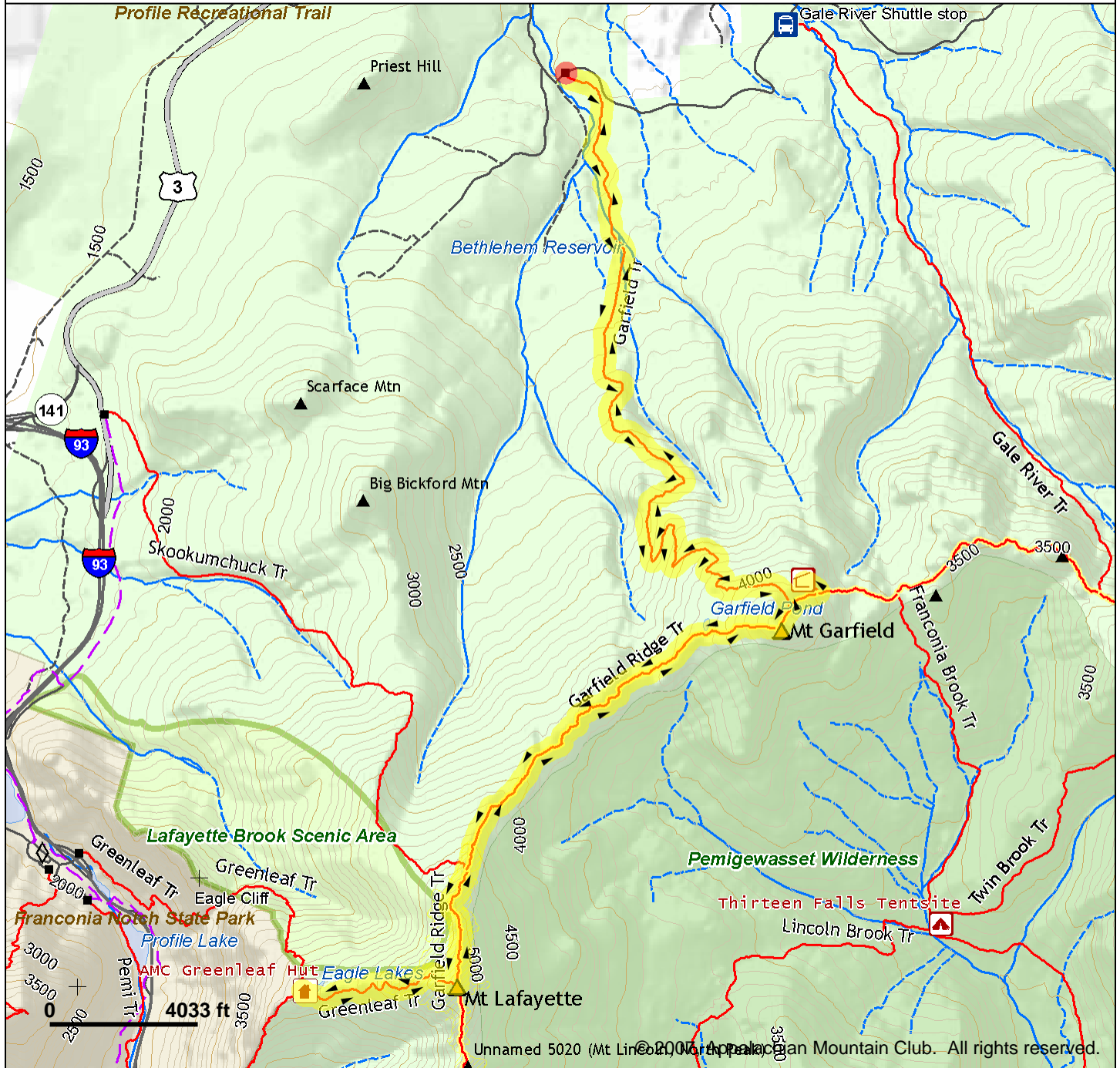


garfield lafayette v.3.1



Notes

| Distance | Time | Elev Change | Trail / Waypoint | Latitude | Longitude |
|----------|-------------|-------------|--|-------------|-------------|
| | | | starting at Garfield Trailhead The trail runs from the Gale River Loop Rd. (FR 92) to the Garfield Ridge Trail 0.2 mi. east of the summit of Mt. Garfield. The trailhead is reached by leaving US 3 at a small picnic area 0.3 mi. south of its intersection with Trudeau Rd.; this intersection, often called Five Corners, has signs for Trudeau Rd. and for the Ammonoosuc District Ranger Station (which will be closed at some future date). Avoiding a right fork, follow the Gale River Loop Rd. south for 1.2 mi., then swing left and cross a bridge to a parking lot on the right. (The trailhead for the Gale River Trail can be found 1.6 mi. further along this same road.) | 44° 13' 44" | 71° 37' 59" |
| 4.80 mi | 3 hr 49 min | +2738 ft | on Garfield Trail | | |
| 4.80 mi | 3 hr 49 min | +2738 ft | This trail runs from the Gale River Loop Rd. (FR 92) to the Garfield Ridge Trail east of the summit of Mt. Garfield, which is bare rock with magnificent views. Most of the way the trail follows an old road used for access to the former fire tower, and its grades are easy to moderate all the way to Garfield except for the short steep pitch on the Garfield Ridge Trail just below the summit. This trail lies within the watershed of a municipal water supply, and hikers and campers should take care not to pollute any of the streams in this watershed. The trail begins at the parking lot, climbing an embankment and following the top of the north bank of the South Branch of the Gale River through fine woods with many large hemlocks. It then descends and swings to the right toward the river, meets the old fire tower access road, and turns left on it. The trail now climbs slowly away from the river heading generally south. The Garfield Trail then recrosses Spruce Brook. The trail then crosses a ridge (once completely burned over and known as Burnt Knoll) and descends slightly. There is a fine birch forest in this vicinity that has grown up in the old burned area, particularly below the trail; above the trail, the growth is mostly coniferous, indicating that the trail may follow the approximate upper boundary of the