





## Section Three Trace Notes: Clear Creek to Suspension Bridge in Red River Gorge

Challenge participants please note the shuttle point is at Red River Adventures on Rt 715 in the RRG. You will finish a mile or so from Red River Adventures. You will be shuttled from suspension bridge back to your vehicle.

**Leaving from the Shuttle Point :** When you arrive at the shuttle point, a representative from Red River Adventures will direct you on where you should park. You will be transported in a van with a trailer attached for all the gear. Once you are ready, proceed to the trailer, stow your gear, and get in the shuttle. This is a 45 minutes shuttle ride up and out of the Gorge to Clear Creek. On the right after you come out of the Gorge you will pass Corner Ridge Road. From that point to the intersection with the new Rt 460 you are on the Trace. Once at Clear Creek, please retrieve your gear and walk to the top of the parking lot and wait for the NOK picture and then you will be off.

- ⇒ **Starting:** The start points for this Section are normal right at the top of parking area. Due to recent flooding on Clear Creek, and muddy conditions, you will walk about .5 mile from parking lot down to road to the picnic area where you will turn right and follow the road around to the bridge over the creek. At the foot of the bridge, as you cross you will intersect the Trace and proceed up the hill. This is one of the steeper climbs on the Trace so take your time. There are numerous switchbacks to add to the fun.
- ⇒ **What to Watch For:** At the top of the first hill, you will hike along a ridge line about 2 miles. There is one Forest Service road that intersects the Trace about 1 mile down the trail. DO NOT TURN HERE! Just keep straight. It is 2 miles to one of 4 know arches in the Boone in this area. Feel free to stop, go up to the arch. Please leave no trace. After the arch, about .25 mile you will come out on Forest Service road 906. Look straight across to the left and there should be a marker for the Trace.
- ⇒ The next mile of the Trace is some of the most beautiful trail in the Cave Run area. Be careful as you climb to the higher ridge line. There are no turns off the Trace till you get to the next Forest Service road. Don't let the user developed horse trails etc, convince you to turn. Out of this area you will cross FS Road 908. Within a half mile of this road you will leave Forest Service property and pass onto private property for the next 3 miles. Be careful and watch for signs and blazes over the next 3 miles. At mile 53 you will come down a steep hill onto a gravel road. This is Johnson Branch road. You NEED TO TURN RIGHT and follow the road for .25 mile, up a steep hill and look to left for blaze and Trace. Turn left and follow the Trace 1.5 miles till you come up a gravel road and cross an open area to your right that is an old road. No turns here. Just look straight for the brown metal Forest Service gate and the Trace is there. You are now 1.5 miles to Rt 1274.
- ⇒ At Rt 1274 there will be support personnel with water, and the opportunity to lighten your load if you choose.
- ⇒ The rest of the walk is on roads and is marked and easy to follow. The support vehicle may roam up and down Clifton Road to make sure everyone is doing fine. The support vehicle will move to the intersection of Rt 1242 and old 460 where you will be directed to the new planned route over to Rt 77 and Tarr Ridge Road.

**Water:** You should start with at least two liters of water. Don't over pack water. There is water at several small streams and at 1274 from the support vehicle. You can also filter water along the road walk from stream along Clifton Road. There is no water once you cross Rt 460 till you get to camp, about 4 miles away.

**Water Obstacles / other Obstacles:** You will cross some small water obstacles along the way. None should require you to change your boots.

**5 lb Drop:** The 5 lb drop is in effect for Team Two. Please DO NOT put your drop in a black garbage bag. White is prefer and if possible mark the items with your name. You will put your drop in the STA van at Red River Adventures. If needed you are permitted to "slack pack" from 1274 to camp.

**Saturday Night Camping:** Saturday night camping is in the vicinity of Corner Ridge trail head at the north end of the RRG. Please help with leave no trace by camping off the trail in the woods if possible.

**Finishing:** On Sunday you will only have 10 miles to hike in the RRG. Please take this time to slow down and enjoy the trail. Plan a visit to Cloudsplitter and or Indian Staircase which are accessible from the Trace. Most finish between 1 and 2 on Sunday at the road (715) where the Trace comes out and goes down to the swinging bridge. At this point you will find the STA shuttle which will take you and your gear back to your vehicles at Red River Adventure.

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### **DOWNLOAD REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

Please visit our webpage, go to STA Adventures page, 2015 Hiker Challenge and download the required Release of Liability, the Media Release and review the Code of Conduct please. Forms should be signed and either scan and sent in to the office or brought with you to first hike.