

Rustbelt Rendezvous

Friday, Jun12th to Monday, June 15th, 2025

RSVP [here](#)

Intent

Come build bonds with comrades and make some great memories. This is a camping trip and range day with some other optional activities throughout the weekend.

This trip will be as inclusive and accessible as possible. You don't need gear, transportation, physical fitness or even skills to attend.

It's very common for people not to consider going for all sorts of reasons, and those reasons are sometimes misunderstandings or are easily overcome by borrowing a tent or whatever piece they think disqualifies them from being able to attend this event. I suggest you read on and reach out. It will be a really great time!

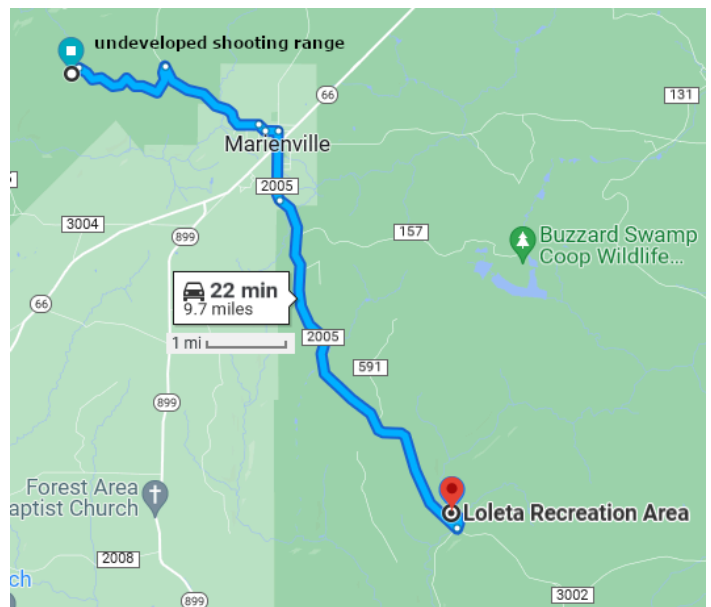
Location:

We are staying at the Millstone Group Site in the [Loleta Recreation Area](#) of the Allegheny National Forest (ANF).

This [map](#) shows the campground and shooting range locations.

Download an offline version of this area in case you don't have cell signal.

Before camping "on" the National Forest, it's a good idea to understand the do's and don'ts. From the links in this document, you can find more information about the Forest Service [rules](#) and campground information.



Brief schedule of events Come for as much or as little as you can.

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
- Arrival and setup - Dinner together and Campfire	- Range day - Trainings and classes - Dinner together and Campfire	- Range day - Trainings and classes - Dinner together and Campfire	-Cleanup -Goodbyes

