



# Saratoga National Historical Park

## SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL TRAIL INFORMATIONAL PACKET



### SPONSORED BY:

Twin Rivers Council, B.S.A.  
253 Washington Avenue Extension  
Albany, NY 12205  
(518) 869-6436  
[www.trcscouting.org](http://www.trcscouting.org)

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

# Saratoga National Historical Trail

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.

The historic trail you are planning to hike will traverse over some of the most significant areas in the Battlefield. Park visitors are able to follow the footsteps of the British using much of the same road system that the British Army used in 1777.

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

## HISTORIC TRAILS PROGRAM (BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA)

Love of America and dedication to our country depend upon an understanding of appreciation for the ideals, principles and traditions that have made this country strong. The Historic Trails Program of the Boy Scouts of America encourages Scout units to foster this understanding and appreciation. It does so in the context of Scouting, a program which itself helps to instill these ideals, principles, and traditions through personal fitness, self-reliance, teamwork, leadership skills, knowledge of local history and tradition, 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 young adults.

# Saratoga National Historical Trail

## Arrangements

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. Units should visit <https://www.nps.gov/sara/> to learn more about the operating hours of the grounds, as these hours change during the year.

**There are no camping or other overnight accommodations at the Saratoga Battlefield.** Park opening and closing hours are strictly enforced. Park personnel cannot make arrangements concerning overnight accommodations. Reservations for overnight stays at the local camp operated by Twin Rivers Council BSA can be made by visiting their website at [www.trcscouting.org](http://www.trcscouting.org).

The Saratoga National Historical Park does not charge an admission fee. Youth Protection and the Guide to Safe Scouting must be followed at all times. It is recommended that participating Scout units be in uniform.

Drinking water must be brought, as there is none available on the trail. There are no vending machines for either food or drinks. There is a limited selection of snacks and drinks available for purchase in the Visitor Center. **In case of emergency, after calling 911, you must call the Park Rangers at (518) 527-5898 or 5899.**

This Informational packet contains all the basic information pertaining to the trail experience, including written trail directions and a map. Additional copies 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. 4.2 miles).
- The **Trail Medal** is available to all Scouts BSA or Venture youth who hike the Wilkinson Trail and Scout Annex Trail (a total of approximately 8 miles) and complete the Trail Questionnaire with at least 70% accuracy. Participating Scouts who complete the extended hike for the medal also qualify for the patch.

### **For Cub Scouts:**

- A **Trail Patch** is available to all Cub Scouts and leaders who complete the Cub Scout hike on the Wilkinson Trail (approximately 2 miles) or complete the Tour Road by car or bicycle.

**Trail Awards are available for purchase directly from Twin Rivers Boy Scout Council. Units interested in these awards must visit [www.trcscouting.org/historictrail](http://www.trcscouting.org/historictrail) and order them there.**

# Saratoga National Historical Trail

## THE TRAIL

The Saratoga National Historic Trail begins at the far edge of the lawn behind the Visitor Center. Most of the trail will follow the Wilkinson Trail; the Scout Annex Trail that extends from that will include several additional historical points, including the Benedict Arnold "Boot Monument", the headquarters of the British Army, and the traditional location of the British General Simon Fraser Burial Site.

After viewing the Orientation Film in the Visitor Center, you will 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.

Scouts BSA and Venture Scouts will cover about 8 miles while Cub Scouts will cover about 2.5 miles. Some sections of the Trail consist of rough terrain. 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.

## 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.

## TRAIL RESOURCES

Trail Map: <https://www.nps.gov/sara/planyourvisit/maps.htm>

Mobile Trail App and Audio Files: <https://www.nps.gov/sara/learn/photosmultimedia/multimedia.htm>

We recommend that you spend some time on the Park's website to be as prepared as possible.

## 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

## Saratoga National Historical Trail

(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 links provided.



