

TRIP PLANNING RESOURCES

The following can be valuable resources in planning a backpacking/hiking trip. The Internet has opened up a wealth of resources, just be willing to search and research as you plan to explore a particular trail or section of the country. It is important to note that resources can be one persons point of view and are not guaranteed accurate information – so be prepared to validate your information by cross checking what you find. Use these resources in addition to reputable trail guides, maps and people you know that may have hiked the area you are interested in doing.

Hiking Clubs and Organizations

<http://amcworchester.org/> - The mid-state Trail and other local trails
<http://www.amc-ny.org/> - NY and NJ trails
<http://www.greenmountainclub.org/> - Green Mountain Club - Vermont (Long Trail)
<http://www.adk.org/home-flash.aspx> - Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK)
<http://amcberkshire.org/> - Information on the AT in MA as well as the M&M Trail
<http://www.appalachiantrail.org/> - The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC)
<http://northvillelakeplacidtrail.com/> - Northville-Lake Placid Trail
<http://www.aldha.org/index.htm> - Appalachian Trail Long Distance Hikers Association –Publishes the Thru-Hikers Companion (AT)

Hiking forums and blogs

<http://www.whiteblaze.net> - Appalachian Trail and long distance hikers forum
<http://appalachiantrail.rohland.org> - Appalachian Trail parking (highly reliable)
<http://www.trailjournals.com/> - Hikers journals/blog and forum
<http://www.viewsfromthetop.com/> - Northeast hikers' blog and forum

Weather Resources

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/box/> - National Weather Service. Interactive map
<http://www.wunderground.com/> -Provides “Scientific Discussion” and web cams
<http://mountain-forecast.com> - Targeted forecast for mountain peaks

Maps and Trail guides

<http://maps.google.com/> - maps, satellite photos, Photos of locations Etc. Google Earth can also be useful
<http://www.localhikes.com/> - Variety of trails around the country
<http://www.trails.com/> - Wide variety of info from trail guides (fee based site)
<http://sectionhiker.com/> - Section hike info on the Long and Appalachian Trail
<http://www.trailplace.com/> - Publishes the Thru-Hikers Handbook (Appalachian Trail)
<http://alltrails.com/> - Variety of trails. Useful for getting trail reviews
<http://www.catskillguide.com/hiking.htm> - On line guide to the Catskill Mountains
<http://topomaps.usgs.gov/> - provides access to USGS topographical maps that you can download. Drill down by clicking on “**finding and ordering USGS topographic maps**”; then “**Map locator and downloader**” and follow instructions to find and download maps. Note that it is difficult to format for printing.