

MOUNT ALLAMUCHY SCOUT RESERVATION

A 2.5-MILE HISTORIC HIKE FOR CUB SCOUTS
LEADER'S GUIDE

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
PATRIOTS' PATH COUNCIL

Cedar Knolls, New Jersey

www.ppcbsa.org

Things to consider before hiking the Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation Trail

Your Cub Scouts and families should be prepared for their hiking experience at Mount Allamuchy Scout reservation. Strong consideration should be given to this list of things to do before you come to ensure a fully enjoyable experience.

1. One or more of your unit's adult leaders and/or parents may want to consider taking the hike for themselves in advance – and ask them to bring their Cub Scout with them. In this way they can understand how the other families and boys in the unit will respond to the experience while at the same time getting a better understanding of the trails and rest areas.
2. You may wish to conduct a pre-hike meeting. In addition to discussing the points below, you can discuss the history of Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation and preview some of what the families are going to be seeing there. You can also prepare and begin some of the advancement requirements you might choose to pursue.
3. Review what appropriate hiking attire families should wear depending on season and weather conditions. (Unless it's been raining, sneakers are okay for this hike.)
4. Give a list of items that you suggest families bring as personal gear. These may include:
 - a. First-aid kit
 - b. Filled water bottle
 - c. Trail food
 - d. Flashlight
 - e. Sun screen
 - f. Whistle
 - g. Rain Gear
 - h. Etc. (Best to leave the pocket knife at home for this outing.)
5. Review the Buddy System in detail.
6. Provide detailed instruction on the BSA Outdoor Code as well as the Leave No Trace front- and back-country guidelines
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/OutdoorProgram/LeaveNoTrace.aspx>
7. Discuss types of poisonous plants that exist in the park, provide solid tips on how to identify them, and give guidance on what to do if anyone accidentally touches one.
8. Make sure you review with your Cub Scouts and families what they should do if they become lost or separated from the group.
9. Make sure that at least one unit leader is trained in Youth Protection and Weather Hazards. Talk through with your families about how to prepare for marginal weather conditions. Arrange to have your unit's first-aid kit and an appropriately trained adult present to help with any emergencies.
10. Be sure to review the [Commitment to Safety](#), the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#), [Risk Assessment Strategy](#), as well as [Camp Standards](#) planning tools. www.Scouting.org

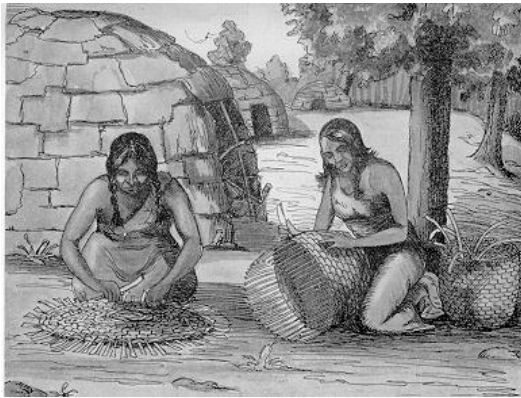
The Cub Scout Historic Trail

The Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation Cub Scout Historic Trail is a 2.5-mile hike that has been planned for you to satisfy requirements and to provide a program activity during your stay at camp. We certainly hope that you will have fun and, perhaps, learn some new things. How much you see and learn is up to you. Keeping quiet and having a sharp eye will greatly increase your chances of seeing things most people do not.

All units taking this hike are required to check in with the campmaster or ranger for instructions before starting on the trail.

Let's Get Started

Your historic walk begins right in the parking area. It is difficult to imagine but try to visualize a Native American village covering this whole area. Yes, this was the home of a group of Native Americans that seemed to have lived here, on and off, over a very long period of time. Not long ago, it was common to find the remnants (arrow heads, stone and bone tools, pottery) of these great people right on the ground around you. Unfortunately, many artifacts have been removed by local residents over time.



To help you on your journey, a (crude) map has been included for reference. To gain the most from this experience, some activities have been suggested throughout which should help to focus your group and turn this hike into a learning experience for all. Please be sure to add your own focusing activities; this should not be simply a “walk through.” There are lots of things to see. You might start off from the very beginning by challenging your group to keep a list of the wildlife seen, heard or evidence of found during this hike.

Start by noticing the totem pole that is on the lawn in front of the camp office. The symbols, carved one above the other, represented plants and/or animals that were valued symbols of hereditary history of the Native American. It is appropriate that it should stand here overlooking what was once a great village.

Proceed onto the road on which you came into camp (at the edge of the parking area). Note: Safe walking requires that you walk single file along the edge of the road, on the left side, facing traffic. At this point, walk down to the lake and onto the new dam. Continue walking along the dam's walkway and you will come to a footbridge (map symbol = ----→/____/←----). This spot is very popular with the lake's beaver population. They find it easy to “dam” the lake at this bridge. If you look around, you might see the sharp, gnawed stumps of trees and shrubs used in their dam building. It is

estimated that there are at least 10 active beavers making their home in Frenche's Pond. Beavers react to running water. If they hear running water from the lake, they feel threatened and feel it is necessary to stop that flow.

