

Troop 850 – Trip Description

November 2017 Cycling

High Adventure Cycling Trip on the
Abandoned Pennsylvania Turnpike and the Great Allegheny Passage

- Date:** Friday November 10 – Sunday November 12
- Departure:** Leave from MUMC – 7:00 am Friday
- Return:** Approximately 8:00 pm Sunday
- Location:** Abandoned Pennsylvania Turnpike near Breezewood PA
Great Allegheny Passage near Confluence PA

Description: Experience two iconic cycling experiences in this 3 day, 118 mile high adventure expedition including dark tunnels and breathtaking viaducts.

This is a high adventure trip and may not be suitable for everyone. We will be on our bikes for over 10 hours but our agenda does allow us to go at a moderate pace and take breaks as needed.

Day 1: Leave MUMC at 7 am, drive approximately 6 hours to Breezewood PA. Here we'll bike 22 miles on the Abandoned Pennsylvania Turnpike. This section of the highway has been closed since 1968 and features 2 tunnels. <http://www.theoldpapike.com/>

Night 1: Camping at Rocky Gap State Park, MD



Day 2: Drive to Meyersdale PA where we'll pick up the Great Allegheny Passage, part of a rails-to-trails route from Washington DC to Pittsburgh PA. Today we'll bike 50 miles. We'll start with a quick detour through the Big Savage Tunnel, then head to the Ohiopyle State Park where we'll spend the night. We'll be biking with all our camping gear! Much of it will fit in a bike-towed wagon which we'll take turns pulling. Plan to be on our bikes for 5-6 hours.

<https://gaptrail.org/>

Night 2: Camping at Ohiopyle State Park



Day 3: Bike the 46 miles back to our cars and drive home, arriving approximately 8pm.

Cost: \$50 per scout, checks only payable to Troop 850 directed to the Trip Coordinator, Dennette Murphy

Leaders: Scoutmaster Bob Steen and TBD

Signup: TBD – Signups won't begin until we have at least 1 additional adult volunteer. Space will be limited. To guarantee a spot, find your own adult volunteer!

Bring: Well-maintained bicycle suitable for hard-packed dirt trails (Not a skinny-tire “road bike”)
2 spare bike tubes, portable pump or “canned air,”
simple bike tool kit
Sleeping bag – we may experience cold weather so make sure your sleeping bag is appropriate for the conditions
Bag lunch for Friday

Preparation: Participate in a 10-mile ride along the D&R canal
Mandatory scout attendance at Oct 6 troop meeting for Flat Tire Workshop and additional planning
We will be returning on a “school night” and many scouts may have lengthy school work assigned over this break. Doing these assignments in advance is strongly advised.

This particular high adventure trip could only be scheduled over the Montgomery School District break and not all of our scouts will be able to attend due to their own school schedules. There will be other high adventure trips coming up! Look for ice climbing in January (ages 12 and up) and overnight canoe camping in April, as well as some challenging hiking.