

Back Campus Encounters on Keystone's Property



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The Back-campus

Alleged to contain 7 miles of hiking trails (1.4 if you run the most redundant way possible), Keystone's back campus has a plethora of strange stories. I've already alluded to the 'wizard' who was said to hang out back there and try to give students LSD and teach them about the devil. There are a handful of other interesting ones worth recounting.

Firsthand Accounts

KPS founding member “Jess” shared a chilling story of seeing a strange cryptid while enjoying a sunny afternoon on the back trails. As she walked through the closely-wooded path, she felt something watching her from around a nearby tree. As she stopped to see what it was, what looked like another tree behind it started moving and she discerned what she described as an “elemental” being watching her. The creature did not threaten her and did not make any attempt to approach her.

On another occasion, Jess and Alex went into the woods to search for ghosts after having a long conversation with DJ and me about the subject. As they sat in a clearing on trail, both said they witnessed shadows moving and discerned the dreaded “shadow people” present in the area around them. They were badly frightened by the incident and raced back to campus.



Multiple students including Jess and Neil have reported seeing large glowing purple eyes on the back campus. The popularity of wendigo lore in recent years led both to attribute the sighting to the creature. They said they were being stalked by a large animal and felt like prey until they retreated from the woods.

Neil also reported a ‘vampire’ type creature living on the back campus, with a hunger for human blood. This is a little out of the realm of KPS, but the mere existence of such a report is worth sharing here. He said Scuba Steve had encountered the creature, which takes the shape of a child with dark hair and eyes.

Scuba Steve also reported seeing ghost lights while walking on the back trails near the relocated smoking gazebo on the main trail. Interestingly, the gazebo rests on the train platform I thought Scuba had made up until I stumbled upon it myself when DJ stopped for a cigarette break.

As Scuba made his way down the trail toward campus, He said he saw a procession of “lanterns” moving across the ravine “where the bridge used to be.” He said he saw a long line of “miners” on their way to work and that they didn’t acknowledge him. If this residual haunting is to be believed, the remnants of a rope bridge across a yawning ravine on the back campus is actually there. This is another Scuba story I didn’t believe until I saw it for myself.



The Seamans Family Cemetery is a notable location on the back campus that holds the remains of generations of the land's original owners. Students have long-reported bizarre activity here, with Mikayla once telling me her best friend had been chased from the cemetery by a shadowy farmer in the middle of the night.

The cemetery has fallen into disrepair and is largely overgrown and broken down. I wonder how much of Keystone's history has simply passed out of memory over the College's many decades of serving the local community.

Personal Experience

The original KPS investigation of campus in October of 2019 started with a tour of the back campus and stopped at the Seamans cemetery. While there, a fight broke out between groups within the group over how much reverence should be afforded to the site. While some members smoked cigarettes outside the main grave area, some other members protested this and claimed the smoking was angering the spirits of the deceased. One member proclaimed that a "shadowy male spirit was watching us from the bushes. He's angry."

While this incident has little basis in the supernatural—I don't think a few branches moving indicates the presence of a wicked spirit—it fractured KPS and caused the first collapse of the organization before it could even get going.

