

Pioneer Hallelujah Trail

NOTE: Trail not prehiked this season

Thursday, May 22, 2025

GENERAL LOCATION: NE of Nevada City on Hwy. 20 at Skillman Campground

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

HIKE DISTANCE: 5.5 mile loop

ELEVATION: Starts at 4,400 ft. 757 ft. gain

PACE: Moderate/Relaxed

TRAIL CONDITIONS: This is considered a Moderate hike, 5.5 miles in length, with a 757 ft elevation gain. It is a loop trail. According to All Trails, it takes 2hr and 21min average hiking time. However, we will stop, and go slowly down the hill and across the stream. The trail is a bit narrow with some roots/rocks/ruts on the downhill portion. Otherwise, it is smooth and wide. Expect closer to 3 hours hike time from start to finish, plus trailside lunch stop.

DESCRIPTION: This route takes you from the Skillman Horsecamp through the North Fork of Deer Creek drainage. You will start out on the level Hallelujah Trail, descending into the canyon (switchbacks) via the Hallelujah Tie Trail. You'll cross the creek and finish by traveling along the historic Pioneer Trail.

The loop is mostly shaded, through a mixed conifer forest. There can be numerous blooming dogwoods. The route is a multi-use trail shared by hikers, bikers, horses and dogs. However, on a Thursday morning, it should be fairly quiet.

FACILITIES AVAILABLE: Pit toilets at the trailhead

TRAVEL TIME/DISTANCE The Skillman Horsecamp is about 52 miles from SCLH, and takes about 1 hr 9 min to drive via route 49 north and Hwy 20 east. Park at the trailhead on Skillman Road just before the horsecamp. Expected return time to SCLH about 2:30 PM.

DONATION: Suggested donation to drivers \$12.

HIKE LEADERS/SWEEP: Cathy and Joe Hedges

MEETING TIME: 7:45 AM. **LEAVING TIME** 8:00 AM

Meet at far end of Orchard Creek Parking Lot in front of Fitness center, rows 12-14.

SPECIAL NOTES: Rain day of hike will cancel hike

PREPARATION FOR HIKE:

Being prepared physically as well as having the right equipment makes for a better experience, not only for you, but for your fellow hikers.

If you have any health issues, please consider your condition before hiking at high altitude or at a fast pace.

What to Bring:

PLENTY OF WATER! Recommend 50 oz. /1.5 liters minimum for 5-mile hike – more if longer. Electrolytes suggested. Higher altitudes are dehydrating even when cool.

Hiking boots/shoes, hat, sun protection, insect repellent, small first aid kit. Wind/rain jacket always advisable in the mountains. Trekking poles recommended.

ID (driver's license), health insurance card, emergency contact / phone number.

Extra pair of shoes to change into after hike and a plastic bag for muddy/dusty hiking boots to keep your driver's car clean.

RISKS: Rocks, ruts and roots with possible mud in one short downhill section.

QUESTIONS: Cathy Hedges, cathleenhedges@gmail.com

Link to AllTrails Map: <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/california/pioneer-hallelujah-and-hallelujah-tie-loop>

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/HdUTANr1Ca7Ku6xf8>

Park at the trailhead on Skillman Road just before the horsecamp.

Note: In Nevada City, follow the signs for Hwy 20 East. The campground is on Hwy 20.