Cross the bridge and keep left. This will bring you to the "pond" once more. This "pond" serves as the center for waterfront activities at Camp Somers during the summer. Swimming, boating, canoeing and sailing are the main attractions. Frenche's Pond gets its name from Joseph Frenche, who once owned all of this property and several mills of one sort or another over the years. He made tannic acid (used to cure hides to make leather), packaged herbs, made rugs and later made bumpers for the many canal boats that plied the Morris Canal that ran from Jersey City to Phillipsburg.

Frenche's Pond provides an excellent habitat for many types of fish, birds and animals. The pond keeps itself well stocked with bass, pickerel, crappies, perch and bluegills. There are many birds that can be seen as well. A careful eye might see some of the larger birds in the area: Canada geese, gulls and a variety of ducks. A treat would be to see some of our very special residents, the great blue heron, green heron, swans, turkey vultures, wild turkey, red tail hawk and now the American bald eagle. To be sure, if your group is noisy and/or not sharp eyed, none of the above birds will be seen. This is also true of the animals: deer, bear, raccoon, beaver, muskrat, otter and mink.

Besides actually seeing any of the wildlife mentioned, can you find any traces of these wild creatures?

Prints: _____
Nest: _____
Feathers: _____
Other: _____

Proceed up the hill (map symbol [-----]) and you will come upon a road that leads to Camp Wheeler. This road was part of a road system for hauling logs out of the forest to the canal. Go left on this road and follow it until you come to a side "road" that goes off to the right. This is at a curve in the road as you approach the Upper Lake. Go up onto the dam at the lake. This is a large lake that stretches far off from your view. Notice the raft moored in the lake. This Tom Sawyer raft provides a lot of fun for Cubs during summer day camp. As you walk along the dam, you will come to the spillway. Walk along its waterway to the road. Here you will find a path on either side. Take this path along the water channel.

Is this natural or manmade? _____

Continue to the "--→/_____/←--". Do you remember that map symbol? _____

Cross the footbridge, turn left and go down along the channel. What is a possible use for this channel? _____

BE CAREFUL! The path here is poor. You should now find the ruins of a stone foundation. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW YOUR GROUP TO DESTROY THESE HISTORIC RUINS BY CLIMBING AND DISLODGING THE STONES.

You are now at Frenche's Acid Works. After hides were processed to remove the flesh and hair, they were treated with tannic acid made from local hemlock trees. This process changed the hide into leather. The many oak trees provided fuel to boil the bark of the hemlock to produce the acid, which was then sent to the tanning mills. If you look closely at the water channel in this area, you can imagine that at one time there was a waterwheel of some sort that provided power to the mill. The channel was used to bring water directly to the wheel. History tells us that this mill was only used for a short time. New and cheaper methods were being developed; the mill lost out to new technology and a new large plant that was built in Hackettstown.

Activity: Have your group point out windows, doors, rooms.

To the left of the mill you will find the remnants of a short "wagon road" (map symbol ====) used to take the acid up the "access road." Take this access road that is now called Chapel Road to the left. You will come upon the chapel dedicated to John Roach Jr. on the right. It is now used as the center for Scoutcraft activities. Look around for the treehouse in this area.

Challenge: All of the telephone poles in camp are numbered. The one in front of the chapel has no number. See if your group can determine its number. _____
(Clue: Have them check the pole just before it and after it.)

Continue along the road and you will come up to Campsite 12 A and B on the left. As you pass this area and just beyond, have your group see if they can find any birdhouses. How many did you see? _____

Keeping to the road, you will pass the entrance to "Pioneer" campsite on your right and then Campsite 5 is on your left. This "access road" will bring you to another road, the main road. Point out to your group that stagecoaches used this road. If you were to look

at old maps of the area, you would find that this road is called Old Waterloo Road. Turn left on this road.

Up to your right is Cabin 6. Also on the right is the camp shower house and on the left is Cabin 5. These, like all cabins on the property, are for rent by troops, packs and dens for weekends. As you make your way down the road, you will come to a marsh/swamp area on the right. This varies in nature from time to time according to rainfall. This is a good place to see turtles, frogs and, if you are really sharp, wood ducks. Wood ducks are the only ducks that sit in trees.

What did you see? _____

Further up on the right is Cabin 14, across from which is a large pavilion. This is a good place to sit and eat lunch and/or discuss the day's events. Just ahead is the parking area where your hike began.

If you have only spent the day with us, please tell someone in the office you are leaving the property. We hope you had an enjoyable hike.

A PATCH IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE TO COMMEMORATE YOUR HIKE. PLEASE ASK FOR MR. STODDARD IN THE CAMP OFFICE.



