Trail (leaders excluded). T-shirts may be worn in hot weather. At least one adult leader for every ten boys hiking the trail is required. Each should have canteen of drinking water. Wear proper hiking shoes (as per Scout Handbook).

Camping facilities are available for units wishing to camp overnight. Units who wish to camp should bring their own tents and water containers. Water is available and sanitary toilet facilities also. Each unit hiking the Trail should bring their own first aid supplies for treatment of blisters, scratches and so forth. Firewood is not available at camp site. Arrangements can be made to purchase wood. Our winter-lodge will shelter 40 Scouts.

The Grand Gulf State Military Park, and the Old River Town of Grand Gulf area is rich in history. It also has a beautiful stand of timber, vines, and wild flowers. It's hills, bluffs, and valleys are something seldom seen in any other part of the country. The sight from the park observation tower affords a breath taking view of the Mississippi River and an area covering many miles. The rifle pits, gun emplacements, and trenches are said to be the best preserved of the Civil War era. They have not been altered except by the natural deterioration of time. Fort Cobun and Fort Wade are still well defined. These Confederate Forts repelled the Union Gun Boats and forced General Grant and his forces to pass on down the river and land at Bruinsburg. After an inspection of this area it can be easily understood why Admiral David D. Porter of the Union forces said "Grand Gulf is the strongest place on the Mississippi".

For further Information write:

COMPTON MILLSAPS
PORT GIBSON TRAIL COMMITTEE, INC.
P. O. Box 247
Port Gibson, Miss. 39150

Grand Gulf Park
Trail

Historical and Scenic Hike

Sponsored by
PORT GIBSON TRAIL COMMITTEE, INC.
for
BOY SCOUT TROOP No. 100
Port Gibson, Mississippi
GRAND GULF PARK TRAIL

Boy Scout Troop 100, The Grand Gulf State Military Park, and The Port Gibson-Claiborne County Chamber of Commerce welcome you to one of the outstanding historical shrines and scenic areas of America. This is the only place that General Grant and his forces failed to take. The Trail takes you through historical areas, and you will also explore heavily wooded and scenic areas. You will be given historical and nature studies.

The trail is approximately 14 Miles in length and is a very interesting, educational and enjoyable hike. The Trail lies within the historical park and interesting adjoining areas. The Trail is open the year around except Monday. The Trail is to provide an educational expedition for Boy Scouts, Explorer Scouts, and Scout Leaders, and to create interest in our State Historical Park and the historical significance of the Bombardment of Grand Gulf.

A medal will be awarded to hikers completing the trail requirements, which are:

1. Read the booklet "The Battle of Grand Gulf" by Edwin C. Bearss. This book may be purchased at the following places for 25 cents per copy: Grand Gulf Military State Park, Port Gibson, Miss., or Port Gibson-Claiborne County Chamber of Commerce, Port Gibson, Miss.

2. Visit the Grand Gulf Military State Park Museum and attend the lecture by the Park Superintendent. You will find it interesting and educational, and you are given a detailed account of the Siege of Grand Gulf. The lecture lasts approximately one hour.

3. Complete the designated hike 14 miles in length, through the Park and adjoining areas, and visit all stations along route.

4. Fill out correct answers to listed questions on these special points of interest while observing them.

All hikers should attend the lecture before taking the hike. The prescribed booklet should be read by each hiker before the date that the hike is to be made. It will make the trail more interesting and will be of greater educational value. The book must be read by each hiker before the group can be certified as eligible to receive the medal award.

If a group plans to arrive in Port Gibson the day before hike is to be taken, it is recommended that they arrange to arrive early to permit their visiting Park Museum on that day. In this way the group can attend the required lecture in advance rather than wait until the day hike is to be made.

The Grand Gulf Park Museum is open from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. each day except Monday. Lectures can be arranged to start any time between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.

Groups wishing to hike the Grand Gulf Park Trail and meet the requirements for the medal awards should have their leader submit an application to the Grand Gulf Park Trail Committee approximately Two weeks in advance of the proposed date for hiking to allow time to send Trail information and map. Cost of medal award is $2.50 per person. Remittance should accompany the group application to hike the trail. Any overpayment or unused remittance for hikers who do not hike or qualify will be refunded.

