



## **Germannia Trail Rules and Safety Guidelines**

**Welcome to the Germanna Foundation's Siegen Forest and our Russell and Joan Hitt hiking trails!** These trails are open to the public during daylight hours, year-round. Enjoy hiking along the Rapidan River, enjoying nature and the area's wildlife, or experiencing some of the area's rich colonial and Civil War era historic sites firsthand. Trail guides are available online and in the Visitor Center.

Vehicles may park in marked parking spaces only. To help protect our trails and property, please remove/replace the yellow chain across our access road as you come and/or go after Visitor Center hours. There is no general public boat access to the river (members and organized groups may be granted boat access with advance written permission), and there are no restroom facilities along the trails. All visitors must adhere to "pack it in, pack it out" practices, and follow these additional rules and safety guidelines:

- Use of metal detectors or other sensing devices, digging or other ground disturbance, or removal or collection of artifacts, materials, plants, or relics is strictly prohibited. Please notify the Foundation if you see any evidence of such activities.
- Help protect our historical sites by staying on the trails. Do not walk on the Civil War earthworks or walk on or move rocks at any historical building sites.
- Do not drink water from streams or the river.
- Wear insect repellent and appropriate clothing and shoes. Beware of poison ivy, chiggers, ticks, and snakes. Foxes, bears and even a coyote have been reported in the Forest.
- Picnicking is allowed at the established area(s). No overnight camping and no fires are allowed, except for Scouts and other organized and supervised groups, and only with advance written permission from the Foundation. Pack out all your trash.
- Bicycles, motorized vehicles, and horses are not permitted on the trails. Dogs are allowed if leashed and all solid waste must be picked up and packed out.
- Although hunting inside the Foundation's Siegen Forest is illegal, it is wise to exercise caution and wear bright colors when walking the trail during hunting season.
- Beware of trail hazards and uneven surfaces. Please notify the Foundation if you notice any areas of the trail requiring special maintenance or work. Wear sturdy shoes or boots.
- Road traces and animal trails crisscross the area. To stay on the hiking trail, follow the map carefully and look for the 2" x 6" colored blazes on the trees.
- Trail markings: a single blaze indicates you are on the path. The blazes are spaced so you should see the next one as you pass a blaze. A double blaze indicates the trail changes direction.

**Thank you for visiting the Germanna Foundation's Siegen Forest. Conservation of this beautiful area and maintenance of our property and trails depend on generous donations from visitors like you. If you enjoy your visit, please consider making a tax deductible donation to the Germanna Foundation today. Thank you!**