



# 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!

Roaring Run Natural Area is located off Rt. 31 near Jones Mills in Westmoreland County. It covers over 3,500 acres and is part of Forbes State Forest which comprises about 60,000 acres that extends into Westmoreland, Fayette and Somerset Counties. It gets its name from the stream that runs through the area.

There are eight trails in its boundary for a total of 20 miles of paths including a section of the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail that snakes its way from Ohiopyle to Johnstown. With this number of trails, many of which intersect with one another, you can tailor a hike to your liking.

Zoey and I chose sections of several trails for a total of about 4.5 miles this day. Our goal was to reach the memorial to three victims of a sleigh accident back in 1896. Records report that a tree fell on them while they were tobogganing after church services that day.

Don't forget to pack extra food and water for your four-legged companions and remember that by running all around, they may cover twice as much of the trail as you do.



Trails are well marked, if only Zoey could read.



Remains of schoolhouse.



Zoey like to cool off during the hike.