

From the Idea to The Trail

Planning a Troop Backpacking Trip



September 10, 2012
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Troop 54 Scoutmaster

The Places You Need

- A trail to hike
- A place to camp
- Parking at or near a trailhead



Troop 54 Scouts
pose on top of Mount
Hunger on the Midstate
Trail near Ashburnham, MA
June 2008

September 10, 2012



Troop 54
Worcester, MA

Major Trails That Are Close

Midstate Trail - MA

Metacomet-Monadnock Trail - MA, NH

North South Trail - RI

Bay Circuit Trail and Greenway - MA



September 10, 2012

Troop 54 Scouts
on the Lake Trail near
East Dorset, VT
August 2012



Troop 54
Worcester, MA

Other Area Trails

- Airline Trail - CT
- Appalachian Trail - CT, MA, VT, NH ME
- Narragansett Trail - RI, CT
- Nehantic Trail RI, CT
- Robert Frost Trail - MA
- Tippecansett Trail - RI, CT
- Tully Trail - MA, NH



Troop 54 Scouts
on the Airline Trail near
Pomfret Center, CT
June 2012

Places to Camp

- Scout Camps
- Foundation Owned Properties
- State Parks
- National Forests
- Army Corps of Engineers Managed Properties
- Privately Owned Campgrounds
- Municipal Parks



Troop 54 Scouts
at Wendell State Forest
on the M-M Trail in
Wendell, MA
November 2009



