-9314.

Walking the Trail: We will either walk up the old historic Yellow Mountain road, or the new trail up Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area (paralleling the historic route). The day's walk will be very difficult, although, the scenery is spectacular.

Planned Activities:

7:00 AM: Breakfast at Bob's Dairyland in the village of Roan Mountain.
8:00 AM: Traditional OVT monument ceremony in state park visitor center parking lot.
8:30 AM: Car pool to Hampton Creek Cove SNA parking lot to Cross the Roan.
Lunch on our own at head of Roaring Creek.
Run shuttle to Riverside elementary School. Call Linda to get the key to the school.
6:00PM. Supper on our own in Spruce Pine.

Daily Support: Hot showers, restrooms, full ranges of stores and gasoline nearby.

Also scheduled: Historic Burke will be conducting their annual Revolutionary War Days celebration at the Charles McDowell House in Morganton. Those NOT wishing to cross the Roan may support Historic Burke today. The Guilford Fife and Drum Corp will be performing.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28: DEPART RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EN-CAMP AT THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY MINERAL MUSEUM IN SPRUCE PINE.

Direction to the Mineral Museum: The Mineral Museum is located some 5 miles south of Spruce Pine at the intersection of the Blue Ridge Parkway (mile 330.9, elevation 2,819) and highway 226. Phone number is (828) 765-2761.

Mitchell County Marshal: Bill Carson, Spruce Pine. (828) 765-9314.

Walking the Trail: Marchers will either board the buses with the students at Riverside Elementary school, or, convoy to the parking lot outside Unimin Corporation main entrance for the 1.75 mile walk into Robert Sevier's Gravesite.

Planned Activities:

9:00 AM: Meet at Unimin parking lot to walk to Robert Sevier's gravesite, Davenport Springs. The Story Stations will be done along the way to the gravesite. **This is an Active Trail Grant funded event.**
Lunch on our own.
2:00PM—5:00 PM: Rest time.
5:30PM: Arrive for supper and program at the Orchard at Altapass. **This is an Active Trail Grant funded event.**

Daily Support: Breakfast (at Hardee's?) and lunch on our own. Supper at Orchard. Hot shower, restrooms, laundry, stores and gas nearby. **Camping:** Encamp at the maintenance building complex of the National Park Service Mineral Museum. Sleep in vehicles or inside the maintenance building.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29: DEPART THE MINERAL MUSEUM. ENCAMP AT Joseph McDowell House in Marion.

Directions to the Joseph McDowell House: The Joseph McDowell House is located on highway 70 about 0.2 miles east of the intersection with US 221/226 where the Wal-Mart shopping center is located.

Planned Activities:

7:00 AM: "The Breakfast" at Herman Bakers. Meet at the Mineral Museum ready to shuttle to Herman's at 6:45AM.
8:30 AM: Return to the Mineral Museum where we will split our forces.

Group 1 will hike with students from Mineral Museum to the Apple Orchard at Altapass. Programs to follow at the Orchard. **This is an Active Trail Grant funded event.** After programming this group will travel to Joseph McDowell House.

Group 2 will convoy to Joseph McDowell House in Marion for McDowell County Schools programs from 9AM to 2PM. **This is an Active Trail Grant funded event.**

6:00PM: A supper meeting with communities leaders to discuss the Model Trail Community concept at the Joseph McDowell house in Marion. **This is an Active Trail Grant funded event.**

7:00PM: Public Program at Joseph McDowell House in Marion. **This is an Active Trail Grant funded event.**

Daily Support: Showers available at Tom Johnson Trailer Park 2 miles west on hwy 70. . Large stores and gas nearby.

Camping: Encamp at Joseph McDowell House in Marion.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30: DEPART JOSPEH MCDOWELL HOUSE IN MARION, CAMP AT THE CHARLES MCDOWELL HOUSE/QUAKER MEADOWS IN MORGANTON.

Directions to the McDowell House: The McDowell House is located in the western part of Morganton on St. Mary's Church Road about 400 yards from the intersection with highway 181 North. As you leave Morganton on 181, after crossing the Catawba River, St. Mary's Church Road will be to the right at the 3rd stop light. If coming in on I-40, Take Jamestown Road exit towards Morganton (it will intersect with highway 70). Cross hwy 70 and continue on Freedom Blvd. This road will intersect with NC 181 North at the K-Mart shopping center. Turn left onto 181 North and then travel about 1/2 mile to St. Mary's Church road. Turn Right. The McDowell house is on the left a short distance up St. Mary's Church road. There is no Phone.

Contact: Scott Coley, McDowell House/Historic Burke Executive Director: . Phone: 828-403-0019 or 828-437-4101.

Planned Activities:

7:30AM: Breakfast on our own in Marion.

9AM-4PM: We WILL walk a segment of the Trail today. Choice will be either Campbell's Route out of North Cove, Campbell's route on Bear Creek above Lake James, or Campbell's route dropping off the Blue Ridge down through Turkey Cove. This segment has NOT been walked in some 30 years!

