



Saratoga National Historical Park

SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL TRAIL

INFORMATIONAL PACKET

FOR

CUB SCOUT LEADERS



PACKET INCLUDES:

1. Welcome to the Saratoga National Historic Trail System
2. Award requirements
3. Directions for the Trail, including map
4. Trail guidelines
5. Cub Scout Leader's answer sheet for trail questionnaire
6. Trail questionnaire

SPONSORED BY:

Twin Rivers Council, B.S.A.
253 Washington Avenue Extension
Albany, NY 12205
(518) 869-6436



Saratoga National Historical Park
648 Route 32
Stillwater, NY 12170
(518) 664-9821 ext. 224

Saratoga National Historical Trail

General Information

The Saratoga National Historical Park and the Twin Rivers Council Boy Scouts of America invite you to hike and explore the historic Saratoga Battlefield, site of the turning point of the American Revolution. Opened in 1987, the Wilkinson Trail and the accompanying Scout Annex Trail are part of the National Recreation Trails system of the National Park Service and the Historic Trails program of the Boy Scouts of America.

Arrangement

The park entrances are on U.S. Route 4 and New York State Route 32 between the towns of Stillwater and Schuylerville, about 30 miles north of Albany, NY. The park is open every day except major holidays. The Visitor Center is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Call the Battlefield at (518) 664-9821 to learn the open hours of the grounds, as these hours change during the year. Since the Battlefield is a federal facility, it is required that Scouting units file a tour permit to visit the park.

There are no camping or other overnight accommodations at the Saratoga Battlefield. Park opening and closing hours are strictly enforced. Park personnel do not make arrangements or recommendations concerning overnight accommodations. Reservations for overnight stays at camps operated by Twin Rivers Council BSA can be made by calling (518) 869-6436. 

As Scouting is an educational organization, the Saratoga National Historical Park does not charge an admission fee to Scouts attending as a unit and with proper adult leadership. At least two adult leaders are required at all times. It is recommended that participating Scout units be in uniform.

Park visitors are able to follow the footsteps of the soldiers using much of the same road system that the British Army used in 1777. The complete Scout trail covers about 8 miles and includes the Wilkinson Trail as well as the Scout Annex Trail. Trail sites include the Benedict Arnold "Boot Monument" and the headquarters of the British Army. The Cub Scout hiking trail covers about 2.5 miles. Some sections of the trail have rough terrain. Other parts of the trail may be wet or muddy, especially in the spring or after heavy rain. Proper footwear is advisable.

Drinking water must be brought, as there is none available on the trail. There are no vending machines for either food or drinks. No public telephones are available at the park. It is recommended that each unit carry a cell phone. Saratoga County participates in the 911 system for emergency services. **In case of emergency, after calling 911, you must call the Park Rangers at (518) 527-5898 or 5899.**

Informational packets with trail directions and historic trail questions are available at the Park Visitor Center.

Award Requirements

~~For Boy Scouts and Venture groups:~~

- ~~• A trail patch is available to all youth and leaders who complete the main loop of the Wilkinson Trail (approx. 4.3 miles). Those completing the requirements for the medal automatically qualify for the patch, which costs \$3.00 and is available at the Visitor Center.~~
- ~~• The trail medal is available to all Scout or Venture youth who hike the Wilkinson Trail and Scout Annex Trail (a total of approx. 8 miles) and complete the Trail Questionnaire with at least 70% accuracy. The medal costs \$5.00 and is available at the Visitor Center.~~

For Cub Scouts:

- A trail patch is available to all Cub Scouts and leaders who complete the Cub Scout hike on the Wilkinson Trail (approx. 2.5 miles) or complete the Tour Road by car or bicycle. Those who complete the requirements for the trail pin also qualify for the patch. The patch costs \$3.00 at the Visitor Center.
- A trail pin is available to all Cub Scouts who complete the Cub Scout Hike or tour and the trail questionnaire (with at least 70% accuracy). The trail pin costs \$3.00 at the Visitor Center.

All transactions should be by unit check or ct cash, since the Visitor Center has no provisions for making change for Scouting awards. Receipts will be issued.

SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL INFORMATION

WELCOME!

The Saratoga National Historical Park and the Twin Rivers Council, B.S.A., welcome you to hike and explore the historic Saratoga Battlefield, known as the "Turning Point of the American Revolution." The historic trail you are planning to hike will traverse some of the most significant areas in the Battlefield.

NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS (NATIONAL PARK SERVICE)

National Recreation Trails are located throughout the country. They provide for many activities such as hiking, skiing, and horseback riding.

The Saratoga Battlefield is proud that the Wilkinson Trail (opened in 1987) is part of the National Trail System. Park visitors are now able to follow the footsteps of the British using much of the same road system that the British Army used in 1777.

HISTORIC TRAILS PROGRAM (BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA)

Love of America and dedication to our country depend upon an understanding of and appreciation for the ideals, principles and traditions that have made this country strong. The Cub Scout version of the *Historic Trails Program*, though abbreviated, shares in the program's vision of fostering this understanding and appreciation. It does so in the context of Scouting, which itself helps to instill these ideals, principles, and traditions through personal fitness, self-reliance, teamwork, knowledge of local history, and a practical understanding of conservation. The Wilkinson Trail at the Saratoga National Historical Park joins more than 200 trails across the United States in providing these opportunities for youth and young adults.

