



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
TROOP 57  
CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA



**BEGINNER HIKE PERMISSION SLIP**

Overnight Beginner's Hike – Merchant's Mill Pond State Park, North Carolina

Dates: JAN 28 - 29, 2012                      Cost: \$ 10.00    Mileage: Approx 15 Mile Hike over 2 days.

Departure: Saturday, Jan 28, 2012 from Great Bridge Presbyterian Church @ 7:00 AM

Return: Sunday, Jan 29 2012 approximately 1:00 PM.

*This is a basic hike designed for beginners to adapt to preparation, hiking, camping in remote locations and applying cold weather skills. This is a work-up hike in support of Appalachian Trail hike scheduled for February 17 – 20 (President's day weekend).*

- Prerequisites for hike:*
- (a) Scout must be at least 12 years old (or else accompanied by parent).*
  - (b) Scout must be at least a Tenderfoot rank by departure date..*
  - (c) Scout must carry/share his own food, tent, sleeping bag and gear.*
  - (d) Pack weight should be less than 30% of scout's weight.*
  - (e) Need travel cash for Saturday Breakfast.*

See other side for recommended packing list

Adult Trip Leader: Larry Reese, ASM, home; 757-436-0453 work; 757-396-8591 cell; 757-636-3967

**PAYMENT DUE NLT Monday, 23 January 2012**

PLEASE DETACH AND KEEP THIS SECTION. RETURN BOTTOM HALF OF THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT.

Waiver of Responsibility  
Troop 57- Boy Scouts of America

In consideration of the benefits to be derived and in view of the fact the Boy Scouts of America is an educational institution in which membership is voluntary, and having full confidence that every precaution will be taken to ensure the safety and well being of my son(s).

Name of Scout(s): \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to his/their participation on the activity named and waive all claims against the leaders of this trip, the Troop and the representatives of the Boy Scouts of America. In the event of an emergency, the troop unit leader or any other adult on the activity has permission to obtain medical treatment for my son(s) at the nearest medical facility at my expense. Medical information for my son(s) has been provided to the Troop on the Troop Medical Form.

Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I can be reached at the following phone numbers and will accept collect calls:

Home (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

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**MERCHANTS MILLPOND  
STATE PARK BEGINNER'S HIKE**

**RECOMMENDED PACK LIST**

GEAR	
Tent	
Sleeping Bag	
Ground Cloth	
Foam or inflatable mattress	
Cooking gear/utensils	
Lightweight gas stove	
Water containers	
Hiking shoes (Broken in)	
One change of clothes extra socks.	
Cold weather gear (coat, hat, gloves).	
Whistle	
Hiking stick or pole (s)	
Lightweight Backpack	
Toiletries	
Medications	
Lightweight flashlight	
Matches	
Poncho or Rain gear for you and your pack	
Small First Aid Kit	

FOOD	
Cold Saturday Lunch (eat on trail)	
Hot Saturday Dinner	
Light Sunday Breakfast	
Energy drink or powder	
Trail Mix or energy bar	
Water container	
Cash for Saturday Breakfast	
OPTIONAL	
Sunglasses	
Hat or cap	
Lightweight towel	
Sunscreen	
Insect wipes or small pump spray	
Map	
HINTS	
Check your scout Handbook for other guidance.	
Consider sharing tent/gear with another scout.	
Consider this hike in helping to achieve next rank.	
<b>Consider 'add hot water' meals or snacks.</b>	

Merchants Millpond State Park » Welcome!

The portion of Lassiter Trail from Millpond Road to the picnic area is closed due to a construction area.

Address: 71 US Hwy 158E, Gatesville, NC 27938-9440  
Office Phone: (252) 357-1191

Email: [merchants.millpond@ncmail.net](mailto:merchants.millpond@ncmail.net)

An "enchanted forest," primitive species of fish relatively unchanged over millions of years, towering bald cypress trees with massive trunks, luxuriant growths of Spanish moss—this is Merchants Millpond State Park. Here, coastal pond and southern swamp forest mingle, creating one of North Carolina's rarest ecological communities. Together with upland forests, these environments create a haven for wildlife and humanity alike.



Escape the hectic pace of life and find sanctuary in a canoe. Drift along the smooth, dark surface of the millpond and savor the many sights and sounds that come alive in the stillness of the forest. Journey into remote and undisturbed Lassiter Swamp, a place that embodies the spirit of adventure, and see what you can discover.

If canoeing is not for you, fish for game species. Choose from an assortment of camping opportunities or enjoy a picnic beside the millpond. The remarkable surroundings of Merchants Millpond State Park lend themselves to a variety of activities.

N.C. Division of Parks & Recreation • 1615 MSC • Raleigh N.C. 27699-1615 (919) 733-4181

Camping and Fires

Camping is allowed in designated areas by permit only. In most cases, campers register with a ranger on site or at an on-site registration box.

