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**Mount Magazine is managed through
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Arkansas's Highpoint Information



Mount Magazine State Park

SIGNAL HILL TRAIL

Signal Hill trail winds through cool, rich woods, where hundreds of shade-loving plants thrive. Ice storms opened the canopy in places allowing more sunlight to reach the forest floor.

This explains the unusual growth of wildflowers such as purple coneflower and spiderwort.



Spiderwort

Oak and hickory dominate the canopy. Understory trees include dogwood, pawpaw, spicebush and sassafras. The fruits of these trees provide important food for wildlife.

Each season is a new plant experience on the trail. Late winter and early spring you can look for bloodroot and toothwort. Spring brings the flowering of crested iris, mayapple, fly poison, and false Solomon's seal. Wingstem, skullcap, and black-eyed Susan fill the summer months.

Non-flowering plants such as ferns thrive in this moist habitat. Among these is rattlesnake fern, used by Native Americans and early settlers as a remedy for snakebite.



Rattlesnake fern

At an elevation of 2,753 feet above Mean Sea Level, Signal Hill is the highest point in Arkansas. Much has been done to improve the trail. When you reach the highpoint, you will see a unique new monument.

One myth about this site is that it is the highest point between the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains. Mount Sunflower in Kansas is 4,039 feet in elevation. Black Mesa in Oklahoma is 4,973. Panoramic Point in Nebraska is 5,424. But the immediate gain of over 2,200 feet in elevation from its surrounding landscape is much greater than that of highpoints in those other states. **Mount Magazine ranks 34th among state highpoints.**

To learn more about highpoints, read *Highpoints of the United States* by Don Holmes, University of Utah Press, 2000, available in the park visitor center. Also, log onto the Highpointers Club website, www.highpointers.org. A related website is www.americasroof.com.

Near the highpoint map is a registration box. Please leave your name, city, state, relevant comments, and the number of state highpoints you have ascended. In 2003, over 3900 people from 46 states and 21 countries signed the Mount Magazine highpoint register.

HIGHPOINT MONUMENT

The monument is an approximate 400 square foot map of Arkansas made of stone and mortar. It was built to the scale of one foot = 13 miles. The survey marker represents the location of Mount Magazine, between the Arkansas and Petit Jean Rivers. The map also shows the six natural divisions of Arkansas. It was constructed by state park personnel and members of Americorps Team Silver Seven in May 2003.

Because the six regions of Arkansas are so unique in terrain, each stone was chosen carefully to reflect the topography of each division. This is why the Ozarks and the Ouachitas appear “rougher” on the map than the Delta and Gulf Coastal Plain. Also notice that Crowley’s Ridge seems to “rise” above the Delta. To represent rivers, the construction crew mixed blue chalk into the mortar.

It is the goal of Arkansas State Parks and Americorps that the public enjoy the highpoint and gain an understanding of the land we call Arkansas.

ARKANSAS MAP



★ = Little Rock, Arkansas's Capital

● = Grid North

* = True North

↑ = Magnetic North

◻● = Mount Magazine

Blue Mortar = Petit Jean, Arkansas
and Mississippi Rivers

ARKANSAS REGIONS



Ozark Plateau The Ozarks have elevations of 250 to 2,400 feet above sea level. Parts of the region are rugged with long, deep valleys, sharp cliffs, bluffs, and ledges. The principal rock formations are sandstone, shale, and limestone. The Ozarks are perhaps the most familiar region of Arkansas, and its clear streams bring people back year after year.

Ouachita Mountains Unlike the Ozarks, these beds of rock were warped, twisted, and folded. The rock is usually sandstone or shale. The geology of the Ouachitas has had a great effect on the forests of the region as sandstone weathers into a sandy soil that favors pine trees.

Arkansas River Valley Between the Ozarks and the Ouachitas there is a different kind of area, the River Valley. It is up to forty miles wide. Magazine, Nebo, and Petit Jean mountains stand high above their surroundings, have steep sides, and flat tops. Mountains like these are known as mesas and are not typically found in other regions in Arkansas. The Arkansas River flows through the western part of the valley, and there is productive cropland in the bottomlands.

Gulf Coastal Plain The lowlands of the Coastal Plain cover most of southern Arkansas. It was once covered by the Gulf of Mexico. Level and rolling lands, hilly sections, bottoms and occasional prairies are found here. The sandy hills are good for pine trees.

Delta The delta is a land of rivers and wetlands. It covers the eastern third of Arkansas. It, too, was once covered by sand and gravel from the Gulf of Mexico. However, large rivers removed the ocean-bottom deposits. Bald cypress and tupelo trees are common here as they can survive flooding. This area is home to vast farms and abundant wildlife.

Crowley's Ridge This is the smallest of the regions, and different from all the others. It is in the eastern part of the state, and completely surrounded by the Delta. It "towers" 200 feet above the Delta, and is visible for miles. The rivers left this ridge, 150 miles long and 5 miles wide, while removing all the ocean deposits from the Delta. The ridge was completed when dust piled up to 50 feet deep. This supports an upland hardwood forest.

Reference:

Arkansas and the Land by Tom Foti and Gerald Hanson, University of Arkansas Press, 1992.

