ing to camp over night. Each group will furnish their own tentage. The camp area has city water and sanitary toilet facilities. Fire wood is not available at camp site.

3. WHAT IS THE VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK? The Vicksburg National Military Park is an area set aside and preserved as a memorial to one of the most famous sieges of all times. History will forever tell the story of the military action that took place on these hills and in the ravines that surround the City of Vicksburg, which came to a conclusion on July 4, 1863, with the surrender of the City to the Federal Army after a long and gallant defense by the Confederates.

4. WHAT IS THE PLAN OF THE PARK? The Confederate Army had fallen back to Vicksburg and occupied a strong line of fortifications that extended along the top of a ridge from the river south of Vicksburg and encircled the City to Fort Hill on the north. On the map you may follow this line on what is now called Confederate Avenue. Across the ravine you will notice Union Avenue, a road which follows the investment line of the Federal forces. Numerous monuments, markers, tablets and cannon have been placed along both of these avenues to memorialize the soldiers who fought on these lines and explain the fighting that took place. The Confederate defense line was some 9 miles long and the total Union line was about 16 miles long.

5. WHY WAS VICKSBURG SO IMPORTANT? The North wanted to control the Mississippi River. If they could do this they would divide the South, would have a waterway to the Gulf and would cut off the food supply to the South. Of course the South could not afford to lose the river. By the middle of 1862 the North had secured all of the river except the five miles in front of the bluff at Vicksburg. Their navy being unable to capture Vicksburg, a big army was brought down the river and after many weeks of hardship and fighting this army finally was able to encircle Vicksburg on the line now called Union Ave. The Confederate Army was then bottled up in Vicksburg. The Union Army made several furious charges against the Confederate works but all failed. The only way Vicksburg could be taken would be to starve the Confederate Army. With 72,000 soldiers of the Union Army surrounding 18,500 Confederate soldiers there was no way to get food into Vicksburg. After 47 days of fighting the folks in Vicksburg and the Confederate soldiers were starving and sickness was everywhere. There was only one thing to do and that was to surrender. On July 4, 1863, Vicksburg was surrendered.

6. REMEMBER. As you hike along the Trail and learn about the Park, remember the many hundreds of Americans who so gallantly fought and died on these grounds. Every one of them, both North and South, was fighting for a cause he felt to be right. As you leave the Park carry this thought with you: “Here brothers fought for their principles; here heroes died for their Country. And a united people will forever cherish the precious legacy of their manhood.”

For additional information, write to:

CHARLES V. ROBISON  
c/o Mississippi River Commission  
P. O. Box 80  
Vicksburg, Mississippi

Sponsored by VICKSBURG TRAIL COMMITTEE for BOY SCOUTS OF VICKSBURG
VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK TRAIL HIKE

1. GREETINGS. Boy Scouts of America—The Vicksburg National Military Park Trail Committee and the National Park Service welcome you to one of the outstanding historical shrines of America—the Vicksburg National Military Park. Our hope is that you will both enjoy and remember your visit here, and that it will add much to your knowledge of the Campaign and Siege of Vicksburg.

2. ABOUT THE TRAIL. The Vicksburg National Military Park Trail is approximately 14 miles in length and provides a very interesting, educational and enjoyable hike. The entire length of the Trail lies within the famous and historical battlefield forming a semicircle around the City of Vicksburg. The Trail is open the year round and can be made any day except Sunday. The purpose of the Trail is to provide a worthwhile expedition for Boy Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Scout Leaders, and to stimulate interest in our Nation’s National Parks, especially the historical significance of the Vicksburg National Military Park.

An attractive medal award is available to hikers completing the trail requirements, which are:

a. Read the booklet “Vicksburg” by William C. Everhart. This booklet, further identified as the “National Park Service Historical Handbook Series No. 21,” may be ordered from one of the following at 25 cents per copy.

Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C. or

Agent, Eastern National Park Monument Association, Vicksburg National Military Park, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

The booklet can also be purchased at the Park Museum and the Chamber of Commerce in Vicksburg.

b. Visit the Vicksburg National Military Park Museum and attend the special lecture given by a Park Ranger. The lecture is most interesting and educational and gives a good detailed account of the history and re-enactment of the Battle of Vicksburg. The lecture lasts approximately one hour.

c. Take the complete designated hike, 14 miles in length, through the battlefield, visiting the various indicated battle sites and monuments.

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

Attendance of the lecture is a prerequisite to taking the hike. It is highly recommended, although not required, that the prescribed booklet be read by each hiker in advance of date that hike is to be made. This is desirable as it will provide a much greater interest and educational value to the hike. In any case the booklet must be read by each hiker before the group can be certified as eligible to receive the medal awards.

In the event that a group plans to arrive in Vicksburg the day before hike is to be taken, it is recommended that they arrange their arrival time sufficiently early to permit their visiting Park Museum on that day. This will enable the group to attend the required lecture in advance rather than wait until the day hike is to be made. The National Park Museum is open from 8:30 to 5:00 PM each day. Lectures can be arranged to start at any time between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM.

Units desiring to hike the Vicksburg National Military Park Trail and meet the requirements for the medal award should have their leader submit an application to the Vicksburg Trail Committee approximately two weeks in advance of the proposed date for hiking to allow time to send Trail information and map. Cost of the medal award is $2.00 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 form No. 4426. If the 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 Trail (leaders excluded). T-shirts may be worn in hot weather. Dress so as to be comfortable and also identifiable as Scouts and be a credit to Scouting. Each group must be accompanied by at least one adult leader throughout the hike.

Start early as the hike requires approximately 7 hours (not including the lecture). Water is available only at the Park Headquarters building and the National Cemetery. Carry canteens, especially in hot weather.

No camping is permitted inside the Park boundaries. A camping area, however, is available in the immediate vicinity for those groups desir-