old burn. Soon the trail resumes its moderate ascent by several sweeping switchbacks in the mostly coniferous woods above the old burned area, and reaches a blowdown patch. Here it turns sharp left and climbs easily through an area of large conifers and then around the east side of the cone of Mt. Garfield to a junction with the Garfield Ridge Trail, which enters from the left, ascending from Garfield Ridge Campsite. The summit of Garfield is reached by turning right and following the steep, rocky section of the Garfield Ridge Trail to its high point, then scrambling over the ledges on the left for another 60 yd. to the foundation of the old fire tower. | | |
| | | | to the junction of Garfield Ridge Trail | 44° 11' 20" | 71° 36' 36" |
| 0.20 mi | 6 min | -343 ft | on Garfield Ridge Trail | | |
| 5.00 mi | 3 hr 55 min | +2395 ft | This trail runs from the junction with the Franconia Ridge and Greenleaf trails at the summit of Mt. Lafayette to the Twinway near Galehead Hut, traversing the high ridge that joins the Franconia Range to South Twin Mountain and passing near the summit of Mt. Garfield on the way. The footway is rough, and there are numerous minor gains and losses of elevation, so the trail is more difficult than one might gather from a glance at the map. Extra time should be allowed, particularly by those carrying heavy packs. There is a small brook beside the trail, and a side path runs left 200 yd. to the AMC's Garfield Ridge Campsite, passing a fine outlook over the Franconia Brook valley on the way. | | |
| | | | to the junction of Garfield Ridge Campsite access | 44° 11' 24" | 71° 36' 25" |
| 0.15 mi | 8 min | +89 ft | on Garfield Ridge Campsite access | | |
| 5.15 mi | 4 hr 3 min | +2484 ft | to Garfield Ridge Campsite | 44° 11' 27" | 71° 36' 30" |
| 0.15 mi | 8 min | -89 ft | on Garfield Ridge Campsite access | | |
| 5.30 mi | 4 hr 11 min | +2395 ft | to the junction of Garfield Ridge Trail | 44° 11' 24" | 71° 36' 25" |
| 0.20 mi | 6 min | +343 ft | on Garfield Ridge Trail | | |
| 5.50 mi | 4 hr 17 min | +2738 ft | The main trail continues to climb steeply past a junction where the Garfield Trail enters on the right from US 3, and then reaches its high point on Mt. Garfield; the bare summit and its old fire tower foundation, with magnificent views, is 60 yd. left (south) over open ledges. | | |

