

# WINNEBAGO SCOUT RESERVATION HISTORIC TRAIL SOUTH TOUR

AN 8.5 OR 17.5-MILE HISTORIC HIKE FOR SCOUTS BSA



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
PATRIOTS' PATH COUNCIL

Cedar Knolls, New Jersey  
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The Winnebago Historic Trail for Scouts BSA Southern Tour is either an 8.5mile one-way hike or a 17.5-mile round-trip hike.

The one-way hike begins in camp, follows trails to Split Rock dam and furnaces, Beaver Pond Wildcat Ridge Visitors Center, Hawk Watch, St. Patrick's miner's cemetery and church and ends at the Bat Cave.

The round trip returns from the Bat Cave following the Farney Highlands, Wildcat Ridge and Four Birds Trail.

All units taking these hikes are required to check-in with the campmaster or ranger for instructions before starting on the trail. Guidebook and map are to be used by the hike-leader, but Scouts may record their own answers.





Nineteenth century iron miners entering the Hibernia mines on the "Underground Railroad". The railroad traveled one mile horizontally into the mountain.

## The Winnebago Scout Reservation BSA Historic Trail Southern Tour

**DESCRIPTION:** The Winnebago Scout Reservation Scouts BSA Historic Trails offer a walk back in time to an era when this area of New Jersey opened its natural wealth and beauty to early settlers. The Delaware Indians, the Lenni Lenape or "original people" were the first inhabitants of these lands. They showed settlers "succasunna" or "black stone"-the rock from which iron ore could be extracted. The hike passes remnants of the life and workings of this early manufacturing. Hawk Watch, overlooking the Rockaway Valley, offers panoramic views of the surrounding lands and the Manhattan skyline. The Four Birds Trail travels 19 miles from Hibernia to Route 23.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** This trail has been designed for the Scouts BSA program and may be hiked by similar community groups.

A group can hike the trail in one or two days. Minimum suggested age for hiking the trail is 11 years of age.

**SCOUT REQUIREMENTS:** All Scouts BSA MUST conform to all normal requirements set by the Boy Scouts of America governing hiking activities. Wearing a uniform is not required. Pencils and a compass are needed to fill out the questionnaire. A bag lunch, water canteens and waterproof boots are recommended.

**TRAIL REQUIREMENTS:** A donation of \$2 per booklet is suggested at the start of the hike to cover the cost of the trail package if you do not bring your own copy. For the Trail Award, there is a questionnaire with 23 informative fill-in questions. These are to be turned in to the group leader at the end of the trail in order to receive the award. Starting time is between 8 and 11:00 a.m. Units can select their own starting time but must report to the campmaster 30 minutes prior to this time. Scouts units from councils outside of Patriots' Path Council are required to have a valid Certificate of Accident



Insurance coverage provided by their home council. Hikers should wear shoes and clothing appropriate to a backwoods trail running through the Farny Highlands Trail Network. A marshy trail and several streams must be crossed. "Be Prepared"-waterproof boots or plastic bags to cover footwear are encouraged.

**TIME REQUIREMENTS:** The trail can be hiked year-round depending on weather and trail conditions. Depending on skill level, the hike is three to five hours each way.

**TRAIL AWARDS:** The Winnebago Scout Reservation Scouts BSA Historic Trail Award patch can be purchased at the Winnebago Scout Reservation Trading Post at the end of the hike.

**REGISTRATION:** Prior to hiking or camping, a day or weekend reservation for Winnebago Scout Reservation must be made with the Patriots' Path Council Service Center, 973-765-9322, ext. 225.

**OVERNIGHT CAMPING:** Tent sites, lean-tos and cabins are available for overnight camping at Winnebago Scout Reservation. Information regarding fees and reservations may be obtained from the Patriots' Path Council Service Center, 973-765-9322, ext. 225.



## **TRAIL GUIDE**

The Winnebago Scout Reservation Scouts BSA Historic Trail Southern Tour begins at the parade field opposite the “A” (Administration) building. Behind the fence is “Scouter’s Way” an area dedicated to adult leaders who worked tirelessly for Camp Watchung and all Scouts BSAs. The plaques were moved here when Camp Watchung closed.

**QUESTION 1.** Who was “Uncle Gus”?

**QUESTION 2.** What is the oldest date?

**QUESTION 3.** How many plaques honoring Scouters are there?

Native Americans, the Delaware, the Lenni Lanape were the original settlers of this area. History records artifacts discovered in Marcella, this section of Rockaway. Other Native American nations are also represented in camp. Check the map on side of the trading post.

