

Panning for Gold

Yes, **with an adult**, you can find gold in New Hampshire. No, you will not get rich but you can have fun panning for gold in some New Hampshire's rivers. If you look carefully, you might find tiny pieces of gold.

You Will Need

large pie pan, tweezers, small bottle to store your gold

Where To Go in New Hampshire

Tunnel Brook in Benton, Notch Brook in Lincoln, Wild Ammonoosuc River in Lisbon, and in northern Coos County you can visit Indian Stream, Perry Stream, Dead Diamond River, and Swift Diamond River

How to Pan for Gold

1. The water in the stream should be moving fast. Look for a location near the stream's edge where the water moves very slowly. This could be a bend in the stream or behind a large rock.
2. Use your pan and dig into the streambed and pick up water, rocks, gravel, and sand.
3. Stir the material until only clean rocks, gravel, and sand are left. Remove all pieces larger than a pea.
4. Add a small amount of water into the pan. Move the pan so that the material spins or rocks back and forth. Allow some of the material to fall out of the pan. Do not worry about losing some gold. Gold is heavy and it will sink to the bottom. Remove larger pieces.
5. Put more water into the pan and continue rocking and spinning. Only sand should remain in the pan. If gold is in the river, brook, or stream, you should now have black sand in the pan. If no black sand can be seen, try another location.
6. If you see black sand then look for tiny pieces of gold. Use your tweezers and remove any gold you see. Gold is soft and you can flatten it with the tweezers.
7. If you find no gold after three or four tries, move to another location.

Important

You do not need a permit to pan for gold. However, make sure you are not trespassing. Try not to disturb the streambed too much.