| Distance | Time | Elev Change | Trail / Waypoint | Latitude | Longitude |
|----------|-------------|-------------|--|-------------|-------------|
| | | | to the junction of Garfield Trail | 44° 11' 20" | 71° 36' 36" |
| | | | entering alpine zone | | |
| 0.20 mi | 6 min | +203 ft | on Garfield Ridge Trail | | |
| 5.70 mi | 4 hr 23 min | +2940 ft | The trail then descends steeply, with many rock steps, and passes to the left (south) of Garfield Pond, near the foot of Garfield's cone. | | |
| | | | to the junction of Mt Garfield spur | 44° 11' 15" | 71° 36' 40" |
| 2.70 mi | 1 hr 53 min | +262 ft | on Garfield Ridge Trail | | |
| 8.40 mi | 6 hr 16 min | +3202 ft | After descending gradually to a tangled col, the trail ascends the rough end of a large wooded hump and passes over a series of knobs (one of which has a short but rather faint side path on the left that leads to a fine outlook over the Pemigewasset Wilderness). It reaches a sag, ascends near the crest of the ridge at a moderate grade, then climbs steeply past the timberline to a junction on the right with the Skookumchuck Trail on a shoulder. | | |
| | | | to the junction of Skookumchuck Trail | 44° 10' 10" | 71° 38' 37" |
| 0.80 mi | 26 min | +519 ft | on Garfield Ridge Trail | | |
| 9.20 mi | 6 hr 42 min | +3721 ft | The Garfield Ridge Trail continues to climb steeply, following the open crest of the ridge to the north peak of Mt. Lafayette, then runs with easier grades to the main summit, where the Greenleaf Trail enters on the right and the Franconia Ridge Trail continues straight ahead. | | |
| | | | to Mt Lafayette | 44° 09' 39" | 71° 38' 40" |
| 1.10 mi | 1 hr 5 min | -1026 ft | on Greenleaf Trail | | |
| 10.30 mi | 7 hr 47 min | +2695 ft | This trail runs from the Cannon Mountain Tramway parking lot on the west side of the Franconia Notch Parkway to Greenleaf Hut, where the Old Bridle Path joins, and thence to the summit of Mt. Lafayette, where it ends at the junction of the Franconia Ridge and Garfield Ridge trails. Until it reaches the hut, the trail is almost completely in the woods with few views, except when it traverses Eagle Pass, a wild, narrow cleft between Eagle Cliff and the west buttress of Mt. Lafayette that has many interesting cliff and rock formations. | | |
| | | | At the summit of Mt. Lafayette, the Greenleaf Trail begins at the junction with the Garfield Ridge Trail (north) and the Franconia Ridge Trail (south). The trail descends the West side of Mt. Lafayette and bears right around a ledge on the left side from which a remarkable spring issues, very small but fairly reliable. The trail continues in the open at a moderate grade, sometimes on rock steps between stone walls. The trail enters the scrub, passes a sandy area on the left, and then descends, passing over several minor knobs. The trail passes south of the Eagle Lakes, two picturesque shallow tarns (though the upper lake is rapidly becoming a bog). The Greenleaf Trail then passes the Greenleaf Hut where the Old Bridal Path leaves to the left. | | |
| | | | to AMC Greenleaf Hut | 44° 09' 37" | 71° 39' 38" |
| 1.10 mi | 1 hr 5 min | +1026 ft | on Greenleaf Trail | | |
| 11.40 mi | 8 hr 52 min | +3721 ft | The Greenleaf Trail heads toward Lafayette, enters the scrub, and dips slightly, passing south of the Eagle Lakes, two picturesque shallow tarns (though the upper lake is rapidly becoming a bog). The trail rises, passing over several minor knobs, and swings left after passing an open, sandy area on the right. The trail soon climbs above the scrub into the open and ascends at a moderate grade, sometimes on rock steps between stone walls. The trail bears left around a ledge on the right side of the trail from which a remarkable spring issues, very small but fairly reliable. Now the trail turns right and soon reaches the summit of Mt. Lafayette. Here the Garfield Ridge Trail leads north and then northeast to Mt. Garfield, Garfield Ridge Campsite, Galehead Hut, and the Twin Range. To the south, the Franconia Ridge Trail leads to Liberty Spring Campsite and the Franconia Notch Parkway via the Liberty Spring Trail, or to the Kancamagus Highway via the Osseo Trail. | | |
| | | | to Mt Lafayette | 44° 09' 39" | 71° 38' 40" |
| 0.80 mi | 26 min | -519 ft | on Garfield Ridge Trail | | |
| 12.20 mi | 9 hr 18 min | +3202 ft | The trail leaves the summit of Mt. Lafayette and runs north along the open ridge over the north peak, then descends steeply to a junction on the left with the Skookumchuck Trail on a shoulder. | | |
| | | | to the junction of Skookumchuck Trail | 44° 10' 10" | 71° 38' 37" |

