

Little Loop in a Day: FAQ

The Basics

The Little Loop Challenge will take place on Saturday, September 28th. We'll gather for a potluck celebration at 6 pm at Silver Springs Park, 5027 Stow Road, Stow, Ohio. Look for the Crooked River Chapter feather flag and banner at the Oak Tree Picnic Pavilion! Drinks will be provided. Bring your place setting and a dish to share!

.... And the Details

This is such a unique event, it's understandable you have additional questions. We've tried to anticipate some of them. How did we do? If we haven't answered your question, drop us a line and we'll get you an answer.

What is this crazy event?

This is a cooperative effort to put hikers on the trail to collectively complete the 257 mile "Little Loop" of the Buckeye Trail in one day. It's not crazy, just a little loopy. Sorry.

Isn't 257 miles a long way to hike in one day, how does that work?

Good point and that's why we've divided it into 77 easily manageable segments. Here's the breakdown:

Less than 1 mile	4
Between 1-2 miles	16
Between 2-3 miles	17
Between 3-4 miles	17
Between 4-5 miles	14
Between 5-6 miles	3
Between 6-7 miles	1
Between 7-8 miles	5
Total segments:	77
Total Miles:	256.2 Miles
Avg. Segment Length	3.33 Miles
Min	0.5 Miles
Max	7.6 Miles

Who can participate?

The event is open to anyone interested in participating and is a great way to introduce family members and friends to the Buckeye Trail. Some segments are flat, paved rails to trail corridors and even ADA accessible. Other segments are more challenging and strenuous. Read the descriptions to pick a segment(s) that is right for you.

Where is it?

The "Little Loop" connects the best areas of Northeast Ohio. It is made up of the Akron, Bedford, Burton, Mogadore and part of the Massillon Sections of the Buckeye Trail.

How do we do it?

We plan to cover the loop in one day. For areas that are open 24 hours, you could start at midnight or as early as you like! You can begin and end your hike when it is convenient for you, but **you will need to finish and report in before 6 pm**. After you complete your segment(s) on the day of the Challenge, send an email to LittleLoop@buckeyetrail.org with your name, segment(s) that you completed, and the time you finished. Please do this as soon as you are able. At 6 pm, we'll gather for our potluck celebration in Stow. If we have covered the entire Little Loop, we all receive a Little Loop Challenge patch!

Is there a cost?

Buckeye Trail Association members can participate for free. A \$5 donation is requested from non-members if they wish to receive a Little Loop Challenge patch. BTA membership is available at <https://www.buckeyetrail.org/membership.php>. Little Loop Challenge shirts, maps, gaiters (buffs) and much more BTA branded merchandise may be purchased separately from the online trail shop: http://shop.buckeyetrail.org/bt_trailshop

Where does the money go?

Donations and profits from merchandise go to the Buckeye Trail Association, a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the building, maintaining, protecting, and promoting use of Ohio's longest scenic hiking trail for the health and fitness of our citizens, communities, and partners.

What do I get out of it?

First, you get to hike the Little Loop of the Buckeye Trail! You can meet other hikers at our gathering. You have the satisfaction of working together as a group to complete an awesome challenge. You also will receive a Little Loop Challenge patch that evening.... But only if we have completed the Little Loop!

What is this potluck celebration that you mentioned?

Hikers love to share stories... and food... so, we're meeting at Silver Springs Park in Stow at 6 pm that evening for some comradery and food. We'll supply drinks (alcohol is not allowed at the park). Participants are asked to bring their own place settings as well as a dish to share. We'll also have a large map of the Little Loop where we'll mark off segments as they are completed. Once all segments have been hiked, we'll pass out Little Loop Patches! For those who have completed their segments but have scheduling conflicts that don't allow them to attend, we'll announce alternative ways to obtain a patch... but only if we have completed the Little Loop!

I'm coming from out of town, is there a place to spend the night?

Silver Springs has limited camping that is available by reservation only. There are other campgrounds nearby and several hotels, motels, and other accommodations in the area.

After I finished hiking my segment, will someone come pick me up?

The logistics of your hike is up to you. You can simply do an out and back hike if you wish, or have someone drop you off and pick you up. You could team up with someone doing another segment. Drop his/her car off at the end, drive him/her to the beginning and let him/her hike

back to his/her car. Meanwhile, you start the next segment. Once your teammate has hiked back to his/her car he/she can come pick you up. You could also team up with someone and do the “car to car” hike together. There are any number of ways of doing this, but that is up to you.

How many segments can I sign up for?

As many as you think you can reasonably hike in a day and be finished by 6 pm. We encourage hikers to work in pairs to hike multiple segments by dropping off a car at the finish point, driving to the starting point and hiking from car to car. Two people can knock out 3-4 segments this way.

The segment I wanted is already taken. Now what?

Well, isn't that a bummer! Consider another segment nearby or better yet, explore part of the trail that is completely new to you. One of the benefits of this event is to expose people to parts of the trail they might not know about. The Buckeye Trail connects countless of interesting historic and scenic locations.

Do I have to hike in a particular direction?

Not at all, either direction will work. Keep in mind though, that the directions on the Buckeye Trail Section maps are written in a clockwise direction (with reference to the big loop, so Akron is written from North to South), but that shouldn't stop you from being able to hike in the “opposite” direction.

I only have a vague idea of my segment; how can I get more information?

Order a map or guidebook in advance. Local section maps are available from REI in Beachwood, Appalachian Outfitters in Peninsula, Backpackers shop in Sheffield, and Breakaway Excursions at the LaDue Boathouse and Marina Boat Rental in Auburn Township, among others. You can also email us questions you may have. You can also utilize the FarOut or Avenza apps. Before you hike, please check the BTA website for any last-minute Trail Alerts or Map Updates, especially if you are using an older map.

Will the trail go through the parking lot you suggested that we park at?

Not always, sometimes you may need to travel a short distance to get to the trail. That should be explained in the comments. Study the map ahead of time and let us know if you have questions about where you'll be heading after you park. A call center hotline will be available during the event to help walk you through if needed.

What if I sign up and can't hike?

We're sorry to hear that, but things do come up. If it's before the day of the hike, let us know as soon as you can so we can get someone else to sign up for that segment. On the day of the hike, let us know immediately so that we can find someone to hike your segment, but please make every effort to hike.

What happens if I get hurt?

Call 911 if you need to. Carry a cell phone and be careful!

How do I prove I hiked the entire segment?

For better or worse, right or wrong, we're doing this on the honor system. All you must do is tell us that you did it! We would love for you to take pictures and upload them, but there is no other proof required than your word. We trust you because hikers are trustworthy!

Does the BTA plan to do this every year?

YES! And we'd love to have you help us plan the 2025 Little Loop Challenge! Chat with us during the gathering in Stow and we'll share with you how you can help.

What about doing the entire BT in a day?

We do that, too! On National Trails Day we have the Biggest Day Hike and try to hike the entire Buckeye Trail in one day. We are getting closer, but we haven't gotten there yet. Maybe you could help us achieve this goal next year on Saturday, June 7, 2025!

Didn't they try this on the AT? Are you trying to be like the AT?

The AT and the BT are totally different trails, there is no way we could be like the AT and the AT can't be like us. Ok, you got us, we got the idea from them!