

Warriors Passage

A Scout Historical Hiking & Backpacking National Recreation Trail in the Cherokee National Forest



The wording on the patch is Cherokee, "A Sga Ya Ge Gus Oo We Da Sdi" and means, "Brave Man, Where He Walks"

A historic mountain trail near Tellico Plains, Tennessee. Sponsored by the Cherokee Hiking Club, a volunteer non-profit group who desire to help provide better Scouting, keep the trail open, and promote interest in our early history. Warriors Passage has received national approval from the Boy Scouts of America and is designated as a National Recreation Trail.

In cooperation with the Great Smoky Mountain Council, BSA, Fort Loudoun Association, United States Forest Service, and the Town of Tellico Plains

WARRIORS PASSAGE **An Adventure into History**

You can have an adventure while on Warriors Passage! This is the trail that Cherokee Indians and British Soldiers followed almost 300 years ago. A group of Knoxville Scouts reopened the trail for your use in the 1960s. It was used by the Cherokee as they traveled between their villages in western South Carolina and in eastern Tennessee and by the soldiers who built Fort Loudoun in 1756.

Long ago the trail extended from Charleston, South Carolina, to the Cherokee towns along the Little Tennessee River. Today the only part which can be traced lies in the mountains between Unaka, North Carolina, and Tellico Plains, Tennessee. About half of this portion has been cleared and marked for hikers. The trail is shown on the map.

Warriors Passage is much more than a hike and camp. You will have to use your Scouting Skills and demonstrate that you know a little of the Fort Loudoun and Warriors Passage story. As you are hiking you may have the opportunity to observe wildlife — turkey, deer, and many others. The trail is within a national forest and you will see how a great nation is able to protect our forests and waterways from wanton logging and befouling of our water sources. If you give your imagination a chance, you will almost hear the shouts and commands as Captain Demere led the brave red-coated soldiers of the King down this trail. Think what it must have been like to be in a large military unit entering the Cherokee Nation for the first time! Can you hear the squeaks of the leather saddles, or the metal horseshoes against the rocks, or maybe the soldiers themselves? What a sight it must have been as this long single file of men, horses and equipment made their way along the same trail you are to hike!

While at Twin Springs, you will have the opportunity to be on the site that was used by the soldiers and other travelers for overnight camping hundreds of years ago.

—Background —

Like most early trails, Warriors Passage was probably first created by wild animals as they sought the best water holes and the deepest grass. The heavy, awkward buffalo, especially, would find the easiest way to go around or over a hill or mountain. Gradually the animal trails become wider and clearer so that when Indians needed to cross the same country, it was only natural for them to follow the animal paths. By the time the white man came, many of these trails had been in use for centuries.

For a hundred years after the Europeans first came to live along the Atlantic coast, the few hardy adventurers who penetrated the back country to the west returned with tales of the great mountains that shut off further travel and trade. These great mountains formed a natural defense for the "Overhill" Cherokees, the westernmost villages of the Cherokee Nation. About the year 1700, South Carolina traders learned from the Indians that there was a trail westward over the southern Allegheny Mountains by which the ten or twelve Overhill towns might be reached.

A few adventurers set out over the ancient path to seek quick fortune from precious metals they hoped the Indians would show them and to see the Indian towns and the great forest which covered most of the land. (Warriors Passage is close to Coker Creek where considerable gold has been found. You may want to try your hand at panning gold.) Some kept notes on their

westward travels and these notes have been handed down to the present time preserving a fascinating description of the undeveloped country and its natives of long ago.

We would not call the old trading path a road today, but two hundred years ago it was one of the best. It was wide enough that horses loaded with trade-goods could travel along it — single file, of course — into Cherokee country and return loaded with deer skins, which were the chief trade items of the Indians.

The first map of the trail, which we now call Warriors Passage,* was drawn by a surveyor named George Hunter in 1730. It was also the first to show the locations of the Cherokee towns. In the same year a British adventurer, Sir Alexander Cuming visited the Cherokee and persuaded them to swear loyalty to King George, the "great king over the water." In the past, the trail was known as Northwest Passage, Traders Path, Waucheesi Trail, Great Indian Trail, and Soldiers Trail.

