



The Mountain Institute

Directions From Washington, D.C. and Points North of D.C.

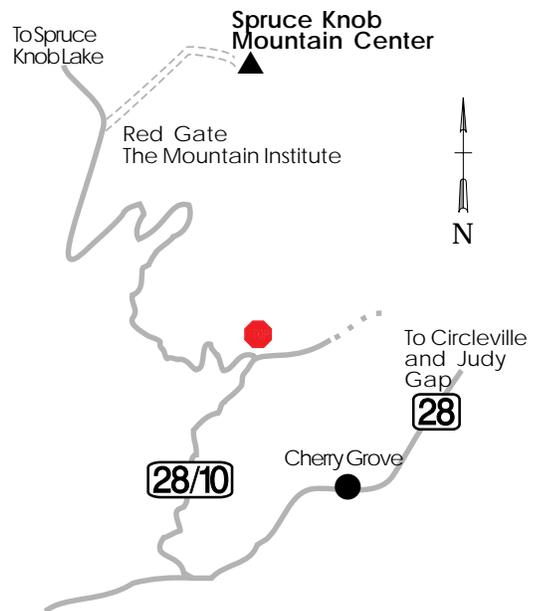
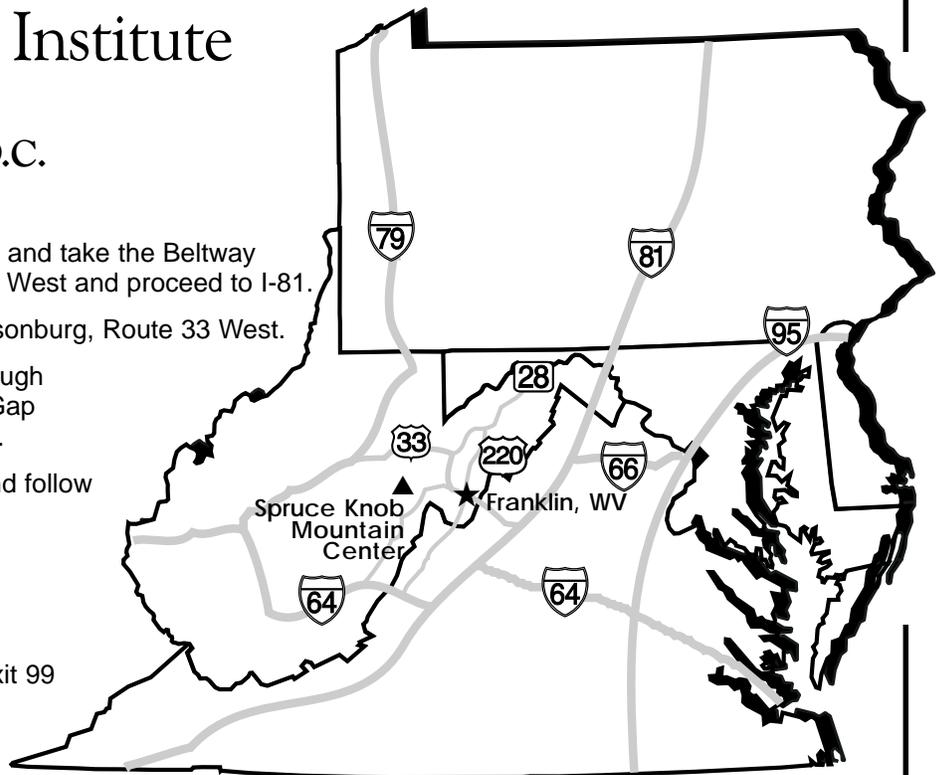
- Follow I-95 South to Washington, D.C., and take the Beltway (495) West around the city. Get on I-66 West and proceed to I-81.
- Follow I-81 South to exit 247B at Harrisonburg, Route 33 West.
- Follow 33 West into West Virginia, through Brandywine, Franklin, and on to Judy Gap (approximately 14 miles after Franklin).
- At Judy Gap, turn left onto 28 South and follow directions from Judy Gap on (below).

From Points West

- Follow I-79 into West Virginia and to exit 99 (Route 33 East) at Weston and Buckhannon.
- Follow Route 33 East through Buckhannon, Elkins, Seneca Rocks, and on to Judy Gap where 33 and 28 split.
- Continue on 28 South and follow directions from Judy Gap on.