**QUESTION 4:** Name the Native American nations represented in camp.

Walk south on the camp road, past the camping sites to the Searing Site. Here the road turns southwest. Pass the Corwin Training Center following the road to the old south entrance. This is Durham Road. Walk northwest on the road approximately 250 yards and look for stone foundations in the woods west of the road and parking lot. To the east is a road to a field.

**QUESTION 5:** Who lived in the structure on this stone foundation?

**QUESTION 6:** Name the field?

**QUESTION 7:** Camp Marcella is north. What is unique about this camp?

Turn around, pass the camp road and look for the **PURPLE TRAIL** to the southwest.  
**NOTE:** Marshy trail. BE PREPARED!

Alternate: further south, Durham Road will cross the Four Birds **WHITE TRAIL**.

Follow the **PURPLE TRAIL**. When it intersects with the **YELLOW TRAIL** you are outside a Cub Scout camp. The **YELLOW TRAIL** is part of its nature trail.



**NOTE:** This is an emergency stop; the trail west will bring you to the camp nature area and a freshwater well is below the dam of “Lake Good Turn”.

**QUESTION 8:** Name the Cub Scout camp.

Stay on the **PURPLE TRAIL** until you come to Split Rock Road. Walk south. Look for the **WHITE TRAIL** crossing. Continue downhill on Split Rock Road to Split Rock dam, which is crossed by a single lane road.

**CAUTION:** This is an active road. Cross single file, leaders front and rear. Do not climb fence. Measure the length of the dam as you cross. Look for the furnaces at the base of the dam. After crossing the dam, walk 25 yards to a path leading to the furnaces at the bottom of the spillway. **Please do not climb on the furnaces.**

**QUESTION 9:** Measure the length of the dam using Scouts BSA techniques.

**QUESTION 10:** Measure the height of the furnace using Scouts BSA techniques.

Follow the path west following the stream to the smaller furnace. Look for evidence of the iron ore extraction and smelting process in the rocks along the side of the stream.

Follow the stream south. Look for the **ORANGE TRAIL** crossing the stream. The first stream can be crossed on stepping-stones. Look for a Scouts BSA tree bridge to cross the second stream. Follow the **ORANGE TRAIL** to the **WHITE TRAIL**. Go south/west on the **WHITE TRAIL** a short distance to the **RED TRAIL**. Follow the **RED TRAIL** west. Pause for a compass reading when you get to a split rock marked on maps as Sandy's Rock or Little Split Rock.

**QUESTION 11:** Record the compass reading to the valley notch.

Continue on the **RED TRAIL** until you come to Beaver Pond. Explore the area. Note the fine gravel in the large field, the poles and the numerous beaver dens.

**QUESTION 12:** How many beaver dens are there?

Follow the **RED TRAIL** to its conclusion in the parking lot. Look south for evidence of a major complex of stone structures and to the north for a single foundation. The driveway north leads to the Wildcat Ridge Visitors Center. Sign the guest book. Maps and other literature are available.



**Note:** There is also a **port-a-potty** here.

**Question 13:** Identify these ruins.

Walk out to the main road, Upper Hibernia Road. Walk southwest on the road.

**CAUTION:** This is an active road. Look for structures in the woods. When you reach the parking lot on the west side of the road look for a large foundation. This was the shaft connecting with the main iron mine tunnel.

**QUESTION 14:** Identify the shaft.

To the south is the Flyway Spur, a maintenance road to the microwave tower and Hawk Watch. Follow the road and look for signs to the viewing platform. In autumn and spring this is a major north- south migratory bird route. The Four Birds Trail (**WHITE TRAIL**) is named in honor of birds observed in the area.

**QUESTION 15:** What are the three species of birds honored by Four Birds Trail?

**QUESTION 16:** Take compass readings for the following:

- George Washington Bridge
- The Tourne
- Graystone Fire Tower

**NOTE:** This is a perfect rest area and photo opportunity.

From Hawk Watch follow the **ORANGE TRAIL** to Upper Hibernia Road. (NOT SAME ORANGE TRAIL TO BEAVER POND) Along the path there is an iron spike rising four feet out of the ground. There are long trenches along the path, these are collapsed mine tunnels.

**QUESTION 17:** The iron spike is an indicator of what?

Continue southwest until it seems to end in a small dead-end. There is a cut-through a wall of mine slag to a continuation of the road. You will pass the **WHITE TRAIL**. One-quarter mile further on will be a road to the northwest. Follow it to the cemetery. Stroll and read the history. Please be respectful.

**QUESTION 18:** What is the cemetery's name?





Return to Upper Hibernia Road and continue southwest. Look for a cross on a tree to the south. On the slight knoll, in the trees, is the foundation of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church.

