

Holderness Hiking

Here is a guide to some of the best small (and not so small)

hikes near Holderness School. ENJOY!

EASY

These walks are each between one and two miles round trip. They can be done in any pair of casual shoes and work for all ages and abilities.

Quincy Bog

This one mile level walk is as beautiful as it is easy. It is a great walk for multiple generations or when you just want to do something simple, that gets you out, but does not take a lot of time. Very young hikers like this adventure because there are many little bridges to maneuver. If you want to get a great ecology lesson go to www.quincybog.org and print out the "Quincy Bog Trail Guide." It explains the 24 marked plants and rock formations along the trail. There are benches scattered throughout the hike that allow for rests along the way. It is a wonderful walk in any season.

Hike Length: 1 Mile Loop

Distance from the School: 5 miles

Directions:

- Go into Plymouth to the traffic circle and head north on Route 3.
- Travel about 100 yards past the Common Man Inn and take a left onto the ramp for NH-25/3, otherwise known as "Tenney Mountain Highway".
- Travel on Tenney Mountain Hwy for 2.4 miles
- Turn right onto Smith Bridge Rd. You will reach a covered bridge in .6 miles. (This covered bridge is amazing and worth a stop.)
- After crossing the bridge stay left...you are now on Quincy Rd.
- Travel on Quincy Rd. for about 2 miles.
- Take a right onto Quincy Bog Rd. (Two stone pillars mark the entrance to this road)
- Travel 100 yards and take a left.

- Park at the end of this road. You will see a kiosk describing the bog and asking you to sign in.



Quincy Bog

more hiking you can keep on going and complete a loop back to your car or you can just retrace your steps. This trail can be mucky in spots so don't wear shoes you are hoping to keep pristine. It does not require anything more than a pair of casual shoes. This hike works in all seasons.

Hike Length: 1.2 mile roundtrip to the falls, or a 3.5 mile loop.

Distance from the School: 5 miles

Directions:

- Go into Plymouth to the traffic Circle and head South on Route 3 toward downtown.
- Keep the park in the center of downtown on your left and take a right to continue down South Main Street.
- At the Rite Aide reset your odometer and bear to the left following Route 3 South.
- Go 1.8 miles from Rite Aide.
- Take a right turn on Cummings Hill Rd. (It comes up suddenly)
- Go .7 miles and park where the road takes a 90 degree turn to the left.
- The hiking kiosk has a map and a brief history of the land.

Rainbow Falls

This is a real crowd pleaser because you get to stroll along a nice brook and reach a reliable waterfall. After a good rain or during the spring melt it can be very spectacular but it is peaceful and flowing in all seasons. There are benches at the foot of the falls to pause and enjoy the spot. If upon reaching the falls you decide you are game for

EASY (Continued)

Chamberlain Reynolds Forest

This is a track of unspoiled land on the shores of Squam Lake. The well maintained trails afford you a way to find a peaceful view of the lake with minimal effort. In any season you can stroll the trails and reach a quiet beach or wander through a boardwalk that meanders through a marsh. These trails are maintained by the Squam Lakes Association. There are maps posted at the parking area of the trail but if you want to have a map in hand stop at the Squam Lakes Association headquarters, which you pass on your way to the trailhead, and grab a map. In the lobby of the SLA they have displays explaining the ecology and conservation efforts affecting Squam Lake.

Hike Length: From 1-2 miles depending upon your choice of routes.

Distance from the School: 10 miles

Directions:

- Go right out of school onto NH 175. Travel about five miles until you reach a stop sign at a "T".
- Turn a left onto NH 3/25 and head 5.6 miles
- Take a left onto College Road.
- Go .5 miles and you will see a hiking kiosk on the left. Park.



