

## Road Scholar Retreats at the Shawnee Institute Offer Welcoming Getaway

Combine incomparable hiking on the Appalachian Trail in the Poconos with inquisitive older adults who want to take in the serene surroundings and you have an exceptional setting for Road Scholar, the Boston-based organization that has organized educational programs at the Shawnee Institute for decades. Road Scholar programs bring adults – baby boomers and beyond – to the area for learning and adventure.

Known for its educational adventures, Road Scholar offers Retreats in more than 40 idyllic locations across the country, and one of those is at the Shawnee Institute. Each retreat features a setting with natural beauty, storied history and access to educational discovery, the heart of all Road Scholar adventures.

The Shawnee Inn on the Pocono Mountains' eastern edge is the home base for Road Scholar adventurers with a birds-eye view of the Delaware River. Hundreds of Road Scholars embrace the outdoors every year when they set out to paddle the Delaware Water Gap, bike through rustic Pennsylvania or hike the Appalachian Trail. Or indoors, watercolor painting, theater and musical adventures take center stage.

“What’s unique about Road Scholar participants is how enthusiastic and inquisitive they are,” says Midge McCloskey, Road Scholar program director at Shawnee. “We offer eight different Road Scholar experiences. On each one – golf, photography, watercolor, theater performance, hiking or biking – Road Scholars want to learn as much as possible about the surroundings and our local history. And our expert instructors love sharing it all with them.”

“Each Retreat provides a welcoming atmosphere and ideal setting for relaxing after energizing experiences in the classroom or outdoors and reflecting on a great day with new friends,” says JoAnn Bell, senior vice president of program development at Road Scholar.

“Hiking the Appalachian Trail is a popular choice for many people,” says Midge. “Our recent addition of Choose Your Pace hiking options, allows people to choose each day which trail length is best for them.” Hikes range from three miles with multiple rest stops, to more challenging hikes at 4.5 miles to the faster-paced option with few rest stops, 6 miles and elevation 900+ feet.

Hundreds of people experience retreats at Shawnee each year on programs. Beyond the outdoors, the adventure continues indoors at Shawnee with watercolor, photography and theater performance immersing participants in the arts. This year Shawnee Institute introduced a new program for grandparents and grandchildren to experience Broadway together.

Each Road Scholar Retreat program across the country includes:

- Morning easy, optional exercise that unlocks your limbs and motivates your mind.
- Meeting with community members to get insight into local life
- An authentic, farm-to-table meal
- Live performance or event
- Single rooms for only \$100 more at many retreats

Learn more about Retreats at Shawnee at <https://www.roadscholar.org/collections/retreats/shawnee/> or other Road Scholar Retreats around the country at [www.roadscholar.org/retreats](http://www.roadscholar.org/retreats).