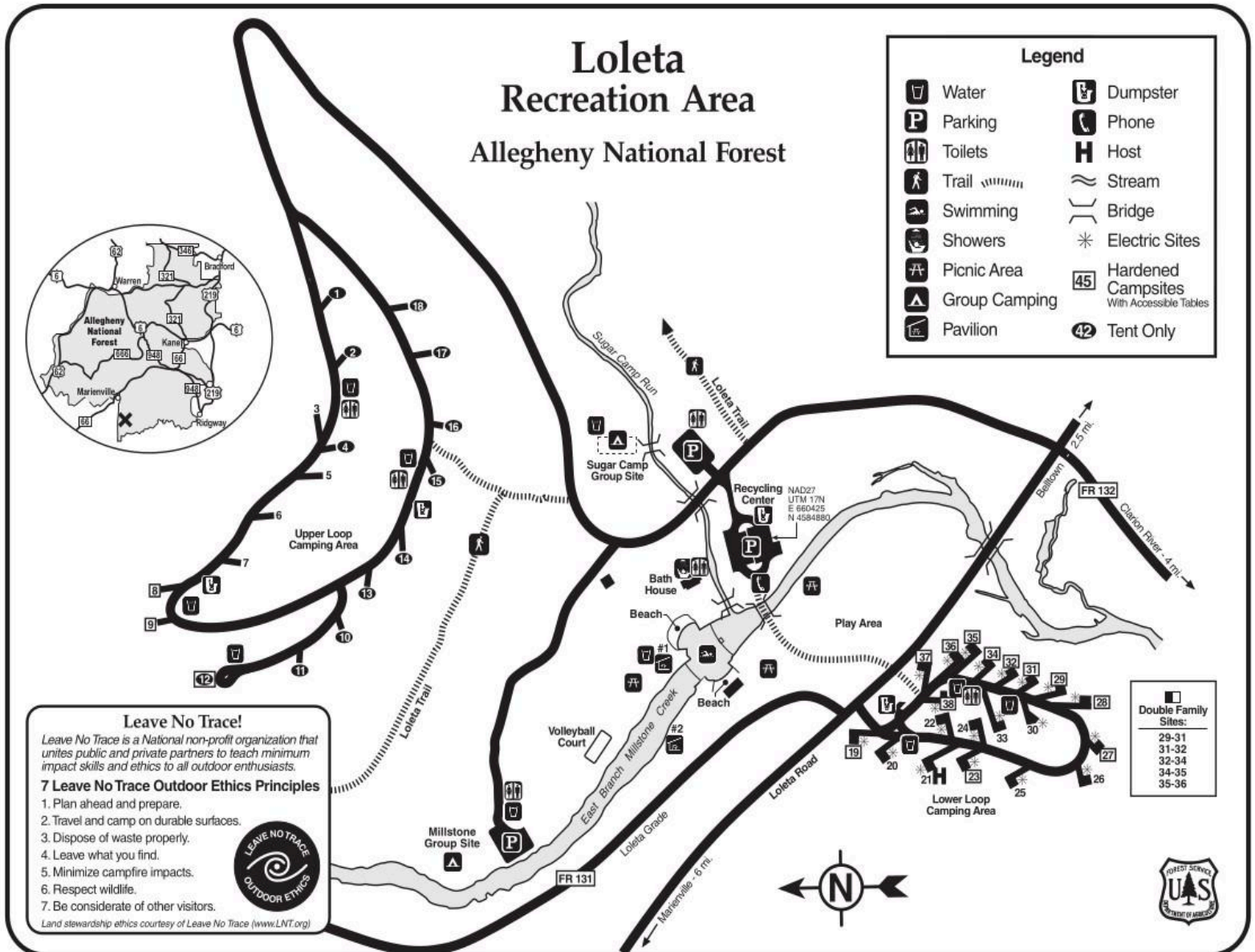
Bringing guests

Romantic partners and immediate family including children are welcome to attend. Please understand the type of event this is and the inherent dangers and challenges involved.

Getting to the Millstone Group Site

Download an offline map of the area before you leave home. There is a parking lot at the Millstone Group Campsite.

Carpooling: Some members may wish to carpool with other members who they may or may not know. Keep in mind it's often simpler and more convenient to get a ride to and from the event with different people than it is to find both rides with the same people who are going and coming back at times that work for you.



Directions from the 7-corner intersection of Marienville, PA:

- Travel South on S. Forest Road for 5.9 miles
- S. Forest Road (FS 2005) becomes Loleta Road and then FS 3002.
- Turn left into the campground at Millstone Road
- Drive for ¼ mile. You'll pass the Loleta Recreation Area and its parking lot. Take the next left.

- The Millstone Group Site is about a tenth of a mile down the gravel path/dirt road.

Communication:

1. The Rustbelt Rendezvous Discord server
2. Two-way radios. During arrivals, we'll be listening to two frequencies. This is subject to change if the channels are in use by other groups, and the frequencies will be immediately updated on this document. [FRS 1 \(462.5625\)](#) and [MURS 5 \(154.600\)](#)
3. Phone number for calls or text: 412-254-3867

Sometimes it's awkward to walk up to a group wondering if it's your fellow leftist gun enthusiasts, so for a quick little shorthand and if anyone asks what our group is for. Call it **Karl's birthday**. That might seem nerdy, but it works very well.

Cost

It's important this event doesn't exclude anyone just because they're not in a position to drop a bunch of cash. If you're able to, please contribute \$50 to help cover costs.

Amenities

The Loleta Recreation Area has two picnic shelters, cooking grills, a volleyball court, and swimming beaches. There is a bathhouse with changing rooms, flush toilets, and hot showers.

At our campsite, there is a vault toilet and potable water. There is more info and map in the [Loleta Recreation Area trifold \(pdf\)](#) and the [Loleta Recreation Area webpage](#).

What to bring

To the range

- appropriate shooting attire: optional long sleeves for lead and sun protection, closed-toed shoes, extra shooting-only shirt that doesn't catch brass (avoid low cut shirts or hoodies)
- eye pro, brimmed hat to protect against brass behind eye pro, ear pro
- your full damn kit if you want
- all your guns, ammo or cash if it makes you more comfortable than being gifted ammo
- targets, a snack for BEFORE you shoot, sunscreen

For camping (These are suggestions, but you can do without or borrow anything listed here.) It's a good idea to wear boots and long pants where there are rattlesnakes and ticks.