**QUESTION 19:** What is special about the shape of the church?

Follow Upper Hibernia road downhill. Watch for a sign to a path to the north and the Bat Cave viewing platform and entrance.

**QUESTION 20:** What is the home of the bats called?

**QUESTION 21:** Name one species of bats found in the iron mine.

**QUESTION 22:** What bat is credited with saving much of the area from development?

**QUESTION 23:** What was the original name of this mine?

For more iron-works foundations, follow the trail along the stream. Also look for the remains of the old bridge. Return to the main trail. The parking lot is the pick-up point for the one-way trail hike.

**ROUND-TRIP HIKERS.** Return to Camp Winnebago by way of the **WHITE TRAIL**. You will pass many of the sites and cross over trails from the one-way hike. The **WHITE TRAIL** crosses over Split Rock Road and follows the Split Rock Reservoir western shore. Take advantage of the numerous clearings and overlooks along the shoreline.

**NOTE:** Watch for **DURHAM ROAD**. To the south is a great view of Big Island in Split Rock Reservoir. To the north the road returns to Winnebago Scout Reservation.





## **TRAIL GUIDE HISTORIC INFORMATION**

**EARLIEST HISTORY** – The first people to live in this area were the Delaware Indians, the Lenni Lenape people. Most Lenape villages were located along the Delaware River, but trails passed through this area, which the Native Americans used to travel to the east for trade and for gathering shellfish near the mouth of the great Passaic River. What is now Route 46 was a major trail.

**WINNEBAGO HISTORY** - (*from: Winnebago Night Watch, Jeffrey Huppert*). Durham Pond was created to house a private estate though the plan was never finished. The lake's dam was at least partially created from iron mine slag, the rock left after the iron was removed for the ore. The first Scout camping occurred at Durham in 1916. A troop from Montclair came to camp for several weeks and set up camp at the south end of the pond near the dam. They were forced to leave after about a week because of a mix-up with the arrangements to use the property. The troop moved to Lake Ames in Hibernia. As was the practice in the earliest days of Scout camping, the Montclair troop brought all their own equipment, supplies and food. Scouts now call this "outpost camping". In the 1920's the camp was used for short- term weekend camping.

In 1940, Union Council, BSA started negotiations regarding a large tract of land in Marcella. The land was purchased in 1941 and by that summer the first troop camping occurred. Each campsite had a stove, an icebox, a latrine and running water from a driven well. The five campsites could handle 150 Scouts who cooked their own food, which was supplied at a cost of \$7.50 for the week.

The property was nearly three square miles and much of it was sold to create Camp Marcella, Camp Lewis, part of Farney State Park, and the north end of Split Rock Reservoir. Hiking and canoeing rights were retained for the north end of Split Rock.

The first section of camp to be developed was the south end. A dining hall, now called Corwin Training Center, was constructed as was a waterfront at the point of land now called Searing Site. By 1953 the road into the north end of camp was well established and most of the camp was operating at this end. It was the year that the name Camp Winnebago was selected. The Winnebago are a nation of Native Americans. The present-day dining hall was in use by this time and the Health Lodge was then what is now the Kiwanis Cabin. The trading post was in the Winter Lodge. The rifle and archery ranges were located below the dam on the trail to Split Rock Reservoir. In 1963, a small bank building from Linden was moved to camp and became the present-day trading post for summer camp.



In 1967 the Hayden Foundation donated \$150,000 to dredge and deepen the lake, which was becoming choked with weeds and less useful for swimming and boating. A dike was constructed across the marshy area at the north end of the lake and the dredge spoils placed behind it. The waterfront was now moved to its present location. In the 1980's the present parking lot was created and the old one converted to the parade field. In the 1980s and 1990s, many camp improvements were made, many of which were done by the Flintlocks, a group of retired Scouters. Many other improvements were carried out by a group of volunteers known as the Evergreen K. It was during these years that the Baden-Powell Lodge was restored for adult training purposes as well as troop cabin camping.

Camp Winnebago became Winnebago Scout Reservation in 1970 when a Frontier Camp for wilderness camping was opened on the east side of Durham Pond. The purpose of this site was to promote weeklong summer troop camping in the old Scouting tradition of troop cooking. Because of the multi-camp nature, the term "Scout reservation" was now used.

On August 3, 1991, Winnebago celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A patch, pin, and anniversary booklet were issued. In July 2001, a similar event celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with camp tours, a dinner, and a campfire. Staff tenure was recognized at the campfire and Rich Mager was found to have been on staff for 41 years and George Reinhard for 17 years.