Units traveling a distance of 250 miles or less from home should have a local Tour Permit No. 4426. If unit is traveling a distance beyond 250 miles from home, they should apply for a National Tour permit form No. 4419. These permits may be secured free from your council office.

Scout uniforms should be worn on the
Through the dead town and up a winding hill road is found Fort Cobun about 40 feet above the old river bed. It is dug into the side of Point of Rock. Fort Cobun had 4 big guns. It never surrendered to the Yankees!


Grand Gulf Military State Park.
Post Office Box 34
Port Gibson, Mississippi
1. Visitors' Center — A reconstruction of an early Grand Gulf home. The beams, steps and mantels are hand hewn and wooden pegs are visible. The cottage contains exhibits of "Grand Gulf - River Town" and "Grand Gulf's Role in the Civil War. Open Daily.

2. Parapet of Fort Wade — Still visible is the parapet of this Confederate fort. Four big guns were mounted here.

3. Caretaker's home — This is an ante-bellum house which was the caretaker's home of the Pearson's estate. (Not open to visitors.)

4, 5, and 6 — Gun Pits which, during the bombardment, held supporting artillery pieces.

7. Confederate rifle pits.

8 and 9. Confederate gun emplacements which held supporting artillery.

10. Cemetery — In this old cemetery moss-hung trees stand over crumbling stones which relate stories of the early days of yellow fever and murders — of tornadoes and steamboat explosions — of men who went to California with the gold rush, of Negroes who fought for the Union and men and women and children who lived ordinary lives. Some of the iron work is exquisitely hand wrought.

11. Confederate Rifle Pits — These are well preserved trenches which were occupied by the 6th Missouri during the bombardment April 29.

12. Town of Grand Gulf.

13. Site of the hot shot furnace.

14. Picnic Area — Picnic tables are available.

15. Trading Post — Built in the style of the museum and the caretaker's home, the Trading Post contains a souvenir shop, rest room facilities, drinking water and a Coca-Cola machine.
GRAND GULF — RIVER TOWN

The story of Grand Gulf is the story of an ordinary town that had extraordinary things happen. Its beginning as a small French settlement early in the 18th century was wiped out in the Indian massacres. Other settlers came and by 1828 it had grown to a village of 3 stores, 1 tavern and several houses. There was a stage line to Port Gibson and steamboats stopped at its wharf. Rapidly it became an important cotton shipping point and flourished until in 1837 it contained 76 city blocks and had a population of about 1,000.

It was typical of the river towns in the days of the steamboats. Its decline began in 1843 with a yellow fever epidemic. In 1853 a tornado devastated part of the town. After that, more yellow fever and cholera resulted in dozens of unmarked, shallow graves up on the hill.

Between 1855 and 1860 the river moved in. Slowly but relentlessly the mighty Mississippi gnawed away 55 blocks — the entire business section of the town.

By 1860 the town was dying; the population had dropped to 158.

* * * *

It is only when you stand among the crumbling headstones in the old cemetery — the stones that bear their colorful and tragic stories — that you can feel the vanished life of the once vital town. The moss-draped trees stand above the broken yet lovely ironwork and here you can almost hear the long vanished steamboat whistles and the everyday noises of a town long dead.

WAR COMES TO GRAND GULF

No town in Mississippi felt the sting of the Civil War worse than did Grand Gulf. In the spring of 1862, Flag Officer D. G. Farragut sent his powerful ocean-going squadron up the Mississippi River. Baton Rouge and Natchez fell, but Vicksburg refused to surrender. As long as Vicksburg was held by the Confederates, Union control of the Mississippi was blocked.

To harass the Union warships and transports, Gen. M. Lovell ordered Confederate field artillery and supporting infantry to Grand Gulf. On May 26, the Brookhaven Artillery commanded by Captain J. A. Hoskins fired on Union transports. In reprisal, several of Farragut’s warships shelled Grand Gulf. For four weeks there were frequent engagements between the Confederate field artillery and the warships. On June 9 and 10 heavy attacks were made on the town. A landing party was put ashore and Grand Gulf was partially burned. Undaunted, the Confederates continued their attacks on Union shipping.

