



Hante Trails

Goals and Summary

On your Hante you will have the wonderful opportunity to travel simply through the beautiful forests of Western North Carolina, spending 2 weeks learning the trail systems of Pisgah Forest and the surrounding areas with a small group of adventurous individuals thirsty for knowledge and experience! Hante Trails will be a foundations trip that will teach you the skills necessary to live and travel in the wilderness under your own power. Spend the first 3 days of your trip base camping in Pisgah National Forest learning camping skills like backcountry cooking, tent and tarp set-up, and map reading. From here you will then trek further into Pisgah, or up to the Appalachian Trail where you will spend 2 days building and helping to maintain the trail systems that are integral to this area. After your service work it will be time to load up your packs and take off for a 5-day backpacking trip through the area where you can appreciate the immense network of trails connecting this area, while honing the skills you've learned so far.

In order to have a successful trip, everyone will need to be prepared to travel and bring lots of patience and energy. This Hante will focus on skill building, service work and beginner friendly backpacking (5-7 miles a day at most) all while living in a small intentional community. Like all Hantes, the goals and objectives of this Hante are many and they exist on different levels. Most obviously, this course will focus in on developing your wilderness skills in backpacking, camp-craft, and orienteering. Beyond the technical skills, your Hante will also focus on learning and exploring the ecology and geological history of these historic mountains. Your instructors want you to walk away from this Hante having gained a sense of what historical factors have shaped the Appalachian and Western North Carolina regions. They also want to help you foster your own personal connection to the natural world.

The Hante program and Eagle's Nest Camp is committed to the creation of a unique community. We ask you to come with a willingness to open your mind and with a commitment the community we will create on our grand adventure. You'll find that everyone will have different strengths and weaknesses, and your instructors will help create a nurturing community in which you will receive the support you need to succeed. As a member of our traveling community you will have responsibilities. You will need to be group oriented. At times you will have to put individual needs behind the needs of the group. This can be difficult, but this will help the trip be much more meaningful for all of us. A community's strength springs from the dedication of its individuals.

Spending two weeks in the wilderness can be a major undertaking. Wilderness trekking and traveling is incredibly rewarding, and being 100% prepared is completely critical. Please **carefully read** all of the material in this packet, as well as any information we send you over the course of the following months. Remember, we are here to be a resource for you. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us. This IS going to be an adventure of a lifetime.

Travel Information

Please meet us at Eagle's Nest Camp to begin your adventure. You may travel to and from Eagle's Nest Camp by car with your parent/guardian, or by commercial airline. Please plan to **arrive and depart between 9 and 11 a.m. on Opening and Closing Day of the session.**

If you are flying, please fly to the Asheville Regional Airport (AVL) or the Greenville/Spartanburg International Airport (GSP). **Your flight must arrive between 9 and 11 a.m. on Opening Day and depart between 9 and 11 a.m. on Closing Day.** Please send a copy of your E-ticket/confirmation email to our registrar (register@enf.org).

Eagle's Nest provides shuttles to/from the Greenville/Spartanburg and Asheville airports for registered Hante participants who are flying. Spaces are limited. **The shuttle is \$40 per camper each way (\$80 round trip) for Greenville/Spartanburg, and free for Asheville.**

Please note: Greenville/Spartanburg is about 1.5 hours from camp, and Asheville is less than 45 minutes from camp. Depending on the arrival/departure times of other campers, you *may* need to spend a couple hours in the airport accompanied by our staff, then incur travel time in the van.