

Mountain Mamas

Celebrating Women's Influence in Allegany County



This year the State of Maryland is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution, which granted women the right to vote. This Year of the Woman Park Quest takes families on a self-guided hiking tour to learn about the important roles women played over time in and around Rocky Gap State Park.

Station 1: Finding Your Inspiration

Proceed to the Canyon Overlook Trail and hike to the view! Use the map provided in this worksheet for guidance.

The mountain ridge you see across the gorge is called Evitts Mountain, named after the man who was believed to be the first white settler to Allegany County in the early 1700's, Jacob Evitt (Evert). Legend has it that Evitt fled to this mountain and lived off the land as a hermit to escape the heartache of a failed marriage proposal. No name or biography has ever been discovered about the woman who inspired Evitt's pilgrimage west. Although Evitt was motivated by a negative event, it suggests that inspiration can be found in tough circumstances as well as positive experiences. In the space below, pick an important woman in your lives who has motivated, inspired and guided you to big accomplishments! Examples could be a mother, grandmother, teacher, coach or friend! Dedicate the space below in their honor.







You can draw their picture, or write a poem or story about what they mean to you.

Station 2: Bring Out Your Wild Side

Continue counter-clockwise around the Canyon Overlook Trail.

In 1741, Colonel Thomas Cresap, his wife Hannah and their children, built a home and a stockade fort in present day Oldtown, thereby making it the oldest town in Allegany County. Originally from near Havre de Grace, MD, Thomas Cresap moved west to engage in American Indian trade, and explore the region for western expansion. During this time he enhanced a significant trade route that would later be improved and used during the French and Indian War, and become the framework for the future National Road. In the mid-1700s Western Maryland was a rugged frontier, but Hannah was up for the challenge. She already had experience fighting in skirmishes during the Maryland- Pennsylvania boundary disputes in the Susquehanna River Valley. Hannah had valiantly fought alongside her husband, and was even reported to have led the militia on horseback, proving to be proficient with a sword and musket. Hannah was also a loving mother to five children and a gracious host to a teenaged George Washington who spent several days at her Oldtown home in 1748. Hannah truly was an outstanding Maryland frontierswoman!

Hannah Cresap lived in Allegany County when it was wild and undeveloped. The whole Cresap family was comfortable and familiar with the rugged mountains. The flora and fauna of the woods you are walking through today are younger than what Hannah would have seen, but some things remain the same. See how many of the following you can find as you continue throughout the entirety of the quest.

Description	Picture	Did you see?	Would Hannah have seen?	Why or Why not?
Eastern Hemlock Trees (Check on the underside of leaves for the cotton-like insect casing of the invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid)		Hemlock Trees? Hemlock Woolly Adelgid?		
A mature hardwood forest full of Oak, Chestnut, Ash, Beech Trees, etc		How many species could you ID?		
Beavers, or evidence of beavers (lodges, beaver chews, etc)		Beavers? Lodges? Chews?		
Reptiles, such as snakes and turtles, sunning themselves on the trail or a partially submerged log		Can you ID the species you saw?		
A Fisherman				
Trash/Litter				

Station 3: A Tale of Survival

Once you complete the Canyon Overlook Loop, make a left turn on the paved road. Just before the earthen dam, the American Indian Rockshelter Trail will be on your left.

Jane Frazier lived to tell a harrowing tale of her own kidnapping. In 1754, young Jane and her husband, John, were recently married, expecting their first child and expanding their homestead near Evitts Creek in Allegany County. The French and Indian War had already begun. While walking to the store to purchase supplies, she was attacked and kidnapped by a tribe of Miami Indians and brought back to their settlement on the Miami River in Ohio. Jane missed her home and husband, although her captors did not mistreat her and even showed sympathy and support after the loss of her newborn son. Jane was eventually able to escape, and endured the Appalachian wilderness with only the clothes on her back. Back at home, John presumed that she was dead and he remarried. When Jane arrived home after eighteen months away, John was overjoyed, honored their marriage and sent his second wife back home to live with her father. Jane documented her story in an October 1755 issue of *The Maryland Gazette*, which you can read in its entirety online. An excerpt has been adapted below for you to try your hand at retelling Jane's story. The tale picks up after her escape, when Jane decides to abandon the two other escaped male captives, feeling as though she would be more successful on her own.



Fearing that we might still be overtaken I would not consent to stay with them, choosing rather the chances of the wilderness than the danger of captivity again, I started on alone... having to live on _____ and
Noun you find in the woods

_____ and climbing up a tree or down in a hollow to be secure from _____ at night.
Noun you find in the woods *Something scary*

In this way I traveled for nine days, when I came upon a trail that led right across the trail I had chosen. While I stood undecided which way I should go a most beautiful _____ such as I had never seen before came
Animal

_____ along passing close by me down the road as far as I could see. Taking this as an omen I followed,
Verb ending in -ing

and I have always considered this as providential, as the other road would have led me back into the wilderness.

