



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Blue Ridge Parkway
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199 Hemphill Knob Road
Asheville, NC 28803

Blue Ridge Parkway News Release

June 2, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOGS AND DADS ON THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

Join us on Father's Day, Sunday, June 21, 2009, from 2-4 pm for Dogs and Dads, a book signing of Karen Chavez's *Best Hikes with Dogs, North Carolina*, and a fun "hiking with dogs" demonstration. Bring the whole family, especially the dads and leashed dogs. Dog water stations and treats will be provided. Travel bowls and leashes will be on sale. The event will take place outdoors at the new Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center, Blue Ridge Parkway, Milepost 384, Asheville, North Carolina. The event is free.

Best Hikes with Dogs: North Carolina details 51 great trails for you and your pup in North Carolina. Hikes located in and around Asheville, Winston-Salem, Piedmont, Uwharrie National Forest, and the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. This guide has everything you need to know to plan a safe, fun-filled outing with your dog. Also included is information detailing proper trail etiquette for dog owners and their pets, tips on hiking with dogs and their special needs, dealing with wildlife encounters and more.

About the Author

Karen Chávez is the Specialties Editor for the Asheville (NC) Citizen-Times Newspaper, overseeing coverage of outdoor recreation, outdoors sports, environment, and health and fitness issues, and is the editor of the twice-yearly Western North Carolina Mountain Travel Guide.

A native of Bronx, New York, Ms. Chávez has a degree in environmental studies from the State University of New York at Binghamton, and a master's degree in journalism from the University of Montana.

She has also worked as a reporter covering outdoor and environmental issues in Montana, Idaho and Arizona. A former National Park Service ranger, Ms. Chávez has worked in Yellowstone National Park, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in Arizona and the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in Pennsylvania.

Whenever she can get out of the office, she loves to hike in the mountains around her home in Asheville with her favorite hiking partner - her black Lab, Shelby.

"Anyone thinking of hiking with a dog would be wise to check out Chavez' practical advice..." --
The Wilson Daily Times

"The guide has everything you need to know to plan a safe, fun-filled outing with your dog." --
The Asheville Citizen-Times

Questions? Please call the Blue Ridge Parkway information desk at 828-298-5330, extension 304, or email waylonw@easternnational.org.

AT A GLANCE

What: Dogs and Dads Event
Best Hikes with Dogs: North Carolina presentation and book signing.

Who: Author Karen Chavez

When: Father's Day, Sunday, June 21, 1-4 p.m.

Where: Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center, Blue Ridge Parkway
Asheville, NC (Milepost 384)

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