

## Every Kid in a Park, National Forests in North Carolina

A limited number of passes are available at all eight districts and the Forest Supervisor’s Office.

All sites are self-guided experiences except that guided tours and curriculum-related education programs can be arranged at The Cradle of Forestry.

For more information, see <http://www.fs.usda.gov/nfsnc/> and navigate to “Features”.

### Sites where use fees will be waived for 4<sup>th</sup> Graders include:

Site	District	Nearest Town	Season	Comments
<b>Cradle of Forestry</b>	Pisgah	Brevard, NC	Mid-April – early November	Guided tours may be available
<b>Roan Mountain: Roan Gardens and Cloudland Picnic Area</b>	Appalachian	Bakersville, NC	Mid-May – October 15	
<b>Whiteside Mountain Trailhead</b>	Nantahala	Cashiers, NC	Year-round	Parking is limited
<b>Whitewater Falls</b>	Nantahala	Sapphire, NC	Year-round	

**Other Great Places for Groups to Gather:** National Forests in North Carolina has many wonderful places to visit! Here are some recommended sites with no day use fees. All of these have group-use pavilions; most have restrooms and nearby trails.

Site	District	Nearest Town	Season	Comments
<b>Balsam Lake Picnic Area</b>	Nantahala	Cullowhee	Year-round	1 pavilion; ; no restroom in winter months; on Balsam Lake
<b>Cherokee Lake Picnic Area</b>	Tusquitee	Murphy	May through September	1 pavilion (accessible) and accessible fishing pier; on Cherokee Lake
<b>Cheoah Point Day-use Area</b>	Cheoah	Robbinsville	April through October	1 pavilion; on Santeetlah Lake; no trails in close proximity
<b>Hanging Dog Day-use Area</b>	Tusquitee	Murphy	Year-round	1 pavilion; on Hiwassee River
<b>Kings Mountain Point</b>	Uwharrie	Troy, NC	Year-round	1 pavilion; fee for reserving pavilion; on Badin Lake
<b>Mortimer Pavilion</b>	Grandfather	Edgemont	April through November	1 pavilion; on Thorps Creek near Wilson Creek
<b>Murray Branch Picnic Area</b>	Appalachian	Hot Springs	May through September	2 pavilions; on French Broad River
<b>Pine Cliff Picnic Area</b>	Croatan	Havelock and Newport	Year-round	1 pavilion; on Neuse River
<b>Pink Beds Picnic Area</b>	Pisgah	Brevard and Mt. Pisgah area	Year-round (restrooms close in winter months)	1 pavilion; near Cradle of Forestry and Blue Ridge Parkway; fee for reserving pavilion

**Free Sites: Other Recommendations for family treks:** Visit one of the sites listed for groups, or try one of these:

Site	District	Nearest Town	Season	Comments
<b>Boone Fork Pond</b>	Grandfather	Lenoir	Year-round	Pond with fishing pier, pavilion, no restroom
<b>Cheoah River Boat Launch</b>	Cheoah	Robbinsville	Year-round	Accessible rafting launch provides access to river; no restroom. Note: there are approximately 18 high flow water releases a year when this site is used for whitewater rafting. See <a href="http://boatingbeta.com/releases/cheoah_next">http://boatingbeta.com/releases/cheoah_next</a> .
<b>Dry Falls</b>	Nantahala	Highlands	Year-round	Short trail under Cullasaja River waterfall; limited parking
<b>Fires Creek Picnic Area</b>	Tusquitee	Hayesville	Year-round	Picnic tables, creek access, waterfall viewing, trails
<b>Flanners Beach Picnic Area</b>	Croatan	New Bern	March - November	Lots of picnic tables and grassy area; access to Neuse River; hiking/biking trails nearby
<b>Max Patch Pond</b>	Appalachian	Hot Springs, NC; Del Rio, TN	Year-round	Pond with fishing piers; no restroom; near Max Patch (scenic hiking)
<b>Nantahala Bypass river access sites</b>	Nantahala	Andrews and Franklin	Year-round	Several sites south of Nantahala River rafting put-ins; provide parking and access to river; no restrooms Note: there are approximately 8 high flow water releases a year when these sites are used for whitewater rafting. See <a href="https://www.duke-energy.com/pdfs/Nant-Bypass-Schedule-2015.pdf">https://www.duke-energy.com/pdfs/Nant-Bypass-Schedule-2015.pdf</a>
<b>Panther Top Fire Tower</b>	Tusquitee	Murphy	Open only on limited days in 2015; see comments	Historic firetower with panoramic views of mountains and Hiwassee Lake; no restroom  Open on 9/5; 10/3; 10/24; 10/25; 10/31; 11/1 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.
<b>Snowbird Picnic Area</b>	Cheoah	Robbinsville	Year-round	Picnic tables on Snowbird Creek
<b>Stewart Cabin</b>	Cheoah	Robbinsville	April - December	Historic Appalachian log cabin near Santeetlah Creek; no restroom
<b>Tidelands National Recreation Trail at Cedar Point</b>	Croatan	Swansboro	Year-round	Short trail on boardwalks across White Oak River where it meets the Atlantic Ocean; picnic facilities and boat launch nearby
<b>Thornburg House</b>	Uwharrie	Asheboro and Troy	Year-round	19 <sup>th</sup> century historic house and farm buildings; near Birkhead Mountain Wilderness; limited parking; no restrooms
<b>Wayah Bald Firetower</b>	Nantahala	Franklin	April - December	Historic firetower with panoramic views of mountains; picnic tables available; Appalachian National Scenic Trail and Bartram Trail nearby

**Looking for a great trail to hike with your friends and family?** There are many, many trails throughout National Forests in North Carolina. Watch for some recommendations later this year on this site; check out a guidebook of local sites; or go to <http://ncbirdingtrail.org/> for information about great places to birdwatch across the state.