

Hike that Includes 1000-foot gain as required for Camping Merit Badge

Suggested Hike: Old Forge to Chimney Rocks hike on the AT. Estimated Distance is 4.75 miles to 5 miles roundtrip.

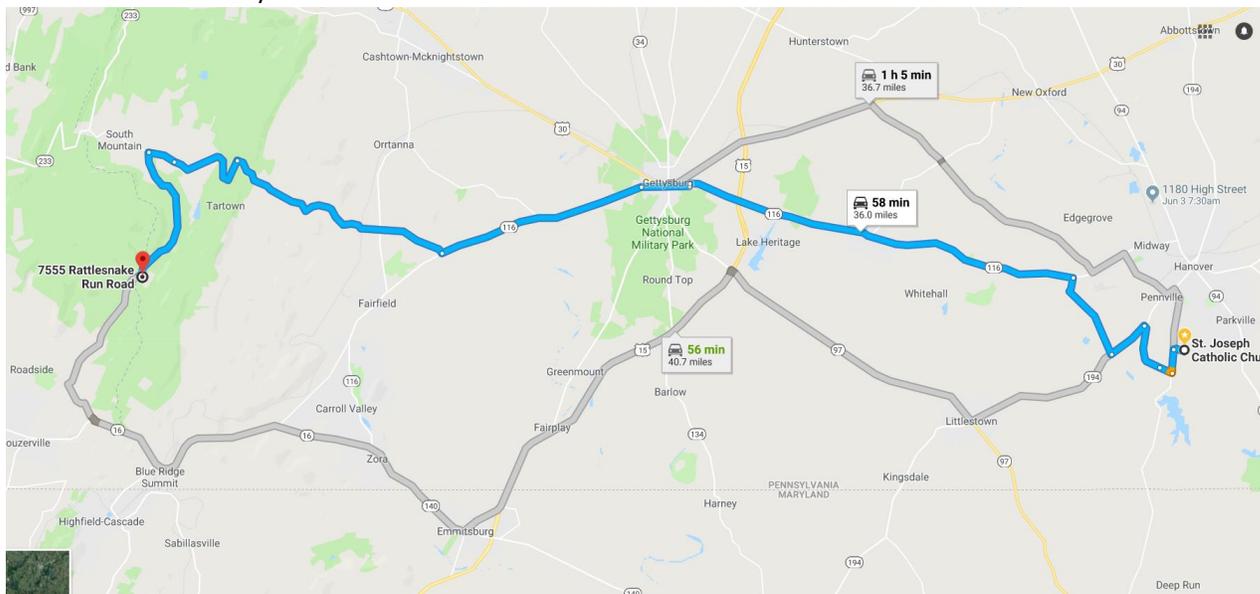
Officially, it appears that Chimney Rocks has an elevation of 1,947 feet. To reach 1,000-foot elevation gain you need to start at an elevation lower than 947 feet. You can extend the hike a short distance past the Chimney Rocks trail and further up the AT toward Snowy Mountain if you need to attain higher elevation.

Driving Directions to Parking Area Options

60-minute drive from the St. Joseph Church to the recommended parking.

For overnight parking confirm with the Michaux State Forest that you can park at the Old Forge Picnic area overnight. If parking is not allowed, then you can park just off Rattlesnake Road near the Appalachian Trail. It is located 100-yards south of the Old Forge Road junction. See Detail Hiking maps for exact location. Note: There are three possible parking options.

1. **Old Forge Picnic area:** Elevation 910 feet. Distance to Chimney Rocks is 2.25 miles or 4.5-mile round trip. Coordinates: N39 47.74476 W077 29.00736
2. **Rattlesnake Road Parking** located 100 yards south of Old Forge Road junction and located where the AT crosses Rattlesnake Road. Elevation 941 feet. Distance to Chimney Rocks is 2.0 miles or 4.0 miles round trip. Coordinates: N39 47.83610 W077 28.78201
3. **Old Forge Road Parking** (2 to 6 car spots in two locations). Elevation 1,023 feet. **This location is higher in elevation than the previous parking locations and would require hiking a further distance to reach the 1000-foot elevation gain.** Location near Snowy Mountain Tower. Coordinates: N39 48.10961 W077 28.59671



Camping Options and Distances

See maps on following pages for specific locations along the AT.

