

THE VICTORY TRAIL

A 3-MILE HIKE FOR CUB SCOUTS

Commemorating the Battle of Connecticut Farms and the Forgotten Victory of Springfield



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
PATRIOTS' PATH COUNCIL

Cedar Knolls, New Jersey

www.ppcbsa.org



Things to consider before hiking The Victory Trail Historic Walking Tour

Your Cub Scouts and families should be prepared for their hiking experience on The Victory Trail. 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 Scouts 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 the Forgotten Battle of Springfield 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.
<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>
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. Sunscreen
 - 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 along the trail, 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 all leaders are 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



Before Your Hike

A Scout is courteous. Call the sites listed below before you schedule your hike to assure the site will be open and a guide will be available to give your group a tour. The Victory Trail is an urban hike on public sidewalks and roadways. Please be considerate of foot and road traffic as your group passes. The Victory Trail also passes along private property. Please be respectful of the residents' privacy and pass quietly.

A Scout is prepared. All Scouts must bring the water they will need for the hike. There are no facilities to refill water bottles along the trail. Bring snacks and lunch, a 5 mile hike makes a Scout hungry. Plan for the weather and dress appropriately.

A Scout Leaves No Trace. Scouts should plan to carry their refuse with them and dispose of it properly.

Schedule a Visit

The sites below are listed in the order in which you will see them on your historic hike from Elizabeth to Union. All are open to the public. Take a few minutes before your hike to contact them and arrange a visit while your troop or crew is hiking The Victory Trail.

Boxwood Hall has a very rich history that connects it with an early mayor of Elizabethtown, a president of the Continental Congress, the first President of the United States, the first Secretary of the Treasury, and three signers of the United States Constitution. Boxwood Hall is listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark property. Boxwood Hall is open to the public Monday through Friday 9 am to noon and 1pm to 5pm and will open for Scouts on Saturdays upon advanced request, staff availability permitting. Visitors should call ahead to confirm hours and availability of a guide. Admission is free. **(908) 282-7617**

Liberty Hall was originally a 14-room house built in 1772. Today it is a 50-room mansion that has served as a home to both the Livingston and Kean families. Historical figures Alexander Hamilton, George Washington, Martha Washington, Lewis Morris and more have all visited. **(908) 527-0400**



VICTORY TRAIL QUESTIONNAIRE

3 Mile Historic Walking Tour

NAME _____

UNIT _____

The hike leader should complete this form with the Scouts as you complete the walking tour. Follow the directions in italics carefully to get you from one historic site to the next. At each site, read the historical information and answer the question. The questionnaire will be turned to Patriots' Path Council along with the other forms included in this packet.

This trail will follow part of the approximate route taken by the British Army as it marched through what is now Elizabeth, Roselle Park, Union and Springfield in its attempt to reach Morristown. You will also learn how the New Jersey Militiamen were successful in turning back the British invasion, saving the Colonies from certain defeat. Along the course of the trail you will also pass other sites of historic interest dating back to Colonial times.

The Victory Trail Walking Tour begins...

Start at the Minuteman statue in Union Square on Elizabeth Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ.

At dusk on the night of June 6, 1780 a very nervous American spy pulled a boat from the marsh reeds on the Staten Island shore opposite Elizabeth, New Jersey, and rowed carefully across the narrow Arthur Kill. A half hour later he handed his message to Colonel Elias Dayton, commander of the 250 regulars of the New Jersey Brigade who were guarding Elizabeth. What Colonel Dayton read made his flesh crawl. The British were preparing to invade New Jersey. An army of 5,000 men was moving across Staten Island at that very moment.

Five hours later Matthias Ogden and his men, crouched behind a roadside fence near here, heard the tramp of marching feet. Soon they saw a man on horseback, and behind him a mass of red coats-the British army. Ogden told his men to aim at the rider and whispered, "Fire." The 12 muskets erupted. Cries of pain and panic rose from the British ranks. Ogden and his men ran toward Broad Street, while return volleys of British musketry sent bullets whistling harmlessly through the night.

In Elizabeth, Colonel Dayton heard Ogden's report and ordered his son, Captain Jonathan Dayton, to ride for Morristown to warn George Washington. The British invasion could not have come at a worse time. In Morristown, the worst winter of the war had badly weakened the American army. Over 1,000



men had deserted rather than endure the near-starvation rations on which they had been forced to live. The main army had dwindled to less than 3,600 men. Then there was the New Jersey Militia, 16,000 part-time soldiers who were supposed to turn out in emergencies like this one. Would they? Colonel Dayton could only pray that they still supported the cause. Otherwise, there was little or no hope of stopping the British. By morning they could be over the Short Hills, within a few hours march of Morristown, where the American artillery and tons of ammunition could be captured easily. The Americans had no horses to move them. If Washington's out-numbered army was forced to flee, New Jersey might be knocked out of the war. Such a major defeat in the North could wreck the Revolution.