—Fort Loudoun—

About 1750 it was decided that the British should build a fort across the mountains in the Cherokee country to strengthen the alliance between the two nations and to combat French influence among the Indians. (What language would you speak today had the British not won the French and Indian War?) After much talk, the fort was built in 1756-57 on the south bank of the Little Tennessee River, only five miles downstream from the Overhill Capital of Chota and within a few hundred yards of the village of Tuskegee. More than two hundred regular soldiers and militia marched through the mountains on Warriors Passage to build and garrison the fort, and there was much use of Warriors Passage as traders brought supplies to the fort and as messengers carried letters to and from the outpost.

A notable feat of transportation of artillery (cannon) was performed by a trader named John Elliott during the building of the fort. Captain Raymond Demere, British commander of the Fort Loudoun expedition, wrote to the royal governor of South Carolina that the twelve cast iron cannon, weighing about 300 pounds each, could never be brought over the path. John Elliott's idea was to balance one gun on one horse and change horses every few miles. For this service, he asked forty pounds (about \$290) for each gun. Even though he could make only five or six miles a day, and in spite of the loss of several horses, Elliott reached the fort with the cannon late in November, 1756. As you hike the trail today, you will wonder how a horse carrying a 300-pound cannon could ever have made the trip.

Soldiers, traders and Indians were not the only ones to use Warriors Passage. Many of the men who came to Fort Loudoun brought their wives and children with them. At least two ministers, Rev. John Martin and Rev. William Richardson, visited the Cherokee nation and the fort. On January 1, 1759, Rev. Richardson "baptized a child for one of the soldiers," perhaps the first white child to be born in Tennessee.

Had they escaped, the Fort Loudoun garrison would have used Warriors Passage to return to South Carolina after surrendering the fort in the summer of 1760. Many of the soldiers were victims in the Indian massacre after the surrender. From Tellico Plains, it is a drive of only five miles to the massacre site at the point where Cane Creek flows into the Tellico River.

—Lost and Found—

In 1797, Benjamin Hawkins, who had been a United States Senator from North Carolina and was Superintendent of Southern Indian Tribes by appointment of President George Washington, came into the Tennessee country along the trail. With him were surveyors who were to mark the boundary between the Cherokee nation and the new state of Tennessee. In his journal, Hawkins describes his descent from Unicoi Ridge (Waucheesi) to the Cherokee town of Tellico, providing landmark clues and distances by which the once-important trail has been again opened.

Because the trail was so steep at the mountain top, it was abandoned about 1830 in favor of a route which would allow travel by wagon. As the years passed, the trail was used less and less even for foot travel and by 1950, it was almost entirely lost.

Warriors Passage is open today because several men were willing to combine their knowledge and ability. The historians had the research information and the Scouters had many willing Scouts. The idea of restoring the trail was conceived in 1958 and work began in 1963. For the better part of three years, 1963-66, the Scouts worked on that portion of the trail from Waucheesi to Old Furnace Road (Lyons Creek Road). The Scouting units maintained regular programs the entire time. Many days were spent in looking for the missing links that would connect the known parts of the trail. There were miles of underbrush, fallen trees and weeds to clear as well as backbreaking digging. Often a cleared section would grow more brush while another new section was being cleared. There was also the need to be on the alert for rattlers, copperheads, and yellow jackets. The Scouts had prized trophies from their encounters. Several times forestry operations destroyed sections of the trail which had to be rebuilt. The boys donated the signs and posts and even carried them in. You may still see a few during the hike. They had no power tools to help. They maintained high morale and donated hundreds of hours of their young muscle power.

There are so many to honor for their work years ago to make this adventure a reality — Mr. Paul Brown and Mr. Elsworth Brown, both of Chattanooga, for research material and field trips; Judge Sue K. Hicks, Madisonville, and Dr. Paul Kelley, Knoxville, for historical material; Mr. Len Harris, Knoxville, for assistance with the many maps; Mr. James Wright and Mr. Harold Huffaker, both of Knoxville, for leadership with the Scouts and their labor; the different associations and organizations for research material; the National Forest Service for their cooperation; and, above all, that wonderful group of Boy Scouts from units 49, 252 and 300 who for years, and

under the most difficult circumstances, demonstrated that they understood the true meaning of Scouting.

