KENEPOCOMOCO TRAIL REGISTRATION FORM

1. We are making plans to hike the KENEPOCOMOCO Trail and request the following dates: 1st Choice __________ 2nd Choice __________
   Approximate arrival time ____________________________

2. Total number of hikers in group ________ which consist of ________ youth (s) and ________ adult (s).

3. Leader's name name and address: ______________________________________________________________________________________
   Street or Rural Route __________________________ City __________ Zone ________ State __________

4. Troop or Post Number or Group Name: ______________________________________________________________________________________
   of ______________________________________________________________________________________
   Community ______________________________________________________________________________________

5. Check ( ) if you desire a tour through the Roann Mill.

6. Check the following if desired and indicate the date required and the number of persons included in the reservation including non-hikers. Camping at Troop Site. Date: __________ Number: __________

7. We agree to observe all trail regulations.

8. Mail this registration form to: Kenepecomo Trail Club, Troop 64, B.S.A., Roann, Indiana.
   I desire ______ Medals at 25¢ each. I desire ______ Patches at $1.00 each.

   This waiver relieves the Kenepecomo Trail committee of all responsibilities of Personal Liabilities and Property Damage incurred while hiking the Kenepecomo Trail.
   (Signed) ______________________________________________________________________________________

Registration Fee of 25¢ per hiker is required. This fee may be applied to the purchase of Medals or Patches.
The Kenopocomeno is a 20-mile Scout Hiking Trail, beginning at the east approach to the Covered Bridge at the north edge of Roann, Indiana. It follows Eel River upstream to the bridge on the Wabash County road one mile east of Indiana Route 15. crosses this bridge and comes back along the south side of the river to the starting point. With the exception of approximately one and one half miles of river road and the crossover at the river bridge, the trail runs entirely through woods and fields and offers an interesting variety of terrain, vegetation, and scenery throughout country that is rich in local history and Indian lore. The trail can be hiked at any season of the year except when the river is flooding.

The name of the river itself came from the Indian language in which Kenopocomeno means “snake-fish”. The first white settlers found Eel river to be the dividing line between the two Indiana tribes, the Miami and Potawatomi. In general, the Miamis were clean and industrious while the Potawatomies had the reputation for being more lazy and dirty. John Bryan, on whose farm the trail starts, tells of an experience related to his grandfather. A Miami and a Potawatomi were both on his farm one day. The Miami pointed his finger at the Potawatomi and said, “Potawatomi! Him no good.”

By the terms of the Treaty of the Tippecanoe in 1824 the Potawatomies gave up their lands in Indiana and moved out. At the treaty of The Forks of the Wabash in 1838 and 1840, the Miamis gave up their lands except for a reservation called Moshingo-mesia Reserve in eastern Wabash County. In this way the Indian had finally lost his battle with the white man in Indiana.

The name of the town is unique, being the only city in the United States bearing this name. The most commonly accepted version of the way the name originated is as follows. Joseph Beckner, who laid out the original plat of the village in 1853 had a daughter named Ann. A short time after the town was surveyed, Ann Beckner was crossing Eel River in a small boat to join a group, including her father, on the opposite bank. Wind from an oncoming storm carried the boat off its course. That alarmed the onlookers. Someone, maybe her dad, shouted words of encouragement to her: “Row, Ann! Row, Ann.” Then it occurred to some of those present after she had landed safely, that the town might be called, Roann.

In “History of Wabash County” published in 1884, the river is credited with violence to its bridges. “The only large bridge in Paw Paw township is that over Eel River north of Roann. The first one at that point was erected about 1841. It was washed away in the spring of 1842 by a great flood. Another bridge was built about 1845, and it too was swept off by the swelling and wrathful waters of Eel River.”

“In 1856, a third one was made and partly covered, which stood till 1876.”

In 1877, the covered bridge which now stands was erected. It is one of the few remaining on the river.

One and one-half miles east of the covered bridge was a ford that was used to cross the river until the advent of the automobile. This point is now marked by the cabin belonging to the Robert H. Bowman Post, American Legion. Just upstream from this cabin on the higher ground now occupied by a residence was the site of “Camp Schueela.” This camp, sponsored by Community Service of Wabash, was used by both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts from 1920 until the beginning of World War II. The name came from “Schulere” the man who owned the farm and “Eel”, the river. It boasted a campfire circle made of large native boulders which can still be seen. It also had a spring on the river bank from which water supplies were drawn. At one time it was equipped with a diving pier, boat landing and 14 hand-made canoes. Many present-day Wabash District Scouter will remember experiences at this camp. It registered more than 3,000 campers during its 21 years of existence. From the road today, a flag pole and bronze plaque can still be seen.

RULES OF THE TRAIL

1. All hikers must register with the Trail Club and sign the trail waiver before starting.
2. Complete Scout or Explorer uniforms are required of all Scout hikers and leaders who are qualifying for the Kenopocomeno trail medal.
3. All hikers must stay on the trail. All but a mile and a half of this trail is on private property. Permission has been secured from the land-owners to make the trail across their property. However, anyone who fails to follow the trail is subject to the trespass laws.
4. All groups must have an adult leader and must stay together during the entire hike.
5. No fires along the trail.
6. No axes or sheath knives.
7. Camping along the trail is not permitted.
8. Hikers must carry their own water supply.
9. All litter must be carried to the end of the trail. Scouts will remember to respect the property rights of others and to leave the trail in as good or better shape than they found it.
10. Only three persons at a time allowed on monkey bridge; one starting to cross, one in the middle and one leaving. Here again, Scouting rules of safety and respect for property shall apply.