5:00PM: Arrive at the Charles McDowell House in Morganton.

6:00PM: Supper at McDowell House.

Daily Support: Breakfast and lunch on our own. Supper by Historic Burke at the McDowell House. No Showers. Shopping centers, laundry, stores and gas close by. **Camping:** You may sleep on the front porch of the McDowell House, pitch a tent or sleep in your vehicle.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1: DEPART MORGANTON, ENCAMP AT DYSARTSVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER.

Directions to Dysartsville Community Club: The community club is located just off hwy 226 some 15 miles south of Morganton, 2.5 miles west of the intersection of 226 and highway 64. Phone: (704) 652-5304

Southern McDowell County Marshal: Albert Dale, (828) 287-4338.

Walking the Trail: The halfway point of the trail--both in distance and in time. We are 125.5 miles from Abingdon. King's Mountain is 132.5 miles to the southeast.

Planned Activities:

7:00AM: Breakfast at Hardee's in Morganton.

9:00AM – 2:00PM: School programs on the Catawba River Greenway in Morganton. OVTA will set up Story by Stations for the programming. **This is an Active Trail Grant funded event.**

3:00PM: Travel to Dysartsville

6:00PM: Supper and interpretative program for the Dysartsville Community Club (Pat Smith 828-652-3148)

Restroom facilities at the Community Club; Showers and laundry facilities available at Camp Grimes Boy Scout Camp

Daily Support: Restroom in community center. Small country stores and gas nearby. Showers and laundry at Camp Grimes, Boy Scout Camp (Carl Curnette Ranger at Camp Grimes), 828-652-8592.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2: DEPART DYSARTSVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER, ENCAMP AT STEARNS PARK, COMLUMBS, NC.

Directions to Gilbert Town Campsite: Gilbert Town is located on Rock Road a little less than 2 miles north of highway 64 in Rutherfordton. There are several certification signs and a historic marker denoting the site. No Phone.

Rutherford County Marshal: Roger Byers, Rutherfordton. (828) 245-4369.

Planned Activities:

7:00AM: Breakfast on our own.

8:00AM: Arrive Gilbert Town.

9:00AM—2PM: Rutherford County Schools Education Days at Gilbert Town. OVTA provide Story by Stations. **This is an Active Trail Grant funded event.**

4PM: Convoy to Stearns Park in Columbus

6PM: Supper on our own in Columbus or Tryon.

Daily Support: Breakfast and supper on our own. Expect leftovers from last night's supper. NO showers. Port-a-Johns of restrooms at Stearns Park in Columbus.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3: DEPART STEARNS PARK IN COLUMBUS, ENCAMP AT BUD SCHIELE BOY SCOUT CAMP

Rutherford County Marshal: Roger Byers, Rutherfordton. (828) 245-4369. Festival Contact is John Vining, 828-894-8219 (work). 828-859-6534 (home).

9:00PM: Polk County Farm Festival, Columbus, NC. Open camp, meet and greet and story telling at 10:30AM and at 1:00PM.

The Guilford Fife and Drum Corp will be performing.

4:00PM: Convoy to Boy Scout Camp Bud Schiele.

6:00PM: Supper on our own.

Daily Support: All meals on our own. Showers at Boy Scout Camp Bud Schiele. Restrooms. Small country store and gas nearby. **Camping:** We will **NOT** be staying at the training center as usual but at a group camp on the other side of the camp.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4: ENCAMP AT GILBERT TOWN OR SCOUT CAMP SCHIELE.

Directions to Gilbert Town Campsite: Gilbert Town is located on Rock Road a little less than 2 miles north of highway 64 in Rutherfordton. There are several certification signs and a historic marker denoting the site. No Phone.

Rutherford County Marshal: Roger Byers, Rutherfordton. (828) 245-4369.

Walking the Trail: With one short exception, the entire day is road walking. We will walk 5 miles on Cane Creek road--a mostly level paved county road with little traffic—to Hwy 64 where we will shuttle to Rutherfordton for lunch and the festival.

Planned Activities:

8:00AM: Breakfast at Tanners with DAR.

1:00-5:00PM: "Afternoon on the Green" at Gilbert Town. Program on the Story. **This is an Active Trail Grant funded event.**

The Guilford Fife and Drum Corp will be performing.

6:00PM: Supper at Gilberttown.

Daily Support: Breakfast on our own. NO RESTROOMS at Gilbert Town. Large stores and laundry are 3 miles away in Rutherfordton. **Camping:** Camp in tent or vehicles. Camp at Bud Schiele Boy Scout Camp; restroom and showers available.

Moon phase: Full Moon

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5: DEPART GILBERT TOWN. ENCAMP GRAY'S CHAPEL.