# Saratoga National Historical Trail

NATIONAL HISTORICAL TRAIL- SCOUTS BSA and VENTURING

## ANSWER SHEET

Questions	Answers
1. What is the title of the film at the Visitor Center?	Something More At Stake
2. What General commanded the British forces invading south from Canada to capture Albany, NY?	John Burgoyne
3. What two bodies of water were they using?	Lake Champlain, Hudson River
4. What General commanded the American forces when the British left Canada? He had a home in Saratoga, now known as Schuylerville	Philip Schuyler
5. What General replaced the General in #4?	Horatio Gates
6. On what date did the first day of fighting take place in the Battles of Saratoga?	September 19 <sup>th</sup> , 1777
7. In what location did the fighting take place that first day?	Freeman's Farm
8. When did the second day of fighting take place?	October 7 <sup>th</sup> , 1777
9. How many years did the Revolutionary War last?	8
10. What European country supplied some of the muskets that the Americans used at Saratoga? This country would later sign an alliance with the U.S. as a result of the American victory here.	France
11. What state did black soldier Edom London fight on the side of?	Massachusetts
12. What did the British commanding General call the surrender agreement?	the Articles of Convention
13. What Iroquois nation sided with the United States during the American Revolution?	Oneida
14. What were the main foods issued to Revolutionary War soldiers?	Bread / hard biscuits, salted beef / pork
15. What long, pointed weapon was placed at the end of a musket for use in hand-to-hand combat?	Bayonet
16. Women following 18 <sup>th</sup> century armies and helping tend the sick, do laundry, and scavenge for supplies were called what?	Camp followers

## Saratoga National Historical Trail

17. Many of the soldiers in the Crown Forces were not British. What other nationality made up a large part of the British Army?	German
18. What is the weight of the "12-pound" cannons?	Over 2400 pounds each
19. What officer commanded the Grenadiers of the nationality in #17? A redoubt is named after him.	Colonel Breymann
20. What happened to him (#19) during the attack on his redoubt on the second day of fighting, 7 October 1777?	he was killed
21. Did this redoubt (#19) fall to the Americans?	yes
22. Other troops besides British and those in #17 made up the Crown Forces. One such group occupied two log cabins that were to protect the left flank of the redoubt in #17. Who were they?	Canadians
23. The "Nameless Boot" Monument commemorates what American officer who played a notable role in the defeat of the British?	Benedict Arnold
24. What part of his body was wounded?	his (left) leg
25. Who had this monument erected and in what year?	John Watts de Peyster, 1877
26. Why is the Boot Monument nameless? What did the officer in question do a few years later that caused the Americans to try capturing him?	he became a traitor
27. What major river running north to south in New York State was the most important transportation route in the state and used by the British?	the Hudson River
28. Why did the British build the river redoubts?	to protect their artillery park
29. What night did Burgoyne order the retreat of his army?	8 October 1777
30. Name the village where the British retreated to and where they eventually surrendered?	Saratoga, NY
31. What is this village called today?	Schuylerville, NY
32. What unpleasant duty did Burgoyne and his army perform on 17 October 1777?	surrender to the Americans
33. What British general, born in Scotland, was fatally wounded in the Second Battle and buried in the Great Redoubt?	Simon Fraser
34. What types of draft animals were used by the British to move their artillery?	horses and oxen
35. Being wounded or sick in any war is painful and frightening. It was especially so for the British at Saratoga, for Burgoyne was forced	leave them behind in the care of the Americans

## Saratoga National Historical Trail

to do what with these men as he retreated?	
36. What is the name of the canal used in the 1800s that runs through the Park and follows the same north-south route chosen by Burgoyne in 1777?	the Champlain Canal
37. What two bodies of water did this canal link?	the Hudson River and Lake Champlain
38. In what building did the General in #33 die? What was the time and date of his death?	the Taylor House 8 a.m. on 8 October 1777
39. What was an officer's tent called?	a marquis
40. What important officer in the British Army made these fields his headquarters?	General Burgoyne
41. What is the date of the First Battle of Saratoga?	19 September 1777
42. What four British regiments were part of Hamilton's Column during the First Battle?	9 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , and 62 <sup>nd</sup>
43. What was the name of the family that lived on the field where the First Battle and part of the Second Battle were fought?	Freeman
44. What type of work did this family do before the battles?	farming
45. What happened to this family's house and outbuildings after the First Battle?	occupied by the British
46. What were the defensive fortifications of log and earth construction that the British built called?	redoubts
47. The Balcarres Redoubt was named after Major Balcarres. What part of the British Army did he command?	the Light Infantry
48. What outwork was constructed by the British to defend the Balcarres Redoubt? Its name derives from the many casualties suffered near it in the Second Battle.	Bloody Knoll



# Saratoga National Historical Trail

## NATIONAL HISTORICAL TRAIL QUESTIONNAIRE SCOUTS BSA AND VENTURING

### FILM

1. What is the title of the film at the Visitor Center?	
2. What General commanded the British forces invading south from Canada to capture Albany, NY?	
3. What two bodies of water were they using?	
4. What General commanded the American forces when the British left Canada? He had a home in Saratoga, now known as Schuylerville	
5. What General replaced the General in #4?	
6. On what date did the first day of fighting take place in the Battles of Saratoga?	
7. In what location did the fighting take place that first day?	
8. When did the second day of fighting take place?	