Yes, you are going to have a wonderful adventure. You are going to camp and hike on the same ground used by brave men of yesterday. You will join the company of Sir Alexander Coming, Captain Raymond Demere, Captain John Stewart, Senator Benjamin Hawkins, Attakullakulla, British soldiers, and Cherokee Indians.

Good luck. Prove yourself a mature youth by being a real Scout.

—About the Hike—

This is a rugged backpacking hike and Scouts without experience on steep trails will have difficulty. This should not be the first hike for a boy. Advance approval is not needed but we ask that the leader let us know his unit will be on the trail and when they should be out. This is a rugged mountainous area and hikers have become lost by not paying close attention to trail signs. Because of the high elevation of this area, temperatures frequently fall to well below freezing during the winter.

As you hike the full 15.7 mile route of the Warriors Passage route, you will hike the Unicoi Turnpike Trail for about 2 miles up to Unicoi Gap, but in the future you will begin your hike at the Fort Armistead Visitor Center and hike from there up to the gap. At the gap, you will then follow the backbone of the mountains between TN and NC north to Waucheesi Bald, utilizing the Benton MacKaye Trail, and from there hike down the Warriors Passage Trail to Old Furnace Road. Old Furnace Road is the old Unicoy Turnpike into Tellico Plains. Thus you again will be hiking on the Unicoy Turnpike to the Tellico River, a route travelled by thousands of Indians and your own ancestors. The Unicoy Turnpike was also the route of the Trail of Tears from Unicoi Gap and Fort Armistead to Tellico Plains, and from there to Oklahoma.

—Unicoy Turnpike & Fort Armistead—

The original Cherokee Indian path across the mountains at Unicoi Gap (The called “Unicoy Gap”) was known as the Great Indian Path. When settlers moved in and began building homes west of the mountains in the Great Valley of the Tennessee River, the path became a trade route. Many of the farms in the Tennessee Valley produced grains, corn, and raised cows, pigs, turkeys, and even ducks which were needed in the cotton plantations of South Carolina. Thus around 1816-19 the Great Indian Path was improved and in some places rerouted to make for easier travel by wagon. This became known as the Unicoy Turnpike and extended from the navigable end of the Savannah River at Tugaloo, GA, to Chota, TN, on the banks of the Little Tennessee River north of Tellico Plains. Thousands of wagons transported these needed food items eastward across the mountains into South Carolina via the Unicoy Turnpike. At Unicoy Gap, a fee was assessed by the Unicoy Turnpike Company for every person, wagon, and animal crossing the mountains. Settlers also moved from the coastal plains westward over the Unicoy Turnpike to new homes

west of the mountains. There were “stock stands” established about every 10 miles along the turnpike to allow the animals a night’s rest, and these stock stands also led to the establishment of inns, taverns, and stores. The Cherokee Indians prospered during this time, providing food and lodging and other needed supplies for the thousands who travelled the Unicoy Turnpike. The road became mostly abandoned by commercial sponsors in the 1920s due to competition by other cross-mountain routes such as along the Little Tennessee River Valley, but maintenance was taken over by the US Army in 1932.

In 1819, a treaty between the US Government and the Cherokee Nation, known as the Calhoun Treaty, ceded much of the area south of Coker Creek, the Hiwassee District, to the State of Tennessee. In 1827, gold was discovered in the Coker Creek area. Hundreds of illegal prospectors rushed into the area, trespassing on Cherokee lands. The influx of prospectors also led to the development of a new stock stand just north of Coker Creek in 1831, named Meroney’s Stock Stand. This stock stand provided food, lodging, supplies, “entertainment” and whiskey to the prospectors. In July of 1832, primarily to preserve the gold resources for the State and keep the gold from getting into the hands of the illegal prospectors, a military occupation of the area was ordered by President Andrew Jackson. General Walker Armistead was put in charge of the military operation and created Camp Armistead close by Meroney’s Stock Stand, taking over the stock stand buildings. Of interest, this US fort was placed on Cherokee Nation lands to “police the Coqua Creek mines” with 85-90 enlisted men without the permission of the Cherokee Nation. This was the first time the US ever built a fort on lands owned by an Indian tribe without permission. In 1834 Camp Armistead was renamed Fort Armistead and became a permanent installation. Also in 1834, Fort Cass was built at Calhoun TN to become the “Indian Agency”.

