While many visitors to Ohiopyle State Park access Cucumber Falls by car, my girls love to hike there using the Great Gorge Trail. This 30 foot waterfall can be accessed from a small parking lot adjacent to the falls or for those willing to hike 3 miles round trip, you can park in the lot at Ferncliff, hop on the Great Allegheny Passage and as soon as you cross High Bridge, make a left onto the Great Gorge Trail. The path is wide and well blazed for the next mile. You will then arrive at a small bridge that spans Cucumber Run. Follow the walkway down to the falls and if you dare, behind the falls. Cool yourself off by wading in the pool of fresh mountain water. In the winter, you can marvel at the falls in a frozen state. From this point, you can retrace your steps back to the parking lot or follow Cucumber Run down to the Yough, follow the trail up the hillside to your right leading along the river to Meadow Run where the water slides are. From there you can use the sidewalk on Main Street to return to the parking lot. This route is about 2.75 miles and a bit more difficult but you can stop at the park’s new visitors center, get a close-up view of the Great Falls and stop for ice cream at the Falls Market before your trip home.

Tails from the Trails

My name is Eric Steinbring and I have been a volunteer trip leader for several years. Living in Johnstown probably makes me the trip leader furthest from Pittsburgh. In the summer, I enjoy bike riding on the many rails-to-trails in our area. But in the cooler months, I can be found with my trusty hiking hounds Maggie and Zoey here in the Laurel Highlands. I will be posting a few of our adventures here for Venture Outdoors while we practice social distancing during these difficult times. If you would be interested in one of my excursions, contact the office and ask them to set up an event.

All of my events are family friendly and most are suitable for kids as young as 10-12.

See you out there!

Maggie photobombing a picture of Zoey wading.