THE WILDERNESS TRACE

SPONSORED BY
THE WILDERNESS TRACE COMMITTEE
4632 BOUNTON PL.
P.O. BOX #
COLUMBUS 13 OHIO

BE 5-9315
THE WILD RNESS TRACE was blazed by the Wilderness Trace Committee on April 4 & 5, 1959 with the permission of the United States Department of Forestry, Chieh Ranger at Athens, O., as Authority. It was established for the purpose of providing a hiking trail in South Central Ohio for all Scouts and Scouters.

The Trace is 20 miles in length over fire trails and game trails to the half way point. The balance covers very primitive roads, which can be driven by the average car if the driver is extremely careful. Along the trace can be found fossils, birds, wild flowers and types of animal life if the trail is hiked quietly.

The camping area at the beginning of the trace is located at the Louis Taber Memorial Park. Campers may pitch tents among the tall pines and sleep on a bed of pine needles. This is a National Forest; no charge for camping and no chopping of trees or bushes. For overnight hikers, Shep Tinker’s Cave is half way along the Trace. This cave is approximately 50 feet in depth and 150 feet across with sleeping and cooking room for 50 campers.

This cave was named for an old backwoodsman, Shep Tinker, a confederate condoler during the war between the states. He was at the time, a notorious horse thief who hid his stolen horses at the cave and supplied Morgan’s Raiders with fresh mounts in the New Straitsville area.

The water dripping over the top of the cave is the only sweet water available for several miles, Wildlife can be seen in the area. Wildlife includes deer, raccoons, skunks and porcupines. The water remains quite clear and is good for drinking. The water is the only water available on the Trace yearly.

TO HIKE THE Trace show that you are prepared for the trail. Groups without maps, compasses, and good shoes have met with disaster. The Trace winds through dense woods and thick underbrush for 20 miles.

Wildlife is abundant and should be enjoyed but not killed. The Trace is a hunting ground and is not open to hunters any time of the year.

Scouts and Scouters should remember to respect the woods and the animals which live there.

Wildlife can be seen all along the Trace. Animals to be sought are deer, black bears, turkey, raccoon, porcupines, and wild cats. Bird life is abundant. Checkers, blue jays, crows, hawks, owls, cardinals, woodpeckers and many others can be seen along the Trace.

The Trace is not a race track but a trail for anyone to walk in the woods and enjoy nature.

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In the early morning hours if the hiker remain quiet. This water can be used for cooking and drinking if properly treated. The water at Tabor Park is tested twice yearly.

HIKE THE TRACE.

Any hiking group which wishes to hike the Trace should first read the requirements of the group. Groups wishing to hike parts of the Trace without meeting requirements to secure the permit must have responsible adult leadership and must meet the General requirements which apply to all hikers. The Trace is marked with yellow blazes through dense woods and requires from 8 to 10 hours to complete. It would be ill to start early.

FOOD

You may purchase things to eat at the grocery stores in New Straitsville and at the store ½ mile S.W. of Tabor Park on the highway.

EQUIPMENT

Leggings or 12" boots are required as a precaution against snakebite on the lower leg. A complete first aid kit including snakebite treatment must be carried. Each two hikers should equip themselves with a 20 foot length of rope. Standard camping equipment such as bed roll, cooking equipment must be taken. Water is not available between Tabor Park and Tinker's Cave.
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
1. Each hiker must carry his own water. All water along trail has high sulphur content.
2. Hikers must hike Trace as a unit at all times with an adult leader in charge.
3. No hiker will leave the trail for any reason.
4. Do not stop at any house except in case of an emergency.
5. No fires or smoking on Trace except at roadways or Tinker's Cave.
6. Absolutely no cutting or chopping along the trace.
7. Caves should not follow hikers but should be at prearranged points along the trace.
8. Hikers must hike in uniform.
9. Overnight hikers hiking on Sunday should plan church service at Tinker's Cave.
10. Leggings and safety ropes are required.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS
1. Identify tree:
2. Identify tree:
3. What caused this cave?
4. Identify tree:
5. Identify tree:
6. Identify object:
7. Identify tree:
8. Identify rock:
9. What caused this formation:
10. Compass Course 27° to roadway:

Medal
A fee of 1.00 is charged for the medal, this is to cover the cost of the medal trail upkeep, etc. The medal is a silver arrowhead suspended from a green ribbon.
Repeat hikes 2, 3, 4, a six pointed star is awarded, per repeat.
For 5th hike a silver buffalo.