Fortson 4-H Center Information

Trail Rules
- Always stay on the marked trail.
- Never try to touch, capture, feed, or disturb the wildlife.
- Never pick vegetation.

Fortson Facts
- Fortson 4-H Center offers 7 different lodging facilities.
- Fortson 4-H Center can lodge 182 individuals.
- Fortson 4-H Center has a small educational farm with: turkeys, chickens, guineas, goats, geese, and peacocks.
- Fortson 4-H Center has a 1.2 acre pond that is fully stocked with many species of fish.
- Fortson 4-H Center has a herpetology lab with 27 species of reptiles and amphibians.
- Fortson 4-H Center has 34 foot tall climbing wall.
- Fortson 4-H Center has a 650’ zip line course.
- Fortson 4-H Center has a state-of-the-art amphitheater stage with a Boise system.
- Fortson 4-H Center has 3.2 miles of well maintained hiking trails.

Night Duty Staff Houses
Either the Center Director or the Environmental Education Coordinator will be on duty in the evenings and overnight. If you have an emergency after hours, please find them in the office or at their homes. The map will help you locate them. The office is opened Monday-Friday, 8a-5p.

Contact Information:
Center Office Number: (770) 946-3276
Center Address: 999 Fortson Road Hampton, GA 30228
Henry County Extension Office: (770) 288-8421
Clayton County Extension Office: (770) 473-3945
In Case of an Emergency dial: 911

Fortson 4-H Center Programming
Summer Camp: Georgia 4-H summer camps provide an outdoor summer program unparalleled in the nation. Up to 1,000 campers will join us this summer at Fortson, one of five separate 4-H camps in Georgia, for a week of experiences that will be remembered for years to come. Enthusiastic and well-trained camp counselors, Cooperative Extension employees and certified volunteers work together to provide campers with unforgettable memories to last a lifetime!

Environmental Education: Every year, thousands of students from all across the state enjoy our day and overnight Environmental Education Program! Our classes are engaging and hands-on, immersing the student in the natural environment to actively apply concepts learned in the classroom. All groups are welcome including public, private, home-based, religious and Montessori schools, as well as clubs and scouting groups.

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TRAIL INFORMATION:

Mr. Ed’s Hideaway Trail: This trail is named for Mr. Ed Fortson, the original owner of the land who donated the land to the Whitakers. This trail is actually multiple trails that weave through the forest hillside next to the Fortson Pond, the trail follows the stream that fills the Pond. This trail will take you by our archery range and our pioneer site. There are homestead animals at our pioneer site. You are sure to see some chipmunks, geese, salamanders, and various aquatics species on this hike.

Forest Trail: This trail takes you on a tour of the Georgia Piedmont Region and is 0.53 miles in length. Benches are scattered along this trail with numerous species of trees identified with markers, see if you can find all the trees on the trail that are identified. On this trail you are sure to see a Fox Squirrel or an Eastern Cottontail Rabbit. The trail starts and ends at the Margaret’s Mountain signs on Fortson Road. The Forest trail is where our Forest Ecology, and Wilderness Survival classes are taught through our award winning Environmental Education Program.

Survival Trail: This trail is named because to get through it is really survival. It is a rugged trail where the Survival class through the EE program is taught. Trees are left down and the tree is very narrow so consider yourself warned.

Pioneer Trail: This is a connector trail that connects the Native Trail and Whitaker Trail to the Forest Trail. This trail is 0.13 miles in length. Most of the trail is through seedling pine trees that have established themselves voluntarily.

Native Trail: This is a connector trail that connects the Forest Trail with the Survival and Pioneer Trail. The connector is 0.13 miles in length. Also, along this trail a Native American village has been recreated in which a Native American studies class is taught through the EE program.

Whitaker Trail: This trail is named for Robert and Regina Whitaker the founders of the Fortson Youth Training Center, now known as Fortson 4-H Center. This trail is the longest on center and stretches more than 2 miles. The trail begins at the Whitaker Gymnasium and ends near a stream at the intersection of the Native and Pioneer trails. On this trail you are sure to see White-tailed Deer grazing in the distant fields or squirrels scurrying up a Loblolly Pine Tree.