Planning the Trail

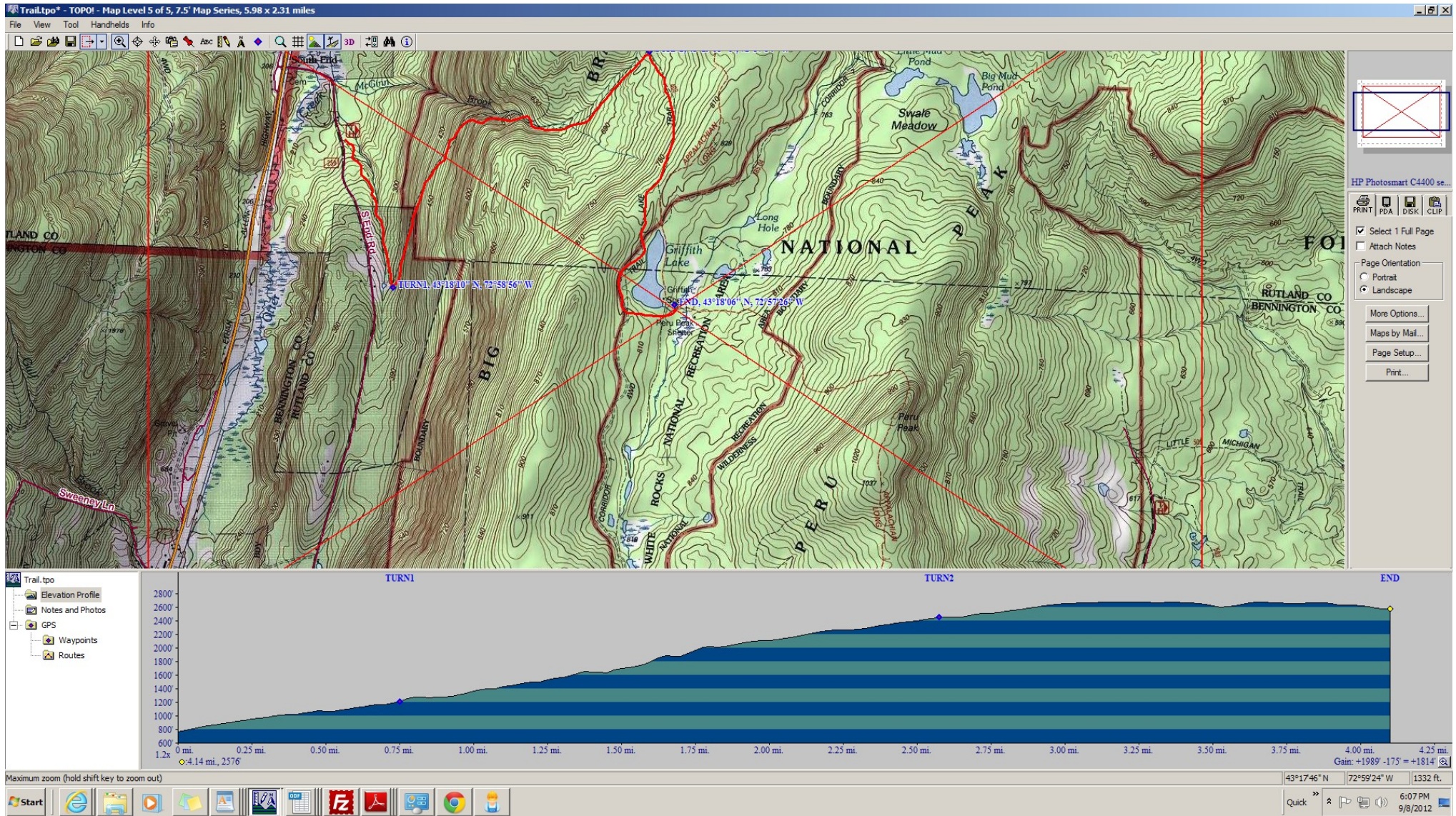
Types of maps

- Printed USGS topographical maps
- Maps you make using TOPO! software
- Trail maps posted by the forest service



One of the fancier trail blazes, on the M-M Trail in Wendell, MA
November 2009

TOPO! Software



September 10, 2012



Troop 54
Worcester, MA

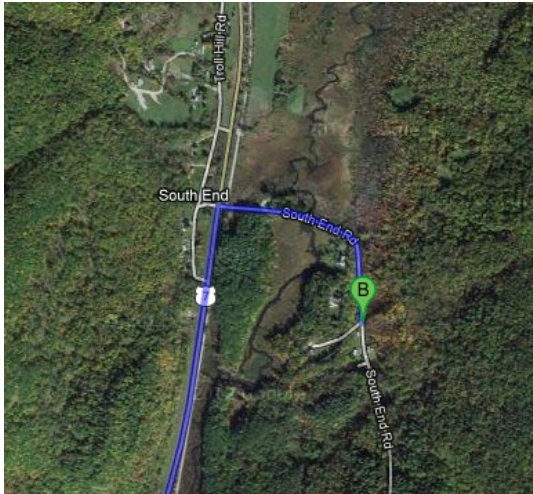
Desired Trail Features

- Not too far, not too steep.
- Few or no paved roads to cross.
- Few or no houses to pass.
- A lake for swimming is a plus.
- A trail shelter is a plus if your group is small enough for it to make a difference.



Troop 54 Scouts leave a trail shelter on the Appalachian Trail near Bennington, VT
August 2010

Route to the Trailhead



Trailhead near East Dorset, VT, shown on Google Maps August 2012

- Use Google Maps to generate directions from your meet-up location to the trailhead (and back).
- You can input or output GPS coordinates in Google Maps and in TOPO!.
- Link to the directions in your event posting, so everyone will know where you are headed.

September 10, 2012



Troop 54
Worcester, MA

Preparing the Participants

- Meal planing
- Packing list
- Medical form
- Permission slip
- Understand LNT
- Understand forest restrictions



Troop 54 Scouts
on the Midstate Trail in
Oakham, MA
March 2008



What to Pack

Key Items:

- Backpacking tents
- Backpacking stoves
- Water bottles
- Sleeping bags and pads
- Water purification materials

See the checklist for other items.

Weight is important - every ounce counts!



Troop 54 Scouts
cook dinner in Arcadia
Management Area in
Hope Valley, RI
February 2009