

Whiteoak Canyon Out & Back Hike

Approximately 4.8 miles one-way/9.6 roundtrip

SDMP = Skyline Drive Mile Post

The Whiteoak Canyon trail is marked by **blue blazes** on the trees. This trail descends into a canyon and passes 6 waterfalls. If you do not want to do the full 11 mile hike, we suggest this hike which is an out-back hike. You can turn around at any point, perhaps setting your sites on a particular set of falls as a goal.

To Whiteoak Canyon Trail Head from Skyland Resort Conference Hall, 0.6 miles, easy

- Follow the road up the hill to the signs for the Stables. See stables, parking area to your right.
- Continue on the road crossing over Skyline Drive to the Whiteoak Canyon Trail parking lot. Take care when crossing Skyline Drive.

Whiteoak Canyon Trail to Upper Whiteoak Falls (first waterfall), 2.3 miles, moderate

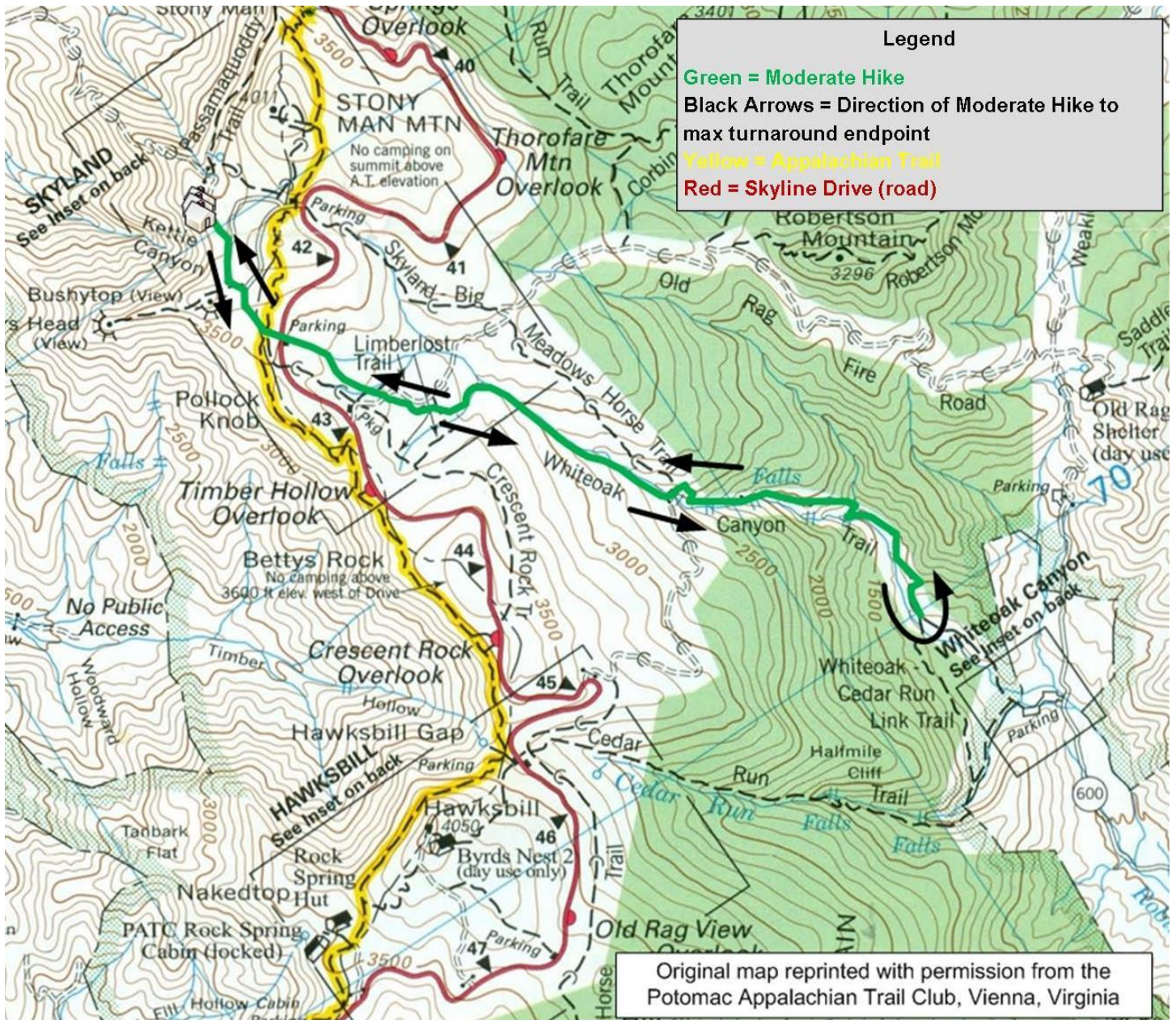
- Enter the Whiteoak Canyon Trail and follow the blue blazes on the trees.
- When the trail intersects with the Limberlost Trail, remain on the Whiteoak Canyon Trail. Note, Whiteoak Canyon and Limberlost intersect twice, there is a gravel "road" in between.
- The Upper Whiteoak Falls are near the intersection of the Whiteoak Canyon Trail, Whiteoak Canyon Fire Road, and Skyland - Big Meadows Horse trail (yellow blaze).
- There is a 250 ft. spur trail to the right that leads to the base of the falls.

Upper Whiteoak Falls to Cedar Run Link Trail, 1.9 miles, strenuous (steep rocky trail, steps, and frequent switchbacks)

- From Upper Whiteoak Falls there are 5 additional waterfalls before Whiteoak Canyon Trail intersects with the Cedar Run Link trail.
- We recommend that you go no further than Lower Whiteoak Falls. A roundtrip hike from this point is approx. 9.6 miles.

Return to Conference Hall

- **Once you decide to turn around you will simply follow the path you came down.**
- When you reach Skyline Drive: **stay left on road** and follow sign for "Amphitheater", go up hill, passing Amphitheater, and down road to Conference Hall. IGNORE road signs to Skyland Resort; that will take you the long way back.



Most descriptions courtesy of *Appalachian Trail Guide to Shenandoah National Park, 2009 Thirteenth Edition, published by Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (pgs. 50-52, 122-123).*