THE AMAQUONSIPPI TRAIL

A WILDERNESS HIKING TRAIL

Sponsored by
AMAQUONSIPPI TRAIL COMMITTEE
Box 251
Bradford, Illinois

CHURCHES—

Churches in Bradford are
Baptist 10:30 A.M.
Catholic 7:00 A.M. — 9:00
A.M. Summer 8:00 A.M. —
10:00 A.M. Winter
Methodist 10:30 A.M.

The churches of Bradford are
very happy to extend an invita-
tion to all Scouts and Scouters
to attend any of their services.

A MESSAGE TO HIkers—

We of the Amaquonsippi Trail Committee want this to be an enjoyable and memorable experience for all who take the trail. We will do all in our power to help in any way we can. A thorough orientation will be given at the hiker's convenience before taking the trail.

The small amount of profit realized from those taking the trail goes for maintaining and improving the trail, and to extend the interests of Scouting in general. Good Hiking!

REMEMBER WHEN PLANNING A HIKE

1. The Amaquonsippi Trail Committee requires only three days advance notice.
2. All boys in your troop are eligible to hike the trail.
3. No fees are to be sent in advance. No camping fees.
4. No books to read.
5. No reports to write either before or after hiking the trail.
6. No credentials are issued, and there are no check points.
7. No identification of trees or other objects required.
8. The trail orientation will be given at your convenience, not ours.
9. The trail starts and ends at the same place, therefore no transportation needed during the hike.
10. The Scoutmaster is in charge of his own boys at all times.

We of the Amaquonsippi Trail have hiked many trails in many different states, and it is through our experiences that we have set up these things for you to remember when planning a hike with your troop.
THE AMAQUONSIPPI TRAIL—

When Indian tribes of the Illini nation were still on the banks of the Spoon River, they used clams from the river for food, and the clamshells for spoons. In the Algonquin tongue, the river was called Amaquonsippi; the word "amaquon" meant shell or mussel, and the word "sippi" meant river.

Later the Potawatomi Indians used the Algonquin name of Amaquonsippi because of some of the river’s peculiar bends which resembled their wooden and shell "spoons".

Many Indian burial mounds have been discovered along the banks of Spoon River. Many of the mounds measure 50 feet in diameter. Arrowheads, spearheads, axheads, tomahawk heads, and stone knives have been found near these burial places.

There are also earth works of an earlier race, the "Mound Builders". Little is known of this ancient civilization, though they left many magnificent earthen structures.

Indian trails met in the Spoon River Valley like spokes of a wheel. Many of these trails are still in use today, but as concrete highways.

It has been said that there was no section of the Country which the Indian tribes loved more than their beautiful Amaquonsippi country, with its fertile garden plots, comfortable sheltering wooded areas teaming with game, and a river alive with fish and clams, and its easy access to the main trails.

LOCATION—

Bradford, Illinois is located 35 miles North of Peoria on Route 88; 65 miles Southeast of the Rock Island, Moline and Davenport area; and 140 miles Southwest of Chicago, Illinois. There are 8 Scout hiking trails within a 100 mile radius of Bradford.

AWARD—

An award will be made to participating hikers. The award will consist of a medal depicting a clam shell with the words Amaquonsippi Trail. The medal will be suspended from a black, gold, and gray ribbon. A Swiss embroidered patch in seven colors will also be given. Neckerschief and slides may be purchased at extra cost.

REQUIREMENTS—

Who may qualify?
Any registered Scout, Senior Scout, Explorer, or Scouter is eligible.

The Scout uniform should be worn on the trail, but allowances will be made for boys who do not own a complete uniform, wet weather, or for any other valid reason.

Long pants should be worn to protect against sunburn, poison ivy, and nettles, as this hike is nearly all along a narrow wooded trail.

Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, and other hiking groups may also hike the trail by obtaining special permission from the trail committee.

HOW TO MAKE APPLICATION—

All that is required to make an application to hike this trail is a card or letter three days in advance. Please state estimated time of arrival, and approximate number of hikers.

Please address correspondence to:
Amaquonsippi Trail Committee,
Box 251
Bradford, Illinois

TOUR PERMITS—

A tour permit must be obtained from your local council office for all Scout groups who wish to hike the Amaquonsippi Trail. A local tour permit is needed for groups coming from a distance of not more than 250 miles. A national tour permit is needed for groups coming from a distance of more than 250 miles from Bradford.

