

Nicholson Hollow Corbin Hollow Circuit

Description: This is a 9.9 mile strenuous circuit with a 2000 foot increase in elevation. The first 1000 feet occur easily along the first 4 miles of the trek with two short climbs. The next 1000 foot gain occurs rapidly over a mile as you climb up Indian Run Trail. The rest of the hike is relatively downhill or flat with just a few "teaser hills" to remind you that you are still in the mountains. There are four creek crossings in the first 2 miles which are problematic only during periods of high water.

OK, so that's most of the down side. On the up side the first 4 miles are spent walking in close proximity of the picturesque Hughes River with its numerous wading pools and swimming holes. There are lots of wildflowers on this circuit and historically there is Corbin Cabin, an old homesteaders home, to visit.

After you descend from Corbin Mountain you will hike about 2 miles through Corbin Hollow. Occasionally you will be in close proximity to Broken Back Run but most of the time you will be above it during this portion of the hike.

The remainder of the down side is the last 1.6 miles along Weakley Hollow Fire Trail. Road waling can be boring but at least the area is well wooded and the pace should be fast.

Notes:

1) **Stinging Nettles can be an issue all around the SNP in the summer months. The PATC volunteers do a great job of keeping the sides of trails clear of these plants but sometimes a spot or 2 gets overlooked. Stay on the trail and learn how to identify these pesky plants.**

2) This hike can be decreased to about 8.3 by taking Corbin Mountain Trail east instead of south (left turn at the end of Indian Run Tr.). Corbin Mt Tr is not shown in its entirety on this map.

3) This hike can be extended another 0.3 miles and made harder by utilizing the Robertson Mt Tr instead of Nicholson

Hollow Tr as part of your return route. You'll climb another 500 feet but be rewarded with some fantastic views.

Directions From US 211 in Sperryville, heading west:

- 1. Turn left onto US 522 and drive through Sperryville.**
- 2. In about 0.8 miles turn right onto SR 231.**
- 3. In about 7.7 –8.0 miles turn right onto SR 601. There will be a sign for Old Rag**
- 4. Cross Hughes River and turn right at the "T" intersection to remain on SR 601. There will be another sign for Old Rag.**
- 5. Follow this road as it changes from 601 to 707 and then 600. Stop at Old Rag overflow parking lot and pay \$3.00/person. Continue to small pull over for 4 vehicles on the right side at a concrete sign post for Nicholson Hollow Trail. If the pull over is full return to the overflow lot and walk up. This will add about another mile to your hike.**

Trail Notes: (All trails are blazed blue.) From the pull-over for four vehicles, turn right into a private driveway and veer to the right to pickup the beginning of Nicholson Hollow Trail. Almost immediately cross both Broken Back Run and then Hughes River on large rocks.

Follow the north bank of Hughes River upstream. At about 0.7 miles pass the junction with Corbin Mountain Trail on the left and at another 0.8 miles the junction with Hot Short Trail on the right.

In another 0.4 miles cross Hannah Run and pass the junction of Hannah Run Tr on the right. In another 0.46 miles ford Hughes River. This is a nice wading pool!

Continue along the south bank of Hughes River. Climb steeply for a bit. The trail will soon flatten out. There are other nice pools between here and Corbin Cabin. The best ones are marked by little side trails. Keep an eye out for them. You will make one more short climb before reaching Corbin Cabin.

In 1.4 miles from the Hughes River ford come to Corbin Cabin and Corbin Cabin Cut-off Tr. This is a great lunch spot. There is plenty of shade and a cool pool close by.

After lunch continue for another 0.26 miles and turn left onto Indian Run Trail. The next mile is the hardest part of the trek!!! You will climb 1000 feet in one mile, passing several false summits along the way. If you need to take a break along this climb take it!!! After you reach the top the rest of the hike is quite enjoyable so why beat yourself up at this point!

Reach the summit at one mile and proceed another 0.3 miles to the intersection with Corbin Mountain Trail. (To make this an 8.3 mile hike turn left onto Corbin Mt Trail and follow it back to Nicholson Hollow Trail, crossing Hughes River just before reaching the latter. Retrace your foot steps back to the car.) To complete the circuit as described here turn right onto Corbin Mountain Trail and descend to Old Rag Road. Turn left onto Old Rag Road. Soon turn left onto Corbin Hollow Trail.

Corbin Hollow Tr stays above Broken Back Run except near the beginning and then at and beyond the ford which is about 1.5 miles from the last trail junction. There are some scenic spots along this portion of the trek. We did it in a downpour so my camera stayed in it's case.

In about 0.5 miles from the ford re-cross Broken Back Run and step out onto Weakley Hollow Fire Road. Turn left here and follow the road approximately 1.6 miles back to your car (2.0 miles if you parked in the overflow lot).