Directions to Gray's Chapel: Follow highway 108 south (west) from Rutherfordton. Turn left onto Simms/Sandpit road. When Simms/Sandpit Road crosses Pleasant Hill Road, its name changes to Grays Road. Follow Gray's road south 2.6 miles to the intersection with County Line Road. Turn left. The chapel is located about 1/4 mile on the right. No Phone. **Southern Rutherford County Marshal:** Jim Moore, Rutherfordton. (828) 863-4492, Linda & Philip Shehan (828) 287 3092.

Walking the Trail: We spend most of the day following the historic route—either walking or driving.. We may shuttle to Gray's Chapel to walk the historic roadbed down to Alexander's Ford and explore recently discovered remnants. We will have to retrace our steps back up to the Chapel. The days walk will be about 6 miles and is easy to moderate.

Planned Activities:

6:00AM: Wake up and breakfast on your own

7:30AM: Convoy to Gray's Chapel.

9:30AM—1:30PM: School programs with Polk County Students. Story by Stations as we walk down to the October 5th Campsite. **This is an Active Trail Grant funded event.**

6:00PM: Supper and program at Gray's Chapel.

Daily Support: No showers. Restroom. Must return to Rutherfordton for stores or gas.

Camping: Pitch a tent, sleep in vehicles or sleep in the picnic shelter.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6: DEPART GRAY'S CHAPEL, ENCAMP AT COWPENS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD.

Directions to Cowpens: Cowpens is located on highway 11 about 5 miles east of Chesnee, South Carolina. Phone number is (864) 461-2828. **Cherokee County SC Marshal:** Jane Waters. (864) 489-7043

Planned Activities:

6:00AM: Wake up and breakfast on your own.

7:30AM: Motor to Cowpens

9:00AM—2:00PM: Education Days at Cowpens. **This is an Active Trail Grant funded event.**

6:00PM: Evening Program on "The Night Before the Battle of King's Mountain".

Supper on our own.

Daily Support: Breakfast and lunch on our own. Restrooms. Showers at Cowpens National Battlefield maintenance building. Laundry, stores and gas in Chesnee. **Camping:** Camp in vehicles, a tent or sleep under the shelter.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7: DEPART COWPENS. ARRIVE AT KINGS MOUNTAIN FOR 3:00 PM CEREMONY. Cherokee County SC Marshal: Jane Waters of Gaffney. (864) 489-7043.

Walking the Trail: There is no walking today. After lunch, we will join together at about 2:15 or 2:30 at Kings Mountain National Military Park to prepare for the finale.

Planned Activities:

7:00 AM: Breakfast on our own.

10:00 AM: Wreath Laying Ceremony at King's Mountain National Military Park.

12:00 PM: Lunch at Antioch Church provided by several DAR's

3:00 PM: Walk into the amphitheater at Kings Mountain NMP for traditional ceremony.

4:00 PM: Walk to the monument atop King's Mountain for the Mourning of Arms ceremony to those who fell in the Battle.

This is where the "traditional March ends. However, this year, for the very first time, Elkin will be providing events celebrating the marching of the prisoners north after the Battle of King's Mountain.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8: FREE DAY. ENCAMP AT ELKIN CITY PARK.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9: Arrive Elkin City Park, Encamp at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir.

Surry and Wilkes County Marshal's: R.G. and Donna Absher. 336-526-5336. Cell: 336-902-1760.

9:00am—2:00pm. Elkin Overmountain Victory Trail Education Days at the city park. Story by Stations. **This is an Active Trail Grant funded event.**

4PM: Travel to Wilkesboro. Encamp at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir.
Supper on our own.

Encamp in the campground at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir. Showers, restrooms available.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10: W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkesboro, NC.

W. Kerr Scott Reservoir is located on highway 268 west of Wilkesboro.

1:00PM-4:30PM: W. Kerr Scott Reservoir Trail Certification for trail on the reservoir

4:30pm: Certification of Caldwell County Yadkin River Greenway Trailhead (1/2 mile east on Hwy 268 from US 321). This is the very first Trail Certification in Caldwell County!

And so ends the 230th anniversary of the Campaign of the Overmountain Men to the Battle of King's Mountain.

It took a lot of people to make this year work. To all those folks here's a big Huzzah to you.

This year has been extraordinary by virtue of the enthusiasm, spirit and passion that came from the communities to plan and conduct the highest level of programming and public participation in the history of the Trail. For that the board and members of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association say thank you. For that, the American Spirit says thank you.

And once again we find ourselves saying, the job's not done...it's just beginning.

Thanks,
Mike.

**Overmountain
Victory Trail
Association
Newsletter**

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2009 Annual March Issue

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Individual Dues are \$30

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Upcoming Events

BOD Meetings and Activities

September 19: Sycamore Shoals. SAR event.

September 20 through October 9, 2009: Annual March to King's Mountain.

October 9, 2009: Elkin, NC. Historic Programs on the return of the prisoners from the Battle of King's Mountain.

October 10, 2009: Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkesboro, NC. Programs on the Trail.

November 11, 2009: Abingdon, Veterans Park dedication and ceremony. Lots of OVTA people will be attending to help out.

December 5, 2009: OVTA board meeting, Morganton.