

Girl Campers

Going places. Doing things.

FALL 2022

ROAD TRIPS AND MAIN STREETS

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OUR FAVORITE



CAMPGROUNDS CEDAR RIDGE HAMMOCK CAMPGROUND, KINGSPORT, TN

By Caroline Eubanks



LOCATION:

Set in the forests of northern Tennessee, Warriors' Path State Park, where Cedar Ridge Hammock Campground is located, is right off Interstate 81 and 15 minutes' drive from downtown Kingsport. The town is near the border with Tennessee and an easy drive from the fellow "tri-cities" of Johnson City and Bristol. The Holston River also runs through the park.

NUMBER OF SITES:

There are 60 hammock spots.

WHAT MAKES THIS CAMPGROUND UNIQUE:

A 2018 storm destroyed many of the trees in the state park, including on this

former primitive campsite. The hammock campground incorporated these felled trees, recycling or reusing materials to create the posts that the hammocks hang from. Each site is named for the types of trees found in the park, including Wild Cherry, Sweet Gum, Locust and Pine Wheel. Sustainability measures have also been incorporated, including composting sites and a future solar-charging station.

BACKGROUND:

Named for its role as a Cherokee trading route, Warriors' Path State Park was established in 1952 on land previously owned by the Tennessee Valley Authority, a New Deal-era development agency.

The Cedar Ridge Hammock Campground opened within the state park's boundaries in 2021 as one of the first hammock campgrounds in Tennessee's park system. In addition to the park's traditional RV and tent camping, Cedar Ridge's four hammock areas can accommodate varying group sizes from one person up to 26, rented separately or together. It's also a great testing ground for those looking to go on longer camping trips with their hammocks.

MOST POPULAR SITE?

"There is section called the Pine Wheel that is just very interesting," says park manager Sarah Leedy.



“It’s got a big white pine dead center of the site and it had this natural ring of a couple trees that were equidistant away from it. We set poles and it’s designed in such a way that you can either hang around the ring in the outer perimeter, or you can hang between that pine tree in the center out to the perimeter. And so you can literally set it up to look like spokes on a wheel.”

POPULAR ACTIVITIES:

Warriors’ Path State Park sprawls across 950 acres, perfect for outdoor exploration. The hiking trails are easily reachable, along with the internationally recognized mountain bike trail system. The park also has a 22-hole disc golf course, an 18-hole traditional golf course, paddleboat and kayak rentals, and fishing in the lake for catfish and bass. The park also has a Boundless Playground for children of all abilities and a stable where you can participate in guided trail rides.

TIPS FOR FIRST-TIME VISITORS:

- Set your hammock up in the daytime to ensure your hammock is secure. And you’ll need to BYO as hammocks are not available to rent.
- You must use a wide strap to avoid damaging the trees.
- Bring a tarp if there’s a chance of rain.
- Tents are not allowed at the hammock campground.

AMENITIES:

- Water access
- Bathhouse
- Lantern hooks
- Grills

COST:

Hammock sites are \$20 and covers up to six people. Each additional camper is \$1.

HOW TO RESERVE:

Call 423-239-8531; tnstateparks.com