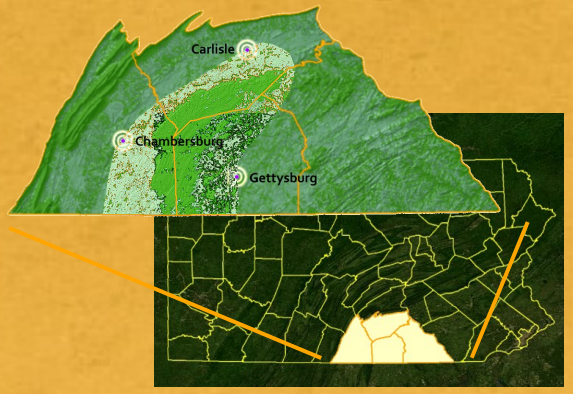
The Capital Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area Council is a seven county non-profit organization that networks people, resources and projects to promote responsible use and conservation of our region's natural, community, and economic resources.

For more information on the GeoTrail or to validate your Passport and claim your authentic Geocoin prize, please contact:

Capital Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Area Council
401 East Louther St. Suite 307
Carlisle, PA 17013
Phone: (717) 241-4361
Email: smgeotrail@capitalrcd.org
http://smgeotrail.blogspot.com
Website: www.capitalrcd.org

SOUTH MOUNTAIN GEOTRAIL PASSPORT

SOUTH MOUNTAIN GEOTRAIL



OUR LOCATION:

South Mountain is the northern end of the Blue Ridge Mountains -- a narrow mountain range stretching through Virginia and Maryland into south central Pennsylvania. Extending 40 miles in a northeast to southwest direction, it connects parts of Adams, Cumberland, Franklin and York counties in Pennsylvania.

The area serves as an "interstate greenway" – a large, linear corridor six to seven miles wide that links Pennsylvania with southern natural areas. The South Mountain Region is highly accessible from major highways such as I-81, I-83, PA Turnpike I-76, Rtes. 11 & 15 and several smaller scenic byways within a few hours of major metropolitan areas in the Northeastern United States.

For specific location information:
http://southmountaincli.blogspot.com/
or http://smgeotrail.blogspot.com

We make a promise to sustain the South Mountain Region's quality of life which is critically reliant on its natural, cultural and economic assets.

Will you join us in that promise? To find out what you can do in your local community, please visit the following websites:

SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP

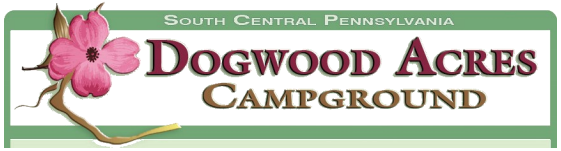
http://southmountaincliblogspot.com

Capital RC&D
Supporting Pennsylvania's Heartland!

www.capitalrcd.org

The South Mountain GeoTrail is a project of Capital Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Area Council, funded in part by the South Mountain Partnership through a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Environmental Stewardship Fund, under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR TOURISM PARTNERS AND PROJECT SPONSORS!



OWNER ID/INFORMATION

If found, please return to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

_____

Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

All South Mountain GeoTrail sites are officially registered with www.geocaching.com. Participants will need to be registered on the site to get coordinates and other information, which is a free service.

To find official South Mountain GeoTrail caches:

1) Log onto www.geocaching.com
2) Click - Hide & Seek a Cache
3) Go to – Other Search Options
4) Under Hidden by Username, type in SMGeoTrail

Important Notes: The sport of geocaching is such that trails, locations, and game pieces are at the mercy of the elements and the non-geocaching public. All participants must understand that geocaching, as well as hiking, backpacking and other outdoor activities involve risk to both persons and property. There are many variables including, but not limited to, weather, fitness level, terrain features and outdoor experience to be considered prior to seeking a cache. Be prepared for your journey and be sure to check the current weather and conditions before heading outdoors. Always exercise common sense and caution.

Disclaimer: In no way shall the Capital Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area Council, Inc. nor any employee, agent, officer or volunteer of the South Mountain GeoTrail be liable for any direct, indirect or consequential damages arising out of, or in any way connected with the participation in the South Mountain GeoTrail Project.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN – *What is it?*

South Mountain and the area surrounding it originated millions of years ago when the land created from volcanoes and covered by oceans buckled and rose. Historically, communities surrounding South Mountain have thrived from the fertile limestone agricultural lands, the timber that fed the iron furnaces, the plentiful game and wildlife, and the abundance of pure spring water that is captured by the mountains' permeable soils and released into the valleys.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP – *Who are we?*

The South Mountain Partnership is a unified group of private citizens, business, not for profit organizations and governmental officials working to protect, preserve and enhance the South Mountain Landscape in Central Pennsylvania.