1. Old Forge Picnic Area to Tumbling Run AT Shelter. 1 mile north along the AT.
2. Rattlesnake Parking to Tumbling Run AT Shelters. 0.65 miles north on the AT
3. Old Forge Road Parking to Tumbling Run Shelters: 0.25 miles north on the AT.
4. Old Forge Picnic Area to Antietam Shelters: 250 yards south.
5. Antietam Shelters. 0.40 miles south of Rattlesnake Parking on the AT

Hiking Information from Old Forge Picnic Area

See the following detailed maps for location details. Coordinates: N39 47.74476 W077 29.00736

1. Start at the Old Forge Parking area located along the south side of Old Forge Road. If possible, park near the clearing within the picnic area.
2. Head southeast from the parking spot along the west side of the clearing into the woods for about 75 to 100 yards to pick up the Appalachian Trail.
3. Turn left and follow the Appalachian Trail northeast.
4. Cross both the Rattlesnake Road and the Old Forge Road and continue up the trail.
5. Pass by the Tumbling Run AT Shelters on the left. Stay on the AT and continue up the trail to the Chimney Rocks turn off. Total distance from the Old Forge Picnic area is 2.25 miles.
6. From Chimney Rocks Turn around, and hike south on the AT to the Chimney Rock intersection.

From this point you have two options:

1. Take the Blue Blaze Trail back down the mountain and past the Tumbling Run AT shelters and back to the parking area on the AT. Recommended
2. OR just follow the AT trail back to the parking area
7. Turn west onto the Blue Blaze trail. See detailed Map.
8. Follow the Blue Blaze trail left and down the mountain to the Tumbling Run Shelters.
9. From the Tumbling Run Shelters, continue south on the AT back to the parking area.

Hiking Information from Rattlesnake Parking

See the following detailed maps for location details. Coordinates: N39 47.83610 W077 28.78201

10. Start at the Rattlesnake Parking area located just south of the Old Forge Road. The parking area is located within 100 feet of the Appalachian Trail. Elevation at the parking area is 940 feet.
11. Follow the Appalachian Trail north from the parking area.
12. Pass by the Tumbling Run AT Shelters on the left. Stay on the AT and continue up the trail to the Chimney Rocks turn off. Total distance from the Rattlesnake Parking to the Chimney Rocks is 2.0 miles.
13. From Chimney Rocks Turn around, and hike south on the AT to the Chimney Rock intersection.

From this point you have two options:

1. Take the Blue Blaze Trail back down the mountain and past the Tumbling Run AT shelters and back to the parking area on the AT. Recommended
2. OR just follow the AT trail back to the parking area
14. Turn west onto the Blue Blaze trail. See detailed Map.
15. Follow the Blue Blaze trail left and down the mountain to the Tumbling Run Shelters.
16. Continue back down the Appalachian Trail back to the parking area.

Hiking Information from the two small parking areas on Old Forge Road at the AT Sign

If departing from one of the two small parking areas located right on Old Forge Road where the Appalachian Trail crosses, then you need to consider additional hiking to satisfy the 1,000-foot elevation gain requirement.

These parking lots are at an elevation of 1,020 feet. Chimney Rocks is at an elevation of 1,947 feet (or 76 feet short).

You can still satisfy the requirement by visiting Chimney Rocks and then continuing North on the AT from the Chimney Rocks intersection for an additional 1.3 miles until you reach an elevation of 2,020 feet. As you cross the pipeline, you are about halfway to location on the trail that hits above 2,023 feet.

