TRAIL CODE

The Trail Code includes good outdoor manners, courtesy, regulations, and proper conduct that together offer guidance for Trail users. The Code is meant to protect the natural beauty of the forest environment so that you and others may realize it now and in the future.

- Fire is the greatest peril to the forest. Please be extremely careful with cooking fires, and kindle them only on bare ground. Extinguish all fires not in use, and cover them with soil. Be careful when smoking and when disposing of smoking material and matches.

- Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the Trail.

- Trees, flowers, and all natural features are protected and are to be left for everyone to enjoy. Only “dead and down” trees may be used for firewood.

- Hunting is allowed on the Talladega National Forest in accordance with the Alabama Department of Conservation game laws.

- Place cans and refuse in containers provided. If there isn’t a container nearby, please carry your trash to the nearest one. Burn any material that fire will consume completely, and put all non-burnable trash into containers provided.

- Bury human waste in a screened spot at least 50 feet off the Trail and away from open water. Natural biological agents in the soil will dispose of organic waste in a few days.

- Leave the Trail as you found it: “Leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but pictures.”
HISTORY

The Talladega National Forest is a land rich in pioneer history and romantic legend—a land gifted with fish and wildlife in abundance, a land where the Creek and Cherokee Indians fought to establish a boundary between their nations.

SHOAL CREEK CHURCH

This is the setting for the Pinhoti Trail, a foot trail through the mountains, valleys, and ridges of the Talladega National Forest. This same route through the southernmost end of the Appalachian Mountain chain was once well used by Indian hunters and war parties.

The name Pinhoti is derived from the Creek Indian words “pinwa” (turkey) and “huff” (house or home). As in all compound Creek words, the second syllable is dropped: “pinhoti” translates literally to mean “turkey home.”

THE TRAIL

The Pinhoti Trail is a foot trail designed specifically for hikers. Along the Trail are narrow steps, small bridges, and other structures not suited for vehicle or horse traffic.

The Trail winds through rugged pine and hardwood forests of the Talladega, frequently running along rock bluffs, into hollows, beside crystal-clear streams, or rising gently along forested hills to the crest of still another ridge.

The Trail blends beautifully and harmoniously into the scenic environment, and is constructed so that it can be enjoyed by men and women, young and old. Although it traverses some rugged terrain, the Trail has grades that are mostly gentle, becoming steep only in a few places for short distances.

When completed, the Pinhoti Trail will be more than 100 miles long, extending from Piedmont (its northern terminus) to a point near Sylacauga (its southernmost point). It will be constructed in sections. The Pine Glen-Coleman Lake section, about 10 miles long, was completed in January 1974. The Pine Glen-High Rock Lake and the High Rock Lake-Bankhead Tower sections, built by the Youth Conservation Corps, were finished during the summer of 1974.

Points of interest along the completed section include the Shoal Creek Church, a rustic church more than 100 years old, constructed of hand-hewn logs; the 80-acre Sweetwater Lake; and the Cole Cemetery, the final resting place of many early settlers of the area.

For a rewarding outdoor experience, “follow the turkey track” — the Trail symbol of the Pinhoti Trail — into your Talladega National Forest.
August 23, 1984

Mr. Ken Humphreys
Chairman, Shiloh Military Trail
Troop 343 of Memphis, Tenn.

Dear Sir:

Certainly the Pinhoti Trail is still open and going strong, not only with Scouts, but other interested persons. In fact the National Forest area in our County is a busy place in summer with campers and in fall and winter with the deer and turkey hunts.

Our Library sells the patches as a public service, charging only what the Company charges us to make them. As of now they are three dollars each. But when we order again they will be more as that has been the case every time we order another supply.

We are sending a patch for your display, free of charge, as we really think the patches are very attractive and we would like for ours to be on your display.

The Ranger office here in Heflin has the maps of the trail and it is located at 409-Hwy 46-Heflin, Ala. 36264. Telephone No. 463-2273. Anyone hiking the trail must let the Rangers know before going into the forest. That is very necessary that they know just who and where the groups are going or camping.

Those wishing to order patches may address the order to:
Lucile L. Morgan Public Library
P.O. Box 428
Heflin, Ala. 36264
Telephone No. 463-2259 for information.
We accept checks and money orders and mail free of charge.

The Library does not have the Talladega address of the District Ranger. This may be obtained from the Heflin Office at above address.

We hope your questions are answered as need be.

Very truly yours,

Lorraine B. Watson,
Director—L. L. Morgan Library
Shiloh Military Trail, Inc.
P.O. Box 17507
Memphis, Tennessee 38117

Dear Mr. Humphreys,

Received your query letter on the accuracy of the listing of the Pinhoti Trail on the Talladega National Forest which was forwarded by our Washington Office.

The information should be as follows for listing #629:

**PINHOTI TRAIL - NRT**
74 miles current; 100+ miles (future)
Talladega National Forest
District Ranger
1001 North Street
Talladega, AL 35160

or

District Ranger
P.O. Box 450
Alabama Highway 46 East
Heflin, AL 36264

or

Forest Supervisor
1765 Highland Ave.
Mongtomery, AL 36107

For your information would recommend all referenced trails on National Forest be listed with the address of the Ranger District or the Supervisor's Office instead of the Washington Office. Reason for this is that persons seeking information on a trail will receive a much quicker response if they direct quieries to the field unit where the trail exists.
Our organization in descending order is as follows: 1) Washington Office, 2) Regional Offices, 3) Forest Supervisor Offices and 4) Ranger District.

I am including a brochure which lists each National Forest by state within its Region, unfortunately it does not give the complete address for each Forest, but does give the address of each of the 9 Forest Service Regions.

As a fellow scouter, I applaud your efforts and included the above information hoping it will allow for a more accurate listing. There are approximately 630 Ranger Districts in the National Forest System most of which have trails.

In addition to the Pinhoti Trail -NRT (National Recreation Trail) we have the Chinnabee Trail (6 miles) and the Odum Trail (10 miles) five miles of which coincide with the Pinhoti Trail. The address for these two trails would be:

District Ranger
1001 North St.
Talladega, AL 35160

or

Forest Supervisor
1765 Highland Ave.
Montgomery, AL 36107

If I may be of further assistance please contact me.

Sincerely,

TROXELL O. MASON, JR.
District Ranger

TOM/snd