

CALEDONIA CIRCLE HIKE

This is a circle hike in the South Mountains, sixty miles southwest of Harrisburg. It utilizes the Appalachian Trail and side trails in Michaux State Forest and Caledonia State Park. Almost entirely in wooded areas, the hike covers a variety of terrain, including two steep climbs, and vegetation. This hike is enjoyable any time of the year.

There are numerous other trails in the park which could be used to extend or vary this hike. The Ramble Trail would add two miles at the beginning, before the first climb. A pamphlet, Caledonia Trails, is available at the Park Office.

The entrance to Caledonia State Park is off Rt. 233, just north of the intersection with U.S. 30. The hike starts at the far end of the third parking lot in the park.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

Follow the Chambersburg Water Line west about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. Turn right on the blue blazed Three Valley Trail, and climb steeply to the top of the hill. At top, turn right and follow trail to the junction with the Appalachian Trail; follow the Appalachian Trail, with the white blazes, about a mile to the junction with the Locust Gap Trail, a dirt, woodland road. In about .15 miles the Appalachian Trail leaves this road, bearing to the left. We will stay on the road and follow the blue blazes.

In about another mile, the blue blazed Hosack Trail goes off to the left, through thickly wooded Dark Hollow. We will follow this Hosack Trail, for about 1.1 mile, climbing significantly, then bearing left, rejoining the Appalachian Trail. We, now, turn left and follow the Appalachian Trail for about 3 miles, back to the parking lot.

Total length of hike: about $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Submitted by Bob Keyes.

