The Battle of Nashville

Hiking Trail

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Sponsored by
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"Dedicated To The Development Of Hiking Trails For The Benefit Of Scouting"
Nashville Historical Trails, Inc. is a non-profit organization with the purpose of establishing hiking trails for public use. Activities of the organization are under the auspices of the Troop Committee, Boy Scout Troop 254, Neely's Bend United Methodist Church, Madison, Tennessee 37115. Surplus funds generated by NHT, Inc. through its various hiking trails are utilized for the sponsorship of other Scout activities.

From time to time you might encounter a marker that is missing, destroyed, vandalized or altered. We try to keep abreast of current status on each of our trails. However, sometimes it is not possible to catch everything. If you encounter such a problem with a marker and are unable to answer the questions provided please skip the question or questions associated with that marker and proceed to the next marker. Be sure you keep questions (even those skipped) in sequence in order to prevent misunderstanding in the checking of answers at the end of the trail.
Introduction

The Battle of Nashville, fought on the 15th and 16th of December 1864, was a crucial confrontation of the American Civil War. The nearly 50,000 Union forces under the command of Major General George H. Thomas crushed the 23,000 Confederate troops commanded by General John B. Hood. The battle forced General Hood to retreat southward with his Army of Tennessee; leaving Nashville and Middle Tennessee securely in Union possession throughout the remainder of the war.

General Information

This loop trail, 13.7 miles in length and five to seven hours actual hiking time (allow an additional hour for lunch), is designed to highlight numerous historically significant landmarks of the battle. It is suggested that hikers begin the trail not later than 9 o'clock a.m. in order to complete the hike before sunset.

The starting point is located at the Jet Potter Scout Center at 3414 Hillsboro Pike (also known as U.S. Highway 431 or 21st Avenue South) at the intersection with Woodmont Boulevard in South Nashville. To reach the Jet Potter Center, take Exit 78 West (Harding Place) on Interstate Highway 65, south of the city. Follow Harding Place (renamed Battery Lane for a short distance) for 3.8 miles, then turning right (north) on Hillsboro Pike. Proceed 2 miles on Hillsboro Pike to the Boy Scout office. Parking is available at the Scout building lot.

Inexpensive dining facilities are readily available along Franklin Road (U.S. Highway 31), approximately half-way through the trail, as well as in the Green Hills area along Hillsboro Pike near the conclusion of the trail. Picnic lunches may be carried, and Fort Negley, about one-third through the trail, is suggested as a possible lunch site. Please do not litter selected lunch locations.

As much of the trail follows heavily traveled highways, extreme caution should be exercised by hikers. Observe all traffic control devices for your own safety.

This guide book lists 31 questions pertinent to the trail, all of which must be correctly answered to qualify for the purchase of a patch. The attractive, nine colored patch, as displayed on the cover of this booklet, is available at a modest price from Nashville Historical Trails, Inc., who is also responsible for evaluating completed answer cards.

If you prefer, the hiking trail may be reversed, although the published sequence follows a more chronologically correct order. In the event that you decide to reverse the trail sequence, be certain to reverse the order of your answers on the response card, so that the answer number will still correctly match the question number.
The Trail

Before commencing the hike, orient and familiarize yourself with the trail map on page 6 of the guide book. A thorough understanding of the map will facilitate your hike and increase your enjoyment of the trail.

A. From the starting point (the Jet Potter Scout Center), proceed north along 21st Avenue South (Hillsboro Pike) for one-tenth of a mile. Locate marker #N1-9 on the right side of the highway.

Question #1: This salient, the left defensive position of General Hood's line, was occupied by the Confederate Corps commanded by _______________.

Question #2: This fortification was known as redoubt number ___.

B. Continue north on 21st Avenue South for another four-tenths of a mile to marker #N1-10, which is also on the right side of the highway at the intersection with Cedar Lane.