PARK ADMISSION

- As Scouting is an educational organization, there is no admission fee to the Park, provided the Cubs are here as a unit and with proper Leadership.
- The Park is open every day of the year, except major holidays. Our Visitor Center is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Call or write the Battlefield to learn the open hours for the grounds, as these hours change during the year.

AWARD REQUIREMENTS

During the visit to the Battlefield, wearing the official uniform is preferred for the Cubs and Leaders.

- Trail Patch: available to all Cub Scouts and Leaders who complete the Cub Scout Hike on the Wilkinson Trail (approx. 2 ½ miles), or who have completed the Tour Road by car or bicycle. Those who complete the requirements for the Trail Pin also qualify for the Patch.

PATCH COST: \$3.00 AVAILABLE AT VISITOR CENTER

- Trail Pin: available to all Cub Scouts who complete the Cub Scout Hike or Tour Road and the Trail Questionnaire. The questionnaire must be at least 70% correct (TO BE VERIFIED BY CUB SCOUT LEADER) to qualify for the Pin.

PIN COST: \$3.00 AVAILABLE AT VISITOR CENTER

**** PURCHASE OF PINS / PATCHES AT VISITOR CENTER BY UNIT OR PERSONAL CHECK (PREFERABLE) OR BY EXACT CHANGE**

THE TRAIL

After viewing the Orientation Film in the Visitor Center, the Cubs can begin the Hike or Tour Road. The Saratoga National Historic Trail begins at the far edge of the field directly behind the Visitor Center. Most of the Hike will follow the Wilkinson Trail. One section, the Liaison Trail, cuts down and up a ravine to connect the north and south sides of the Wilkinson Trail.

Cubs on the Hike will cover about 2 ½ miles. Some sections of the Trail are challenging. Other sections may be wet or muddy, especially in the Spring or after heavy rain. Proper footwear is therefore advisable. Drinking water must be brought, as there is none available along the Trail.

DIRECTIONS

At the trailhead follow the white signs with the Boy Scout emblem. Follow the Wilkinson Trail to Station D, and look for the Liaison Trail to your right. Take the Liaison Trail down and back up the ravine to where it meets up with the Wilkinson Trail again (Station L). Turn right on the Wilkinson Trail and continue walking it back to the Visitor Center.

Trail marker posts are gray recycled posts stamped with  for Wilkinson Trail.

THE TOUR ROAD

The driving Tour Road is a paved, one-way road running 9 ½ miles through the Park (plus an additional 1 ½ miles from the Tour Road's end back to the Visitor Center). It is a self-guided tour with ten wayside exhibits (Tour Road Stops), each being an area of interest and importance in the story of the Battles. Each of these Stops has a parking area and historical interpretive displays. Official brochures and maps, with information on the Battles of Saratoga and on each Tour Road Stop, are available at the Visitor Center. Special audio tour tapes are also available at the Visitor Center. Cub Leaders may borrow a tour tape for the day's usage at no cost.

TRAIL GUIDELINES

Since the Saratoga Battlefield is a unit of the National Park Service, there are certain regulations that must be followed:

1. All artifacts are protected by laws that forbid digging up and / or removing these objects. Metal detectors are strictly forbidden in the National Park: violators are subject to arrest and prosecution.
2. The removal of all natural objects, including the picking of flowers and plants, or the removal of wood, is forbidden.
3. All wild animals are protected from hunting and from disturbing. It is important that you do not attempt to pet, catch, or harass any wild animal, as they may carry diseases. You must also not try to feed them, as this food may be potentially harmful to the animals.
4. All pets must be on a leash, with a person in control of the other end of the leash, at all times while in the Park.
5. Fires are permitted only at the picnic area near the Visitor Center. Picnic facilities are available at Stop 10. You may eat along the trail, but please take all litter with you.
6. Report lost or found items to a Park Ranger or come to the Visitor Center.

***Take nothing but pictures,
leave nothing but footprints!***





SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK CUB SCOUT NATIONAL HISTORICAL TRAIL ANSWER SHEET

| Questions | Answers |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. What is the title of the documentary film at the Visitor Center? | Something More At Stake |
| 2. Who wrote the quote that gave the film its title? | Major Henry Dearborn |
| 3. In what year did the Battles of Saratoga take place? | 1777 |
| 4. What important river runs from north to south through New York State, was the most important transportation route to New York City in the 18 th Century, and was used by the British to move from Canada toward Albany? | the Hudson River |
| 5. Who was the commanding officer of the British Army at Saratoga? | General John Burgoyne |
| 6. What General commanded the American forces during the Battles of Saratoga? | General Horatio Gates |
| 7. What Colonel commanded the American riflemen at Saratoga? | Daniel Morgan |
| 8. Many of the soldiers in the British Army weren't even British. What other nationality made up a large part of the British Army? | German |
| 9. Who was the American General who had a big argument with the American commander? | Benedict Arnold |
| 10. What country joined the war, on the side of America, as a result of the American victory at the Battles of Saratoga? | France |

ADDITIONAL CUB SCOUT QUESTIONNAIRES ARE
AVAILABLE AT THE VISITOR CENTER.



SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK CUB SCOUT NATIONAL HISTORICAL TRAIL QUESTIONNAIRE

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