Traveling on this road for two days I came to a _____ and soon found my way home again. When I
Place

got near home I was told by my neighbors that my husband having waited until near night the day I was captured, went in search of me ... but as I had been gone for four or five hours and night coming on he could do nothing more that evening...and next morning a half a dozen of them took the trail of the Indians and followed them for a week. My husband had afterwards concluded that I was dead and married again. The next morning, they had about fifty men, women and children and a couple of _____ and some _____ and a good _____
Plural noun *Plural noun* *Animal*

and saddle, and having dressed me in good style, away we went as a surprise party. When we came in sight of the place

I was so glad I felt like I wanted to _____, nearing the house my husband came out, saw me and grabbed
Adjective

me, shouting with all his power, 'The lost is found, the dead is alive,' and so would not let me go for some time.

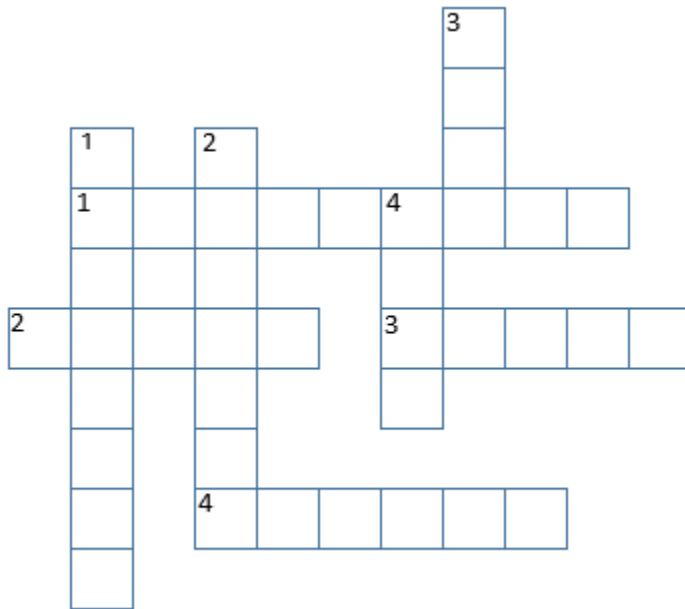
Station 4: Gone But Never Forgotten

Follow the Lakeside Loop Trail around the Touch of Nature Cove until you reach a paved road. Turn right, and at the intersection, carefully cross the road and turn right again. The next trailhead will be on your left.

While most of Allegany County was too rugged to support extensive agriculture, there was some success in saw milling and dairy farming during the 19th and early 20th centuries, particularly in Pleasant Valley (the location of present day Rocky Gap State Park). Rural communities became established, trying to thrive between industrialized Cumberland and the more agriculturally productive Washington County. This cemetery is a great example of a rural, family burial ground. It is the final resting place of ordinary people who managed extraordinary hardships!

Using the sign on site to help as a word bank, complete the crossword puzzle below.

Across



- 1.) The name of a woman buried on site
- 2.) The first name of the man who once owned the land
- 3.) Most of those buried here died after this war
- 4.) Those laid to rest here will forever be in the shadow of this mountain, named for the first white settler to Allegany County

Down

- 1.) Another name for a burial ground
- 2.) A possible cause of death for those who passed away only days apart from each other
- 3.) The number of families who owned this land prior to it being sold for development into a state park
- 4.) The last name of one of the families buried here

Station 5: Giving Back

Continue along the trail, through the woods, to safely return to the parking lot and Station 5.

Since Rocky Gap became a state park in 1974, volunteers have worked tirelessly to ensure the park is beautiful, safe and enjoyable for our guests. The Junior Womens Civic Club initiated a strong service ethic at Rocky Gap over forty years ago that is still strong today. Rocky Gap State Park is grateful to all the women who, on top of managing families, careers and other responsibilities, still donate their time to volunteering at the park. They serve as Healthy Parks, Healthy People instructors, aviary volunteers, camp hosts, gardeners, event photographers and more!

This last station is a call to action for your team to complete a volunteer activity together in 2020. Whether its picking up litter at a local park, or helping with a service project for your school, church or community, lets continue to influence Maryland for the better, just as the women mentioned in this quest did centuries ago!

CONGRATULATIONS! You have completed your quest!

If you need assistance during your quest, please call the Duty Ranger at **240-357-4404**.

Bonus

Rocky Gap State Park is proud to support women in the park industry! We are the only park in the Western Region that has both a female Park Manager and Assistant Manager, supported by a female Regional Manager and a female Park Superintendent. After your adventure around Rocky Gap, we challenge you to interview a female employee about Year of The Woman. Simply email rockygap.statepark@maryland.gov and type Year of the Woman in the subject line. Tell us your team/family name and your favorite activity in state parks, and we will connect you with an inspiring park professional. You may ask the following questions, or make up your own!

What is your name?

What job do you have at Rocky Gap State Park?

How long have you been working for the Maryland Park Service?

What is your favorite part of the job?

Who is your female role model?