| Distance | Time | Elev Change | Trail / Waypoint | Latitude | Longitude |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|
| 2.70 mi | 1 hr 53 min | -262 ft | on Garfield Ridge Trail | | |
| 14.90 mi | 11 hr 11 min | +2940 ft | Swinging northeast, the Garfield Ridge Trail then drops steeply to timberline and continues to descend at a moderate grade near the crest of the ridge to a sag. From here, the trail passes over a series of knobs (one of which has a short but rather faint side path on the right that leads to a fine outlook over the Pemigewasset Wilderness on a large wooded hump). It descends the rough end of the hump to a tangled col, then climbs gradually toward Mt. Garfield. | | |
| | | | to the junction of Mt Garfield spur | 44° 11' 15" | 71° 36' 40" |
| 0.20 mi | 6 min | -203 ft | on Garfield Ridge Trail | | |
| 15.10 mi | 11 hr 17 min | +2738 ft | Near the foot of Garfield's cone, the trail passes to the right (south) of Garfield Pond, then climbs steeply, with many rock steps, to its high point on Mt. Garfield; the bare summit and its old fire tower foundation, with magnificent views, is 60 yd. to the right (south) over open ledges. The trail then descends steeply, bearing right at the junction where the Garfield Trail enters on the left from US 3. | | |
| | | | to the junction of Garfield Trail | 44° 11' 20" | 71° 36' 36" |
| leaving alpine zone | | | | | |
| 4.80 mi | 3 hr 49 min | -2738 ft | on Garfield Trail | | |
| 19.90 mi | 15 hr 6 min | 0 ft | The Garfield Trail leaves the Garfield Ridge Trail and descends around the east side of the cone of Mt. Garfield. It descends easily through an areal of large conifers, reaches a blowdown patch above the old burned area. It descends through conifers by several sweeping switchbacks. There is a fine birch forest in this vicinity that has grown up in the old burned area, particularly below the trail; above the trail, the growth is mostly coniferous, indicating that the trail may follow the approximate upper boundary of the old burn. The trail ascends slightly then crosses a ridge (once completely burned over and known as Burnt Knoll) and descends slightly. The Garfield Trail then crosses Spruce Brook. It crosses Thompson and Spruce brooks and a snowmobile trail (which has bridges across the two brooks that flow close by on either side of the main trail in this area, potentially useful for avoiding some of these brook crossings in high-water conditions). The trail descends slowly on a northbound heading. The trail leaves the old fire tower access road and ascends, swinging left toward the South Branch of the Gale River. It follows the top of the north bank of the river through fine woods with many large hemlocks. It descends an embankment and terminates at the parking lot. | | |
| | | | to Garfield Trailhead | 44° 13' 44" | 71° 37' 59" |
| | | | The trail runs from the Gale River Loop Rd. (FR 92) to the Garfield Ridge Trail 0.2 mi. east of the summit of Mt. Garfield. The trailhead is reached by leaving US 3 at a small picnic area 0.3 mi. south of its intersection with Trudeau Rd.; this intersection, often called Five Corners, has signs for Trudeau Rd. and for the Ammonoosuc District Ranger Station (which will be closed at some future date). Avoiding a right fork, follow the Gale River Loop Rd. south for 1.2 mi., then swing left and cross a bridge to a parking lot on the right. (The trailhead for the Gale River Trail can be found 1.6 mi. further along this same road.) | | |
| 19.90 mi | 15 hr 6 min | 0 ft | Totals | | |

Disclaimer

The use of this content is at your own risk. You acknowledge that (i) hiking, climbing and camping and related outdoor activities entail inherent risks and hazards, (ii) that conditions are variable and the content does not purport to be error-free or up to date, (iii) the presence of some warnings does not mean that all dangerous situations or changes in conditions will result in warnings on the AMC Site (and, thus, in this report), and (iv) ratings are very general, assume good weather and trail conditions and good physical fitness and constitute only one factor of many in a decision to hike a trail.

Important Phone Numbers

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Emergency | 911 |
| Appalachian Mountain Club Pinkham Notch Visitor Center | 603-466-2721 |
| U.S. Forest Service | 603-528-8721 |
| National Weather Service | 603-225-5191 |

Additional WMNF Information

Camping is allowed anywhere in the WMNF, but is prohibited or restricted in Forest Protection Areas (FPAs). Generally, in Forest Protection Areas no camping is permitted above treeline (where trees are less than 8 feet tall), within ¼ mile of a trailhead or road, within 200 feet of a trail.

Wilderness Areas

In accordance with USFS Wilderness policy, trails in designated Wilderness areas are generally maintained to a lower standard than trails outside Wilderness. They may be rough, overgrown or essentially unmarked with minimal signage, and considerable care may be required to follow them. Hiking and camping group size must be no larger than 10 people. Camping and fires are also prohibited above treeline (where trees are less than 8 feet tall) except in winter, when camping is permitted above treeline in places where snow cover is at least 2 feet, but not on any frozen body of water.