The Marsh Walk at Chamberlain Reynolds Forest

Rattlesnake Mountain

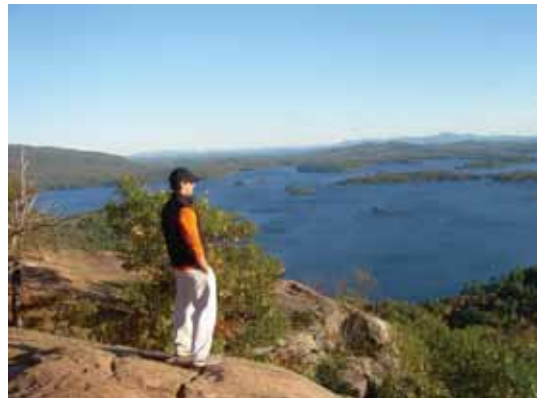
This is the classic hike for this area. It never disappoints. It is the best "effort to view" ratio of any mountain in New England. That being said, it is not always a solitary experience to climb Rattlesnake, as it is a popular destination. It is also icy in the winter and has some steep drop offs at the top so it is not recommended for a winter excursion. This one mile climb affords a breathtaking view of Squam Lake and in the distance Lake Winnepesaukee. Unlike the first few hikes in the "easy" category, this one has some significant elevation climb and will take some effort by those unaccustomed to hills. If you take it slow and easy it is very manageable and affords a breathtaking view!

Hike Length: 2 miles round trip

Distance from the School: 9 Miles

Directions:

- Go right out of the school and onto NH 175. Travel about five miles until you reach a stop sign and a "T" in the road.
- Go left onto NH 3/25 for 1.1 miles.
- Go left onto NH 113 and travel 2.1 miles.
- There is a parking area at the top of the rise on your right .5 miles past the sign to Rockywold Deephaven Camps.
- Park. The kiosk for the trailhead is at the end of the lot toward the woods.



Rattlesnake's View

MORE CHALLENGING

These hikes are each about 2 miles each way and provide a great half day of hiking.

Plymouth Mountain

This is a great way to get a lay of the land. Although the summit is wooded, there is a perfect rock outcrop called "Pike's Peak" that perches you above Plymouth and gives you an unobstructed view of Franconia Notch. The trail is a steady climb with no particularly steep spots. From the parking area follow the blue blazes. It is two miles to an intersection whereby you can go to the right and climb to the summit or go to the left to "Pikes Peak" and get a view. Go to the left and enjoy!

Hike Length: 2 Miles to the top. 4 Miles round trip.

Distance from the School: 5 Miles

Directions:

- Head into downtown Plymouth.
- Keep the park in the center of downtown on your left and take a right to continue down South Main Street.
- Just after the Rite Aide on your right take a right.
- Travel .5 miles until you get to a three way stop. (You are the only one at the intersection without a stop sign.)
- Reset your odometer.
- Go straight at this intersection and travel 2.2 miles on this road. (It is called Texas Hill Rd.)
- Take a right on Old Hebron Road
- Go .2 miles and take a left into a parking lot. A hiking kiosk will be there at the end of the lot.

Stinson Mountain

This hike has a nice gradual beginning and only gets steep near the very top...and even then it is very manageable. There are fine views available in every direction although to see North into Franconia Notch you will be tempted to stand on one of the cement pillars left from when there was a fire tower on top of Stinson.

Hike Length: 1.8 to the top. 3.6 round trip.

Distance from the School: 9 Miles

Directions:

- Go into Plymouth to the traffic circle and head north on Route 3. (Right hand turn)
- Travel about 100 yards past the Common Man Inn and take a left onto the ramp for NH-25/3, otherwise known as "Tenney Mountain Highway".
- Take a left onto the ramp for Route 25 otherwise known as Tenney Mountain Highway. Travel on Tenney Mountain Highway past the rotary stating on Route 25
- Take a left on Stinson Lake Rd.
- Travel 5 miles.
- At the foot of the Lke take a right uphill for .8 miles.
- Turn right onto old Doe Town Rd.
- Travel .3 miles until you reach the trailhead parking on the left.

