

BLAZING THE OUACHITA TRAIL 2 X 6 RECTANGLE:

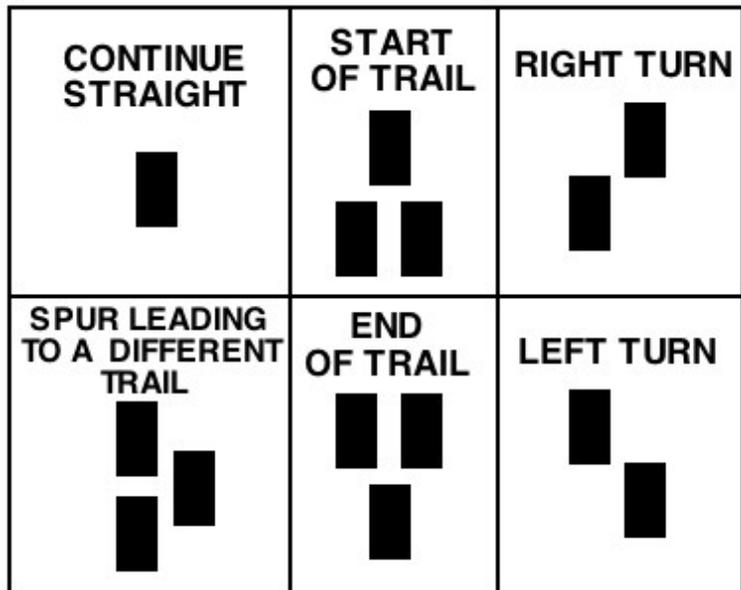
Supplies:

- Get the appropriate **blue paint in the Gatorade Bottles***, a **paint scraper**, and **brush** from FoOT –John Burns in Hot Springs Village, AR 501-922-4106 johnburnshsv@gmail.com
- You can also get paint from your local Forest Service District office, or Pinnacle Mountain State Park office (see below). (Bring your own Gatorade bottle*.)
- You are also welcome to use your own supplies. **NOTE: If you prefer to buy paint yourself, see the color codes at bottom of this instruction.**
- A zip lock bag to put the brush in when you are finished.
- Some kind of **eye protection**.
- **Rags** to wipe spills
- Nice, but not necessary, is to carry a pair of small **hand clippers** in case there's a vine on the tree or a small branch that, when leafed out, will block the blaze.

How to:

- **Do not use spray paint—too messy.** *Use paint from a bucket and put paint in a 24 oz. Gatorade bottle with drinking spout and squeeze enough paint onto the 2" brush to paint the blaze (the bottle is the easiest, less messy, most efficient way to carry paint). Be sure to take enough paint for the job to be done
- In most cases find the old blaze.
- Make sure the tree is still alive. Don't paint on dead trees that will fall over.
- Scrape off the bark (not too much) for a 2" X 6" spot to paint on. This is important for a lasting effect.
- This all works best with two people. One scrapes and the other paints.
- As neatly as possible paint over the old 2" X 6" rectangular blazes if the tree is still alive (**please note "rectangle", not blob**). If the tree is dead or there are no blazes, choose appropriate LIVE trees. If there are no trees in the area, use a large stationary rock beside the trail. **Be sure to blaze both sides of the tree---both going and coming.**
- **We ARE NOT trying to color-code the forest so use your own judgment regarding spacing of blazes. The Forest Service guideline is a blaze very 500' or so. Blaze just often enough to let the trail user know where the trail is. Remember most trail users prefer the "wilderness experience". You should be able to just barely look ahead a bit to see the next blaze and in some cases where the trail is highly defined even visually detecting the next blaze is unnecessary.**
- **DO NOT OVERBLAZE this trail. Tacky, Tacky, Tacky. However, extra blazing is acceptable at vague or confusing spots on the trail.**

- **DO NOT BLAZE OR OTHERWISE PAINT ON ROCKS UNLESS THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO TREE AROUND** and be sure having a blaze on that rock is absolutely necessary.
- Feel free to “erase” some old blazes if you think there are too many by lightly scraping or use wire brush.
- If the previous blazes are not on both sides of a tree and are on different trees, “erase” one of them and put them on both sides of one tree.
- For many years the Ouachita Trail has had the right or left slanted double blaze signifying a turn. Do not refresh these slanted blazes. Paint the new correct turn signal blaze shown in the below diagram just under the old slanted one or remove the old one if you can. Eventually they will all be replaced and the old incorrect slanted blaze will fade away.
- Paint “turn signals” at vague, confusing, or abrupt turns. See diagram. We will be using the Right Turn, Left Turn,

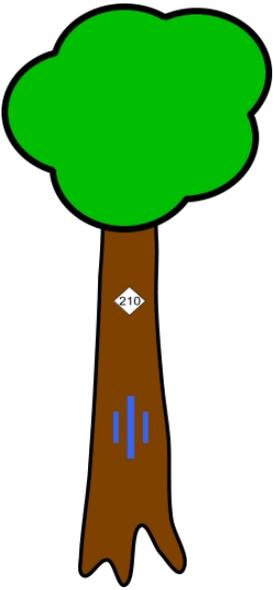


and Continue Straight blazes shown here.

- If borrowing supplies from the Forest Service office or State Park, please clean the supplies before you return them so they will be ready for the next volunteer. With supplies borrowed from FoOT, Ken Schultz will clean them for you.

A good idea is to put a “secondary” blaze marker on the Mile Marker tree/object so the Mile Markers are easier to spot. See drawing below.

Try three vertical lines 1" wide, 1" apart about 4-5 ft off the ground. The two outside lines are 6" long and the middle is 12" long. That mark would signify a Mile Marker tree or object.



In Oklahoma volunteers can get paint from the USFS office in Hodgen. Call Larry Ross 918-653-2991. He has the paint there in buckets. You should bring their own GatorAde bottle, brush and scraper. There is also paint available at the tool cache at Cedar Lake Campground. The cache is behind the restroom across from the camp host's trailer. The campground host has the key to the cache.

Eastern end volunteers can get paint at Pinnacle Mountain State Park. You should plan to bring your own Gatorade bottle, scraper and brush. We are switching over to the lighter blue paint on the eastern end so that the entire trail will be the same. BE SURE you get the lighter blue; not the old dark blue. There are excess blazes on the eastern end of the trail; please remove them with scraper or wire brush.

*If you purchase your own paint, formulas are:

Walmart Custom Color
Color Place
Color Name: Mach Match
Exterior
Tint Base #Accent
Formula B-7-5 C-11
E-5Y16.5
KX 6Y 12

Lowe's Custom Colors
Olympic
Premium Base 3
A52-4 Windjammer Ext Semi-Gloss Latex
102-39 105-0.5 115-8

The paint color has been commonly referred to as "Timber Marker Blue"