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FIND Outdoors Offers Guided Hikes at The Cradle of Forestry

Pisgah Forest, NC – FIND Outdoors, a local 49-year old nonprofit in Pisgah Forest, is excited to offer free, 1-hour guided tours on our historic Biltmore Campus Trail at the Cradle of Forestry each week on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 1:00 & 3:00 p.m.

The Biltmore Campus Trail, a paved, 1-mile loop, offers visitors a stroll back in time to the era of the Biltmore Forest School, America's first school of forestry. Here, guests will visit the one room school house used by the school's founder Dr. Carl Schenck, as well as a recreated general store, student cabins, blacksmith shop and ranger's dwelling built circa 1880's, and much more. The tours will offer visitors a glimpse into the lives of the students of this important historic site, as well as the residents of Western North Carolina, through stories, anecdotes and discussions on the origins of Pisgah.

"We are so excited to be able to offer outdoor trail tours again for the fall," said Christy Ralston, Cradle of Forestry Manager. "We feel confident we can offer these small group tours safely and bring the past to life for our Cradle of Forestry visitors in a way that is equitable for everyone."

In addition to the free tours, the Cradle of Forestry offers visitors an exhibit hall that focuses on forest management and the history of the Biltmore Forest School, over three miles of paved and interpretive trails, and a gift shop that is fully stocked with souvenirs, clothing and local crafts.

Although reservations are not needed for these special hike experiences, visitors are encouraged to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the hike start time and get to know the

Cradle site before hitting the trail. “We want our visitors to completely immerse themselves in the Cradle of Forestry and its story,” Ralston concludes. “These free hikes are the gateway to learning not only about the history of this amazing area, but the culture of the Appalachians and the future of our forests!”

Thinking about going? The guided hikes are no additional cost, and admission to the Cradle of Forestry is \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 ages 5-12 and free for ages five and under. Half price tickets are available for “America the Beautiful” Annual and Lifetime Pass Holders and up to three guests. In addition, there is no entrance fee for Cradle of Forestry Annual Pass Holders and any child enrolled in the 4th grade “Every Kid in a Park” program.

The Cradle of Forestry is located on U.S. Highway 276 in the Pisgah National Forest approximately 11 miles from the entrance to the forest on 276 and four miles south of the Blue Ridge Parkway mile marker 412. For more information, call the Cradle of Forestry at 828-877-3130 or visit online at www.cradleofforestry.com.

About FIND Outdoors

FIND Outdoors, formerly the Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Association, is a 48-year-old 501(c)3 nonprofit based in Pisgah Forest, NC. We serve over 900,000 visitors annually with a mission that promotes educational, recreational and interpretive opportunities about forest and water resources, natural history and the Cradle of Forestry in America. FIND Outdoors proudly manages campgrounds, visitor centers, sales outlets and educational facilities in four National Forests in North Carolina, Georgia and Indiana and the Northwest Trading Post on the Blue Ridge Parkway. FIND accomplishes its mission by providing exceptional outdoor experiences through partnership opportunities for the health, safety and education of all visitors to local and regional public and private lands.