Fires are permitted only in designated areas and must be tended at all times. Gathering firewood is generally prohibited, but may be allowed in some parks.

All vehicles left in the park after posted park hours must be registered.

Visitors must be 18 years or older to register as campers.

The portion of Lassiter Trail from Millpond Road to the picnic area is closed due to a construction area.  
Hiking

For your safety and protection, please stay on designated trails and hiking areas. Also, many rare plants live on thin soils and wet rocks, and are vulnerable to damage from climbing, trampling and scraping.

**Directions**

Merchants Millpond is located in northeastern North Carolina in Gates County near the community of Gatesville. The park may be reached from US 158, NC 32 and NC 37. It is approximately 30 miles from the North Carolina cities of Ahoskie, Elizabeth City and Edenton and is also 30 miles from Suffolk, Virginia. From I-95, take US 158 east. Travel north on US 13/US 158 and turn right to follow US 158 east. The park entrance will be on the right.

## Merchants Millpond State Park » History

### Section of Trail Closed

The portion of Lassiter Trail from Millpond Road to the picnic area is closed due to a construction area.

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Settlement in the Gates County area began in 1660. Residents of early rural communities made a living by farming and lumbering. In the early 1700s, Hunters Millpond was built at the head of Bennetts Creek to provide a means of processing and marketing regional produce. Highway construction destroyed this millpond in 1922. But further downstream, Norfleets Millpond, which was built in 1811, thrived. Gristmills, a sawmill, a farm supply store and other enterprises made the area the center of trade in Gates County. Thus, the pond became known as Merchants Millpond.

Shortly before World War II operations around the millpond came to a halt and millers sold the land to developers. In the 1960s, A.B. Coleman of Moyock purchased the property and later donated 919 acres, including the millpond, to the state. His generous donation led to the establishment of Merchants Millpond State Park in 1973. In the same year, the Nature Conservancy contributed an additional 925 acres of woodlands to the park that now encompasses more than 3,250 acres

## Merchants Millpond State Park » Facilities and Fees

Closed: The portion of Lassiter Trail from Millpond Road to the picnic area is closed due to a construction area.

### Camping

#### Facility Description(s)

- Facility: Ten primitive canoe-in campsites.
  - Location: Millpond Road.
  - Accommodates: Up to six persons per site.
  - Nearby Amenities: Pit toilets.
  - Available: Year-round.
  - Reservations Required: No.
  - Accessible: No.
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- Facility: Five primitive / backpack campsites.
  - Location: Millpond Road.
  - Accommodates: Up to six persons per site.
  - Nearby Amenities: Pit toilets.
  - Available: Year-round.
  - Reservations Required: No.
  - Accessible: No.
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- Facility: Three primitive group campsites. Group canoe camping is available. The canoe organized group tent sites may be reserved by organized groups who provide their own canoes.
  - Location: Millpond Road.

- Accommodates: Up to 50 people per site.
  - Nearby Amenities: Drinking water, and a small washhouse with a pay shower.
  - Available: Year-round.
  - Reservations Required: Yes.
  - Accessible: No.
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- Facility: Three primitive group walk-in campsites
  - Location: Millpond Road.
  - Accommodates: Up to 50 people per site.
  - Nearby Amenities: Drinking water, and a small washhouse with a pay shower.
  - Available: Year-round.
  - Reservations Required: Yes.
  - Accessible: No.
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- Facility: Twenty drive-to campsites (non-electric). A picnic table and grill are at each campsite.
- Location: Highway 158 entrance.
- Accommodates: Up to six persons per site.
- Nearby Amenities: Washhouse with drinking water, restrooms and showers.
- Available: Year-round.
- Reservations Required: No.
- Accessible: Site 14 is accessible.

## Primitive (/Backpack) Canoe-in Camping

- Unimproved campsites with pit privies (composting or vault toilets, etc.) --- \$9/day

## Primitive / Backpack Camping

- Unimproved campsites with/without pit privies (composting or vault toilets, etc.) --- \$9/day

## Primitive Group Camping

- Unimproved campsites with pit privies (composting or vault toilets, etc.) --- \$1 per person per day with a \$9 minimum per site

## Drive-to / Walk-in Camping (no electrical / water hookups):

(Water, restrooms and shower facilities.)

- Picnic table and grill on campsite --- \$15/day
- Senior citizen (62 or older) --- \$10/day

## Shelters

### Facility Description(s)

- Facility: One 8-table picnic shelter.
- Location: Millpond Road.
- Accommodates: Up to ??? people.
- Nearby Amenities: Restrooms.
- Available: Year-round.
- Reservations Required: See note below.
- Accessible: Yes.

(Available by reservation. Available free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis, if not reserved.)

- 5 - 8 Tables --- \$60/day

Forms of Payment: Cash, checks, traveler's checks.

A \$25 fee will be charged for all returned checks.