General Andrew Jackson and his Tennessee Volunteers passed through Huntsville in 1813 en route south to a major engagement with the Creek Nation at Horseshoe Bend. While encamped at Huntsville, a mounted patrol of eight men was dispatched to the east to reconnoiter the mountain heights.

At the same time, a Creek scouting party was observing the army camp from the mountaintop. The Indians watched the army patrol as it headed south along the base of the mountain range.

Later that morning, the patrol reached the summit of the mountain. By mid-morning, the Indians moved to intercept the patrol and a chase ensued. Racing to the east, the outnumbered soldiers crossed the level area of the mountaintop, then veered to the southeast. They were on a narrowing flat area with bluffs to their left and right. The mountaintop soon ran out (at O'Shaughnessy Pt.) and they plunged down off the mountain along a spur ridge.

At the bottom, the patrol sergeant considered leading his men across the open valley to the south. But hoping to find concealment in the woodlands of the next mountain, he continued eastward. After a short climb, the soldiers found a formation of rock, cut through with a labyrinth of narrow passageways. Behind the protection of their stone fort, the soldiers decided to stand and fight. For the rest of the afternoon, they held the Creeks at bay.

Under cover of pre-dawn darkness, the army patrol moved uphill. They replenished their water supply at a spring, climbed to the crest, and escaped to the east along the ridges.

Map of Huntsville showing approach roads to the trail.
PATROL QUESTIONNAIRE
(Scouts of each Patrol working together)

1. Compass: What is the bearing from trail shelter 1 to the tallest TV tower to the west? ________

2. Nature: List the names of six kinds of trees found along the trail.

_____________ _____________ _____________

_____________ _____________ _____________

3. Map: What is the difference in elevation between O'Shaughnessy Point and Flint River? _____________

4. Tracking: What kind of animal tracks are seen along the trail? ________________

5. Compass: What is the bearing from Chestnut Knob to the fire tower on Monte Sano? _____

6. Conservation: Explain why bare rocks protrude from the ground on Irwin's Bald? _____________

7. Trailing: Sketch one of the blazes found on the trail.

8. Cooking: Outline the menu of your best meal during your trail camp.

9. Map: What river is at the east end of the trail? ________________

The trail may be hiked by any eligible unit at no cost. Unit leaders should obtain one of these brochures for each patrol by writing the trail chairman. Allow two weeks for return delivery. After hiking the trail, submit the end-fold from the brochures with the questionnaire, hikers' names, and award data to the trail address. The embroidered cloth patch may be ordered for each qualifying hiker. Checks for patches should be made payable to the Warpath Ridge Scout Trail.

____ Patches @ $2.00 _________

____ Brochures @ $.50 _________

Total $_______

Warpath Ridge Scout Trail
601 Monte Sano Blvd.
Huntsville, AL 35801

TRAIL REQUIREMENTS

1. Each unit must be accompanied by adult leaders. One adult for each 10 Scouts is recommended.

2. Hike the entire trail on foot.

3. Scouts should hike with their patrols and stay with their troop after starting the trail.

4. Please carry out litter and avoid damage to trees, fences, and other property.

5. Hikers must not disturb livestock along trail route.

6. No firearms or fireworks of any kind are permitted (state law).

The trail crosses the property of 21 different landowners. Their permission for Scouts to cross their land depends on the good conduct of each hiker. Please do nothing to damage fences, livestock, trees, or other natural features of the woodlands. Be especially careful with fire.

Though the Stone Fort does not lie directly on the trail, it is worth seeing. When the trail was cut access was unavailable, but now permission has been granted for hikers to see this natural rock formation.

Troop 304 continues to maintain the trail. Many hours have been spent cutting overgrown brush where too few hikers walk the trail to stunt plant growth. The pamphlet was revised in 1989, and prices are subject to change. Development threatens the trail and its forest.
TRAIL INFORMATION

The Warpath Ridge Scout Trail is located east of Huntsville. The west terminus is in the Monte Sano State Park. The east terminus is near the Flint River bridge on Little Cove Road.

The trail is approximately 12 miles long. As a footpath through the wilderness, the trail is marked only sparsely with signs and yellow arrowhead blazes. Camping is permitted only at two sites: At the State Park and at Lickskillet.

The State Park has available city water, electricity, picnic areas, a store, cabins, and facilities for tents, trailers, and RVs.

Reservations can be made at either the Park Office (205) 534-3757 or the Park Store (205) 534-6589. Non-campers should park in the Hikers Parking Lot. (At the extreme right of the lot is an access trail to the trail head, in front of the Old Tavern Ruins.)

Lickskillet is a primitive, mid-trail site. Camp between the creeks at the west end of the field. Spring water only, except in driest weather. Firewood plentiful. Caves located below bluff east of waterfalls. Livestock may be in pond area.

At the east end of the trail, parking is provided below the west side of the Flint River Bridge (not in the farmer’s drive). The trail begins at the top of the drive, follows the north fence of the field, and enters the woods.

* Chromosomes nearest the park are the Monte Sano Baptist Church and the Monte Sano Methodist Church on Monte Sano Blvd.
* Traffic on Dug Hill Rd. could be hazardous. The road was built by Union troops who dug the road bed out of the hillside in 1864 during the Federal occupation of Huntsville.
* Poisonsnakes are rarely seen but may be encountered. Units should be prepared to provide adequate first aid.

Key to Map
1. Park Campsite & Parking
2. O'Shaugnnessy's Well
3. Picnic Area
4. Shady Spring
5. Lickskillet
6. East End Parking
7. Campsite
8. Picnic Area
9. Hikers Parking Lot
10. State Park

Circled mile markers include the one-mile side trail to Chestnut Knob.

The above named hikers have met the requirements of the Warpath Ridge Scout Trail.

Leader's Signature

Unit and No. Date Hiked

Address

Patrol

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.