From Judy Gap

- Follow Route 28 South through Circleville (3 miles) and Cherry Grove (3 miles).
- Approximately 2–3 miles after going through Cherry Grove, turn right on 28/10 toward The Mountain Institute and Spruce Knob Lake (there will be a small Forest Service sign).
- After about 3 miles turn left at a stop sign near a hairpin turn and go another 4 miles to a set of low stone columns and a red farm gate on the right at the top of a hill; if you go down a very long hill and over a bridge at a small creek you have gone too far.
- Turn right through the red gate; marked "The Mountain Institute." Bear left, and follow the dirt road 1 mile through farm land until you get to the large round buildings—Yurts.



The Mountain Institute

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Spruce Knob Mountain Center

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The Spruce Knob Mountain Center

The Spruce Knob Mountain Center is located in Pendleton County on the upper slopes of Spruce Knob (4,863'), West Virginia's highest point. The landscape is characterized by a rolling, high altitude plateau known since pre-colonial times as the "Hunting Ground". The Center is surrounded on three sides (north, east, and west) by National Forest land, and by private land to the southeast.

The Spruce Knob Mountain Center (SKMC) provides a base for outdoor mountain education, applied research, demonstration, and training initiatives. SKMC programs are designed to serve the needs of The Mountain Institute, the broader mountain community, and to raise awareness and support for mountain communities and ecosystems among the general public.

The campus facilities incorporate unique and innovative building designs, with dormitory, bathing kitchen and dining facilities, a classroom, library and office. Housing is in two "bunk houses" with electricity that accommodate four to five people per room in bunk beds. Camping space is available for those who would like more privacy. A nearby bathhouse includes hot showers and flush toilets with separate facilities for men and women.

Keep in mind also that while you are enjoying the Spruce Knob Mountain Center you have the unique opportunity to separate yourself from the constraints and distractions of modern technology that often consume much of our day-to-day lives. During your stay we encourage you to immerse yourself in the natural world and to spend as much time as possible in the outdoors, taking pleasure in the remoteness of our mountain environment.

Things to Know Before You Arrive

- Cellular phones do not have service from our campus. We share a single phone line (304-567-2644), so we appreciate it if calls are kept fairly brief. The best time for family and friends to reach you is often during meals, since the dining area is close to the phone.
- Internet access is available in our Earth Sheltered office, which is located at the entrance of the campus, near the entrance to the property.
- Mail is picked up and dropped off at our mail box right at the end of the driveway.
- If you are traveling south on Rte. 28, the last gas station you will pass is the Chevron in Circleville. This is the nearest gas station to the campus and it has a small general store. If traveling from the south, your last gas station will be in Bartow on Rte. 250, just before turning north onto Rte. 28, approximately 40 minutes from the campus. The nearest hospitals are Grant Memorial in Petersburg and Davis Memorial in Elkins, 1 and 1.5 hours away, respectively.
- The last few miles of the road up to The Mountain Institute are not paved. Depending on the weather and the road maintenance schedule, it may contain potholes or rough sections. You do not need 4-wheel drive except in the wintertime, but we recommend driving slowly to enjoy the views, avoid potholes, and perhaps even see some wildlife!
- Blankets, pillows, and sheets are provided. We kindly ask guests to help with making and stripping their beds upon arrival and departure. The parking lot is a 50-yard walk from the dorms.
- In our family-style kitchen, our cooks greatly appreciate your help in washing your own personal dishes after meals.
- The bath house, dormitories, and eating/instructional facilities are all in separate buildings within short walking distance of each other. Lighted paths connect the buildings, but you should bring a good flashlight as well.
- Our dorms are located in a forest-pasture edge area that is ideal wildlife habitat. We have found that the smaller species of wildlife (especially mice) will stay outside as long as food is not stored in the dorms. If you have snacks or other special food with you, we are happy to provide critter-proof storage in the dining area of the main yurt.
- Each dormitory room contains 2 upper and lower bunks (4 people per room). You may wish to bring earplugs if you are not accustomed to sharing a room with other sleepers.
- We respectfully request that you do not smoke in any of the buildings.
- Pets are not allowed on the campus grounds. Animal lovers are very likely to see deer, upland birds (including ruffed grouse and wild turkey), and salamanders. Those with keen eyes will see abundant signs of fox, bobcat, coyote, and an occasional bear!