



10th Annual Red Top Mountain Campout

July 17th - 19th, 2009

Not Just Another Red Top — Activities Galore!



Come and join WNG members and visitors for the 10th year at the Red Top Mountain State Park Pioneer Campground on Lake Allatoona, near Cartersville, GA (45 minutes north of Atlanta on I-75). This is an annual member get together and our largest event of the year. The campsite is right on the water's edge in a private cove and there is a lot of space to spread out. The campground has picnic tables, a large covered shelter, and piped running water. Feel free to come for the day or the weekend.

Why drive all the way up to Red Top for just the dinner and bonfire Saturday night? Drive up Friday evening or early Saturday morning, pitch your tent, and enjoy one or more of the fun outdoor activities that have been planned. The campsite is being paid for by WNG (no participant cost). The normal Georgia State Parks parking fees apply (\$5.00 per vehicle per day or annual pass). On Saturday night there will be a catered dinner (see below) that will cost \$5.00 per person. Campers are responsible for bringing all their other food and drinks. A couple of the optional activities have fees associated with them (see below). Other than the items mentioned, the weekend is free. If you're new or a bit rusty to camping, this is a great way to try it out and learn from experienced outdoorsmen. If you or your friends are thinking about joining WNG, then this is a great way to check us out in a relaxed setting.

Schedule of Events

Friday

2:00 pm	Campground Available
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Hike
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Dinner / Card & Board Games
9:00 pm - Late	Campfire

Saturday

10:00 am - 1:00 pm	Etowah Indian Mounds
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Allatoona Pass Hike
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Tellus Museum
Afternoon	Introduction to Kayaking
5:00 pm - 5:30 pm	New Member Orientation
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Trip Planning Workshop
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Catered Dinner
8:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Tent Decorating Contest
9:00 pm - Late	Bonfire

Sunday

12:00 pm	Check Out
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On Friday campers may arrive anytime after 2:00 pm. For those interested, there will be a hike at 4:30 pm. As is traditional, we'll gather in the picnic shelter to eat and enjoy fellowship. The dinner time is

unstructured with campers eating whenever they like. During the same time we will be playing card and board games. So bring your cards or favorite board game and join in on the fun. After dark the group will move to the fire ring to enjoy a campfire.

On Saturday we have activities galore. You are invited to join in as many activities as you would like, take advantage of the other features of the park or simply relax at the campground. At 7:00 pm we will gather for the catered dinner.



Etowah Indian Mounds Tour: Located in Cartersville just 10 miles from Red Top Mountain State Park, the [Etowah Indian Mounds](#) were home to several thousand Native Americans between 1000 and 1550 A.D. This 54-acre site contains six earthen mounds, a plaza, a village area, borrow pits and defensive ditch. This is the most intact Mississippian Culture site in the Southeast. Evidence suggests that the people who built Etowah were the ancestors of the Creek people. Although archaeologists have been digging at Etowah for 120 years, only 9% of this site has been excavated. A 63-foot flat-topped earthen knoll was likely used as a platform for the home of the priest-chief.

In another mound, nobility were buried in elaborate costumes accompanied by items they would need in their after-lives. Today, you may tour the museum where exhibits interpret daily life in the once self-sufficient community. A nature trail leads to the Etowah River and winds through the forest, showing how early civilizations used native trees. A wattle and daub house was constructed on the site utilizing an original archaeological floor plan of a house that was at Etowah around 1250 to 1325 A.D. We will meet 10:00am Saturday morning at WNG's campsite and carpool about 20 minutes to the site. We will spend about 2 hours at the site and return to the campground by 1:00pm. This is a Georgia Historic Site and admission is \$5.00 per person (free if you are a "[Friends of the Parks](#)" member). [Sign Up](#).



Allatoona Pass Hike: Join us on this easy 3.4 mile hike Saturday morning that will take us along the shores of Lake Allatoona just a couple of exits north of the park. The trail follows the original railroad grade of the Western and Atlantic Railroad into Allatoona Pass. Along the trail we'll pass several historic sites left over from the Civil War as well as have the opportunity to enjoy many beautiful views of the lake. This hike is dog friendly. [Sign Up](#).



