

ACC trip to Sunset Park on June 11th, 2005

Sunset Rock is an exposed outcropping of rock offering a strategic view of the valley below. The prominence is faced with 80 foot cliffs, and has a large flat top. The view from this point was influential in a significant Civil War battle. The cliff area extends for more than a mile along the top of Lookout Mountain. A trail descends to the base of the cliffs, then to the north and south.

The climbing areas are located within [Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park](#) . The first National Military Park, it serves as both memorial to those who fought here and a source of enlightenment of the history of our nation. Climbers should be aware of the reverence of this place and be respectful of other visitors.

Is one of the oldest and most established climbing areas in the southeast, most likely due to its close proximity to the city of Chattanooga. The cliffs are made of hard layered sandstones. They run north from Sunset Rock about half a mile, and twice as far to the south, with access trails along the base. Almost all climbs are single pitch, most can be easily rigged with top-ropes. Very few bolts exist, almost all routes are traditionally led or top-roped. Sunset offers hundreds of excellent steep crack and face climbs, with a smattering of challenging roofs.

Meeting location and time

Cumberland Mall parking lot on Saturday 11th at 7:30 am in front of JCPenney close to the crosswalk over Cobb Pkwy to Galeria Center for car pooling.

Directions

Go on I75 North towards Chattanooga. Follow the innumerable signs to [Ruby Falls](#) on Lookout Mountain from I-24. Pass Ruby Falls on 148 and continue to the top of the mountain. Follow the road straight across the mountains top until you come to the softball fields. Bear to the right following West Brow Road, looking for a small paved parking area on the left about 1/2 mile from the ball field. There are 8 spaces available, 5 are unrestricted, 3 are one hour parking - you will be ticketed/towed. If no parking here, continue to Point Park and pay your \$2 to enter. If there's still no parking, go to the [Access Fund parking lot](#).

Cliff Access

There are three points of access for the trails that run along the base of the cliffs. The determining factor is parking. Lookout Mountain hosts several major tourist attractions, the affluent neighborhood is choked with traffic in the summer. Parking spaces disappear fast. The park gates open at 8 AM. Be there when they open if you hope to find a parking space. The Access Fund parking lot at the base of the mountain almost always has room.

The primo spot was once the tiny parking lot at Sunset Rock. A short trail leads to the top of the 90 foot cliffs. A trail leads left from atop the rock, then descends via a long staircase onto the trails at the base of the cliffs. Much of the climbing in this immediate area is closed. ([Climbing Management Plan](#)). There are 8 parking spaces here, 5 are unrestricted, 3 are one hour parking - you will be ticketed/towed if you break any rule! Don't even consider parking in the rangers space, alongside the road in the neighborhood, at the softball field, or anywhere else. YOU WILL BE TICKET AND TOWED. I no longer park at the Sunset Rock parking lot out of sensitivity to the purpose of the park. The view from atop Sunset Rock played an important role in the civil war. When you park for a long time in one of the few parking places, you deny the experience to others of seeing the historic view.

The correct thing to do is park at the base of the mountain and walk up. Unfortunately, it is the least convenient. **The Access Fund Climbers Parking Lot** is located at the base of the mountain, below Sunset Rock. From atop the mountain, return down West Brow Road, turning left at the ball fields. Pass Ruby Falls , then turn left at the dangerous intersection at the hairpin turn (there is a sign for the Sky Harbor Motel here). Follow the signs to Reflection Riding Stables at the bottom of the mountain. Drive past nice houses, then look for a gravel lot on the right side of the road, with parking for about 20 cars. There is a map posted on the signboard at the Sunset Rock parking lot. The easy trail up to Sunset Rock is across the street from the climbers lot, and takes about 40 - 45 min. to hike to the base of Sunset Rock.