

## Boy Scout Trail / Petit Jean SP

Petit Jean State Park, AR

Boy Scout trail is a loop in Petit Jean State Park. It has vistas on both sides of the canyon and visits scenic spots including Cedar Falls overlook, Rockhouse Cave, and the Blue Hole (below the falls). The trail passes Mather Lodge, proceeds up Cedar Creek and crosses above the falls. It then loops around the canyon, past Rockhouse Cave, down to the creek (below falls) at Blue Hole; then climbs out of the canyon, past Seven Hollows Trailhead, and back to lodge. Highlights also include historic CCC era constructions. This trail can be combined with Canyon Trail and Cedar falls Trail for a variation that starts as above, but returns via Cedar Creek and the falls, rather than climbing out of canyon at Blue Hole.

**Planning notes:**

1. Driving time from HSV East gate to Trailhead = 1:15.
2. In Spring trail has abundant wildflowers blooming.

**For additional info:** Petit Jean State Park trail map (available at most state parks)  
Tim Ernst: Arkansas Hiking Trails

### Recent Hikes:

**Oct 30, 2008**      **Leader:** Jeannie Eichler      **10 Hikers**      **OMH Thursday**

**Route:** Clockwise from Mather Lodge, past Seven Hollows to Blue Hole; Canyon Trail to Cedar Falls and back to Blue Hole; continue clockwise to Rock House Cave, Overlook; crossing above falls; overlook and back to lodge

**11.0 miles**      **Difficulty Rating 3**      **Scenic Rating 4**

*Beautiful fall day with lots of color showing. We took a leisurely pace, enjoying the scenic sites.*

*Spent almost an hour at the falls for lunch.*

*Dan, Sallye, Glenn, and Ben came up Cedar Falls Trail for short route; while the rest of us continued around the loop.*

*Ice cream in Mather Lodge after hike.*

**sss:** View from mather Lodge      **Waterfall** Cedar Falls  
Bear Cave formations  
Blue Hole  
Rock House cave  
views from North Rim  
Cedar Falls voerlook  
rocks below Cedar Falls

**Jan 26, 2005**      **Leader:** Rex Greer      **8 Hikers**      **OMH bonus**

**Route:** Loop trail from Mather Lodge, returning from Blue Hole via Canyon Trail and Cedar Falls Trail.

**8.0 miles**      **Difficulty Rating 3**      **Scenic Rating 4**

*Trail in good condition and bridges washed out by last year's rains have been repaired and raised about 3' to prevent future washout.*

*New series of stepping stones has been laid at Blue Hole, making that an easy crossing.*

*Trail crosses at the Blue Hole and follows along south side of creek toward the falls, then crosses back to north side where Boy scout*

*Trail veers off to climb out of canyon. This is a difficult crossing, so all but "two macho hikers" returned to Blue Hole to cross where a permanent trail (Yellow balzes) now exists.*

**sss:** Blue Hole      **Waterfall** Cedar Falls

**May 29, 2003**      **Leader:** Rex Greer      **16 Hikers**      **OMH Thursday**

**Route:** Mather Lodge counterclockwise to Canyon Trail to Cedar Creek Falls and return to lodge via Cedar Falls Trail

**8.0 miles**      **Difficulty Rating 3**      **Scenic Rating 5**

*Wonderful scenery, including overlooks on both sides of the canyon above the falls, Rock House Cave, and the falls itself. In my mind this is a prettier hike than Seven Hollows*

*A beautiful spring day, perfect for this trip (except a little too warm for the climb out). Lunch at the falls; sticking our barefeet in the water*

**sss:** Vistas above falls      **Waterfall** Cedar Falls  
Rock House cave  
Blue Hole