A new Indian treaty, the Treaty of New Echota, was signed in 1835 (by Cherokees not authorized to do so), which required the Cherokee Indians to “voluntarily” vacate their lands and go to Missouri and Oklahoma within 2 years. If they were not gone within two years, the Indians would be forcefully removed. Fort Armistead and Fort Cass would be strategic in the Indian Removal which began in 1838. In Georgia, the Creek Indians were being systematically rounded up in the mid-1830s in preparation for the removal, and many of the Creeks deserted to the Cherokee lands.

The “Second Creek War” of 1836 was waged by the TN Militia to capture these Creeks who moved to TN and NC, using Fort Armistead to garrison the captured Indians. Following this, the Cherokee still in the mountains of TN and NC were rounded up and brought over the mountains during the summer of 1838 via the Unicoy Turnpike to Fort Armistead. It is estimated that over 3000 Cherokee were brought through Unicoy Gap and garrisoned at Fort Armistead. In the fall of 1838, the militia reentered the mountains, searching for Cherokee hiding out to avoid deportation. Several hundred more were captured and brought to Fort Armistead. These Cherokees were then moved to Fort Cass on the banks of the Hiwassee River at Calhoun in preparation for movement by boat to Ross’s Landing (now Chattanooga), thence down the Tennessee, Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, then up the Arkansas River into Missouri and Oklahoma. But things did not go as planned.

A stretch of very dry and hot weather in the fall of 1838 led to a marked drought and low water levels. The Indians could not be moved downriver by boat. Also, the drought led to severe food shortages and the outbreak of diseases such as cholera. The Indians begged to stay in place until the weather improved and the water levels came back up and this was granted. During this time, starvation and disease led to a high mortality rate among the Indians. Finally, the Indians were taken to Ross's Landing (Chattanooga) then mostly overland 1200 miles to Oklahoma on what became known as the Trail of Tears. It is estimated that about 17,000 Cherokee were forcefully removed to Oklahoma of which about 4000 thousand died in route. The severe drought of 1838 was followed that winter by severe cold and frozen rivers. Crossing the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers became problematic due to late spring ice flows, further delaying the trip to Oklahoma and resulting in more Indian deaths.

This is a sad chapter of American history, one of which we Americans cannot be proud. Due to our greed for land and gold, we displaced the Cherokees out of their homeland to Oklahoma where they now reside. Imagine what it was like for the Indian families who lived in these mountains they loved, then told they had to leave their homeland and move to Oklahoma to make way for American settlers and gold prospectors. During one of the worst droughts and coldest winters on record, these families were forced to walk to Oklahoma, one in four of their family members dying on the way. In Oklahoma, the region was so dry that crops could not be grown and for the next couple of years, their families had to be fed on a dole from the US government until the weather improved. Now there they are, living in a land much different from their homeland to make way for the "Manifest Destiny" and the "Western Expansion" of the greedy Americans who stole their lands by treaties which left no options for the Indians. It is amazing that the Cherokees have survived all this, living on their lands in Oklahoma and prospering fairly well, especially with the help of the Cherokee Casinos and from tourism. Their capital city, Tahlequah, is of course named after their homeland capital of Tellico Plains, TN.

Now, picture in your mind this 1200 mile overland journey with your family, you a young Cherokee Indian about age 12 or so. Your grandmother dies from starvation and your little sister dies from cholera along the way, left in unmarked graves which will never be seen by you again. You have little to eat and you are traveling in sandals nearly worn out on your feet and little in the way of clothes. It is beastly hot and dry part of the way and beastly cold with frozen rivers to cross the last part of the way. Somehow you survive and your family starts a new home. Your family cannot grow crops because it is so hot and arid, so you survive the next two years on rations provided by the US government. It takes little imagination to realize how cruel and non-empathetic our ancestors were who could treat the Native Americans as savages unworthy of respect. The Cherokee were not savages. They had a government, farms and businesses, their own spoken and written language, their own newspaper, homes every bit as good as the settlers had, if not better. Unfortunately, they were in the way of "progress", our "Manifest Destiny" to own all the lands and the peoples therein and treat them however we liked. This was the basis of "Jacksonian Democracy" and our "Western Expansion". Now we honor Andrew Jackson as some sort of national hero by putting his face on every Twenty Dollar bill in our

wallets. We did the Cherokee Indians wrong and we will never be able to right the wrongs we have done. But at least we can come to realize what our ancestors did.