77° 28'



39° 48'

39° 48'

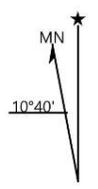
ExpertGPS Basemap: CalTopo.com

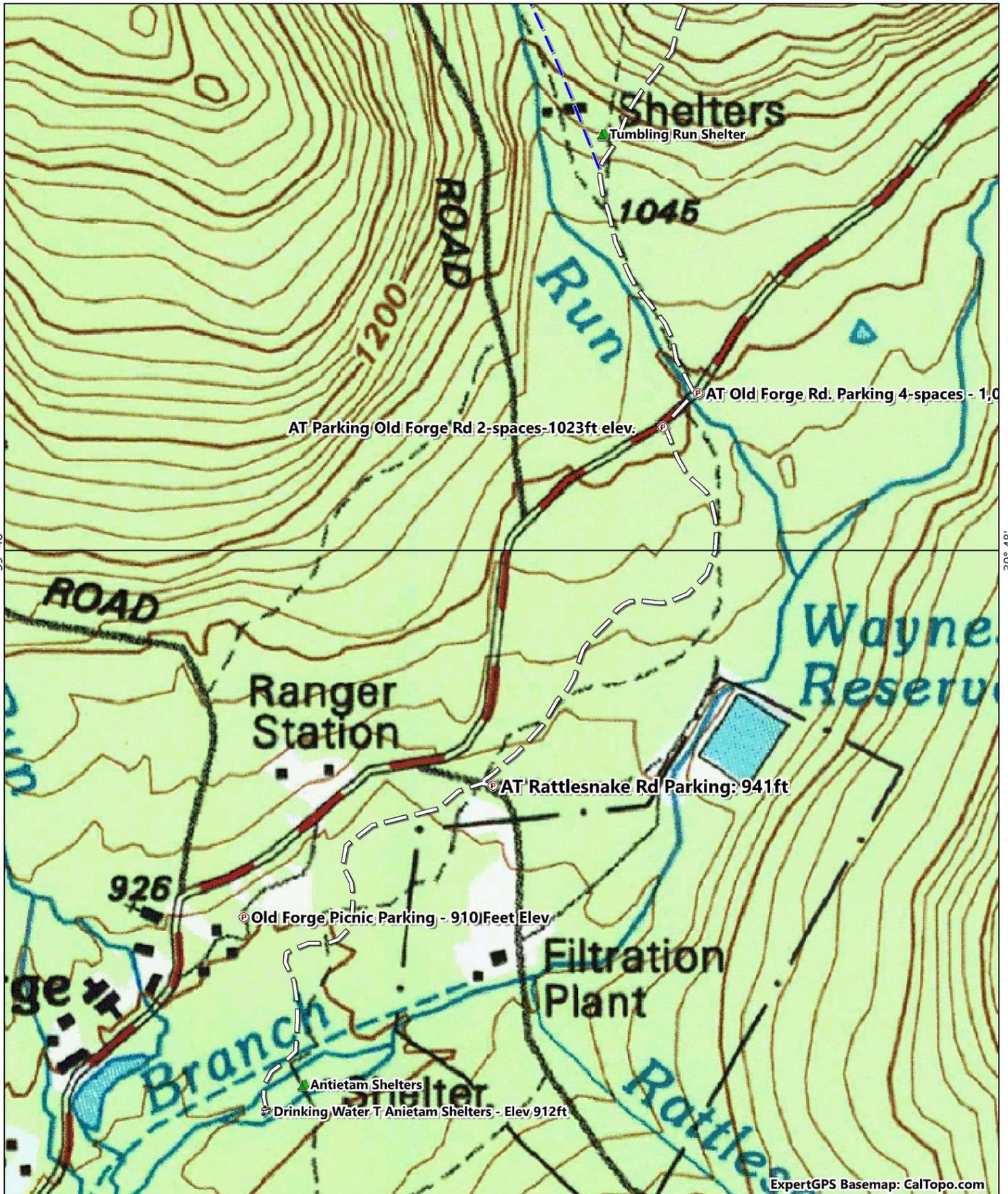
77° 28'