Mount Morgan and Mount Percival

You can either hike up one of these mountains independently or make a loop out of them. The climb is gradual for the first 1.3 miles and then gets steeper for the last .5 miles. Mt. Morgan has wooden ladders near the top that are a thrill for kids and a nice trail that goes around the ladders for those whose ladder days are behind them. Upon reaching the summit you can choose to stop there or continue on the loop. The Crawford Ridge Trail connects Mt. Morgan and Percival. It is about a mile from summit to summit. From the top of these two classic peaks you will have views of Squam Lake and the White Mountains. The summits are clear and great for picnicking.

Hike Length: 1.8 to the top of either mountain from trailhead. 4.8 mile loop

Distance from the School: 9 Miles

Directions:

- Follow directions to Rattlesnake Mountain. Take a left into the parking lot at the top of the rise if there is room. If not, park across the street. The Mt. Morgan Trailhead is at the left parking lot as you are coming from school.

CHALLENGING

These hikes are between 4 and 8 miles and will use up the good part of a day.

Welch-Dickey Loop

This hike makes it into every "Favorites of the White Mountains" hiking guide. It is a great loop, offering expansive views for the entire middle third of the hike and it is close! The reason this hike makes it into the "challenging" category is because it is underestimated by many hikers who are drawn to it because of its fine reputation. It is very steep in sections requiring care while climbing up and down. It is a long 4.4 miles but well worth it. Just take your time and bring an extra pack of M & M's.

Hike Length: 4.4 Mile Loop

Distance from the School:

13 Miles

Directions:

- Head on 93 North to Exit 28.
- Take a right at the end of the ramp and travel 6 miles on NH 49.
- Take a left onto Upper Mad River Rd.
- In .7mi. turn right on Orris Rd.
- Follow this road for .6 mi.
- The parking lot is on the right.



The Cliffs of Welch and Dickey

Mount Moosilauke

Mount Moosilauke is one of NH's 4,000 foot peaks perched at the southern most end of the White Mountains. On a clear day it gives you a stunning view of the Whites. On a cloudy or foggy day it gives you a well built route through many alpine ego systems leading to the satisfaction of having climbed one of New Hampshire's finest summits. There are several routes to the top. The shortest and most traveled is the Gorge Brook Trail and the one recommended because of its dry footing and occasional views as you climb. Take all your layers. You never know what the weather could be once you enter the "real" mountains.

Hike Length: 3.7 miles one way. 7.4 round trip.

Distance from the School:

33 Miles

Directions:

- Head north on I93.
- Travel 20 miles on I93 to exit 32
- Take a right at the end of the ramp.
- Head southwest on Kancamagus Hwy / NH 112.
- Go straight through the traffic light in North Woodstock.
- Travel 2.3 miles
- Turn left onto NH 118.
- Travel 7.2 miles
- Turn right onto Ravine Road and go 1.6 miles.
- There are typically many cars parked along the road. Take a spot and walk to the Ravine Lodge. All trails begin there.

Mount Lafayette

This is the most renowned hike in our area. Because it is relatively easy to get to many people head up ill equipped for the very rocky, tough hiking that lay ahead. The reward for trudging up four challenging miles of trail is a spectacular vantage point from which to admire the entire Pemigewasset Wilderness and the White Mountains. You can make a loop out of this hike by heading south on Franconia Ridge after reaching Mount Lafayette and heading down the Falling Waters Trail. The loop is an arduous 10 miles. Because you are heading into ever changing alpine terrain please take many layers and a detailed map with you. The Greenleaf Hut, operated by the AMC is one mile shy of the summit and is a great destination along the way.

Hike Length: 4.0 Miles one way. 8 miles round trip

Distance from the School:

28 Miles

Directions:

- Head north on Interstate 93
- You will enter Franconia Notch State Park 30 miles north of Plymouth
- Exit at the "Lafayette Place" parking lots.
- There is a hiker information booth. Follow the signs to the "Old Bridle Path".