Photo credit: South Mountain Partnership

SURVEY:

Please return this survey along with proof of your cache stamps to the Capital RC&D office to obtain your authentic South Mountain geocoin!

1. How did you find out about the South Mountain GeoTrail? _____

_____

2. Is this the first time you visited this area (circle one)? Yes No

3. How many people are traveling with you during your visit? _____

4. Are you staying overnight in the region (circle one)? Yes No

5. Would you recommend this region to others (circle one)? Yes No

6. Do you plan to return to the region again (circle one)? Yes No

7. Will you return to participate in other activities (circle one)? Yes No

8. Please provide comments to enhance the South Mountain GeoTrail experience for others:

_____

_____

Thanks for completing this survey!

NOTES:

SOUTH MOUNTAIN GEOTRAIL –

What is it?

The South Mountain GeoTrail enhances a "sense of place" for residents and visitors, by linking agricultural, heritage and natural resources as well as promoting recognition and awareness of the importance of the selected "cache" sites. The GeoTrail provides a family-friendly outdoor experience that presents a unique opportunity to enjoy all that the area has to offer.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN GEOTRAIL GUIDELINES

Each cache will contain a unique stamp to be used in your passport as proof of finding the cache. *Please use the stamp only for your passport and return it to the cache container when finished.* The next person finding the cache is going to need it! Only one passport will be given per geocacher.

Once you successfully find 30 caches within the project area, you are eligible to receive a free one-of-a-kind geocoin. Take your passport, with a minimum of 30 stamps and your completed survey (back pages), to the "headquarters" location at the Capital RC&D office, where your passport will be validated and a geocoin will be awarded to you. Your passport will be returned as a keepsake, or to use for subsequent finds throughout the South Mountain Region. Only one coin will be given per validated passport.

PRESERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE

The South Mountain region has a history that is as rich and complex as its landscape. Our goal is to further the public's knowledge and pride in the region's heritage.

Native Americans used the Cumberland Valley as a major travel and trade route. Iron forges manufactured cannon balls used during the Revolutionary War and George Washington led his army through the valley while fighting for our country's independence. The French and Indian War pockmarked the region with battles. Later, the civil war left a heavy imprint on the land. For many years, escaping slaves walked trails along the spine of South Mountain on the Underground Railroad. There are many layers of stories that the South Mountain Partnership is working to showcase and preserve.

Photo credit: Shriver House Museum

RECORD LOCAL AGRICULTURE SITES HERE:

Use the unique stamp in each cache container to stamp your booklet using the grid below. The grid provides validation for up to 24 finds. Don't forget to also log your finds on geocaching.com!

Note: caches that are not part of the South Mountain GeoTrail are not eligible for validation in the program.

PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING LOCAL AGRICULTURE

Local farm families in the region have a great connection to the land and for generations have provided the people around them with the bounty of their harvest at farm stands and markets. The Pennsylvania Dutch concept of "Bodegeshmack," meaning "taste of the soil," captures the passion that we have for farming and agricultural heritage in the South Mountain region.

The partnership is working to maintain farming as a way of life in the region by promoting agri-tourism, increased demand for local foods and preservation of farmland. We also strive to provide farmers with "best practice" methods that will help foster environmental stewardship and profitability on their farms.

Photo credit: Capital RC&D

RECORD CULTURAL AND HERITAGE SITES HERE:

Use the unique stamp in each cache container to stamp your booklet using the grid below. The grid provides validation for up to 24 finds. Don't forget to also log your finds on geocaching.com!

Note: caches that are not part of the South Mountain GeoTrail are not eligible for validation in the program.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

Together, we're getting the message out about the critical role natural resources play in South Mountain communities. We're conserving lands that are critical to our drinking water supply, diversity of plants and animals as well as forest health.

An abundance of state forests and parks exist within the South Mountain region, which also boasts the halfway point of the Appalachian Trail. Out-of-state and local people make full use of the area's recreational opportunities; in the summer, the mountain becomes a regional hub for vacationing. The partnership is working to grow new opportunities, as well as enhance current recreation programs, with emphasis on those that promote respect and appreciation of the area's natural resources.

Photo credit: Appalachian Trail Conservancy

National Park Service lands associated with the Appalachian Trail do not allow geocaching and are not included in the South Mountain GeoTrail project.

RECORD NATURAL AREA SITES HERE:

Use the unique stamp in each cache container to stamp your booklet using the grid below. The grid provides validation for up to 24 finds. Don't forget to also log your finds on geocaching.com!

Note: caches that are not part of the South Mountain GeoTrail are not eligible for validation in the program.