TRAIL DIRECTIONS:

The William D. Boyce Trail begins at the junction of the Illinois and Fox Rivers in the center of Ottawa, Illinois. You start hiking south over the Illinois River Bridge, using the left sidewalk, proceed up hill to E. Prospect Ave., turn left for one block where on the south side of the street, you will find the (1) Fort Johnston Marker. Return to the south end of bridge and proceed in a westwardly direction on Route 71, using the sidewalk on the right, to the City Limits where you will cross to the left side of the highway and from hereon practice the regular Scout Rules pertaining to highway hiking. At approximately 3.3 miles you will find on the left side of the road the (2) Dickey Marker. At 6.3 miles you will enter Starved Rock Park, continue on for 0.2 mile to second rustic shelter on the left where you will find the (3) Salt Well. Continue on for 0.5 mile to bottom of steep hill, CAUTION, cross to right side of road and proceed up hill BEHIND GUARD RAIL to a flight of wooden steps, go to top of steps and turn to the right where you will find the river trail plainly marked by two white dots on trees. CAUTION, for the next 3 miles DO NOT leave trail as this area is extremely dangerous because of deep canyons. On arrival at Starved Rock proper, take steps to the top of Rock and you will find the (4) Historical Marker. After leaving the Rock, follow the river in a westwardly direction to the extreme northwest corner of the Camp Grounds where you will emerge on Highway 178, turn right over the bridge and go into Utica, turn left on Washington St., go to Division St., turn right where in one block on the left side of the street you will find the (5) Marquette Monument. Return to north end of Illinois River Bridge and take the road going east to the (6) Starved Rock Locks and Dam. Continue on for approximately 1.5 miles where on the right side of the road you will come to the (7) Half Way House. Continue past the Buffalo Rock sign through the Village of Naplate to the Ottawa Avenue Cemetery. Go to the east gate and enter cemetery and to the extreme southeast corner where you will find the (8) William D. Boyce Monument. After leaving the cemetery go north on Boyce Memorial Drive to LaFayette St., turn right and go to Washington Park (Between La Salle and Columbus Sts.), in the east central area of park you will find a huge boulder (9). After leaving park go south on La Salle St. to Trail Office. This is where you started — and now have finished — and we hope you have enjoyed the William D. Boyce Trail.

IDENTIFICATION TEST:

(1) What month and year was this Fort extensively used? Answer: 

(2) What was located here and when? Answer: 

(3) What compass azimuth does the overflow from the well run? Answer: 

(4) What tribe of Indians were starved on top of this rock? Answer: 

(5) What year was the first Christian service held in the Illinois country? Answer: 

(6) What agency operates these locks? Answer: 

(7) What famous lawyer slept here? Answer: 

(8) What year was this monument erected? Answer: 

(9) What famous political event took place at this spot? Answer: 

This hike is not a speed test — Take your time and observe.

NAME: __________________________

ADDRESS: _______________________

RANK: ___________________________

TOWN: ___________________________

STATE: __________________________

This Identification Test must be turned in at Trail Office for approval before your awards will be given.

WILLIAM D. BOYCE TRAIL HIKE

P. O. BOX 60

Ottawa, Illinois

TRAIL OPEN

May 1st to November 1st

STARVED ROCK AREA COUNCIL

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
ABOUT THE TRAIL:

The William D. Boyce Trail is a 25-mile round-trip hike along the south bank of the Illinois River from Ottawa to Starved Rock State Park, into Utica, Illinois, then returning on a road, formerly a stagecoach route, along the north bank of the Illinois River back into Ottawa.

TO MAKE A RESERVATION:

This hike requires 10 hours of daylight. However, we recommend that you plan to make it a two-day hike. There is a limit to the number we can handle at one time so it is necessary to make a reservation three weeks in advance. Select a first or second choice of dates. To make reservation use form provided, have it signed by your unit leader and mail to the William D. Boyce Memorial Committee, Box 60, Ottawa, Illinois. Due to the large demand for this activity we must reserve the right to schedule hikers as we see fit.

COUNCIL OR NATIONAL TOUR PERMIT:

All parties of scouts who reside outside the boundaries of the Starved Rock Area Council, MUST obtain, if less than 250 miles from Ottawa, your Local Council travel permit, and if over 250 miles, a National permit to conduct a tour, moving camp or cruise. WE CANNOT ACCEPT YOU UNLESS YOU HAVE IT.

HOW TO GET TO OTTAWA:

Ottawa, Illinois, is located on U.S. Route 6; State Routes 23, 71 and Inter-State 80. It is 90 miles south and west of Chicago, Illinois.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT OTTAWA:

After arrival in Ottawa, park your cars in the Woodward Memorial parking lot located by the south end of La Salle St. Walk to the extreme south end of La Salle St. to the William D. Boyce Trail Office. If camp sites are desired we will direct you to them. Any Sea Scout units coming to Ottawa by boat, can dock at the north end of the Illinois River Bridge, which is just below the Trail Office.

FEES:

Registration fee for the hike is $2.50 per person. This includes an embroidered emblem, bronze medal and brochure. Emblems and medals are not for sale and will not be replaced if lost unless trail is hiked again. A $5.00 deposit is required with trail application, which is not refundable after 30 days. All hike fees must be paid on your arrival to take hike.

FOOD AND CAMPING:

No meals are provided at camp sites. Groceries may be purchased in Ottawa or Utica. Sandwiches can be purchased at the Starved Rock Concession Stands. It is not necessary to carry a lunch on the trail as places are available to hikers.

There are several camp sites available, Starved Rock State Park and IIlini State Park. Camping permits may be obtained from park custodians on arrival. There is plenty of space for camping. Fuel is plentiful. Water is tested. Bring containers for water, as water points are some distance from camp sites. All cooking must be done outdoors. Scouts in camp but not hiking must have adult leadership at all times. A Scout rule should be: “This place is better and cleaner because I have camped here”.

PREPARING SCOUTS FOR HIKE:

Review Chapter 11 (in the Handbook for Boys) with special attention to the care of the feet. Review the sections on the compass and map reading. Carrying of sheath knives and belt axes on the trail are absolutely prohibited. It is essential that all hikers maintain a high standard of courtesy and friendly consideration of the property of other people. Leaders are responsible for the behavior of their scouts at all times.

WILLIAM D. BOYCE TRAIL HIKE REQUIREMENTS:

Each person taking the Boyce Trail must:

1. Be a registered and currently active scout or scouter. Scouts must be 1st-Class Rank, Explorer or higher.

2. Present himself in complete Explorer or Boy Scout uniform. Uniform must be official and consist of cap. Shorts are recommended during hot weather. Keep equipment to a minimum as this is a long, rugged trail.

3. Complete designated hike, visiting all designated monuments and markers and filling out the furnished identification test.

4. Hikers must stay on trail for the entire round trip. Each group of hikers should have a compass, everyone should have a pencil and identification test must be submitted for credit.

5. Units hiking trail must stay with their unit leaders at all times and hike in single file, for safety’s sake. Any unit found not obeying this order will be ejected from the trail and forfeit all awards.