

# One Rider's Journey: 147 Miles on the D&L Trail in Just Two Days

## Riding From Mountain Top to Bristol

By Dan DiBella, based on the experience of Nicholas Broderick

PA D&L Trail - When we tell people that the D&L Trail—once complete—will become Pennsylvania's longest multi-use trail at over 165 miles, the response is almost always the same: "It would be so cool to ride the whole thing!"

That's why we get excited when we hear from people who've already done it.

One of those riders is Nicholas. We first discovered his story in response to a Facebook post asking, "What was your favorite spot on the D&L Trail this year?" Nicholas replied: "Bristol, after completing the whole trail over two days lol."

Naturally, we had to learn more. Traveling all the way from Maryland to take on the D&L Trail, Nicholas walked away with lifelong memories—and a new appreciation and love for the Corridor.

This past October, I took on an unforgettable challenge: riding the entire Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (D&L) Trail – covering 147 miles in just over two days. Starting in the Pocono Mountains and finishing near Bristol's suburbs, I split the trip with an overnight stay in Bethlehem, PA. The ride was a mix of smooth, scenic stretches and a few adventurous detours, but overall, it was an experience I'll never forget.



My trip began in northeastern Pennsylvania at the Black Diamond Trailhead in Mountain Top. Riding self-supported and solo, I embraced the challenge with planned stops for food and rest along the way.

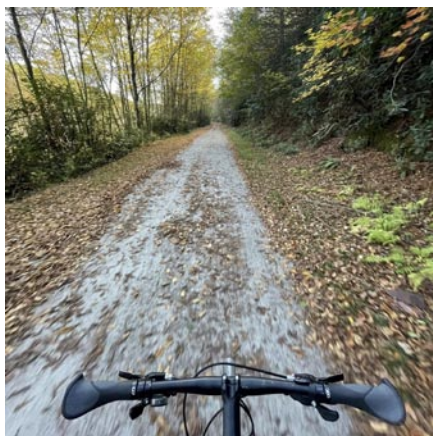
I was truly in awe of the natural beauty along the D&L Trail. Riding through Lehigh Gorge State Park was nothing short of spectacular, with near-perfect biking conditions. The trail was quiet and smooth, lined with towering trees (especially beautiful during the fall leaf season) and accompanied by the gentle flow of the river. Scenic waterfalls dotted the route, guiding you toward the historic train station and railway in historic Jim Thorpe. It was an experience filled with breathtaking views—and so much fun!

The route highlights so many unique aspects of the Corridor, including great local spots to refuel—like the White Haven Family Diner, a perfect place to grab a meal before continuing the ride.

Finding a spot to spend the night during my trip was surprisingly easy. I stayed at Candlewood Suites South Bethlehem, and thanks to the South Bethlehem Greenway, the connection from the D&L Trail to the hotel was seamless.

The only tricky part? Navigating the stretch from North Catasauqua to Race Street, followed by the on-road detour around the trail gap in Allentown between Hanover Canal Park and Allentown Canal Park—about a mile or two of rough trail and street riding. (Author's Note: Both sections are part of the Lehigh Valley Gap.)

Once I got there, though, it was worth it. Indoor pool, comfy room, and great food nearby. For dinner, I hit up Social Still Distillery, a super cool spot in an old bank just 1.5 miles away.



# NCC Hosts Welding Fabrication Competition

By NCC

BETHLEHEM, PA - Northampton Community College (NCC) hosted the SkillsUSA Welding Fabrication Competition at its Bethlehem campus on January 13. The competition, hosted at the College for the first time this year, is one of 62 contests in a variety of career and technical fields. Contests run the gamut from culinary and cosmetology to automotive and welding, and they are created and judged by industry professionals.

The welding fabrication competition consisted of a written test portion and a hands-on portion where five teams consisting of three students each were given blueprints and information to build a tow hitch carrier in four hours. The goal was to make it a usable product at the end of the competition.

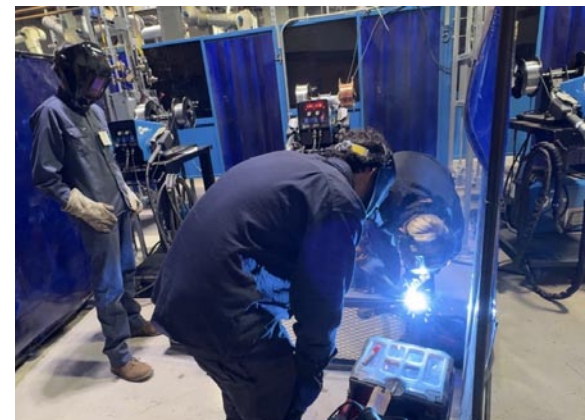
The students represented Bethlehem Vocational Technical School (BAVTS), Lehigh Career & Technical Institute (LCTI), Career Institute of Technology (CIT), Monroe Career & Technical Institute (MCTI), and Upper Bucks County Technical School.

"It's a chance for these high school students to showcase their skills," says Andy Hammer, Executive Director SkillsUSA Council.

Upper Bucks County Technical School's Benjamin Kaczinski, Jayce Teman, and Coulton Meier took home medals and will be headed to states as the winners of this stage of the competition. If they do well there, they'll head to the national conference in Atlanta, GA in June 2026.

"It's important to bring in students to show them what NCC could offer. For example, we're one of the few who have a robotic welder on the east coast," says Associate Dean, Automotive, Industry & Manufacturing, Ken Nasatka. "We also partner with many of the schools to offer college credit for coursework completed upon their graduation."

The remaining contests will be held on February 4, in part, at Agriculture Hall (Ag Hall) in Allentown, with a few being held at NCC. Follow along with all things SkillsUSA at <https://www.skillsusa.org/>.



## COLUMBIA SELF STORAGE Content Sale

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