Alpine Zone

Hikers are encouraged to be particularly careful in their activities above treeline because the plants that grow there already have to cope with the severity of the environment. No plants should ever be picked or otherwise damaged. Hikers are urged to stay on trails or walk very carefully on rocks so as not to kill fragile alpine vegetation. AMC urges hikers to become citizen-scientists and help AMC in alpine plant monitoring – see www.outdoors.org/mountainwatch for details.



Safety Tips from the Appalachian Mountain Club

Here's the essential clothing and gear you need — even for a day hike — in the Northeast's mountains in the spring, summer, or fall. **Always check the weather and prepare for the worst conditions; make plans with your group's abilities in mind; and plan an alternate route in case of bad weather, injury, illness, or slower than expected travel time.**

Avoiding Hypothermia: Hypothermia can occur when your core body temperature falls below normal. This can easily happen when you are exposed to cold winds or wetness.

You can avoid hypothermia if you guard against dehydration, fatigue, cold winds, and wet clothes. Be sure to:

- Dress warmly, in layers.
- Stay dry.
- Protect yourself from wind, rain, and snow. (This can be done most effectively by wearing clothes that block wind and moisture.)
- Eat high-energy snacks and drink plenty of water.
- Do not over-exert.
- Pack essential gear, even on day hikes.

Essential Gear: Be sure to wear or bring the following:

Wool sweater or synthetic pile jacket * Hat * Gloves or mittens
Bandanna or handkerchief * Long pants (avoid cotton)
Wind and rain gear (jacket and pants)

Extra socks * Sturdy boots * Polypropylene or wool underwear
First-aid kit * Waterproof matches. * Whistle * Knife.
Guidebook, trail map, and compass. * High-energy snacks.
Two to four quarts of water, per person. * Flashlight or headlamp with fresh batteries.
Sunscreen. * Insect repellent. * Plastic trash bags
Consider carrying a sleeping bag in case you are forced to sleep out overnight. If you're traveling in a group, carry at least one sleeping bag. It is an emergency tool that can keep an injured hiker warm until help arrives.

For more advice of preparing for your next hike, see: www.outdoors.org/triplanner

AMC offers over 8,000 outdoor programs each year, offers a wide range of educational programs, and maintains over 1,700 miles of trails in the Northeast. Most of all, we rely on the support of hikers like you. To join, visit www.outdoors.org/membership.

AMC recommends hikers follow the hikeSafe Hiker Responsibility Code, and minimize their impact on the backcountry by following Leave No Trace principles.

hikeSafe Hiker Responsibility Code



You are responsible for yourself, so be prepared:

With knowledge and gear. Become self reliant by learning about the terrain, conditions, local weather and your equipment before you start.

To leave your plans. Tell someone where you are going, the trails you are hiking, when you will return and your emergency plans.

To stay together. When you start as a group, hike as a group, end as a group. Pace your hike to the slowest person.

To turn back. Weather changes quickly in the mountains. Fatigue and unexpected conditions can also affect your hike. Know your limitations and when to postpone your hike. The mountains will be there another day.

For emergencies. Even if you are headed out for just an hour, an injury, severe weather or a wrong turn could become life threatening. Don't assume you will be rescued; know how to rescue yourself.

To share the hiker code with others.

hikeSafe: It's Your Responsibility. To learn more, see: www.hikesafe.com

The Hiker Responsibility Code was developed and is endorsed by the White Mountain National Forest and New Hampshire Fish and Game.

Leave No Trace principles to minimize backcountry impact



Plan ahead and prepare. Know the terrain and any regulations applicable to the area you're planning to visit, and be prepared for extreme weather or other emergencies. Small groups have less impact on resources than large ones.

Travel and camp on durable surfaces, which include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses, or snow. Camp at least 200 feet from lakes and streams, and focus activities on areas where vegetation is absent.

Dispose of waste properly. Pack it in, pack it out. To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

Leave what you find. Cultural or historic artifacts, as well as natural objects such as plants or rocks, should be left as found.

Minimize campfire impacts. Cook on a stove. If a campfire is built, keep it small and use dead sticks found on the ground. Use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.

Respect wildlife. View critters from a distance. Feeding wildlife alters their natural behavior.

Be considerate of other visitors. Be courteous, respect the quality of other visitors' backcountry experience, and let the natural sounds of the forest prevail.

The AMC partners with Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, to provide Leave No Trace training in the East. For more on our LNT Master Educator training, see www.outdoors.org/education.