SAC-FOX TRAIL

Sponsored and Maintained by
EXPLORER POST 109
Moline, Illinois
LOUD THUNDER BOY SCOUT
CAMP, START OF THE TRAIL

This trail was adopted and sponsored by Post 109 of Moline, Illinois. It was planned in memoriam to the Great Chief Blackhawk and his Indian tribes, the Sac and Fox, also to the remembrance of a great civic and historical leader of our community, the late John H. Hauberg, who was directly responsible for the most accurate and best story of Blackhawk and his people.

The Sac-Fox Thunder Trail ends at Blackhawk State Park, acquired in 1927. It consists of 207 acres of land on the south edge of Rock Island. The park borders the Rock River several miles above where the river joins the Mississippi River. The tract is well wooded and steeply rolling and is rich in bird and plant life. The finest feature of the park, however, is the Watch Tower — a promontory 150 feet above the Rock River with a magnificent view of the river valley and surrounding country.
Watch Tower Promontory

The natural loveliness of the site would be ample justification for its inclusion in the State Park system, but its historical heritage equals, if it does not exceed, its scenic beauty. Of several dozen Illinois state parks set aside because of their historic importance, Blackhawk State Park is the foremost dedicated to the historic Indian.

For most of a century on this site stood the capital villages of the Sauk and Fox nation, who in their day made more history than any other group of redskins in the Mississippi valley. They made their start here with a small number about 1730, driving the Kaskaskias before them; they prospered until they had brought parts of Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri and all of Iowa under the fear of their war-hoop and fighting ability of their warriors. It was easily one of the largest Indian Centers in North America.

Blackhawk Disagrees

During the Revolutionary War, part of the Sauk and Fox served with the British, while others aided the Americans. In the westernmost campaign of the war, Col. John Montgomery and 350 Americans including 100 Spanish soldiers from St. Louis destroyed the great village in 1780. Various chiefs of the tribes in 1804 ceded the land on which the village stood to the United States, but Black Hawk who was chief of the pro-English element, refused to recognize the cession, a stand for which modern historians find much justification.

Divided again in a second war with England, the pro-British remained here and, led by Black Hawk, in 1814, defeated the Americans at Campbell's Island, nine miles northwest of the park site and now a State Memorial; and at Credit Island, two and a half miles below and West of the park. The Campbell's Island engagement was partly on land and partly fought on water from canoes. These successes convinced Black Hawk that the Indian was supreme and would remain so for unnumbered years; but the press of white settlement, with conflict almost certain, forced
Black Hawk’s followers across the Mississippi River in 1831 with the promise that they would not return without permission of the whites.

Under treaty the land at Rock Island still belonged to the Indians until sold by the United States. The frontiersmen could not wait in deference to Indian sentiment. They began to occupy and improve the site of Black Hawk’s village. Black Hawk at last found himself in a hopeless war against the white man.

For a time in 1832 northwestern Illinois was kept in terror by Indian raids and murders. The frontier sprang to arms and the Illinois militia and several regiments of the regular army were sent to the scene. Following several sharp skirmishes, Black Hawk was chased into the unknown wilderness of southern Wisconsin, culminating in a decisive defeat of the Indians a few miles south of Bad Axe on August 2, 1832. A few days later Black Hawk was captured and after several months’ captivity during which time he was taken to Washington, D.C., he was permitted to return to his people in Iowa where he died in 1838.

The Black Hawk War, in addition to clearing the way for white settlement, brought together a number of men who later gained great distinction. In sight of the Watch Tower promontory, Abraham Lincoln, Captain of Illinois militia, was sworn into the service of the United States. Jefferson Davis, later president of the Southern Confederacy, was a lieutenant in the regular army. Zachary Taylor, then in command of the First U.S. Infantry, served with his men in the Rock River valley. Among others, less distinguished, were Gen. Winfield Scott and Robert Anderson who was to obtain fame at Fort Sumter in 1861.

The Black Hawk War was one of the inevitable conflicts of an advancing civilization. On one side was a native race fighting for ancestral lands; on the other, settlers and soldiers, our own forbears, determined to banish fear of the scalping knife from their cabins and clearings. Black Hawk State Park is a memorial to all the participants.

