

ARKANSAS REGIONS

Ozark Plateau The Ozarks have elevations of 250 to 2,400 feet above sea level. Parts of the region are rugged with long, deep valleys, sharp cliffs, bluffs, and ledges. The principal rock formations are sandstone, shale, and limestone. The Ozarks are perhaps the most familiar region of Arkansas, and its clear streams bring people back year after year.

Ouachita Mountains Unlike the Ozarks, these beds of rock were warped, twisted, and folded. The rock is usually sandstone or shale. The geology of the Ouachitas has had a great effect on the forests of the region as sandstone weathers into a sandy soil that favors pine trees.

Arkansas River Valley Between the Ozarks and the Ouachitas there is a different kind of area, the River Valley. It is up to forty miles wide. Magazine, Nebo, and Petit Jean mountains stand high above their surroundings, have steep sides, and flat tops. Mountains like these are known as mesas and are not typically found in other regions in Arkansas. The Arkansas River flows through the western part of the valley, and there is productive cropland in the bottomlands.

Gulf Coastal Plain The lowlands of the Coastal Plain cover most of southern Arkansas. It was once covered by the Gulf of Mexico. Level and rolling lands, hilly sections, bottoms and occasional prairies are found here. The sandy hills are good for pine trees.

Delta The delta is a land of rivers and wetlands. It covers the eastern third of Arkansas. It, too, was once covered by sand and gravel from the Gulf of Mexico. However, large rivers removed the ocean-bottom deposits. Bald cypress and tupelo trees are common here as they can survive flooding. This area is home to vast farms and abundant wildlife.

Crowley's Ridge This is the smallest of the regions, and different from all the others. It is in the eastern part of the state, and completely surrounded by the Delta. It "towers" 200 feet above the Delta, and is visible for miles. The rivers left this ridge, 150 miles long and 5 miles wide, while removing all the ocean deposits from the Delta. The ridge was completed when dust piled up to 50 feet deep. This supports an upland hardwood forest.

Reference:

Arkansas and the Land by Tom Foti and Gerald Hanson, University of Arkansas Press, 1992.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Mount Magazine is managed through a partnership with the USDA Forest Service

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Arkansas's Highpoint Information

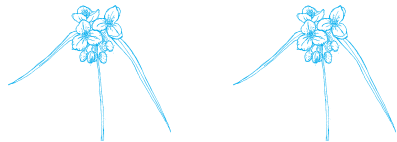


Mount Magazine State Park

THE HIGHPOINT

At an elevation of 2,753 feet above sea level, Mount Magazine is the highest point in Arkansas. The actual highest point is called the Signal Hill. Reaching it is a destination for many people visiting Mount Magazine and is a pleasant woodland experience.

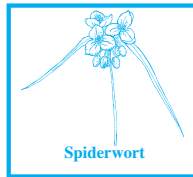
One myth about this site claims it to be the highest point between the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains. However, Mount Sunflower in Kansas is 4,039 feet in elevation. Black Mesa, Oklahoma is 4,973. Panoramic Point, Nebraska is 5,242. Harney Park in the Black Hills of South Dakota is 7,242. Guadalupe Peak, Texas is 8,749 feet above sea level. But, Mount Magazine is a very impressive feature on the Arkansas Landscape. It rises over 2,200 feet above surrounding valleys. To learn more, read *Highpoints of the United States* by Don Holmes, University of Utah Press, 2000.



SIGNAL HILL TRAIL

The Signal Hill Trail includes a 1.4 mile loop through cool, rich woods, which offer pleasant exploration. Some plants are found on the northern slope but not on the southern slope. Oaks and hickories dominate the canopy along with maples and some of the largest sassafras trees in Arkansas. Understory trees include dogwood, pawpaw, devil's walkingstick, and sassafras. Fruits of these trees provide important food for wildlife including birds, squirrels, and bears.

A rich diversity of plant life blankets the forest floor. Each season is a new botanical



experience. Bloodroot and toothwort blossom in late winter and early spring. Spring brings the flowering of crested iris, mayapple, fly-poison, spiderwort, and many others. Wingstem, skullcap, and black-eyed Susan fill the summer. White



snakeroot provides nectar for butterflies in fall. Brilliant fall foliage gives way to long winter dormancy only to renew the cycle again.

HIGHPOINT MONUMENT

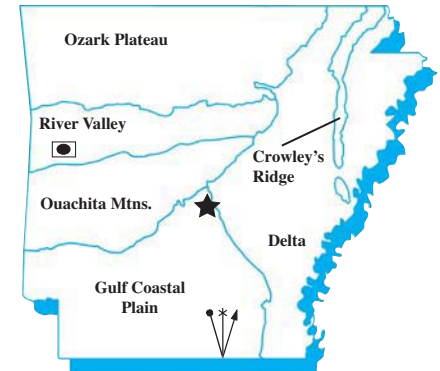
The monument is an approximate 400 square foot map of Arkansas made of stone and mortar. It was built to a scale of one foot = 13 miles. The survey marker represents the location of Mount Magazine, between the Arkansas and Petit Jean Rivers. The map also shows six natural divisions of Arkansas. It was constructed by state park personnel and members of Americorps Team Silver Seven in May 2003.

Thousands of people from all over the world visit Signal Hill. Near the highpoint map is a registration box. Please record your name, city, state, country, and relevant comments.

Park Interpreters lead guided walks on this and other trails on Mount Magazine. Ask for a schedule of interpretive activities at the visitor center or the lodge. Special arrangements can be made to conduct programs for interested groups.



ARKANSAS MAP



★ = Little Rock, Arkansas's Capital

● = Grid North

* = True North

↗ = Magnetic North

■ = Mount Magazine

Blue Mortar = Petit Jean, Arkansas and Mississippi Rivers