Now, to move on. During the excavations of the Fort Armistead site, it was noted that right across the Unicoy Turnpike there was also evidence of occupation, in the form of numerous stone piles. Metal detecting in the area pulled up numerous Civil War artifacts, and it was discovered that the stone piles represented 31 Civil War encampment hearths for cooking. There was mention of old Civil War encampments around the Coker Creek area, but none had been clearly located – until now. Research surmised this to be the site of Camp Coker Creek, which was occupied between 1862-63, and was the winter headquarters of Walker’s Battalion of the Confederate Thomas’ Legion. Thus, not only does the site represent the Fort Armistead of the Indian Removal, but also represents a Confederate encampment from the Civil War. Don’t let it be lost on us as Americans that the Civil War was fought primarily to preserve our way of life in the Southern States – a life which included slavery, again, a form cruelty to our fellow man not unlike how we treated the Native Americans.

In the years following the Cherokee Removal and the use of the area during the Civil War, Fort Armistead fell into disrepair and most people had no idea where it was. But it was rediscovered on the property of Ken and Kathleen Dalton in 1990, who sold his property to the US Forest Service in 2006. Plans are to build a visitor center at the site of the old Fort Armistead and to link the old fort via the still extant roadbed of the Unicoy Turnpike to the current Unicoi Turnpike Hiking Trail, which follows the old route up to Unicoi Gap. Fort Armistead is being considered for designation as a National Historic Landmark, a designation which it truly deserves. Fort Armistead and the Unicoi Turnpike is just one piece, but an important piece, of the whole Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

--AWARDS--

Those who have met the following requirements may order patches (shown on the cover of this form) at \$5.00 each from the Cherokee Hiking Club. Make checks or money orders payable to: Cherokee Hiking Club and mark in the memo area “Warriors Passage Patches”. Do not send cash! When ordering awards, please use the form on our website. Mail the form and your check to Cherokee Hiking Club, c/o Richard Harris, 533 Shaw Mountain Road, Tellico Plains, TN 37385.

—REQUIREMENTS—

Before starting the Warriors Passage Adventure, carefully read the trail material and study the map. Many units have wasted hours on wrong trails by not following simple instructions. In accordance with BSA policies, hikers under age seventeen (17) must be accompanied by a minimum of two registered adult leaders, or one registered leader and a participating Scout’s parent, or another adult, is required for all trips and outings. One of these adults must be 21 years of age or older

- 1) Hike from Waucheesi Bald to Old Furnace Road (6.2 miles), or Waucheesi Bald to the Cherohala Skyway and the Tellico Beach Drive-In (10 miles), or Unicoi Gap to Old Furnace Road in one day (12.5 miles), or backpack from the start of the Unicoi Turnpike Trail to the Cherohala Skyway (17.4 miles), camping on top of Waucheesi Bald, Twin Springs Campsite, or the campsite along Wildcat Creek.
- 2) Your unit must have a complete first aid kit.
- 3) The hike should be started and finished in Scout uniform (but not absolutely required). Be sure to wear sturdy hiking shoes or boots. Also, you may need to cross Wildcat Creek by wading up to your thighs, so bring wading shoes, a small towel, and fresh socks.
- 4) If camping, leave stacked firewood at your campsite next to the fire pit. Use wood that is down, and never cut or carve on anything that is green. Do not bring in any wood from outside the forest, to prevent introducing insects such as the Ash Bore Beetle into the area.
- 5) During the hike, stop at the historic Twin Springs Campground. Locate and visit each spring area. Using length of step method, determine the distance between the two springs and which spring is nearest the crest. As a group, discuss the historic significance of the site in sufficient detail whereby the unit leader is satisfied that the Scouts understand its significance.
- 6) Hike together as a group with the unit leader at all times. In the past several groups have gotten lost by hiking way ahead and missing a trail sign. Stay together!
- 7) At all times, conduct yourself in such a manner as to bring pride and honor to your unit and the Boy Scouts of America.