From the Watch Tower and Saukenuak Village was also the beginning of two famous strategic trails used during the war of 1812, Civil War and Blackhawk War. The Sac-Fox Thunder trail takes you within the area of these trails and crosses them several times on your hike. They are marked for your easy recognition.

The famous Indian museum at Black Hawk State Park has gained national prominence among students of Indian and American history and also draws thousands of visitors and tourists annually. Located on the tract of land that for nearly 100 years served as the site of the capital villages of the Sauk and Fox nation, the museum is filled with relics that reflect the day-to-day life of the Indian tribes here. The state park which was acquired in 1927 occupies over 200 acres and the museum as well as other buildings are located on a steep hill, 150-feet over the Rock River with a commanding and inspiring view from that vantage point.
The Sac-Fox Trail

A. Loud Thunder Scout Camp. (Check point No. 1).
B. Mississippi River.
C. Village Store, Andalusia. (Check point No. 2).
D. Old Oquawka Trail.
E. Stuart's Stop & Shop. (Check point No. 3).

F. Hennepin Canal (abandoned).
G. Bridge over canal. Scouts must walk under bridge along canal to cross highway and then continue trail to Black Hawk State Park.
H. Memorials to Saukenuk Village and Abraham Lincoln.
I. Black Hawk State Park. (Check point No. 4).
The most powerful reminder of the Indian is the annual Pow Wow held each year at the park on the Labor Day weekend, the most unique attraction east of the Mississippi River, it is particularly successful as it fits so well the historic background of the area.

Staged in a natural bowl with a backdrop of giant trees, the State has built here an amphitheatre that accommodates 5,500 people. The performers are Black Hawk's people, the Fox from Tama, Iowa, and Sauk from Oklahoma including direct blood descendants of Black Hawk.

The Pow Wow is sponsored by a council of civic and historically minded people of the Quad-Cities of which the late Dr. John H. Hauberg served as president for a number of years. Dr. Hauberg was also responsible for the famous collection of Indian relics and paintings found in the park museum, which gives us our best story of Black Hawk and his people.

The Sac-Fox Trail takes you along the Hauberg Indian Trail on the south ridge of the Mississippi River in Loud Thunder Forest Preserve (which has an observation tower), continues along the Mississippi river valley, Mill Creek or Kickapoo Slough, Ill.-Miss. Canal (which formerly linked the Illinois and Mississippi rivers, and was built in 1890-1901), Rock River and several other historical landmarks. The hike will take you to Black Hawk State Park where a museum of the Sauk Fox Tribe is located at the Watch Tower, overlooking the beautiful scenic Rock River valley. Such things as canal locks, old cotton mills, a camp site where Abraham Lincoln once bedded down his troops before moving on to meet Black Hawk, the Sauk Indian Village, quarries and numerous other interesting sites can be seen as well as much wildlife.
Here are a group of boys overlooking the great Mississippi River, the father of waters. It is the largest river on the North American continent. It originates at Lake Itasca in Minnesota and flows south into the Gulf of Mexico. At this particular area the river is flowing West. The total length of the Mississippi River is 2,347 miles of which 2,181 miles are navigable.

Post 109 has used, as a major part of its program, organized hiking which has taken them to many sections of our country. We salute all those responsible for making these trails possible. We wish to thank them for the opportunity to put into practice the principles of the SCOUT OATH & LAW, — THE RULE FOR ALL TRAILS. Thus we wish to contribute the Sac Fox Thunder Trail to this end.

Requirements governing this hike will be enforced to the letter. Anyone found breaking any regulation set up by our hiking committee will be disqualified from the hike and no awards will be presented him as well as forfeiture of all hiking fees. No refund will be made to anyone disobeying requirements and regulations.

This trail must be taken in compliance with all rules and regulations of the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, your Local Council, the Post 109 Trail Committee.

Organized trail hiking has become one of the most outstanding phases of the Scouting program. Every year Scouting units plan for more hiking trails and more trips as a significant part of their high-light program. Scouts like to hike and enjoy the recreational features of a hike. They realize the historical association connected with the individual trails and will be much impressed by the hardships the early inhabitants of our great nation endured so that we have what we have today.