Question #3: Major General Wood led the Union IV (4th) Corps' assault against the Confederate position on __________ Hill.

Question #4: The Confederate main line was located _____ yards south of this marker.

C. Again proceed north on 21st Avenue South for three-tenths of a mile, locating marker #N1-11 at the intersection with Linden Avenue.

Question #5: On what date did Major General Wood's troops use this position as a jump-off line for their envelopment of the Confederate forces?

Question #6: Who commanded the Union XXIII (23rd) Corps which followed in support of Wood's assault?

D. Continue north on 21st Avenue South for a distance of three-tenths of a mile to the intersection of Bernard Avenue. Find marker #N1-12.

Question #7: For how many miles around the city did the outer Federal defensive line stretch?

E. Proceed north along 21st Avenue South for an additional two-tenths of a mile to the junction of Magnolia Boulevard. Follow Magnolia Boulevard in a northeast direction until Magnolia Boulevard dead-ends with Wedgewood Avenue. Turn right (east) on Wedgewood Avenue, and hike to the intersection with 8th Avenue South (Franklin Road). Turn left (north) on 8th Avenue South, travel to the southern slope of the city reservoir hill, and locate marker #N1-18.

Question #8: Fort _______ was on or the hill to the west of this site.

Question #9: Whose Provisional Division occupied this position when the battle began?
F. Return to 8th Avenue South, and continue north to the Chestnut Street intersection. Turn right (east) on Chestnut Street, crossing over Interstate Highway 65 on the bridge, and then turning left (north) on Ridley Boulevard. Following Ridley Boulevard for a short distance, you will observe the stone archway which denotes the entrance to the Fort Negley site. Locate marker #MHC-58 near the archway.

**Question #10:** Fort Negley was constructed of stone, logs, earth, and ________.

**Question #11:** The site for the fort was selected by Captain ______.

It is noteworthy to mention that Fort Negley was built on St. Cloud Hill, a favorite picnic location for Nashvillians prior to the war. The hill had been covered with ancient oak trees which were felled by Union troops and civilian labor during construction of the fort. Late in the war, the fortification was renamed Fort Harker in honor of Brigadier General Charles G. Harker who was killed on 27 June 1864 at the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia. The fort was reconstructed during the 1930’s, but has fallen into disrepair in recent years. Much of the fortification can still be viewed on top of the hill; however, caution should be exercised when touring the site due to collapsing walls.

G. Retrace your path along Ridley Boulevard to Chestnut Street, and then back to 8th Avenue South. Turn left (south) on 8th Avenue South, and hike approximately one mile. As you intersect with Gale Lane, a glance back to the northwest may reveal a large white house or the wooded hill. This house was reportedly used as a hospital following the battle. Continue southward on 8th Avenue South until you near the exit for Woodmont Boulevard at the overpass. As you approach the exit sign, you will view, or the hill to your right, the large bronze statue commemorating the Battle of Nashville. Walk past the statue to marker #N1-17.

**Question #12:** Who commanded the Confederate Corps which occupied this position, crossing the highway and the railroad, until forced to retreat southward?

**Question #13:** Rain’s Hill is located how many miles to the northeast?

H. Now, using the access road, cut back 200 yards in a northeasterly direction towards the statue. Carefully climb the hill to the base of the statue.

**Question #14:** In addition to the man, what animals are depicted by the statue?

**Question #15:** This monument was erected in 1926 by the ________ Battlefield Memorial Association.

I. Retrace your path down the hill to 8th Avenue South. Use the Woodmont Boulevard exit, following Woodmont Boulevard in a westward direction to the intersection with Granny White Pike. Turn left (south) on Granny White Pike, and find marker #N1-15 near the intersection of Draughon Avenue.
Question #16: From this point Stewart’s Confederate line extended east approximately _______ yards.

Question #17: At what time did Stewart establish a new position extending southward, west of Granny White Pike?

