

# Hiawassee River

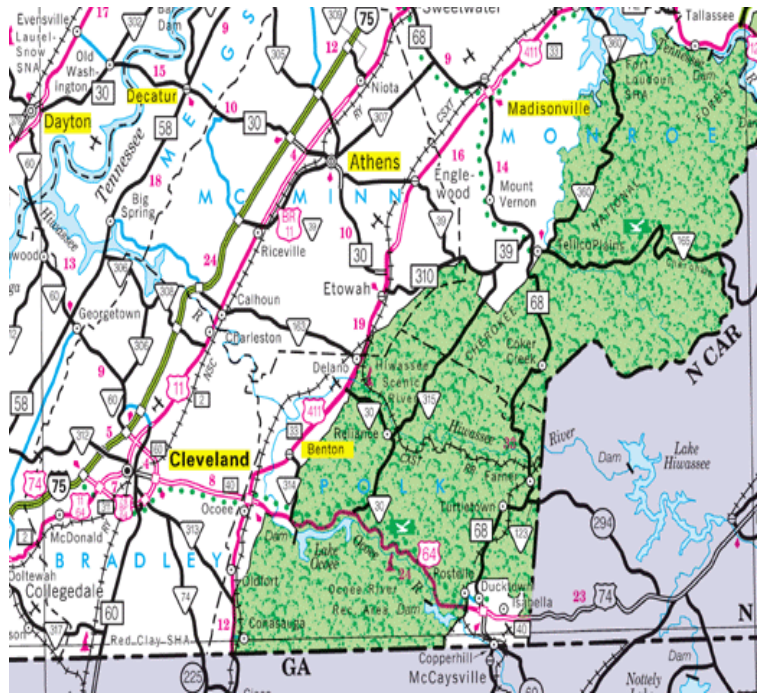


## The River

Located in eastern Tennessee, the Hiawassee River is one of the top scenic rivers in the state. The river has mostly Class I (*calm flat water*) and Class II (*easy rapids, some maneuvering necessary*), but a few Class III rapids (*difficult, some complex maneuvering, scouting is advised*) provide an excellent challenge. The Hiawassee is an excellent river to learn and practice basic kayaking and canoeing skills. Middle Tennessee Council has equipment that troops can check out for trips on the Hiawassee. As always, safety should be a primary concern. At least one of the adult leaders should be familiar with the river prior to a troop outing, and everyone on the trip should scout difficult rapids. The Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association offers instructional programs for Scouts and adult leaders; at least some of the adult leaders should be certified in whitewater safety and rescue.



**Hiawassee River**  
Ranger—Naturalist  
Hiawassee State Scenic River  
Box 225  
Delano, TN 37325



## Hiking and Camping

The Gee Creek Campground is located along the banks of the Hiawassee River. This campground offers forty-three sites with tables, fire rings, grills, and a bathhouse. The campsites are designed mainly for tents. Some of the sites are next to the shore, and while these can be pleasant campsites, Scouts need to pay careful attention to weather reports to ensure their tents are not swept away. A twelve-mile section of the scenic John Muir Trail follows the Hiawassee River. Primitive tent camping is permitted along the trail, and several rock shelters make excellent campsites. Because of the proximity of the John Muir Trail, the Hiawassee River provides multiple options for Scout Troops.