BLACKHAWK TRAIL HIKE REQUIREMENTS

Each person taking the Blackhawk Trail MUST:

1. Be a registered and currently active Scout or Scouter. Scouts must be 1st-Class Rank, Explorer Apprentice or higher.

2. Present himself in complete Explorer or Boy Scout uniform. Uniform must be official and consist of cap, tie or neckerchief, shirt, and trousers. Shorts are not practical on this hike. Fatigues will not do to wear on trail. No Scouts will be allowed on this trail unless they are in full uniform. Keep equipment to a minimum as this is a long, rugged trail. See chapter 11 in the "Handbook for Boys" for advice on hike clothing, equipment, and methods.

3. Read one of the three books listed below, and submit a report on the content of said book. Report must contain at least 250 words. No other reading will be accepted. Encyclopedia digest will be rejected. Reports, in Scout's own hand, must be accepted by Director before hikers are allowed to start on trail.

Note: Books may be hard to find but this fact does not constitute an excuse to substitute other reading.

"Chief Blackhawk" by Frank I. Beals. This book is the best for boys to read. Copies may be found in most grade school libraries. The publisher assures us that they have an unlimited stock of this book and will gladly deliver by mail, direct to anyone for $1.50 per copy. Address: Wheeler Publishing Company, 161 E. Grand Avenue, Chicago 11, Illinois. (Price includes postage.)

"The Shining Trail" by Iola Fuller. This is a gripping historical novel written in a most interesting manner. Appeals to older Scouts and adults.

"Blackhawk", autobiography translated by Antoine LeClair, is a factual account of the events that led to the Blackhawk War. It was Chief Blackhawk's attempt to justify the action that he and the Sauk Indians took following unjust treatment by the white soldiers and settlers.

4. Complete the hike and fulfill the requirements indicated on the trail map. There are 18 different kinds of trees to identify so a book on trees may be brought to assist the hiker. Hikers must travel in pairs. Hikers must stay on the trail for the entire roundtrip. Each pair of hikers should have a compass. Everyone should have a pencil. Identification list must be submitted for credit.

5. Each hiker must submit a written report of their experience on the trail. Report must contain at least 250 words. Awards will be released to Leader as soon as all requirements are fulfilled. We hope you will be able to finish all reports so you may take your awards home with you.

Fees

Registration fee for the hike is $1.25 per person. This includes a Swiss embroidered emblem. Emblems are not for sale and will not be replaced if lost unless trail is hiked again. Non-hikers camping at Camp Lowden must pay a registration fee of $0.60. Without this fee we would be forced to discontinue the hike. A bronze medal may be purchased for $1.65. All hike and camp fees must be paid upon your arrival.

Camp Lowden
Oregon, Illinois

Trail Open
March 1st to June 1st
October 1st to December 1st

Blackhawk Area Council
Boy Scouts of America
BLACKHAWK MEDAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Read a book on the life of Blackhawk.
2. Write a 250 word report on the hike.
3. Make the hike.
4. Make the inventory identifications.
5. Write a 250 word report on the hike.

LEGEND

Indicates the trail
Dirt Road
Crawford Road
Improved Road
Railroad Track
Bridge

Bridge numbers

Identification numbers

Round Trip 20 Miles

BLACKHAWK TRAIL MAP

ROCK RIVER

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ABOUT THE TRAIL

The Blackhawk Trail is a 20-mile round trip hike along the east bank of Rock River from Camp Lowden to Laredo Taft's statue of Blackhawk in Lowden Memorial Park. The trail follows an old Indian trail that was formerly a great highway for native hunters and travelers. The serene beauty of this trail will long live in your memory.

TO MAKE A RESERVATION

This hike requires nine hours of daylight. It is not good to be caught after dark. A good plan is—arrive Friday P.M., hike Saturday, and return home on Sunday. As there is a limit to the number we can handle at one time, it is necessary to make a reservation at least four weeks in advance. Select a 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice of dates.

