



Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center

“older than the Appalachians...”



A wonderful hike in any season, this trail offers shade in summer, beautiful color in fall and solitude in winter. Highlights along the way include abandoned 19th century stone quarries, scenic views of the Connecticut River Valley and the striking 80 foot high Rose Ledges. The trail crosses cascading brooks and meanders through a mixed forest of hemlock, oak, black birch and maple.

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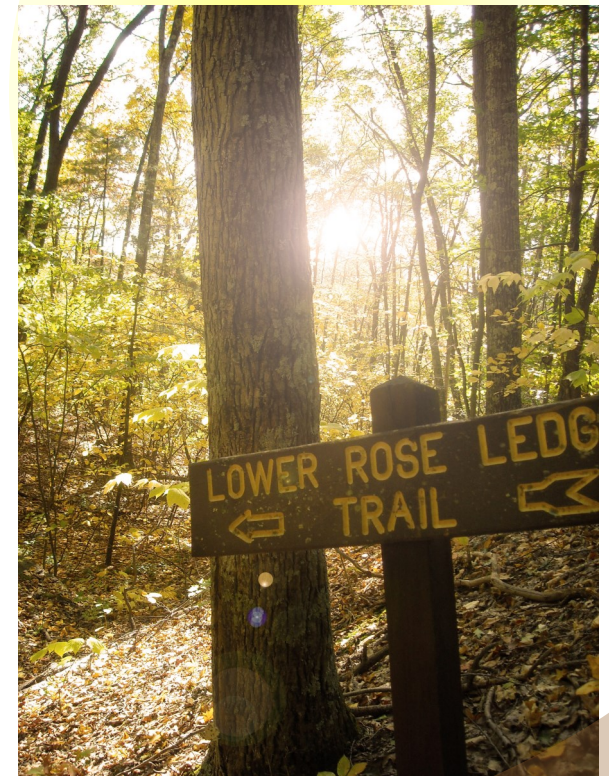
Please note that snowshoeing is the only accepted activity on the Rose Ledge trail while there is snow on the ground. There is no charge to use the snowshoe trails, however all trail users must stop in the ski shop for a trail ticket. When crossing or snowshoeing next to a ski trail please stay to the side and avoid stepping on the groomed ski tracks. All trails are open in winter Wednesday through Sunday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and closed to all uses in the winter on Mondays and Tuesdays, except holidays.

Please note that our trails may be closed during the spring mud season. We welcome hikers at other times of the year and our trails are open seven days a week, free of charge.



Rose Ledge Trail

Northfield Mountain Recreation
and
Environmental Center



Scenic 3.1

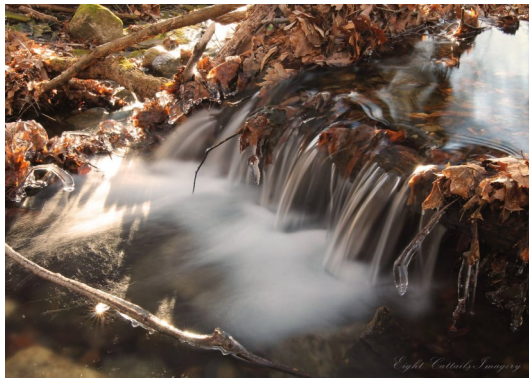
Mile Loop

Elevation gain 730 feet



The Rose Ledge Trail begins at the pond behind the Visitor Center. Follow the **blue trail markers** to your right, through the field turning left onto the foot trail into the woods. Follow signs for Rose Ledge and Hidden Quarry trails. After crossing under the power lines and reentering the woods, **turn right at the Rose Ledge Trail intersection (.4 mile), and follow the orange trail markers.**

To follow the **Hidden Quarry Trail turn left at this intersection and continue following the blue trail markers.**



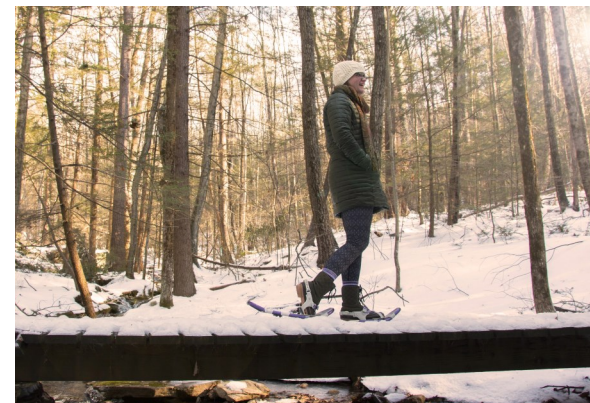
The Rose Ledge Trail crosses a seasonal stream, the Jug End Trail and a second stream as it climbs through rich hemlock woods with an understory of mountain laurel. Continue uphill passing the West Slope Trail on your left and turn right onto the Lower Ledge Trail (.7 mile). The trail enters the power line opening with views of the valley to the west. Continue south (left), following the trail downhill a short distance under the power line, entering the woods on the left. Here the forest is drier with white pine and oak the dominant species.

An abundance of evenly split, rectangular stone slabs provide clues to a once active stone quarry. Look closely and you may see the distinctive, finger-size grooves from the pin and feather quarrying technique from the mid-1800s.

At the next trail intersection (1.2 miles) bear right and continue straight across Rock Oak Ramble continuing to follow the orange trail markers. (For the quickest return route to the Center bear left at this intersection. See orange box below for a total hike of 2.2 miles.*)

This next section of the hike takes you below Rose Ledges, a popular destination for rock climbers. Older than the Appalachians, the ledges are composed of rock that changed into gneiss, a metamorphic rock, about 550 million years ago. At 1.6 miles the trail passes through the ledges. Turn left along the Upper Rose Ledge Trail and enjoy views of the valley to the west as you begin the descent. (Turning right at this intersection will take you to the Northfield Mountain summit for a one-way hike of 2.5 miles.)

The Upper Rose Ledge Trail continues straight across Rock Oak Ramble (2.1 miles), for a gradual downhill hike back to the Center. Bear right at the Lower Ledge Trail intersection and left at the West Slope Trail intersection. Retrace your steps back to the Center as you continue straight across Jug End and



turn left at Hemlock Hill. Follow the blue trail markers back to the Center (3.1 miles).

**Quickest Return Route to Center: Bear left at the trail intersection (1.2 miles.) After a short uphill climb, turn left at the next trail intersection (1.4 miles) for a gradual downhill return hike. As you begin the descent, enjoy the views to the west across the Connecticut River Valley. Bear right at the Lower Rose Ledge Trail intersection and left at the West Slope Trail intersection. Continue straight across Jug End and turn left at Hemlock Hill. Follow the blue trail markers back to the Center (2.2 miles).*