

## Pioneer Hallelujah Trail

Thur, May 14, 2026

**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.

**TRIAL 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 Tuesday morning, it should be fairly quiet.

**TRAVEL TIME/DISTANCE/DONATION:** 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. Suggested donation to drivers \$12. Expected return time to SCLH about 2:30 PM.

**HIKE LEADERS/SWEEP:** Cathy and Joe Hedges

**MEETING TIME:** 7:30 AM, leaving at 7:45AM. Meet at the far end of Orchard Creek Parking Lot in front of Fitness Center, rows 12-14.

**SPECIAL NOTES:** Rain day of hike will cancel hike

**FACILITIES AVAILABLE:** Pit toilets at the trailhead

### 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 moderate pace.**

**WHAT TO BRING:**

**PLENTY OF WATER!** Recommend 50oz/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. Lunch. Layered clothing. Wind/rain jacket always advisable in the mountains. Trekking poles recommended.

Bring a copy of your ID (driver's license), health insurance card, and emergency contact name and phone number with you on the hike.

Bring a pair of shoes along with your hiking boots, with a bag to store your dirty hiking boots on the drive home. Please be considerate of the driver's car and wear clean shoes on the way home.

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

**QUESTIONS:** Cathy Hedges, [cathleenhedges@gmail.com](mailto:cathleenhedges@gmail.com)

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

Or navigate to 28335 CA-20, Nevada City, CA 95959

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.**

**All Trails Link:** <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/california/pioneer-hallelujah-and-hallelujah-tie-loop?u=i&sh=uaicnn>