- personal gear
 - Cash for the campsite, fire wood, etc.
 - Tent (or post in the chat to borrow one)
 - tarps and cordage
 - Warm blankets, pillow and sleeping pad

- Headlamp and flashlight
- Clothing: **long underwear and warm clothing for nighttime socializing**, boots, rain gear, brimmed hat
- **Plates, bowls, silverware, cups**
- Food or snacks for between the group meals: sandwiches, dehydrated camping food, refrigerated quesadillas that can be reheated, left over pizza for the frying pan, noodles with jars of pasta sauce, eggs, trail mix, etc.
- a gallon of water per day for drinking, cleaning and cooking unless you plan to use the treated, potable water at the campground
- Camping chair
- Camping tools (bug protection, knife, hatchet, splitting axe)
- Extras: swim suit, fishing tackle, hammock, frisbee, lawn games, etc.
- personal care
 - First aid: Neosporin, After Bite, bandaids, etc.
 - hygiene: toilet paper, wet wipes, soap and shampoo
 - Permethrin, DEET, tweezers
- Shower shoes and a towel
- two-way radios with FRS or MURS frequencies
- Chargers, cables, battery packs
- Garbage bag for clothing with exposure to lead (Pb), poison ivy and ticks
- Group needs
 - Music
 - Fire extinguishers or buckets for water to be placed around the camp
 - Tables, pop-up tents, tarps
 - Camping stoves, propane, pots and pans, spatulas (metal and plastic)
 - Stuff for s'mores

What NOT to bring

- Alcohol and drugs. National Forests are patrolled by federal cops, and federal law has a very different opinion on drugs, including marijuana.
- Firewood must be purchased from *within* the Allegheny National Forest per [Order 17-020](#). We'll make a group purchase. Firewood can only be cut or gathered by an ANF firewood permit holder.
- Pets. Service animals are of course welcome, but if you bring a service animal to the shooting range, please expect people to be quite upset ..
- Illegal firearms or other items. Please pay attention to the federal laws and the laws of the state(s) you'll be entering.

Please see the [Camp Guidelines](#) document for SRA bylaws and other agreements.

Using the National forest

The National Forest System

If you haven't experienced the National Forest, take a moment to look at the history of how they came to be or the history of the Forest you're going to. Also look into how much of the so-called United States is federal land that we can visit (NF and BLM). It's over a fifth of the land. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alleggheny>

The Allegheny National Forest (ANF) has a tragic history of colonization and abuse of its natural resources. It's very worth going into the Marienville Ranger Station (illegal to carry a weapon inside) to talk to the Visitor Information Assistants, see the dioramas and displays, and read about the history and the current process of restoring the land.

Recreation Activities: Camping and [Target Shooting](#)

There are some important legal and cultural things to know before camping or shooting "on" the National Forest, as they say. It's Federal land that has special rules and customs, many of which aren't intuitive.

State laws apply, and just like most places in the U.S., so does federal law. The difference is that the Forest is patrolled not only by county law enforcement, but also by federal law enforcement. So that means there are actually police that might care about things that are only illegal in federal laws.

Temporary rules that apply to specific geographic areas are called "alerts." Some that apply to us include: don't bring firewood "on" the ANF, don't pick the ginseng, and don't feed the wildlife. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/alleggheny/alerts>. These are simple enough, but it's always good to check because sometimes there might be temporary restrictions for certain types of camping, shooting, or places you want to visit.

I know it seems obvious to most, but visual clues prove this needs to be said. You'll almost certainly see them. If you throw a hatchet or a knife at a tree, it leaves a mark and will damage the tree. It's rude, it takes away from the aesthetics of the area, and you may be absolutely murdered by the Campground Host who lives at the campgrounds all season helping people enjoy the area safely and respectfully.

Firearms and recreational shooting

Firearm laws on National Forests are mostly those of the state they're in. There are a handful of extra laws about where you can carry and where you can't shoot, but actually it's a lot less restrictive than outside the Forest because most municipalities and a lot of counties have laws preventing people from shooting guns - especially on public land.

You can't carry a weapon into a building where federal employees are present, like at the Ranger Station. (The Malheur Occupation was after hours.)

It's prohibited to shoot:

- Across a body of water (including creeks)
- Across a road

- Within 450 feet of an occupied area (even a road with people driving on it), residence, building, campsite, or developed recreation area
- Into, within, or from within a cave or a building or probably a mine I imagine

Dangers

There never seems to be an easy, exhaustive list of dangers for any area. As far as I've learned so far, the things to be aware of in the ANF are snakes, ticks, and falls. Beyond that I say cuts from rusty metal, ankle injuries from difficult terrain, and heat- and cold-related illness are what to look out for. Here's a rough risk assessment for our trip to ANF.

Take these extra precautions in the Allegheny National Forest:

- Avoid dense brush, tuck your socks, wear insect repellent, and separate your clothing to avoid ticks that may carry tick-borne illnesses
- Look where you step, listen for rattles, and make noise as you move to avoid venomous snakes
- Keep a tidy campsite free of exposed food and dishes to encourage bears to go to someone else's campsite

Severe	Leftist infighting	Crash from deer, tired driving, & challenging roads	Tick-borne illness	GSW; major burns; OD; heart attack; stroke; bears
Major	COVID	Cuts & punctures from dirty/rusty things	Cold- or heat-related illness	Snake bite
Significant	Cutting tool injury	Slips, trips, falls & sprains	Minor burns	Problematic bug bites & stings
Minor	cuts on the range	Sunburn	Pb level increase	Food too hot; getting punched by a Proud Boy
Likelihood	4	3	2	1