To make a reservation, please use the form provided—have it signed by your Executive—and mail it to: Camp Director, Camp Lowden, Oregon, Illinois. (Due to the large demand for this activity we must reserve the right to schedule hikers as we see fit.) We prefer reservations for only those who are to take the hike. Groups should not exceed 50.

NATIONAL TOUR PERMIT

All parties of Scouts who reside outside the boundaries of the Blackhawk Area Council, MUST obtain a National Permit to Conduct a Tour, Moving Camp, or Cruise. (Cat. No. 4419) DO NOT COME WITHOUT THIS PERMIT. WE CANNOT ACCEPT YOU UNLESS YOU HAVE IT.

Obtain Tour Permit Application forms at your Council Office. Fill out the application and submit it to your Scout Executive for his approval. The form is then mailed to the Regional Office where the Permit is issued and mailed direct to you. Allow three weeks.

HOW TO GET TO CAMP LOWDEN

The road to Camp Lowden turns south from highway No. 64 about 3 tenths of a mile east of the bridge at Oregon, Illinois. From this point the road is well marked to the Camp gate. (See hike map.)

WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT CAMP LOWDEN

After arrival please park your car in the parking lot, then report to the lodge for registration and directions. Have your book reports and fees ready at this time.

All vehicles must remain in the parking lot. No cars or trucks are allowed to drive to Campsites. As some of the Campsites are several hundred feet from the parking area, it is important that gear is packed in bundles that Scouts can carry.

CAMPING

We urge that all Units camp by the Scout camping method. That is: Patrol and Crew camps with Patrol or Crew Leader in charge. Let them do a total job and cook as a Patrol or Crew.

There is plenty of space for camping. Fuel is plentiful. Water is tested. Bring containers for water as it is not piped to Campsites.

We have 20 bunks in each of three heated buildings. We rent these at $2.50 per bunk per night. Bunk reservations and fee payment must be made in advance. (Bunk fees not refundable.) All cooking must be done outdoors.

FOOD

No meals are provided at Camp Lowden. Groceries may be purchased at Dunesville or Oregon. Include in your plans provisions for a substantial lunch for hikers to carry on the trail.

PREPARING SCOUTS FOR THE HIKE

Read the requirements to all hikers and check to be sure that they all understand the rules. Insist that book reports are submitted to you in advance so that you may review them carefully. (It is unusual to find reports copied directly from the book or another Scout. Be sure that the report covers the book. Be sure that the report is an honest and sincere effort. All hikers, including adults, must read a whole book and submit a report, in hiker's own hand, before they are allowed to hike.)

It will be helpful if you review Chapter 11 in the "Handbook for Boys" with special attention to the care of the feet. Review the sections on the compass and map reading.

Explain to hikers that all rules are rigidly adhered to. There are no exceptions made for any reason. Please ask hikers to refrain from carrying sheath knives and belt axes on the trail.

ABOUT CONDUCT

Most Scouts are gentleman-like in their behavior. But sometimes incidents occur that are extremely troublesome. This trail runs thru privately owned property and one overt act could close the trail. It is essential that all hikers maintain a high standard of courtesy and friendly consideration of the property of other people.

Scouts sometimes instinctively throw off all restraints when they are away from home. Troop Leaders are in charge of their Scouts and responsible for their behavior at all times. Scouts in camp but not hiking must have adult leadership at all times.

There is no ranger or janitor in Camp Lowden to clean up after you. A Scout's rule should be: "This place is better and cleaner because I have camped here."

BRIEFING

Before starting on the trail, each group is briefed by the Camp Director. This briefing takes about 45 minutes and has proved helpful to hikers in many ways. Briefing is done at 9:30 P.M. on Friday evening and again at 7:30 A.M. on Saturday.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If leaders will adhere to the above rules and suggestions, the Blackhawk Trail Hike will be a highlight in the Scouting experience of your Unit.

For further information write or telephone: Camp Director, Camp Lowden, Oregon/ Illinois. Phone—Rural 926-15.