- 8) And don't forget to stop at the Tellico Beach Drive-In for a huge Mayfields ice cream cone, or hot dog or burger.

--ALTERNATE CAMPING SITES IN THE AREA--

Indian Boundary Recreation Area - Reservations can be made online at <http://www.recreation.gov> for the Indian Boundary Recreation Area Campground. During the winter months, the main campground is closed, but you can camp in the overflow area (no reservations required). Reservations are not needed at Holly Flats Campground on Bald River Road, but this campground is also closed in the winter. There are numerous small campgrounds not requiring reservations along the Bald River, Tellico River, Citico Creek, and North River. Some charge a small fee (if they have a restroom), others are free. All of these campgrounds are marked on the Tellico and Ocoee Rivers National Geographic Map #781, available online or at your local outdoor store. All of these campgrounds have water available, usually which needs treating. Some but not all have restrooms.

--DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEADS--

Unicoi Turnpike TH along Joe Brown Highway (South end of Warriors Passage Backpack Route)
– Drive south on TN 68 from the intersection with the Skyway for 9.3 miles to the Coker Creek Welcome Center. Turn left onto Joe Brown Highway by the Welcome Center and go about 2

miles and look for a brown carsonite sign with the number “116” on it. Joe Brown Hwy for part of the way is a gravel Forest Service Road. Parking is minimal along this road. Be careful. Unicoi Gap TH on Joe Brown Highway (access to the Benton MacKaye Trail and the upper end of the Unicoi Turnpike Trail) - Drive south on TN 68 from the intersection with the Skyway for 9.3 miles to the Coker Creek Welcome Center. Turn left onto Joe Brown Highway by the Welcome Center and go about 3.0 miles to the parking area in the gap at the state line. To access the west end of the Unicoi Turnpike Trail, go south (right) on the Benton MacKaye Trail a short distance to the right turn onto the Unicoi Turnpike Trail. To head toward Waucheesi Bald, go north (left) on the Benton MacKaye Trail.

Waucheesi Bald Campsite – The last 2 miles is a rough forest service road which should be travelled with a 4WD vehicle with high clearance, if possible. From Tellico Plains, go up the Skyway to the right hand turn at mile 5 for Bald River Falls on River Road. Follow the River Road (FS 221) for about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile and turn right onto Wildcat Road (FS 384) over the river and go 6.1 miles, then turn left onto Bald River Road (FS 126) and go 2.8 miles up to Basin Gap. Turn right onto the Lookout Tower Road (FS 1126C) and go 1.7 miles to the top of the bald. Be very careful the last 1.7 miles of this road trip. We do not recommend you drive this road when it has been snowing or when temperatures are below freezing due to areas of slick ice which sometimes forms across the roadbed. You will cross the Warriors Passage Trail once on Wildcat Road (mile 5.7) and once on Bald River Road (mile 0.2). The trail leaves Lookout Tower Road about 0.9 miles up the road, which is about 0.8 miles from the top. We do not recommend parking at this spot because the road is so narrow with a very steep drop-off. Park up on the bald and hike down to this spot.

Waucheesi Bald Water Source – Water is available at the Twin Springs historic campsite which is not marked at present. It is about 0.5 miles down from the bald just after a sharp left turn switchback. Go off the side of the road into the semi-clearing. The best water is down the right gully a short distance, but of course must be sterilized.

Old Furnace Road TH (West End of Warriors Passage Trail) – A short way past mile 2 on the Skyway, turn right onto Old Furnace Road across from the Tellico Beach Drive-In. Follow this unpaved FS road for 3.0 miles. You will see the trail’s carsonite site on the left just a short distance past a very sharp right hand turn with a scary look off the edge to the left side of the road. Be careful. Park by the carsonite site out of the roadbed as much as possible.

Tellico Beach Drive-In (North end of Warriors Passage Backpack Route) – The drive in is right on the edge of the river along the Cherohala Skyway about 2 miles up the Skyway. You can’t miss it because of the mob of cars parked there. No restrooms, but you can swim in the river and sit at the picnic tables by the edge of the river. This is a very popular site for the locals.

--EMERGENCY NUMBERS--

Cherokee National Forest, Tellico Ranger District – 423-253-8400, open weekdays 8AM - 4PM. For many situations, the rangers may be able to help you, such as if you are lost.

