

National Forest – Cradle of Forestry

Driving Directions: Physical Address: (Not a mailing address) 11250 Pisgah Hwy, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768. The Cradle of Forestry is located on US 276 in the Pisgah National Forest 11 miles north of the junction of NC 280 and US 64. It can also be reached by taking US 276 south from the Blue Ridge Parkway at mile 412.1.

Hiking directions: get map from visitor center and hike the Forest Festival and Biltmore Campus trails--2.3 miles

Information

The Cradle of Forestry offers a snap shot of life at America's first school of Forestry along the Biltmore Campus Trail. Enter through the Visitor Center and step back in time. The trail is 1.0 mile and winds through the Biltmore Forest School's rustic campus. A one-room schoolhouse, general store, cabins, blacksmith shop, and a garden provide opportunities to discuss life in the early 1900's and forest resources. Glimpse the lives of the first American forestry students and the families who lived here. Visit the Cradle of Forestry website at: cradleofforestry.com for a virtual tour of the Biltmore Campus Trail. It is one of the only hikes you can take without moving your feet.

Afterwards, take a picturesque walk along the 1.3 mile Forest Festival Trail where Dr. Schenck's forestry experiments with forest work today. Learn about how plants grow, decomposition, forest issues, and past transportation methods. Highlights include an ozone garden, antique portable sawmill, and a 1915 Climax locomotive. Climb aboard and ring the bell.

Then, visit the Forest Discovery Center Exhibit Hall. See the movie, "There's Magic at the Cradle" and explore the 15 hands-on exhibits. Be sure to ride the firefighting helicopter simulator over a forest fire.

The cost is \$5.00 for adults 16 years and older, free for youth ages 15 and under. Free for everyone on Tues. Special events are \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for youth. Free for Golden Age passport holders. Possibly fee may be waived for CMC led Youth Partner hike.