### VISITOR CENTER

9. How many years did the Revolutionary War last?	
10. What European country supplied over 100,000 muskets that the Americans used at Saratoga? This country would later sign an alliance with the U.S. as a result of the American victory here.	
11. What state did black soldier Edom London fight on the side of?	
12. What did the British commanding General call the surrender agreement?	
13. What Iroquois nation sided with the United States during the American Revolution?	
14. What were the main foods issued to Revolutionary War soldiers?	
15. What long, pointed weapon was placed at the end of a musket for use in hand-to-hand combat?	
16. Women following 18 <sup>th</sup> century armies and helping tend the sick, do laundry, and scavenge for supplies were called what?	
17. Many of the soldiers in the Crown Forces were not British. What other nationality made up a large part of the British Army?	
18. What is the weight of the "12-pound" cannons?	

# Saratoga National Historical Trail

## BREYMANN REDOUBT (STOP 7)

19. What officer commanded the Grenadiers of the nationality in #17? A redoubt is named after him.	
20. What happened to him (#19) during the attack on his redoubt on the second day of fighting, 7 October 1777?	
21. Did this redoubt (#19) fall to the Americans?	
22. Other troops besides British and those in #17 made up the Crown Forces. One such group occupied two log cabins that were to protect the left flank of the redoubt in #17. Who were they?	
23. The "Nameless Boot" Monument commemorates what American officer who played a notable role in the defeat of the British?	
24. What part of his body was wounded?	
25. Who had this monument erected and in what year?	
26. Why is the Boot Monument nameless? What did the officer in question do a few years later that caused the Americans to try capturing him?	

## THE GREAT REDOUBT (STOP 9)

27. What major river running north to south in New York State was the most important transportation route in the state and used by the British?	
28. Why did the British build the river redoubts?	
29. What night did Burgoyne order the retreat of his army?	
30. Name the village where the British retreated to and where they eventually surrendered?	
31. What is this village called today?	
32. What unpleasant duty did Burgoyne and his army perform on 17 October 1777?	

# Saratoga National Historical Trail

## FRASIER BURIAL SITE (STOP 10)

33. What British general, born in Scotland, was fatally wounded in the Second Battle and buried in the Great Redoubt?	
34. What types of draft animals were used by the British to move their artillery?	
35. Being wounded or sick in any war is painful and frightening. It was especially so for the British at Saratoga, for Burgoyne was forced to do what with these men as he retreated?	
36. What is the name of the canal used in the 1800s that runs through the Park and followed the same north-south route chosen by Burgoyne in 1777?	
37. What two bodies of water did this canal link?	
38. In what building did the General in #33 die? What was the time and date of his death?	

## BURGOYNE'S HEADQUARTERS (STOP 8)

39. What was an officer's tent called?	
40. What important officer in the British Army made these fields his headquarters?	

## FREEMAN'S FARM / BALCARRES REDOUBT (STOP 6)

41. What is the date of the First Battle of Saratoga?	
42. What four British regiments were part of Hamilton's Column during the First Battle?	
43. What was the name of the family that lived on the field where the First Battle and part of the Second Battle were fought?	
44. What type of work did this family do before the battles?	
45. What happened to this family's house and outbuildings after the First Battle?	
46. What were the defensive fortifications of log and earth construction which the British built called?	
47. The Balcarres Redoubt was named after Major Balcarres. What part of the British Army did he command?	
48. What outwork was constructed by the British to defend the Balcarres Redoubt? Its name derives from the many casualties suffered near it in the Second Battle.	



## Saratoga National Historical Trail

### National Historic Trail Cub Scout 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 CUBSCOUT QUESTIONNAIRES ARE  
AVAILABLE AT THE VISITOR CENTER.

# Saratoga National Historical Trail



## National Historic Trail Cub Scout Questionnaire

Questions	Answer
1. What is the title of the documentary film at the Visitor Center?	
2. Who wrote the quote that gave the film its title?	
3. In what year did the Battles of Saratoga take place?	
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 <sup>th</sup> Century, and was used by the British to move from Canada toward Albany?	
5. Who was the commanding officer of the British Army at Saratoga?	
6. What General commanded the American forces during the Battles of Saratoga?	
7. What Colonel commanded the American riflemen at Saratoga?	
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?	
9. Who was the American General who had a big argument with the American commander?	
10. What country joined the war, on the side of America, as a result of the American victory at the Battles of Saratoga?	