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IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE



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## **“RockyFest” set for May 25 in Alexander Co.**

### *Day-long event to celebrate park’s one-year anniversary*

The public is invited to attend RockyFest on Saturday, May 25, 2013 at Rocky Face Mountain Recreational Area (Rocky Face Park) to celebrate the park’s one-year anniversary.

The day-long event will feature activities for the entire family, including: 10K, 20K, and 50K runs; rock climbing classes; geocaching; children’s activities; live music; food; and guided nature hikes. Except for the trail races, all activities are free and open to the public.

The 10K, 20K, and 50K races will all begin at 8:30 a.m. All races follow the same course on hiking trails around the mountain starting at the park’s picnic shelter, located beside the parking lot in the quarry area. The 10K course is one (1) loop, the 20K course is two (2) loops, and the 50K course is five (5) loops. Special awards will go to the top three (3) overall males and females in each race. All finishers will receive a custom medal. Awards will be presented as participants finish. There will be no age-group awards. Early entry fee for the 10K and 20K is \$20, or \$30 for the 50K, if postmarked by May 13, 2013. Registration will increase \$10 for all race registrations after May 13, including race day. Tech water-wicking shirts are guaranteed for all pre-registered runners, so early registration is encouraged. Checks should be made payable to Alexander County, and mailed to Rocky Face Trail Race, 621 Liledoun Road, Taylorsville, NC 28681. No refunds will be available. Race numbers and shirts may be picked up at the park on Friday, May 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Late registration will be also be accepted at that time. Registration will also be available on race day from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. at the picnic shelter. To register, contact Rick French at (828) 632-9332 or [rfrench@alexandercountync.gov](mailto:rfrench@alexandercountync.gov).

Free rock climbing classes will be offered throughout the day from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., 12:45 p.m. to 2:15 p.m., 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and 4:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Rock Dimensions Climbing Guides of Boone will provide the climbing equipment and training as participants will get a taste of climbing on real rock. The 90-minute sessions will focus on getting participants into the gear (harness, helmet, climbing shoes) and getting them on the rock for a vertical experience. There will be a maximum of 15 participants (age 6 or older) per session. A waiver must be signed. A parental consent form must be signed for participants under age 18.

A geocaching event will begin at 2:00 p.m. that day. There are approximately 20 geocaches hidden at Rocky Face Park, offering visitors ample opportunity to explore the park and find the geocaches.

Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location. Participants must have a GPS unit and an active geocaching.com account. For more information, visit [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).

Children's activities will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., including inflatables, face painting, and storytelling with Miss Mel (4:45 to 5:15 p.m.).

In addition, there will be live music and free food from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Sugar Loaf Ramblers will perform from 3:00 to 4:45, and The Idle Time Band will perform from 5:15 to 7:00. Please bring a lawn chair, and sit back and enjoy the music.

At 5:00 p.m., park rangers will take visitors on guided nature hikes to explore the trails and learn more about the park and its unique ecosystem.

Limited parking will be available at the park; otherwise, parking will be available at Rocky Face Baptist Church (a Greenway Public Transportation shuttle will transport visitors to and from the park).

For more information, visit [www.rockyfacepark.com/rockyfest](http://www.rockyfacepark.com/rockyfest) or call 828-632-1093.

Rocky Face Mountain Recreational Area is located at 3451 Rocky Face Church Road, Hiddenite, NC 28636. From US Hwy. 64 East (from Taylorsville), turn left onto Millersville Road, or from US Hwy. 64 West (from Statesville), take a right on Millersville Road, and travel to the stop sign. Take a left on NC Hwy. 90 and turn right onto White Plains Road. Travel to the stop sign and turn right onto Rocky Springs Road. Turn left onto Rocky Face Church Road. The park will be located on the right, and the church is just past the park on the right.

### ***About Rocky Face Mountain Recreational Area***

Rocky Face Mountain is located in the northern part of Alexander County and is considered to be the southern edge of the Brushy Mountains. Rocky Face Mountain Recreational Area is approximately 318 acres in size, with five miles of hiking trails leading to the mountain summit. In addition, there is a one-third-mile paved walking trail located in the former quarry area. Additional trail mileage will be included in future plans. The site also features a picnic shelter and restroom facilities along with a park office. The park project was made possible by a \$477,000 grant from the NC Parks And Recreation Trust Fund. In addition, to assist with the grant, the land was donated to the county by the Carolina Land and Lakes Resource Conservation and Development District. Additional assistance related to the land donation and to acquiring additional land was provided from the Felburn Foundation. The mountain is a dome shaped mass of granite with a maximum elevation of approximately 1800 feet above sea level. The summit is approximately 600 feet above the surrounding terrain. Much of the terrain is steep and rocky and the overall outline of the mountain lies in a northeast to southwest orientation with long sloping steep slopes on each end. In addition to its scenic beauty, Rocky Face Mountain Recreational Area is on the North Carolina Registry of Natural Heritage Areas. The park is open 360 days per year (weather permitting) and

will close a total of five days during New Years, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. For more information, visit [www.rockyfacepark.com](http://www.rockyfacepark.com).

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