The Union army sent a strong column led by Col. H. E. Paine to land on Bayou Pierre. During the march inland, Paine’s troops were fired on by a field gun mounted on a flat car and protected by cotton bales. This was probably the first use of an armored train in warfare. After occupying Grand Gulf, Paine’s troops put the torch to the few remaining buildings. Late in July, Farragut’s fleet withdrew from the Vicksburg area.

War returned to Grand Gulf in March, 1863. Fearful that Gen. U. S. Grant’s army (which had moved down the Mississippi) might bypass Vicksburg, Gen. J. C. Pemberton ordered Gen. J. S. Bowen to move his troops to Grand Gulf.
During the next several weeks, Bowen's troops threw up fortifications and mounted their big guns. Rebuffed in his efforts to capture Vicksburg, Grant (at the end of March) ordered his army to march southward down the Louisiana side of the river from Milliken's Bend. He would cross the Mississippi and take Grand Gulf. The fall of Grand Gulf would give the Federals a base for operations against Vicksburg to the south. To support this attack, Adm. D. D. Porter ran a number of his ironclads past the Vicksburg batteries on the night of April 16.

Photo shows the parapet of Cobun and the view out along the old river bed. During high water the Mississippi backs into its old channel.

By the morning of April 29, the Federals were ready to strike. First, Porter's ironclads opened fire on Forts Cobun and Wade. Porter's squadron consisted of the Pittsburg, Louisville, Carondelet, Mound City, Tuscumbia, Lafayette and the flagship Benton. The bombardment lasted for more than five hours. At the end of this time the Tuscumbia had been disabled and the guns in Fort Wade silenced. The big guns in Fort Cobun still roared defiance.

Defeated in his efforts to drive the Confederates from their guns, Porter called off the attack. Under the cover of darkness the Federals bypassed Grand Gulf, and crossed the Mississippi at Bruinsburg the next morning.

GRAND GULF TODAY

The town now is gone—only a scattered handful of houses—but one is able to trace the pattern of a section of the streets and in the weedchoked blocks where stores and houses stood, you can see an occasional cistern or a pile of charred bricks.

Grand Gulf Military Park opened officially May 6, 1962. It contains 104 acres which include Forts Cobun and Wade, two well preserved Confederate forts, some of the best preserved original trenches and gun emplacements existing anywhere from the Civil War are in this park.

A four room cottage from the early days of Grand Gulf was reconstructed and serves as a museum. Two rooms house Civil War displays—large naval shells hurled into the forts by the gunboats, drawings of the battle by participants, maps, models and paintings and two diaramas.

The first diarama depicts Confederate artilleryists firing from the bluffs on two of Farragut's ocean-going vessels—the Itasca and the Wissahickon. The other shows the small railroad engine and flat car which were the first known armored railroad car.

The Carondelet was one of the powerful Eads' ironclads that shelled Grand Gulf.
APPLICATION TO HIKE

Unit or Group ___________________________ No. __________
City and State ________________________ Address __________
Council _______________________________
Trail Leader ___________________________
Scout Master or Advisor _________________
Total number of Hikers in Group __________
Date Trail will be hiked __________________
(Pick two dates - 2 weeks notice required)

Please register __________ Hikers @2.50 each $ __________
Make checks or money orders payable to: Grand Gulf Park Trail, B.S.A., Fort Gibson, Mississippi

Those making the hike are:

1. ___________________________ 13. ___________________________
2. ___________________________ 14. ___________________________
3. ___________________________ 15. ___________________________
4. ___________________________ 16. ___________________________
5. ___________________________ 17. ___________________________
6. ___________________________ 18. ___________________________
7. ___________________________ 19. ___________________________
8. ___________________________ 20. ___________________________
9. ___________________________ 21. ___________________________
10. ___________________________ 22. ___________________________
11. ___________________________ 23. ___________________________
12. ___________________________ 24. ___________________________