911 works in Monroe County, TN. If calling, be specific by saying you are in Monroe County TN, since dialing 911 might get you to a different county, based on the closest cell tower. Many places along the trail do not have a cell signal. Verizon and T-Mobile have the best coverage. Remember that dialing 911 will hook you up to any cell tower, even if it is not your cell service's tower. But they won't be able to call you back if you are using a borrowed cell tower, so do not hang up until they have all the info needed.

Automotive Emergency – Tellico Tire (423-253-3700) and **Tellico Auto Care** (423-253-3455) in Tellico Plains are your best bet. Both are located on Bank Street near the post office. **NAPA Auto Parts** (423-253-7700) has most anything you might need, also next to the post office and adjoining Tellico Auto Care. They have excellent mechanics, but are closed after 12 noon on Saturday and all day Sunday.

-- FOOD IN TELLICO PLAINS --

Be sure to check the web or FB page before visiting these eateries to check whether they are open and their days and hours of operation

- **Bear's Den Pizza** - Next to the CVS near the road to the high school. Huge pizzas.
- **Cotton Pickin' Inn** – Varied American faire, with bluegrass or country music on Saturday nights. Anyone can get up and borrow an instrument and sing, even little kids. Generally open till 9 PM most nights.
- **El Jacal Mexican** – great Mexican food at a good price. Be sure to order the cheese dip with your tortilla chips. Corner of TN39 and Bank Street.
- **Exxon Station (Cherohala Market)** – has a varied faire and dipped ice cream.
- **Hardee's** - at the corner of the Skyway and TN68.
- **Iron Works Grille** – right on the river across from the Cherohala Harley-Davidson store. Great burgers, etc. for a moderate price. Open generally Wednesday through Sunday, 11 AM to 9 PM.
- **Papa's Pizza** – Next to the Subway in the shopping center. Great pizza buffet for lunch most days at a great price which includes drink. Open 11 AM to 9 PM.
- **Save-A-Lot** – in the shopping center. Place to stock up on your campground food.
- **Shell Station (Shorty's Market)** – on the other side of the river on TN 360. Has lots of sandwich offerings.
- **Shell Station (Valley Market, Tellico Pride)** – across TN 68 from the shopping center. Has fried chicken and other fried foods.
- **Subway** – in the shopping center near Save-A-Lot.
- **Tellicafe** – across the street from Hardee's. Great sit-down meals at a good price. Even have prime rib on weekends.
- **Tellico Beach Drive-In** -- is along the Skyway at about mile 1.5 – ice cream, hot dogs, hamburgers, shakes, etc.
- **Tellico Grains** – great pastries, wood fired pizza, and sandwiches. By the old square in Tellico. Closed Sunday and Monday.

