Information on
THE
WASHINGTON TRAIL HIKE

Sponsored by
Washington Trail Council
Boy Scouts of America
110 W. 10th St.
Erie, Pa.
OUT THE TRAIL

The Washington Trail is a 17 mile hike along the left bank of French Creek, from Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania to the only statue in the country depicting and honoring George Washington as a young man in service of his country. This statue is located in Herford, Pennsylvania.

It was on the eleventh of December 1753, just after sunset, when Washington, who was not quite 22 years of age, with Christopher Gist, 5 frontiersmen, 5 friendly Indian chiefs and a convoy of 4 French soldiers, arrived at Fort LeBoeuf.

The next day Washington presented to the French Governor Legardeur de St. Pierre, the Governor of Virginia's (Robert Dinwiddie) message, demanding the French to leave the country.

Here on historic Lake LeBoeuf occurred the opening scene in the GREAT WORLD DRAMA in which Washington played an immortal part. It marked the beginning of the French and Indian War and the chain of events which resulted in AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

LAKE RESERVATION:

The Trail is open May 1st to November 1st. To make a reservation, please use the form provided. Have it signed by your Unit Chairman, Unit Leader and Scout Executive. Then mail it to the Washington Trail Council, 310 West 30th Street, Erie, Pennsylvania, with proper remittance for individual credentials. These along with copies of the Trail of Major George Washington will be forwarded to you.

NATIONAL TOUR PERMIT:

All parties of Scouts, who reside outside the boundaries of the Washington Trail Council, must obtain a National Permit to Conduct a Tour, moving, Camp (Catalog No. 4419). Do not come without...
this permit. We cannot accept you unless you have it.

Fill out the application and submit it to your Scout Executive for his approval. The form is then mailed to the Regional Office where the permit is issued and mailed directly to you. Allow three weeks.

HOW TO GET TO CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS:

Cambridge Springs is 27 miles south of Erie on Route No. 19.

CAMPSITES:

There are excellent camping facilities at Cambridge Springs, Camp Mystic, (25 cents per person) and at Waterford, Pennsylvania. Your hike permit, when approved by the Trail Committee, will show you your campsite.

CAMPING:

We urge that units camp by the Scout Camping Method; that is, Patrol and Crew Camps with patrol or crew leaders in charge. Let them do a total job and cook as a patrol or crew. All cooking must be done over charcoal fires. Charcoal may be purchased at Waterford or Cambridge Springs.

FOOD:

Groceries may be purchased at Cambridge Springs or Waterford. Include in your plans provision for a substantial lunch for hikers to carry on the trail.

PREPARING SCOUTS FOR THE HIKE

Read the requirements to all hikers and check to see that they all understand the rules. Insist that book resumes are submitted to you in advance so that you may review them carefully. (It is not unusual to find reports copied directly from the book or from another Scout.) Be sure that the resume covers the book. Be sure that the resume is an honest and sincere effort. All hikers, including adults, must read the Journal of Major George Washington and submit a resume before they are allowed to hike.

It will be helpful if you review the chapter on hiking in the Boy Scout handbook, paying special attention to "The Care of the Feet". Review the sections on "The Compass and Map Reading."

Explain to hikers that all rules are rigidly adhered to; there are no exceptions made for any reason.

Please ask hikers to refrain from carrying sheath knives and belt axes on the trail.

Unit leaders should see that thorough instruction and training are given in highway safety and courtesies.

Proper clothing for use in bad weather should be listed as essential.

ABOUT CONDUCT:

Most Scouts are gentlemen-like in their behavior, but sometimes incidents occur that are extremely troublesome. This trail runs through some privately owned property and one act could close the trail. (This applies especially to the two Indian sounds.) It is essential that all hikers maintain a high standard of courtesy and friendly consideration of the property of other people.

Scouts sometimes instinctively throw off all restraints when they are away from home. Troop or Post leaders are in charge of their Scouts and are responsible for their behavior at all times.

Scouts in camp, but not hiking must have adult leadership at all times.
REMEMBER! Scout's rule should be: "This place is better and cleaner because I camped here."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

If leaders will adhere to the rules and suggestions, the Washington Trail hike will be a highlight in the Scouting experience for your Unit.

This hike will require about 8 hours of daylight. The trail follows French Creek and parts of it are as rugged today as they were 200 years ago. It would be well to start the hike before 8 a.m.

There should be one adult for every ten boys making the hike.

PURPOSE OF THE TRAIL:

Aside from the historical significance of the Washington Trail, Scouts gain valuable lessons in many of the skills of Scouting. From their experience in preparing for and taking the trail, the Scout puts into practice his skill in packing a haversack, hike first aid, cooking, camping, being observant, reading a map, being safe. The Washington Trail is a living memorial to a great leader, kept alive by those who walk it in the spirit for which it was intended.

A MESSAGE TO SCOUTS:

Every Boy Scout will be a better American citizen if he will read carefully the life of George Washington. The opportunities which await every American boy under our system of government can be illustrated no better than in the accomplishments of our first President. No other nation offers such possibilities to its young men.

Our Council sponsors this program and is happy to invite First Class Scouts and Explorers from other Councils to make the trail and earn their medals.

The reading and book review is just as important as walking the 17 miles. The mind, as well as the body, should be strengthened. It is our sincere hope that every Scout or Scouter taking it, in addition to having fun and a new experience, will add to his own life some of the principles of George Washington.

WASHINGTON TRAIL COMMITTEE

ON THE HIKE

1. See that every hiker has proper credentials.
2. Give firm instruction on highway courtesies.
   Scouts should stay off pavement.
   Hikers must not accept rides or make short cuts through fields.
3. Leader should see that all boys are properly checked off at the end of the hike.