Colonel Dayton could not know that the Americans already had a great stroke of luck. One of the bullets fired by Ogden's men had crippled the general commanding the British advance guard, Brigadier Thomas Stirling, one of the toughest, most aggressive officers in the British army. Colonel Ludwig Von Wurmb, who replaced him, was more cautious. He decided to wait until dawn before advancing another step. Von Wurmb was especially anxious for the invasion to succeed because the man in command was, like him, a German. George III had hired over 25,000 German troops to fight beside his British regulars in America. The commander-in-chief of these German mercenaries was Lieutenant General Wilhelm von Knyphausen. Von Knyphausen hoped to win a quick easy victory that would make him conquering hero of the Revolution.

1. What is the Minuteman statue holding in his right hand? _____

Head northwest on Elizabeth Avenue (Centre Street should be on your left and Smith Street should be on your right). Cross over to the right side of the street at one of the intersections. Continue on Elizabeth Avenue, under Route 1. Turn right on Catherine Street. Turn left after one block onto East Jersey Street and cross to the opposite sidewalk. Continue along East Jersey Street.

The brick house on the left is the Belcher-Ogden Mansion. The mansion was built by John Ogden in the late 1600s. Governor Jonathan Belcher, a royal governor of the Province of New Jersey, resided in the house from 1751 to 1757, when he died. William Peartree Smith, a leader of the Revolution in New Jersey, resided next in the house. His daughter, Catherine, married Elisha Boudinot, brother of Elias Boudinot, president of the Continental Congress, in a gala ceremony in the house. Among the wedding guests were George Washington, Marquis de Lafayette, Alexander Hamilton, General Thaddeus Kosciusko, Aaron Burr and Governor William Livingston. Aaron Ogden, a descendent of John, resided in the house while he served as governor of the state. The wooden house on the right is the Bonnell House, which is presumed to be the oldest standing house in Elizabeth.

Read the historic marker in front of the Bonnell House without entering the gate.

2. When was the Bonnell House built? _____



Proceed up East Jersey Street to Boxwood Hall. Read the two plaques in front of Boxwood Hall. Visit Boxwood Hall if you made prior arrangements.

Boxwood Hall was the home of Elias Boudinot, president of the Continental Congress. Other historic information is contained on the two plaques out front.

3. When was Elias Boudinot president of the Continental Congress? _____

At Madison Avenue, cross East Jersey Street and East Scott Place into Scott Park.

This park originally had a pathway down the middle bordered by Boxwood trees, from which Boxwood Hall got its name. At the far end of the park, facing Elizabeth Avenue, was a two-story brick building. This building had the Elizabeth municipal offices on the second floor and was a produce market on the ground floor. The present city hall to the west of Scott Park was built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during the depression of the 1930s.

Proceed along Scott Park to Elizabeth Avenue. At the Vietnam Memorial Monument, cross Elizabeth Avenue and Bridge Street bridge over the Elizabeth River. Turn right through the park, heading toward the large brick building.

According to a carefully preserved family tradition, Andrew Hamton is said to have eloped from Scotland with Lady Margaret Cumins. He settled in Elizabethtown in 1696 and built a house at this site, which was enlarged in 1765. Following a fire, the house was largely rebuilt as a brick structure in 1817, on the east wall are three cornerstones. In 1749, the house and property were purchased by the trustees of St. John's Church on Broad Street to be used as a parsonage.

4. What is at the top of the flagpole? _____

Be sure to stay on the stone walkways. Do not walk on the grass. Go up to the front walk to Pearl Street, turn right and proceed on Pearl Street to Broad Street. Turn right onto Broad Street, go past the firehouse, and cross Broad Street at Elizabeth Avenue. Read the historic markers in front of the Elizabeth Public Library.

5. In what year did Washington stop here? _____

Cross Rahway Avenue to the courthouse. Proceed along Broad Street reading the signs in front of the courthouse as you pass.

6. When was the present courthouse built? _____



Stop at the First Presbyterian Church to read the plaques alongside the front door.

The Colonial pastor of this church, Reverend James Caldwell, played an important and heroic role in fighting off the British invasion, which this trail recounts. Many of the Elizabethtown Patriots are buried in the cemetery here, including Hannah Caldwell, wife of Reverend Caldwell, whose ghost has been seen recently. The steeple of this church burned off after being struck by lightning.

7. What year was the church burned by the British: _____

Continue along Broad Street, staying on the left-hand side.

The large church on the other side of the street, just past Caldwell Place, is St. John's Church, the parsonage of which you visited earlier. This church dates back to 1706. The present structure was built in 1859. During the Revolutionary War, the British used the original church as a barracks.

Continue along Broad Street. After going under the railroad arches, make the first left and then the first right. You should now be on Morris Avenue. Continue on Morris Avenue to the first entrance for Liberty Hall on the right side of the road across from Kean University. There will be a VICTORY TRAIL banner on the entrance fencing at the correct entrance. Visit Liberty Hall if you have made prior arrangements.

Your walking tour ends here, but the history of The Forgotten Victory of Springfield continues...

Thank you for participating in the reenactment of our nation's history! When your Cub Scouts become Scouts BSA, they can hike the 13-mile Victory Trail Historic Hike and learn more about the events of The Forgotten Victory of Springfield.