Introduction to Kayaking: Saturday afternoon Doug Caulkins will have kayaks available and he'll be glad to teach anyone who is interested how to kayak. He's not planning anything that formal; if you're interested, he'll be there and he'll show you how it's done. [Sign Up](#).



Tellus Museum Visit: For the geek in all of us, as well as a little air-conditioned break from the afternoon heat, if the pursuit of knowledge is your thing, you may want to join us for a tour of the Tellus Museum of Science: a new, world-class 120,000 square foot museum is located in Cartersville, GA just off I-75 at exit 293. Tellus featured four main galleries: The Weinman Mineral Gallery, The Fossil Gallery, Science in Motion and The Collins Family My Big Backyard. A 120-seat digital planetarium and an observatory with a state-of-the-art 20-inch telescope are located at Tellus. Eye-popping exhibits like an 80 foot-long Apatosaurus

and a replica Wright flyer will excite and amaze visitors of all ages. Dazzling gems and minerals will sparkle and glow alongside interactive exhibits demonstrating how the Earth moves and changes. Go to <http://www.weinmanmuseum.org> for more information about the museum and planetarium shows. Admission is \$12.00 per person. [Sign Up](#).



New Member Orientation: We will meet with new members and visitors for a brief discussion about the group and to answer questions. We'll gather in the picnic shelter at 5:00 pm.

Trip Planning Workshop: Do you have an idea for a trip? Come share your ideas with the group and we'll discuss how to make it happen. We need both day trips and overnight trips. We will talk about the elements that make trips successful.

This is a great opportunity to generate interest for your trip. We will also discuss up coming trips and highlight some past trips. We will gather just outside the picnic shelter at 5:30 pm. James Reeves, our Trip Coordinator, will lead the discussion.

Catered Dinner: To celebrate our tenth Red Top campout, we are breaking from our tradition of having Sonny's Barbeque. This year WNG's own Lonnie Heath, owner of It's Your Party Catering, will be catering our dinner. Those who attended the Potluck last September will remember the great food that Heath prepared. He'll be keeping it a little simpler this time with hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken along with sides, vegetarian options and dessert. We're sure the dinner will be a highlight of the weekend. Dinner will start at 7:00 pm. The cost is \$5.00 per person.



Tent Decorating Contest: In honor of WNG's 10th anniversary at Red Top, we've decided to start a tradition. We're going to have a tent decorating contest! You might be great at packing a backpack, rappelling steep rocks or negotiating Class 3 rapids, but can you decorate a tent? Of course you can! The guidelines are simple. Pick any holiday that you want to celebrate and decorate your tent (and the immediate area around it if you wish) honoring that holiday. There will be three winners of this contest, one in each of the following categories: Most Fabulous, Most Hedonistic and Trailer Park Trashiest. I think that all of us can picture in our minds what the winners of these categories might look like. After the dinner on Saturday we'll check out all

the decorated tent sites and vote. Everyone will have a chance to vote on their favorites. The winners will be announced at the bonfire and at that time will receive their prizes. Let us know if you have any questions. Since this is our first tent decorating contest, we might have to add a few more guidelines as the need arises. So get those creative juices flowing and decorate a tent that Martha Stewart would envy!

Bonfire: As is traditional, we will gather around the huge fire ring for a big bonfire. Bring your marshmallows to roast and your stories to tell. There may even be a late night dip in the lake. Those with a little free time in the afternoon are encouraged to help gather wood for the fire. If we can't find enough wood for the fire, we'll buy it.



Other Activities Available at Red Top: [Red Top Mountain State Park](#) has a variety of things to do. While these activities will not be organized group events, you are free to take advantage of them on your own. If you ask around the campground, you will probably find someone to join you. If you would like to lead one of these activities, we can always add it to the schedule (contact Tim Blackmore). Activities: 1) Boating – Bring your own boat or rent [Park Marine](#); 2) Biking on the new 4 mile Iron Hill Trail (gravel trail); 3) Hiking – 12.5 miles of wooded trails; 4) Go to the beach; 5) Swimming; 6) Tennis

Come join in on all the fun! We hope to see you there!