



Ini-To Lodge #324 Order of the Arrow Hosts 2nd Pine Mountain Backcountry Trail Day

On May 12, 2012, Ini-To Lodge #324 Order of the Arrow hosted the second Pine Mountain Backcountry Trail Day in celebration of American Hiking Society's 20th annual National Trails Day at the Gerald I Lawhorn Scouting Base. Held also in conjunction with the Lodge Spring Ordeal Weekend, service projects were completed that support sustainable recreation activities in the Pine Mountain Backcountry, the Flint River Council BSA's high adventure area. The Backcountry features over 20 miles of trails and seventeen primitive campsites spread over 2000 acres in the heart of the Georgia Piedmont along the Flint River.

Volunteers for the event included both members of the Order of the Arrow and two Boy Scout Troops. The major focus was restoration of a backcountry campsite as a Wood Badge service project led by Jamie Nowak that supports the Boy Scout Summer Camp Mountain Man program. The second was another Wood Badge service project led by Gordon Scott that completed marking a newly constructed 1.1 mile single-track trail. Members of the Order of the Arrow lodge also relocated and mitigated over 200 feet of highly eroded hiking path on the popular Moss Falls Trail. Other completed projects included cutting back overgrowth on trails, and updating trail maps on kiosk. A total of 15 adults and 23 youth contributed over 180 volunteer hours during the day.

The Ini-To Lodge of the Order of the Arrow established in 2010 a long range goal of providing continuing service to the Flint River Council Camps by leading volunteers to maintain the Backcountry trail system. The Ini-To Lodge received a matching 2011 National OA Service Project Grant to support building several low impact campsites and continue to improve access. You can read more about this ongoing project at <http://ini-to324.org/trails>