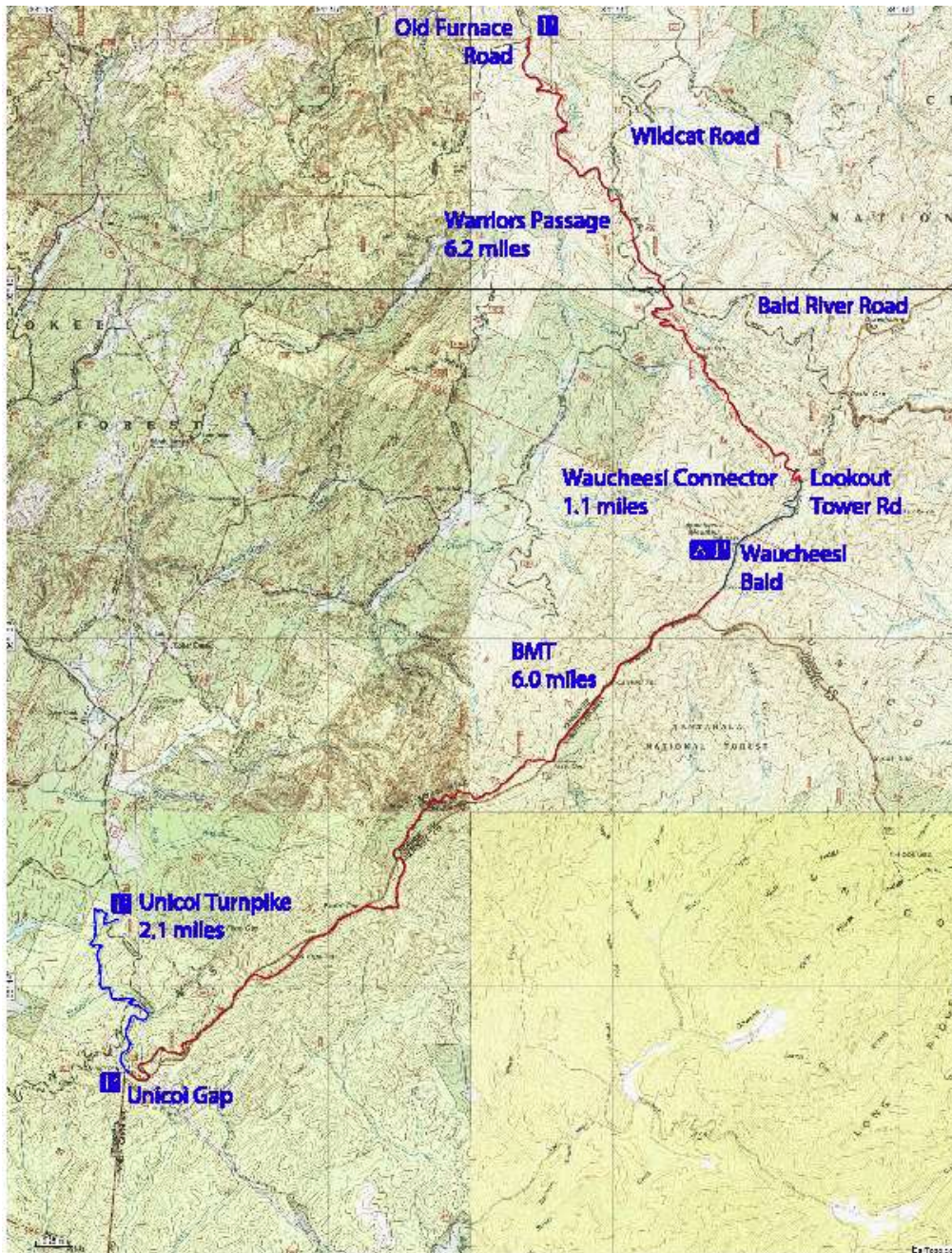
- **Tellico Kats Deli** – last establishment along the Skyway before entering the National Forest. Closed Tuesday.
- **Town Square Café & Bakery** – In the Town Square. Great little place for a sit-down breakfast. Serves lunch and dinner as well.

--OTHER SITES OF INTEREST--

- **Sequoyah Birthplace Museum** – Vonore on the shores of Tellico Lake along TN 360.
- **Charles Hall Museum** – Tellico Plains. Artifacts from the logging days and lots of local Tellico Plains and Civil War historical artifacts
- **Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center and the Skyway** – Tellico Plains. This 40-mile Skyway extends into North Carolina across the crest of the mountains, topping out over 5000 feet with many overlooks and trails.
- **Fort Cass Trail of Tears Site and Museum** – Calhoun just south of town on US 411. An official Trail of Tears National Historical Trail site, where the Cherokees and Creeks were taken after leaving Fort Armistead and before going to Oklahoma.
- **Fort Loudoun State Park** – Vonore on the shores of Tellico Lake on TN 360. Reproduction of the old War of 1812 fort on the banks of Tellico Lake.
- **Cherokee Removal Memorial Park at Blythe Ferry** – 6615 Blythe Ferry Lane, Birchwood, TN, northwest of Cleveland off TN60. Great TOT museum on the site where the Cherokee were loaded onto boats to cross the Tennessee River to continue their journey to Oklahoma.

WARRIORS PASSAGE TRAIL MAP

At the www.warriorpassage.org website open “Cherokee Hiking Club ‘Blurb’ on the Warriors Passage Trail.” This “blurb” provides information on driving directions, trail descriptions, a trail map, and a road access map.



For more information or for questions, see our website (www.warriorpassage.org), or our Facebook Page (search on FB for Warriors Passage - A Boy Scout National Recreation Trail) or email us at warriorpassage@aol.com.