J. Continue south on Granny White Pike another four-tenths of a mile to marker #N2-3.

Question #18: The attack of Schofield’s XXIII (23d) Corps, in coordination with Smith’s ______ Corps and Wilson’s cavalry, brought about the collapse of the Confederate defenses.

K. Proceed south on Granny White Pike approximately 100 yards, crossing Harding Place (Battery Lane), to marker #N2-2.

Question #19: In which direction did Smith’s Corps attack along this road?

L. Retrace your path northward on Granny White Pike to Harding Place (Battery Lane). Turn left (west) on Harding Place, and travel seven-tenths of a mile to the intersection with Benton Smith Road. Turn left on Benton Smith Road, walk approximately 200 yards, and locate marker #MHC-5.

Question #20: Confederate Colonel William Shy, who was killed in defense of this hill, commanded the 20th Tennessee _______ Regiment.

Question #21: What was the name of the Confederate general who was captured on the hill?

M. Climb the steps, adjacent to marker #MHC-5, that lead to the top of Shy’s Hill.

Question #22: What large metallic object is on top of Shy’s Hill?

N. Retrace your path down the hill, following Benton Smith Road back to the intersection with Harding Place. Turn left (west) on Harding Place, and hike a short distance to the intersection with Shy’s Hill Road. Turn right (north) on Shy’s Hill Road, and proceed two-tenths of a mile to marker #MHC-59.

Question #23: On what date did the Federal main line occupy this position?

Question #24: At what time did the 1st Brigade of General McArthur’s 1st Division launch the assault towards Shy’s Hill?

O. Retrace your path along Shy’s Hill Road to the intersection with Harding Place, and turn right (west) on Harding Place. Proceed on Harding Place to the intersection with 21st Avenue South at the traffic light. Turn right (north) on 21st Avenue South, and travel to marker #N1-6 near the apartment building complex.
Question #25: What was the redoubt number of the Confederate fortification that was on this hill?

Question #26: Was this position captured by Union troops in the morning or afternoon of December 15th, 1864?

As you look towards the north (the Green Hills area), attempt to visualize the thousands of Union soldiers charging across the open fields in their assault of this hill.

P. Continue north on 21st Avenue South to the shopping and office building complex at the intersection with Hobbs Road. Locate marker #N1-7 at the edge of the parking lot.

Question #27: Redoubt number four was located in which direction from this marker?

Question #28: How many men of the 29th Alabama Infantry Regiment were assigned to support the Confederate artillery at the redoubt?

Q. Again proceed north on 21st Avenue South, and find marker #N1-8 near the intersection with Graybar Lane.

Question #29: Confederate redoubt number three was located how many yards west of this marker?

R. Proceed directly across 21st Avenue South to the United Daughters of the Confederacy monument in front of the church.

Question #30: In what year was this monument erected?

Question #31: In addition to the bronze tablet, of what other material is this monument made?

S. Continuing north for an additional one-tenth of a mile, you will return to the Jet Potter Scout Center at Woodmont Boulevard.

This concludes the trail, and congratulations are extended to all hikers who successfully finished the tour. Be certain to submit your completed response cards to the hike coordinator, or mail them directly to Nashville Historical Trails, Inc. for evaluation.

If you have enjoyed The Battle of Nashville Hiking Trail, then you will most likely enjoy the other hiking trails sponsored by Nashville Historical Trails, Inc. Please write for details.
1. Marker #N1-9
2. Marker #N1-10
3. Marker #N1-11
4. Marker #N1-12
5. Marker #N1-18
6. Marker #MHC-58
7. Marker #N1-17
8. Battle of Nashville statue
9. Marker #N1-15
10. Marker #N2-3
11. Marker #N2-2
12. Marker #MHC-5
13. Top of Shy's Hill
14. Marker #MHC-59
15. Marker #N1-6
16. Marker #N1-7
17. Marker #N1-8
18. United Daughters of the Confederacy monument
19. Jet Potter Scout Center