These permits are not intended as red tape, but as a check list and a safeguard for your group away from home.

Bring your tour permit with you! It will be inspected and stamped.

TOURS AND EXPEDITIONS—

Number 374A is an excellent book to help you in your planning for an outdoor experience outside your own council.

FEES—

There is no fee for hiking the trail. The awards, which include the Amaquonsippi Trail medal and Swiss embroidered patch, are $3.00 per person. Send no money in advance. Repeat awards—$1.00.

PREPARATION FOR HIKE—

1. There should be one adult for every eight to ten boys making the trip. Scouts need not make the hike, but can be in charge of arrangements. However, only Scouters who actually take the hike, and meet the fee can receive the patch and medal.

2. Parent's permission should be received in writing for boys making the hike.

3. Unit leaders should see that thorough instructions and training are given in highway safety and courtesies; personal first aid; hiking preparation and techniques; before taking the hike.

4. Hikers should be given information on first aid and hiking equipment. Proper clothing and shelter in bad weather should be listed as
ON THE TRAIL—

The Amaquonsippi Trail is a cross country trail. It is nearly all along Spoon River. There is very little hiking along the road. We therefore suggest that you come prepared to hike in the wilderness. Small streams will have to be forded, so please wear suitable shoes.

The trail starts 2½ miles West of Bradford. The trail goes South along the East side of the river. About 3 miles from the start of the trail, you will come to a small creek known as "Cooper's Defeat". There is an interesting story of how this creek was named.

"The Winter of 1831-32 was the winter of the deep snow. The weather on December 23 was pleasant. A party of four men were equipped by a trader, John Hamlin, of Peoria, who was buying furs for the American Fur Company. Fitting the men out with an ox team of two yokes, and provisions for their journey from Peoria to the Winnebago swamps which was near the present town of Annawan, and with goods to trade to the Winnebago and Potawatomi Indians, they started on their journey. On December 24, a heavy snow started to fall, and the air became bitter cold. The snow got so deep that the men had to abandon their oxen, and start on foot toward the small settlement of Boyd's Grove. With their destination in sight, three of the men could not go on. One made it to safety, but the other three froze to death. Christmas Eve, 1831, on the banks of a small stream. Two of these men were brothers, William and Jerry Cooper. The bones of the cattle and the men were found the following Spring by soldiers on their way from Springfield to the Blackhawk War. The stream where the men perished has since been known as 'Cooper's Defeat'."

Continue down the river until you come to the small village of Modena. Here is a store where refreshments may be purchased.

Now head up stream on the West side of the river to the first bridge. Cross the bridge and head down stream again. Soon you will come to the confluence of the East and West branches of Spoon River. Continue upstream on the West side of the river until you return to the starting point.

The trail starts and ends at the same place, therefore no transportation will be needed during the hike.

LENGTH—
The trail is 18 miles long.

HIKING TIME—
The average hiking time for experienced hikers is 6½ hours.

CAMPING AREA—

The Amaquonsippi Trail camp is located at the start of the trail 2½ miles West of Bradford on Illinois Route 93. It is on the South side of the road.

Bring light overnight camping gear, as the parking lot is completely enclosed, and all gear must be packed to camping area. Maximum packing distance is 75 yards.

Water is available but bring containers, as water is not piped to camp sites. Plenty of firewood is available.

Groceries may be purchased in Bradford 2½ miles East of the camping area.

HUNTING SEASON—
The Amaquonsippi Trail is closed during Stark County Deer Season. When applying for reservations to hike during late November or early December, please allow for return confirmation of date and advisement of hunting season dates.

HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR HIKING—
1. Walk on the left hand side of the road, facing traffic. Get off the road as cars approach.
2. Wear comfortable leather shoes and two pairs of light woolen socks.
3. Carry small roll of adhesive tape, some gauze and antiseptic, care for blisters immediately.
4. Take frequent short rests.
5. Guard against windburn and sunburn by wearing long sleeve shirt.
6. Always be careful.
7. Adults on the trail must be careful with matches and cigarettes.