Fort Concho
Historical Trail

Brought to you
by the Concho Valley Council
Boy Scouts of America
FORT CONCHOC HISTORICAL TRAIL

Fort Concho was established on December 4, 1867, after the army had to abandon Fort Chadbourne (located north of what is now Bronte, Texas) for lack of good water. The new fort was located at the junction of the North and South Concho Rivers. The fort consisted of some forty buildings and was constructed of native limestone. Fort Concho was closed in June 1889 after having served this area for some twenty-two years. Today, the fort is a National Historical Landmark.

The Fort Concho Historical Trail takes you not only through this Fort, but also along some of the streets of the settlement of Santa Angela, now San Angelo that was developed to serve the needs of the men who were stationed at the Fort.

In 1870, a trader and promoter named Bart DeWitt bought 320 acres of land for $1.00 an acre, marked off town lots and offered them for sale. The town of Santa Angela grew from just a few people to the thriving city it is today. On the trail you will take downtown, you will see some of the old buildings of this early community as well as some of the other historical areas along the Concho River. The Concho River was named from the mussel shells found in the river.

THOSE ELIGIBLE TO HIKE THE TRAIL

All members of the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts USA and all adults, parents and Scouters who go with them, are eligible to hike the trail and earn the Fort Concho Historical Trail Patch if they follow the trail requirements as listed.

TRAIL REQUIREMENTS

1. The trail consists of a hike of two + miles on the course described herein. Use this booklet as a guide.

2. Those taking the trail are reminded that they are representatives of the Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts USA. Their personal appearance should always be neat; they should wear their uniforms correctly, with proper insignia. They should be extremely courteous, and render service where needed.

3. We recommend that you hike the trail by Units or Girl Scout Troops or Patrols. Each group must have at least two competent adult leaders (one of whom must be over twenty-one) in the group.

4. All groups outside the San Angelo area must have an official local tour permit obtained from your Council Service Center. Groups traveling under 500 miles to participate in the hike must have a Local Tour Permit; those traveling over 500 miles must have a National Tour Permit. All Girl Scouts must have a parent permission slip signed prior to the hike and Troop travel permission if from out of town.

5. The Fort Concho Historical Trail begins at the City Park on the corner of Magdalen Street and Concho Street. There is free parking around the park and picnic tables are available for your convenience.

6. The Trail ends at Fort Concho. You may, if you wish, purchase a ticket and tour the Fort. (Or use this guide to walk around) Tickets are $3.00 for adults, military and Senior citizen $2.00 and $1.50 for students. The museum is open from 10:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. Tuesday through Saturday, and 1:00 PM until 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. The museum is closed on Mondays. Fort Concho has a separate patch for sale in their gift shop

7. Upon completion of the Trail and the hike notes, you may purchase your Fort Concho Historical Trail Patches at the Boy Scout Council Office, 104 West River Drive, from 8:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday or by mail at P.O. Box 1584, San Angelo, TX 76902-1584. Each historical patch costs $4.00.
This completes the Fort Concho Historical Trail. Fort Concho Historical Trail Patches are available from the Concho Valley Council Office. The price is $4.00 and can only be purchased by the leader. Thank you for traveling this way and letting us share this history with you!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

On behalf of the Concho Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America, we want to thank the following people for their help in providing information on San Angelo and Fort Concho: Gus Clemens, author of The Concho Country; Don Treadwell, Robert L. Broene, Mrs. Donna Crisp, Mrs. Karen Anderson, E.R. Taylor; Fort Concho Museum Staffers, Cory Robinson, Evelyn Lemons; George Crownover; Bobby Eggemeyer; Wagon Yards, by C.T. Dalton; Old Angelo, by Joe Gibson; Texas Ranchman, by John Loomis; Fort Concho: It's Why and Wherefore, by J.N. Gregory; Frank T. Hilton, former Program Director, Concho Valley Council, BSA, Trail Developer.

The Fort Concho Historical Trail was updated in 2006 by Suzanne Campbell, Curator of the West Texas Collection and Lisa Mahler, Office Manager at Concho Valley Council, BSA.

A new patch was designed by Hugh Campbell of San Angelo. He is an artist that paints traditional West Texas ranch genre. He works in mediums of pastels, oils and bronzes. Campbell's art has garnered many awards nationally. You can view some of his works at www.hughcampbellwesternart.com/

READ MORE ABOUT IT

The following books are available at the Tom Green County Library to help you read more about San Angelo and Fort Concho:

A Walk Through Historic San Angelo by the Tom Green County Library Staff
Fort Concho and the Texas Frontier by J. Evetts Haley
Historical Montage of Tom Green County by the Tom Green County Historical Society
Fort Concho in 1877 by Susan Miles
A History of Fort Concho (thesis) by Herschel Boggs
Old Angelo by Joe Gibson
Texas Ranchman: The Memoirs of John A. Loomis by John Loomis
The Concho Country by Gus Clemens
The History of Tom Green County, Texas by Grace Bitner
Fort Concho by James T. Matthews