

Looking for some neat things to do this summer? Here are a few. Some are free, while others have a small admission charge. Consider connecting them to Boy Scout Merit badges (such as American Heritage, and Indian Lore), or to the Cub Scout belt loop and arrow point electives.

Andrew Jackson State Park

Andrew Jackson State Park combines history, art and community activities into a setting that has made it one of the S.C. State Park Service's most popular attractions. Popular features of the park include living history programs, an Andrew Jackson museum that details his boyhood in the South Carolina back country. Great opportunities for picnics, boating, hiking and fishing.

<http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/andrewjackson/introduction.aspx>

Lansford Canal Park

Stretched along the Catawba River on the South Carolina fall line, Lansford Canal State Park is home to the well-preserved remains of the canal system that made the river commercially navigable from 1820 to 1835.

Favorite activities in this Piedmont Park include picnicking, nature watching and studying the canal structures. Fishing is permitted along the Catawba River, and a paddling trail runs through the park for canoes and kayaks.

<http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/landsfordcanal/introduction.aspx>

President James K. Polk Historic Site - EAGLE PROJECTS CURRENTLY ON HOLD

This site is located on land once owned by the parents of James K. Polk, the 11th U.S. president. The state historic site commemorates significant events in the Polk administration: the Mexican-American War, settlement of the Oregon boundary dispute, and the annexation of California. Reconstructions of typical homestead buildings—a log house, separate kitchen, and barn—are authentically furnished. The visitor center features a film on Polk's life and exhibits on his family and tumultuous presidency.

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/polk/polk.htm>

Cowpens National Park

A pasturing area at the time of the battle, this Revolutionary War site commemorates the place where Daniel Morgan and his army turned the flanks of Banastre Tarleton's British army. This classic military tactic, known as a double envelopment, was one of only a few in history.

<http://www.nps.gov/cowp/index.htm>

Kings Mountain National Park

Kings Mountain State Park has miles of forested trails perfect for supreme Kings Mountain hiking, two fishing lakes, and sits adjacent to Kings Mountain National Military Park, one of many national park Revolutionary War sites. Local crowds flock to the park during regularly scheduled special events, especially every November when living history demonstrations are held at the park's replica 1800s Piedmont farm.

<http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/kingsmountain/introduction.aspx>

Latta Plantation Nature Preserve

The Latta Plantation Nature Center has an active program of advancement and camping programs for Cub Scouts at all levels. If your den or pack does not have access to a critical skill, or if your Cubs are seeking adventure not far away, please check out the opportunities on Latta Plantation Nature Center and Preserve. Please call Latta Plantation Nature Center well in advance to work out scheduling details. A nominal fee is charged. Please see attached pricelist. Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department operates 3 Nature Centers: Reedy Creek, McDowell, and Latta Plantation. You can link to these Centers from

<http://charmeck.org/mecklenburg/county/ParkandRec/StewardshipServices/Pages/default.aspx>

Rankin National History Museum

The Rankin Museum is fun for all ages. Take yourself away from your everyday world and explore faraway places and times past in our exhibits. Imagine what it would be like if you were there! Take a walk in the jungles of Central America, in the backwoods of the Carolinas, or go on a safari in Africa and encounter animals closer than you could ever get in the wild.

<http://www.rankinmuseum.org/>

Town Creek Indian Mound

Located in Mt. Gilead, NC, Town Creek, has been the focus of a consistent program of archaeological research under one director for more than half a century. It is one of the most popular State Historic Sites in North Carolina.

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/town/>

Indian Rock

In Charlotte an Indian landmark in the Big Rock Nature Preserve - South Charlotte

<http://www.panoramio.com/photo/3342269>

<http://www.cmhpf.org/S&Rs%20Alphabetical%20Order/Surveys&rbigrock.htm>

Walking and driving tours in Charlotte

<http://www.historiccharlotte.org/>

Cane Creek Park – Waxhaw, NC

<http://www.co.union.nc.us/QualityofLife/ParksRecreation/CaneCreekPark.aspx>

Fishing, swimming and hiking.

Waxhaw Museum

The museum's permanent exhibit is focused on the rich history of the Waxhaws region. Beginning with its Native American roots, the exhibits trace the history of the region to the turn of the twentieth century. Particular attention is given to Scots-Irish immigration and the rural life of these early settlers to the Waxhaws.

In addition there are exhibits interpreting the American Revolution in the region, as well as exhibits on agriculture and important crops and the Civil War. The turn of the century exhibit gives a unique look at the town of Waxhaw as it existed around 1900.

<http://museumofthewaxhaws.com/>

Charlotte Nature Museum

Located in Freedom Park, not far from up town Charlotte, the museum offers nature-based fun and learning for the family. There is a modest admission fee for non-members. For further details please visit:

<http://www.charlottenaturemuseum.org/>

North Carolina Transportation Museum

North Carolina Transportation Museum, in nearby Spencer.

This is a great place to visit.

Other Resources:

Insiders Guide- Fun with the Family North Carolina – Hundreds of ideas for day trips with the kids. by James L. Hoffman

City and county, and state web pages offer great information about parks and upcoming activities.

Resources for hikers

Jesse Brown Outdoors <http://www.jessebrowns.com/categories/Climbing/>

REI <http://www.rei.com/expertadvice/articles/caring+hiking+boots.html>

Sierra Trading post <http://www.sierratradingpost.com/lp2/hiking-footwear-guide/>

Backpacker Magazine <http://www.backpacker.com/>

<http://h1ker.com/hiking-boot-guide/>