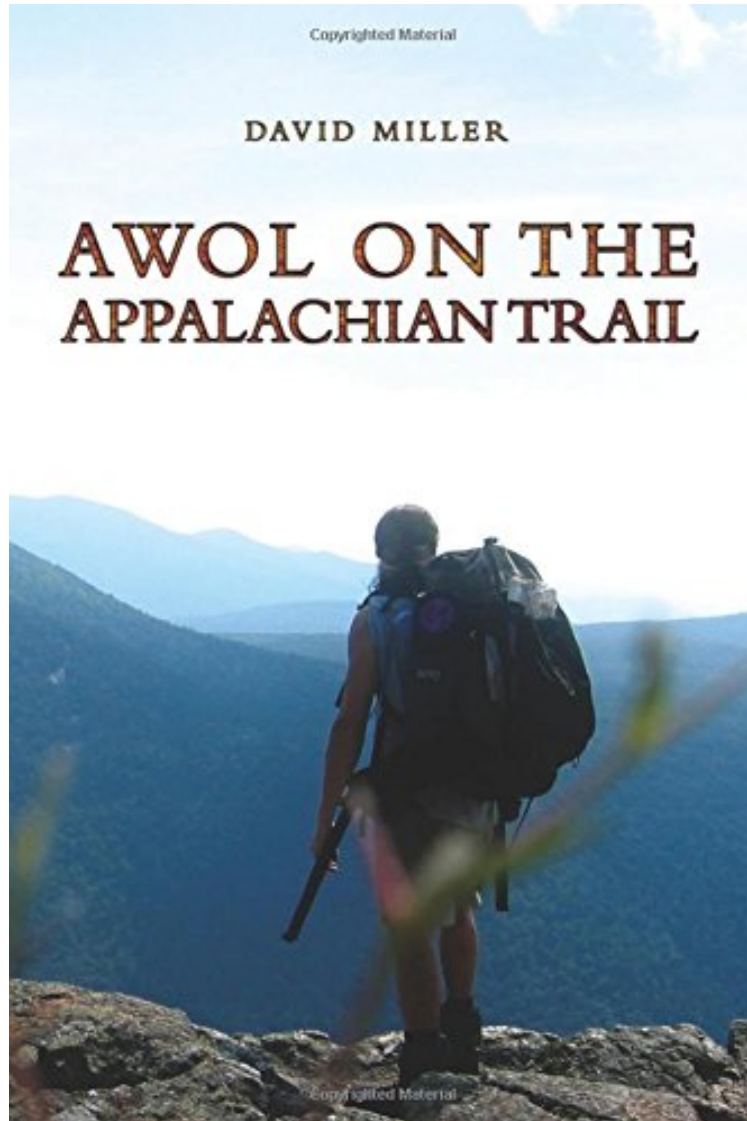


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AWOL on the Appalachian Trail

David Miller

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David Miller : AWOL on the Appalachian Trail before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised AWOL on the Appalachian Trail:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must read, even if you dont hikeBy RickWhat a great book. David Miller knows how to write, its quite an easy and pleasurable read. He uses metaphors quite well, like the sky was a Windex blue. If you are going to do the AT this is a must read. The book is very descriptive but not to the point where it becomes overly descriptive than boring. My wife enjoyed the book as much as I did. Neither of us have hiked the

full AT but maybe some day we will do small sections.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good, but flawedBy F BThis is a terrific account of a trek I longed to take, an acceptable diary of changing moods and complaints and a pretty simplistic philosophical essay. Take your pick.I really enjoyed the descriptive and ignored the philosophical.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. That seems like a smart way to goBy F. Elizabeth HauserDavid gave a very realistic and accurate description of his thru-hike. It was the first of several that I read on the topic. He struck an interesting balance of on-trail and off-trail days...seemed just about right to me. Everyone has their own way, of course. His re-supply was also an eclectic mix of methods. That seems like a smart way to go. His descriptions of hiking through rain, mud, more rain, more mud, cold, sleet and getting caught in some lightning were good for others to read who hope to thru-hike. And then there's the grueling up and down mountains. The days of beautiful weather and breathtaking views are extra special and to be appreciated deeply. I expect that accomplishing this hike is one of the most rewarding experience someone can have, but it comes with a price, as all good things do. David wrote this well and it's a fascinating and realistic read.

In 2003, David Miller left his job, family, and friends to fulfill a dream and hike the Appalachian Trail. AWOL on the Appalachian Trail is Millers account of this thru-hike along the entire 2,172 miles from Georgia to Maine. On page after page, readers are treated to rich descriptions of the valleys and mountains, the isolation and reverie, the inspiration that fueled his quest, and the life-changing moments that can only be experienced when dreams are pursued. While this book abounds with introspection and perseverance, it also provides useful passages about safety and proper gear, showing a professional hikers preparations and tenacity. This is not merely a travel guide, but a beautifully written and highly personal view into one mans adventure and what it means to make a lifelong vision come true.

.com David Miller's Top Five Items You Might Not Think to Pack for a Long-Distance Trek (But Will Wish You Did)
Scissors: Scissors are better than a knife for common tasks like opening food packaging, cutting moleskin, or trimming your mustache. I carry the Leatherman Micra, which has a very functional pair of scissors and a knife blade. Suntan Lotion: The AT is known for rain, cold and for long walks through the "green tunnel." Yet every year, especially before the trees regain their leaves, hikers will get sunburned. Chafing powder: Hikers disagree about whether hiking uphill or downhill is more demanding, but they all agree that hiking with chaffed, burning skin is less tolerable than the ups and downs. Body Glide is another popular treatment. Trash Bag: Pack it in; pack it out... and remember to have something to pack it out in. A gallon-sized zippered bag usually suffices. Belt pouch: Backpack manufacturers have caught on, and many now offer packs with accessible pouches sewn onto the straps on their packs. If your pack doesnt have belt pouches, buy add-ons. Keep your camera in your belt pouch, and youll take many more pictures than you would if your camera was in your pack. Also keep your spoon at the ready; you never know when your hiking partner might leave his food unattended. Photos from the Appalachian Trail Click to see larger images Miller is a wonderful writer who...puts such thoughts on paper about as well as anyone. -- Robert Hughes, Florida Today Newspaper, July 10, 2006 AWOL on the Appalachian Trail offers readers an intimate grasp and vivid portrayal of the pure beauty and inspiring landscape of the Appalachian mountains and valleys Whether an armchair traveler or an active outdoors enthusiast, AWOL on the Appalachian Trail is very highly recommended reading as a first-hand narrative of an incredible journey spanning the entire length of the Appalachian country. Midwest Book Readers who are considering the Trail or who simply enjoy being in the outdoors will find this book most appealing, but Miller's talent should bring him an even larger audience. - Jeff Minick, Smoky Mountain News Miller is a wonderful writer who expresses the emotions as well as the facts of the world's most famous hiking trail I enjoyed [AWOL on the Appalachian Trail] more than any AT book I've read. - Robert Hughes, Florida Today Newspaper