Excerpts taken from "The Battle We Never Knew We Won" by Thomas Fleming and reprinted with permission of the author, illustrator and Boys' Life, published by the Boy Scouts of America.



Cub Scout Advancement

The Victory Trail is a great place to work on Cub Scout advancement. Some of the suggestions below require work either before or after the experience. Other requirements can also be completed by inserting your own optional activities into the outing. Be sure to consult the Guide to Advancement for exact requirement details. <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>.

Tigers: Tigers in the Wild Adventures:

- 2** Go for a short hike with your den or family, and carry your own gear. Show you know how to get ready for this hike.
- 3 a** Listen while your leader reads the Outdoor Code. Talk about how you can be clean in your outdoor manners.
- 3 b** Listen while your leader reads the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids. Discuss why you should “Trash Your Trash.”
- 3 c** Apply the Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace Principles for Kids on your Tiger den and pack outings. After one outing, share what you did to demonstrate the principles you discussed.
- 4** While on the hike, find three different kinds of plants, animals, or signs that animals have been on the trail. List what you saw in your *Tiger Handbook*.
- 6** Find two different trees and two different types of plants that grow in your area. Write their names in your *Tiger Handbook*.
- 7** Visit a nearby nature center, zoo, or another outside place with your family or den. Learn more about two animals, and write down two interesting things about them in your *Tiger Handbook*.

Wolf: Call of the Wild Adventures

- 3** While on a den or family outing, identify four different types of animals. Explain how you identified them.
- 7 a** Recite the Outdoor Code with your leader
- 7 b** Recite the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids with your leader. Talk about how these principles support the Outdoor Code.

Wolf: Paws on the Path Adventures:

- 1** Show you are prepared to hike safely by putting together the Cub Scout Six Essentials to take along on your hike.
- 2** Tell what the buddy system is and why we always use it in Cub Scouts.
- 3** Describe what you should do if you get separated from your group while hiking.
- 4** Choose the appropriate clothing to wear on your hike based on the expected weather.
- 5** Before hiking, recite the Outdoor Code and the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids with your leader. After hiking, discuss how you showed respect for wildlife.
- 6** Go on a 1-mile hike with your den or family. Watch and record two interesting things that you’ve never seen before.
- 7** Name two birds, two insects, and two other animals that live in your area. Explain how you identified them.



Bear: Fur, Feathers, and Ferns

- 1** While hiking or walking for one mile, identify six signs that any mammals, birds, insects, reptiles, or plants are living nearby the place where you choose to hike.
- 3** Visit one of the following: zoo, wildlife refuge, nature center, aviary, game preserve, local conservation area, wildlife rescue group, or fish hatchery. Describe what you learned during your visit.
- 4** Observe wildlife from a distance. Describe what you saw.
- 5** Use a magnifying glass to examine plants more closely. Describe what you saw through the magnifying glass that you could not see without it.

Webelos: Webelos Walkabout

- 1** Create a hike plan.
- 2** Assemble a hiking first-aid kit.
- 3** Describe and identify from photos any poisonous plants and dangerous animals you might encounter on your hike.
- 4** Before your hike, plan and prepare a nutritious lunch. Enjoy it on your hike, and clean up afterward.
- 5** Recite the Outdoor Code and the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids from memory. Talk about how you can demonstrate them on your Webelos adventures.
- 6** With your Webelos den or with a family member, hike 3 miles (in the country, if possible).
- 7** Complete a service project on or near the hike location.
- 8** Perform one of the following leadership roles during your hike: trail leader, first-aid leader, lunch leader, or service project leader.

National Summertime Pack Award – If your hike is conducted during the summer months.

The pack can qualify for the certificate and streamer by planning and conducting three pack activities—one each in June, July, and August, or during other school vacations if your pack is in a year-round school.

Dens with an average attendance of at least half their members at the three summer pack events are eligible for a colorful den participation ribbon.

Scouts who participate in all three pack events are eligible to receive the National Summertime Pack Award pin, which they can wear on the right pocket flap of their uniform.

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33748.pdf>



Victory Trail Historic Trail Walking Tour Award-Cub Scouts

I certify that Cub Scout Pack _____ of the _____ Council has completed the Victory Trail Hike, and the Scouts and Scouters listed below have earned the Victory Trail Historic Trail Walking Tour Award.

The trail leader should mail the completed documents along with the application and the correct amount for the cost of the awards (\$10.00 per medal) with a check made out to Patriots' Path Council to:

**Victory Trail Walking Tour
Patriots' Path Council
1 Saddle Road
Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927
(973) 765-9322 ext. 253**

You are welcome to email the information to Brenda.Sonzogni@scouting.org (call with a credit card) or you may fax the information to: (973) 267-3406 (call with a credit card).

Scout Shop Code =160

I am enclosing \$_____ (\$10.00 per medal) along with the completed booklet and the program evaluation for each award needed.

_____ I will pick up awards from the Patriots' Path Council Service Center.

_____ Please mail the Victory Trail Awards to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Cub Scouts, Scouters and Family Members who have completed the requirements are:

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

Please write on the back if you need additional space.