III-Miss. Canal was built in 1890-1910 and was to have become the greatest connecting link for shipping by water between the Ill. & Miss. Rivers. It originates at Hemmepin, Ill., Lock No. 1 and ends at Milan where it flows into the Miss. River out of Lock No. 32. It has been abandoned because of its inadequacy in size for modern day towsage. It is now to be given to the State of Illinois as a recreational area by the United States Gov't.
Requirements

Requirements are as follows:
1. Must be either a 1st Class Scout, an Explorer Scout, a member of his O.A. Lodge or a Scouter.
2. Camp out night before hike at scout camp. (Use your own tents).
3. Uniforms must be worn on trail.
4. Identification of 20 marked items. (shrubs, trees, flowers, etc.) along trail.
5. Walk trail 21 miles observing all safety rules of walking on public thoroughfares. (This rule will be enforced to the utmost).
6. Hike must be continuous.
7. Walk single file on highway at all times.
8. Tour the Hauberg Indian Museum in Blackhawk State Park. (Be sure to sign roster).
9. Submit a 250 word essay on your observations and experiences on the trail.
10. Have your I.D. card signed at the check points. [1. Custodian at scout camp; 2. Grocery Store at Andalusia; 3. Stuart's Stop and Shop on Big Island and 4. Concession Stand at Watch Tower]. Submit cards at Concession Stand as well as essay. (Name, post, troop, and address at top of essay).
11. No night hiking permitted. (Allow at least 6 hours for daylight hiking).
12. Hike must start at Boy Scout camp, Loud Thunder.

How To Make Application

Mail applications to Sac-Fox Trail Explorer Post 109 P.O. Box 273, Moline, Ill.

Application to the hike must be made as a unit by an authorized adult leader. The trail application plus $1.00 fee for each boy or adult taking the hike must be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance of the intended date of hike. This will allow plenty of time to receive your individual credentials and map. The credentials must be carried at all times when on trail. They must be signed at each designated check point on trail. Only those walking trail will be given the multi-colored patch award.

No medals will be awarded because new national regulations do not allow Explorer Scouts to wear any medal other than the highest scouting award or religious award.

The ($1.00) one dollar fee includes the Sac-Fox thunder award, trail map & souvenir pamphlet. If one wishes to take trail again a fee of one dollar is charged.

There is a limited amount of hikers on trail each day, therefore application for hike should be well in advance of hiking date. (30 days prior to hiking date).

This hike is open only from the 3rd weekend of August thru the 1st weekend of November and from the 3rd weekend of March thru the 1st weekend of June.

One last and final bit of information. All groups must have Adult leadership at all times while camping. Adult leaders on trail is also encouraged if possible. Minimum of 2 applications is required by any group.

We consider this trail one of much historical interest which is presented in such a manner to excite both the young and old hiker and lover of Indian peoples.
Conclusion

We wish to call your attention to several points of interest in our immediate area:
1. A Roller Dam and Locks on the Mississippi River which also has a huge swinging bridge which opens for river traffic entering the locks at Lock No. 15.
2. Rock Island Arsenal which has a large War Museum open from 11-4 every day except Mon. and Tues. (No charge)
3. This is the Farm Industrial Center of the World. (Tours can be arranged). (John Deere, I. H. C., J. I. Case Co.).
4. An old log constructed Fort on Arsenal Island, named for Fort Armstrong.
5. Twin suspension bridges, side by side, over Mississippi River connecting Illinois and Iowa.
6. Davenport Public Museum — one of great natural and Historical interest. (Open daily).
7. McLains Wild Animal Farm, Coal Valley, Ill. (Special rates for Scouts).
8. Campbells Island State Park, East Moline, Ill.

Camping facilities must be arranged by each unit. They can be arranged by contacting or writing SAC-FOX TRAIL, EXPLORER POST 109, BOX 273, MOLINE, ILL. Services of all religious denominations will be sent to you on request, be it Catholic, Protestant, or Jewish.