**About PEEC** 

The Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC), in cooperation with the National Park Service, is one of the longest running residential centers in the United States for environmental education.

PEEC is a Pennsylvania Outstanding Conservation Organization and is located on the Pocono Plateau, within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Easily accessible from New Jersey and the greater New York and Philadelphia metropolitan areas, PEEC offers nature study programs for individuals, schools, scout groups, hikers, and nature lovers in a beautiful and informal setting.

For your safety and enjoyment, please follow these guidelines:

- Remain on the marked trails.
- Do not drink water from ponds and streams.
- Dogs are permitted provided that they are leashed.
- Swimming is not permitted in PEEC ponds and streams.
- Motorized vehicles and bicycles are prohibited on PEEC trails.
- Remember Take only pictures, leave only footprints.

Please feel free to visit the restrooms, water fountain, and educational displays inside the main building. Picnic tables are provided beneath the awnings for your enjoyment. Recycling facilities are also available beside the main building parking lot. A small selection of snacks and drinks is available in the gift shop.

Please stop at the main office for more information about upcoming workshops or bringing a group to PEEC.



## Trail Map



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WWW.PEEC.ORG

PEEC offers six ecologically diverse trails which vary in distance and difficulty. All trails are loops that begin and end on the PEEC campus. Interpretive trail guides are available at the main building. PEEC staff members are available for additional trail advice.

**Fossil Trail:** Estimate 1 hour to enjoy this 1.03 mile trail. The trail is blazed in <u>blue</u> and begins with the Tumbling Waters Trail 30 yards up the campus road across from the Group Lodges. The trail takes hikers past a vernal pool important for breeding amphibians and eventually descends into a beautiful, mature, hardwood ravine. Note a large sign depicting marine organisms found in the area hundreds of millions of years ago. These organisms can be found as fossils in the rock ledges to the right of the sign. Please leave fossils for others to admire. The trail ends at PEEC's amphitheater site; follow the campus road back to the main building.

**Ridgeline Trail:** Allow 3 hours to hike this 3.63 mile trail. It is blazed in <u>yellow</u> and begins at the forest edge of the parking lot behind Cabin #1. The trail wanders through expansive oak-hickory forests, shady hemlock ravines, and around numerous vernal wetlands. The terrain is hilly; in one section where the trail meanders over a rock ledge, additional care should be taken. This trail begins and ends, along with the red-blazed Scenic Gorge Trail, on Lower Campus. Follow the campus road back to the main building.

**Scenic Gorge Trail:** Allow at least an hour to enjoy this 1.5 mile trail. This trail is blazed in <u>red</u> and begins with the Ridgeline Trail behind Cabin #1. The trail is moderately difficult with a few steep sections. Hikers enter a deep, majestic hemlock forest following Spackmans Creek and walk from an open hardwood forest ecosystem into the dark, cool hemlock canopy. During rainy seasons this trail can be muddy in sections, so waterproof footwear is recommended. The trail ends, along with Ridgeline Trail, on Lower Campus. Follow the campus road back to the main building.

**Tumbling Waters Trail:** Estimate at least 2 hours to hike this scenic 3.01 mile trail. This <u>orange</u>-blazed trail begins with Fossil Trail 30 yards up the campus road, across from the Group Lodges. At the end of the first mile, hikers are rewarded at Hermits Hill with a beautiful overlook of the Delaware Valley and the Kittatinny Mountains in New Jersey. At 1.5 miles, take a series of switchbacks down to the waterfalls. You must climb back up the switchbacks before continuing on the main trail, which quickly ascends Killer Hill. You will pass through 3 forest types: a hemlock forest, a mixed oak forest, and a pine plantation, before arriving at the shore of Pickerel Pond. Pickerel Pond is approximately 10 minutes from the trail's end at the parking lot in front of the main building.

**Two Ponds Trail:** The most leisurely and flattest trail at PEEC, this 1.4 mile loop takes hikers through towering pine plantations and allows a view of two scenic pond environments. Watch for various wildlife and birdlife along this trail. This trail is blazed in white and begins by the Front Pond bird blind across Emery Road from the main building parking lot and ends by the dining hall.

**Sensory Trail:** This trail is intended to increase sensory awareness. A rope guides blindfolded users around a short loop trail. Blindfolds can be picked up at the main office. This trail is located just past the entrance to the Tumbling Waters and Fossil Trails.

