

# Little Loop in a Day: FAQ

This is such a unique event, it's understandable you have questions. We've tried to anticipate some of them. How did we do? If we haven't answered your question, drop us a line and we'll get you an answer.

## **What is this crazy event?**

This is a cooperative effort to put hikers on the trail to collectively complete the 257 mile "Little Loop" of the Buckeye Trail in one day. It's not crazy, just a little loopy. Sorry.

## **Isn't 257 miles a long way to hike in one day, how does that work?**

Good point and that's why we've divided it into 77 easily manageable segments. Here's the breakdown:

Less than 1 mile	4
Between 1-2 miles	16
Between 2-3 miles	17
Between 3-4 miles	17
Between 4-5 miles	13
Between 5-6 miles	4
Between 6-7 miles	1
Between 7-8 miles	5
Total segments:	77
Total Miles:	256.3 Miles
Avg. Segment Length 3.33 Miles	
Min	0.5 Miles
Max	7.6 Miles

## **Who can participate?**

The event is open to anyone interested in participating. Some segments are flat, paved rails to trail corridors and even ADA accessible. Other segments are more challenging and strenuous. Read the descriptions to pick a segment(s) that is right for you.

## **When is it?**

Sept. 24, 2022. You can begin and end your hike at any time on this day but we will be hosting a catered cookout at 6 p.m. in Stow. We would like all hikes to be completed by then so we can determine if we've reached our goal of completing the loop or not.

## **Where is it?**

The "Little Loop" connects the best areas of Northeast Ohio. It is made up of the Akron, Bedford, Burton, Mogadore and part of the Massillon Sections of the Buckeye Trail. The post hike picnic and celebration will be at the Oak Tree Picnic Pavilion at the Silver Springs Park in Stow.

**Is there a cost?**

Several packages are available from our “No Frills” package, for the lowest cost, which lets you be a part of the event without receiving any of the goodies, to the “Deluxe Celebration” package, which includes a T-shirt, a BBQ meal, a Buckeye Trail Section map, and annual membership to the Buckeye Trail Association if you’re not already a member. Current members of the BTA will receive a discount.

**Where does the money go?**

Most of your entry fee will cover the cost of the event. Excess funds collected will go to support the Buckeye Trail Association, a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the building, maintaining, protecting, and promoting use of Ohio’s longest scenic hiking trail for the health and fitness of our citizens, communities, and partners.

**I’m coming from out of town, is there a place to spend the night?**

Silver Springs has limited camping that is available first come first serve. There are other campgrounds nearby and several hotels/motels in the area.

**After I finished hiking my segment, will someone come pick me up?**

The logistics of your hike is up to you. You can simply do an out and back hike if you wish, or have someone drop you off and pick you up. You could team up with someone doing another segment. Drop his/her car off at the end, drive him/her to the beginning and let him/her hike back to his/her car. Meanwhile, you start the next segment. Once your teammate has hiked back to his/her car he/she can come pick you up. You could also team up with someone and do the “car to car” hike together. There are any number of ways of doing this, but that is up to you.

**How many segments can I sign up for?**

As many as you think you can reasonably hike in a day and be finished by 6 pm. We encourage hikers to work in pairs to hike multiple segments by dropping off a car at the finish point, driving to the starting point and hiking from car to car. Two people can knock out 3-4 segments this way.

**The segment I wanted is already taken. Now what?**

Well, isn't that a bummer! Consider another segment nearby or better yet, explore part of the trail that is completely new to you. One of the benefits of this event is to expose people to parts of the trail they might not know about. The Buckeye Trail connects countless of interesting historic and scenic locations.

**Do I have to hike in a particular direction?**

Not at all, either direction will work. Keep in mind though, that the directions on the Buckeye Trail Section maps are written in a clockwise direction (with reference to the big loop, so Akron is written from North to South), but that shouldn't stop you from being able to hike in the “opposite” direction.

**Can I special order my meal because I have certain dietary needs?**

Unfortunately, no, the BBQ will be buffet style so you can select what you want, but it will be a fixed menu. You may, however, bring your own food and drink (No Alcohol).

**This is a cool thing that calls for a celebration, will there be alcohol at the BBQ?**

Unfortunately, no, at least not this year. Many of us like to celebrate with a drink, but the park in Stow has a “no alcohol” policy and we will respect that. Next year we might look into reserving the heritage barn though, where drinks will be allowed.

**I only have a vague idea of my segment, how can i get more information?**

With your packet, you'll receive a Buckeye Trail map which will have more specific directions. You can also email us questions you may have.

**Will the trail go through the parking lot you suggested park at?**

Not always, sometimes you may need to travel a short distance to get to the trail. That should be explained in the comments. Study the map ahead of time and let us know if you have questions about where you'll be heading after you park. A call center hotline will be available during the event to help walk you through if needed.

**Will my packet be mailed to me?**

No. We will have designated packet pick up points in advance of and on the day of the event.

**Do I need to pick up my packet before I hike?**

We want to promote the trail. Although not required, we're hoping people will wear their T-shirt on their hike. If you need the assistance of the section map, you should definitely pick up your packet in advance of your hike. If you know where you're going or already have the map and don't intend on wearing your shirt on the hike, that's fine, your packet will be in Stow where you can pick it up during the BBQ.

**How do I know what section map to select when I register?**

The “Little Loop” consists of four complete sections and one partial section. You'll want to select either the Akron, Bedford, Burton, Mogadore, or Massillon section maps depending on where your segment is.

**I already have a map for the section I'm hiking, what do I do?**

First, make sure you have the most current section map and check the website for any map changes or trail alerts. If you don't need another section map, you're free to select another section, one even outside of the little loop. Donate it back to the Buckeye Trail Association if you don't have a use for it or give it to a friend, the cost is included in your registration, so you've paid for it.

**What if I sign up and can't hike?**

We're really sorry to hear that, but things do come up. Unfortunately, you won't be able to get a full refund because the shirts and meals will have been ordered. Hopefully, you'll still be able to

pick that up before or after the event. Be sure to let us know as soon as you can so we can get someone else to fill in, but please make every effort to hike.

**What happens if I get hurt?**

Call 911 if you need to. Carry a cell phone and be careful!

**How do I prove I hiked the entire segment?**

For better or worse, right or wrong, we're doing this on the honor system. All you have to do is tell us that you did it! We would love for you to take pictures and upload them, but there is no other proof required than your word. We trust you because hikers are trustworthy!

**Does the BTA plan to do this every year?**

As a matter of fact, we do!

**Will you eventually do the entire BT in a day?**

Wow, that's a great idea! We are successful with the Little Loop in a day because we live in a populated area with lots of great hiking groups. The Crooked River Chapter would love to challenge the other Chapters to a similar event on the same day in the future and maybe, just maybe, there will be a day we can cover the entire trail in one day. That might be just wishful thinking but, who knows, we would only need about 300 people covering 4.8 miles each (one way) to do it. Maybe one day we'll be ready to take on Big Loop Challenge.

**Didn't they try this on the AT? Are you trying to be like the AT?**

The AT and the BT are totally different trails, there is no way we could be like the AT and the AT can't be like us. Ok, you got us, we got the idea from them, so what?