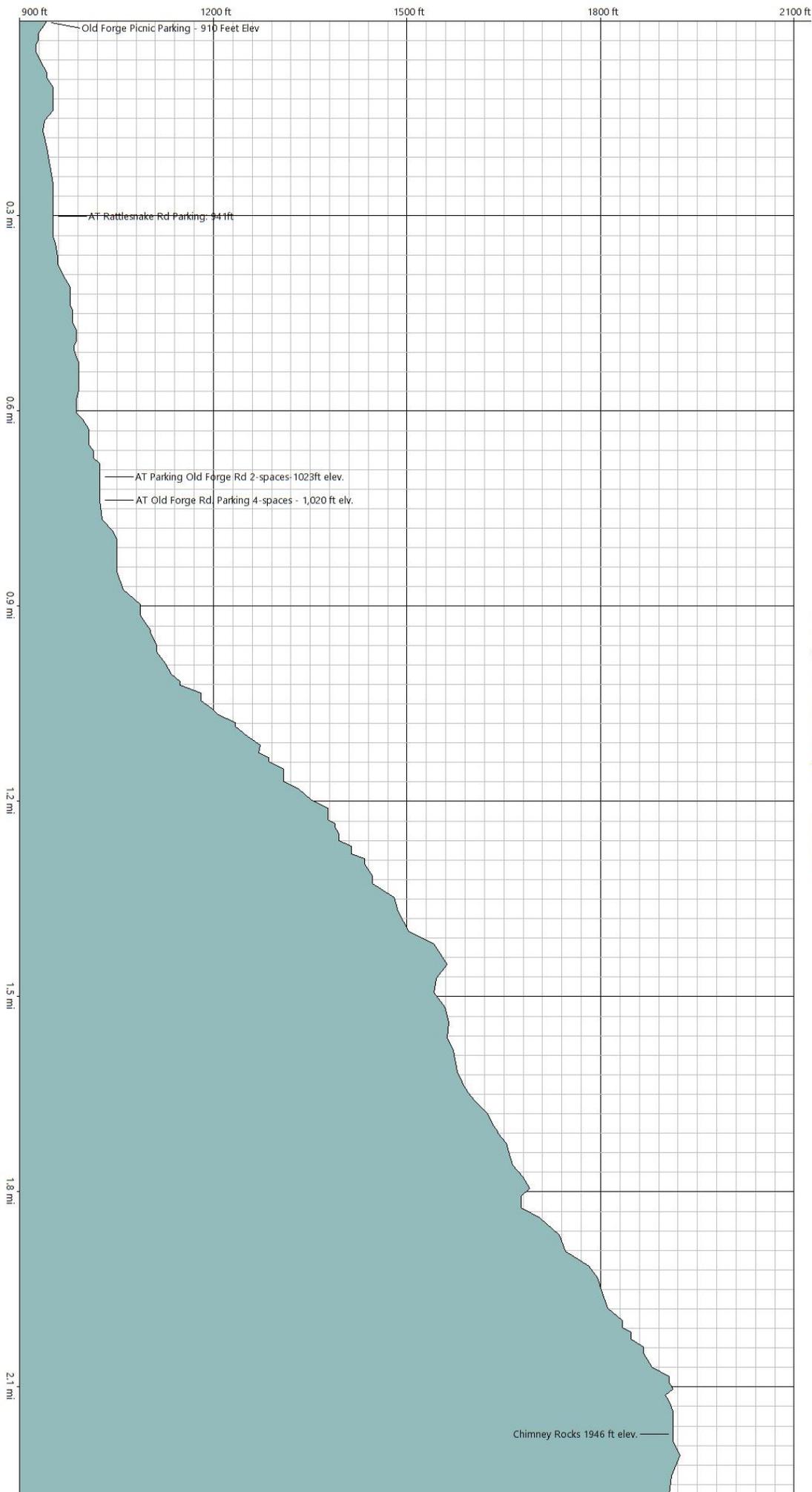
ExpertGPS

Old Forge to Chimney Rocks

500 ft







Old Forge Picnic Area to Chimney Rocks - Elevation Profile