

## The True Geographical Center of North Carolina is a Place Called Purgatory Mountain

When thinking about the Tar Heel State and its geography, we're often drawn to that which is most visible like the Blue Ridge Mountains, the coast, and even natural landmarks like Chimney Rock and Pilot Mountain. But did you ever stop to think about the geographic center of North Carolina?

While some schools of thought place the geographic center of North Carolina in the tiny town of Star in Montgomery County, others place it approximately 20 miles north, in Asheboro. (In fact, both spots may be accurate, depending upon whether you're measuring the center of the state from north to south or east to west.)

The alternate opinion to placing it in the town of Star pinpoints the center of the state on the summit of a peak in the Uwharrie Mountains. The peak, called Purgatory Mountain, rises to somewhere in the neighborhood of 1,000 feet above sea level. No one really knows when - or how - Purgatory Mountain got its name. Some place the moniker as starting during the Civil War when war objectors hid out on the mountain. Others believe it's due to the number of moonshiners who set up shop on Purgatory during Prohibition. Still, others tie the name to the Purgatory. Whatever the origin, reaching Purgatory is an easy hike from a trailhead within the North Carolina Zoo.

If you're at all curious about how it feels to spend a little time on Purgatory Mountain, then you'll find the trailhead easily accessible from the north end of the North America parking lot at the North Carolina Zoo. From the start to where the trail ends, it's approximately one mile on a mostly flat trail that has an elevation gain of about 180 feet.

In warm weather months you'll want to be sure to bring plenty of water on this hike, as it can get mighty hot on top of Purgatory Mountain in NC.

You'll know when you've reached the center of the state (and the summit of Purgatory) when you see the zoo's signs signaling you've reached the end of the trail. In some cultures, reaching the end of the trail at Purgatory Mountain could mean it's time to sit and contemplate if you're living your best life and if you need to make any changes - while you're still here. Fortunately, Purgatory Mountain has plenty of thinking rocks to sit on and do just that.

Today, the summit at Purgatory Mountain is a jumble of big boulders on which to sit and think. However, at the summit, you'll find a sign with a little about the history of Purgatory Mountain and some plans for the future, including a planned wooden observation tower taller than the trees. With the additions, perhaps Purgatory will have more visitors. *By Robin Jarvis*



### Mobile Health Clinic Offers Health Care for You and Your Family

The Atrium Mobile Health Clinic operates two days a week in Anson County. No appointments are necessary, walk-ins only. Please wear a mask.

From treating minor injuries like sprains and cuts, to diagnosing long-term diseases like diabetes, the mobile clinic provides health care services in state-of-the-art mobile care units. They welcome patients age 2 and up.

- Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at HOLLA! Community Center, located at 229 East Main Street in Morven

- Mondays 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Burnsville Fire Station, located at 13380 Highway 742 North.

**The Mobile Health Clinic offers diagnosis and treatment for:**

- Short-term health problems like sprains, cuts and infections, including flu and strep throat.
- Long-lasting diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and arthritis.

- Minor injuries, like sprains and cuts.
- Patients 2 and up.

**Additional wellness services offered are:**

- Help connecting with resources for non-health care needs, such as food and transportation assistance.

- Some recommended screenings and procedures will be referred to Atrium Health facilities in the area.

Visit: [AtriumHealth.org/MobileHealth](https://www.AtriumHealth.org/MobileHealth) for more information and location updates.

### Partnership for Children Offers Free Car Seat Checks

**They also sell car seats and booster seats at deep discounts**

Did you know that the Anson County Partnership for Children offers FREE car seat checks? If you are unsure about your child's safety seat or need help installing it, they have nationally certified child passenger safety technicians there to help you.

Just call the Partnership office at 704-694-4036 or stop by at 115 East Morgan Street in Wadesboro for more info.

The Partnership also offers car seats and booster seats at highly discounted rates for Anson County community members.

**It's Never Too Early. Schedule Your Child's First Eye Exam Today.**

Holly Allison Kiker, OD

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1134 Holly Street in Wadesboro (On Hwy 74 across from CVS)  
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**Schedule a physical and/or birth control consult today at the Anson County Health Department**

**ANSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
110 Ashe Street  
Wadesboro 704-694-5188  
*Sliding fee scale for the uninsured.*

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## Atrium Health Women's Care Drive to Thrive

Atrium Health Women's Care Drive to Thrive is a mobile care unit that provides a range of women's care services in a warm, welcoming environment. Services include:

- Cervical cancer screening (Pap smear)
- Screening for urinary tract infections
- Screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections
- Birth control (contraception), including same-day access to long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs), like intrauterine devices (IUDs)
- First-time prenatal visits, if not established with an OB/GYN
- Postpartum visits
- Ultrasounds
- Mammogram referrals
- Social worker on-site to help connect with other resources

**ANSON EVENT**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 23**  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Atrium Health Anson  
Front Lot  
*Walk-Ins Are Welcome*



Scan QR code or visit [AtriumHealth.org/MobileHealth](https://www.AtriumHealth.org/MobileHealth) for schedule, locations and more information.

Walk-ins or appointments accepted.