

Care and Maintenance of Shelters on the Ouachita Trail

Essentials:

- ✓ Keep the spur trail and the area around the shelter clear and open. Plan to visit as often as you like, but at least two times per year.
- ✓ Blaze the spur trail with white paint as needed. Blazing will last a few years.
- ✓ If there is a path to a water source, keep that path and the area at the water source clear.
- ✓ Sweep the shelter.
- ✓ If the broom has gone missing, plan to replace it on your next visit. Write shelter name on handle.
- ✓ Clean out the fire-ring.
- ✓ A cheap long handle shovel left there for anyone to use to clean out fire-ring, etc. Write shelter name on handle.
- ✓ Bring a trash bag to pack out any trash.
- ✓ Be sure the journal, pens and pencils are there. If not, plan to replace them on your next visit.
- ✓ If possible, sweep debris off roof.
- ✓ If any damage, repair. (report to FoOT if you are unable to repair yourself).
- ✓ There should be a storage box at each shelter with a latch of some sort. If damaged, repair. (report to FoOT if you are unable to repair yourself). If there is trash or unusable junk in the storage box, please pack it out.

Nice, but not essential:

- ✓ A wooden sign: **Pack it in—Pack it out.** FoOT can furnish the sign, if you will bolt it to the wall in shelter.
- ✓ Candle
- ✓ Matches
- ✓ Bar of soap
- ✓ Paperback book
- ✓ Anything else, non-perishable, animal-proof that you would like to leave for overnight hikers.