**ZEK HOMESTEAD** – To the west of Durham Road and opposite the entrance to **Craig Field** is the old Zeek farm. Ida and Edith Zeek, two blind sisters who were noted for their large, carefully maintained vegetable garden, last occupied the farmhouse. Visitors were always welcome, unless you were a smoker. During the winter after the sisters had passed, the house burned but this was not discovered until spring.

**CAMP MARCELLA** – (from *The New Jersey Camp for Blind Children*, by Carl A Sokoll). Camp Marcella is the only summer camp for **blind or visually impaired children** ages 6-16 serving all of New Jersey. The camp is a state approved project of the N.J. Lions Multiple District 16. First opened in 1947, the camp "is a place where lasting friendships are formed, potentials are realized and summer memories are made. Slowly, 'that world beyond their fingertips' is a bit more understandable and livable." The camp is located on 193 acres with facilities for 100 campers, a library furnished with Braille reading materials, bowling alley, seven camper cabins, a heated pool and Little Mitten Lake.

**CAMP LEWIS** – (from a *History of Camp Lewis*, by Wes Kapec) Camp Lewis is named in memory of Lewis Rosenthal, the deceased son of the late Ida and William Rosenthal, the



founders of the Maidenform Corporation. Lewis was born in 1907 and died in 1930. The original Camp Lewis was on the Musconetcong River east of Phillipsburg. The Union Council BSA donated 189.464 acres for the new camp on December 30, 1943, for the sum of \$1. Exxon Refinery has been a major contributor in the creation of facilities including Lake Good Turn, the athletic field and Tiger Villa named after the advertising slogan, "Put a Tiger in Your Tank."

**SPLIT ROCK FURNACE** – This furnace was constructed in 1861, during the Civil War, by Andrew Cobb. It was the last of its kind built in Morris County and represents the end of the era of charcoal furnaces. The furnace has been declared a historical site and is listed on the State and National Registers of Historical Sites. There are three distinct ruins left standing on the site: the blast or smelting furnace, a smaller casting furnace for the molding of pig- iron into products desired for trade and a crushing mill for the breaking-up of the charcoal and ore into manageable pieces.

Around 1793, Ebenezer Ferrand constructed the first crude furnace and other buildings that were already in ruins when the property conveyed to Cobb.

**BEAVER POND FOUNDATIONS** - Beaver Pond itself was formed in an attempt to dig new iron-mine shafts, but the pumps could not keep water out and eventually the mine was abandoned. The gravel around Beaver Pond was crushed and shipped in from Mt. Hope. Later, the coal ash and gravel were used for building roads. The foundations to the south of the Beaver Pond trailhead are thought to be **powerhouses and the surface structures over shaft 12**. Coal was brought in and burned for power. The single foundation across the trail may have been a miner's dressing building.

**HAWK WATCH PARKING FOUNDATIONS** – (from *Abandoned Iron Mines of Jefferson & Rockaway Townships*, 1992, Div. Of Labor, Mine Safety Section). To the west of the Wildcat Ridge parking are foundations from the surface structures over **shaft 11** of the Oreland Mine, along with shafts 9,10, and 12. The No. 10 shaft was the location where an unsuccessful attempt was made in 1964 to recover a stolen car that was dumped in the opening.

**HAWK WATCH ROAD FOUNDATIONS** - Prior to Beaver Pond there was no water in Upper Hibernia, so a reservoir building was built on the top of the hill. The foundations are in the woods to the southwest as you climb to Hawk Watch. Some residents say dynamite was stored either in the second floor of the reservoir or the next building. Oldtimers refer to this area as Dynamite Hill.



**HAWKWATCH** - (from *Morris Land Conservancy: WILDCAT RIDGE HAWKWATCH*). The Wildcat Ridge Hawkwatch takes place on a rocky ledge surrounded by Wildcat Ridge Wildlife Management Area, managed by the N.J. Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife. The site lies in the Fanny Highlands, a 35,000-acre watershed that provides drinking water for 3 million New Jersey residents and is home to 900 species of plants and animals, including 71 rare species. Hikers can reach the site from the FOUR BIRDS TRAIL of the Fanny Highlands Trail Network, a 37-mile hiking system established in 1996. One trail volunteer noted a recurring pattern on his wildlife observations that matched three biotic communities found along the trail. In the oak-hardwood forests “he saw **North American wild turkeys** on the exposed cliff regions; he observed **red-tailed hawks**; and the **great blue heron** inhabited the wetlands.” Since 1987, volunteers have counted as many as 18,000 raptors during the fall and 3,000 in the spring. On the return trail to the parking lot, there is a steel spike **boundary marker** in the woods.

**ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH** - In 1865, the Catholic Church built St. Patrick’s Church in Upper Hibernia. The old wooden church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Boonton, was dismantled and moved here by wagon. The church was reconstructed on a lot of less than an acre, purchased for 5 cents. The building was refashioned from a rectangular shape to a **cruciform structure**. On July 24, 1910, the church burned down, less than an hour after Father Zarek’s afternoon Slovak service. The church, which accommodated 450, was destroyed in less than an hour. The fire was attributed to a poorly tended potbelly stove. However, a local historian theorizes that arson may have been the cause for this summertime tragedy. There was a great deal of union upheaval at this time, and many area structures connected with mines burned in a three year period.

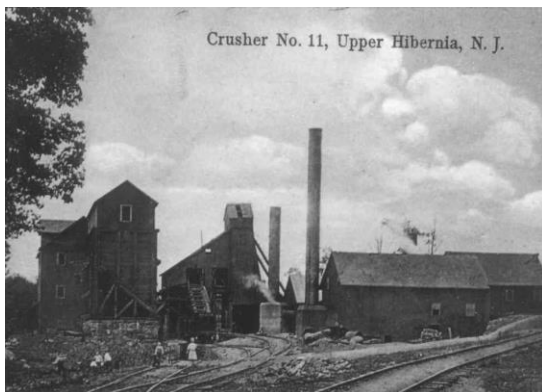
**ST. PATRICK’S CEMETERY** was established in 1869. While there are no plot records, 444 names have been compiled. Less than 75 stone markers remain to mark the graves. Vandalism, the elements, and the fact that some graves were marked with wooden crosses or not at all, account for this small number. The early parishioners were primarily Irish and can be found in the front of the cemetery. Later, Hungarians and Austro/Hungarians (Czechoslovakians) were buried in the lower part of the cemetery. The last burial was in 1951. Ancestors of Bishop Frank Rodimer of the Diocese of Paterson are buried here. St. Bernard’s Church from the Mt. Hope Section of Rockaway is the caretaker, working with local organizations. Boy Scout Troop 165 from Marcella conducts an annual cleanup.

**THE BAT CAVE** – The Hibernia Mine was first worked as early as 1722. The Adventure Furnace, later to be called the Hibernia Furnace, supplied shot and ordnance for the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. For nearly two centuries, a series of mines and trenches, collectively known as the Hibernia Mine produced over 5 million tons of magnetite ore. During the mine’s long history, a total of 12 vertical shafts would



eventually be sunk, two to depths of 1,600 and 2,800 feet. The deeper shafts provided as many as 26 underground working levels. In 1873, a tunnel was driven for 2,500 feet along the ore shoot to drain the upper workings. This was the **Lower Wood Mine**. An underground railroad ran 1 mile into the mountain. The miners could ride the train into work in the morning, but it was filled with iron ore in the evening. During WW II the mine was prepared as an air raid shelter. At one time, a family from Pennsylvania attempted mushroom growing. The entrance to the tunnel still exists and is today known as the Bat Cave. The mine is New Jersey's largest **hibernacula**, home to some 30,000 bats among them the Northern Long-eared, Little Brown, Big Brown, Eastern Pipistrelle, Eastern Small-toothed and the **Indiana Brown Bat, an endangered species**. Federal wetland and endangered species regulations stalled development of this area in the early 1970s. The mine was closed in 1905, opened again in 1908, and finally abandoned in 1913. Extensive closure and rectification work was completed during 1989.

**HIBERNIA** – On the west side of Green Pond Road you can see the Methodist/Episcopal Church, which was built by the original company for the miners. To the northwest of the church (today Library/Health Clinic) is New Road where you can find the original well building and original miners' homes. The homes were two-family, without heat, water or electricity, and cost \$6 a month. The rent was deducted from the miners' pay.



Only ruins remain of the industrial complex at Oreland (Upper Hibernia), once Joseph Wharton's pride. Crusher No. 11 was the heart of the enterprise.





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Panoramic view of Navy Hill with fires still burning. Lake Picatinny in foreground along with the powerhouse

Kelly Row, Upper Hibernia, New Jersey was named for mine owner Joseph Wharton's trusted manager.



The "Hibernia Elevated" dominated the landscape in 1898. The relative importance of Green Pond Road and the railroad is shown by the way the road has to snake between the piers to find a path through Hibernia. The Hibernia general store, one of the few landmarks that survived into recent times, is the white building behind the trestle.

Hibernia before 1907. Elevated trestle in background, mine workers' houses are prominent in foreground. The Methodist Church is middle right



Camp Winnebago  
The Boy Scout Historic Trail (Southern Tour)  
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**Winnebago Scout Reservation BSA Historic Trail Southern Tour Answer Sheet**

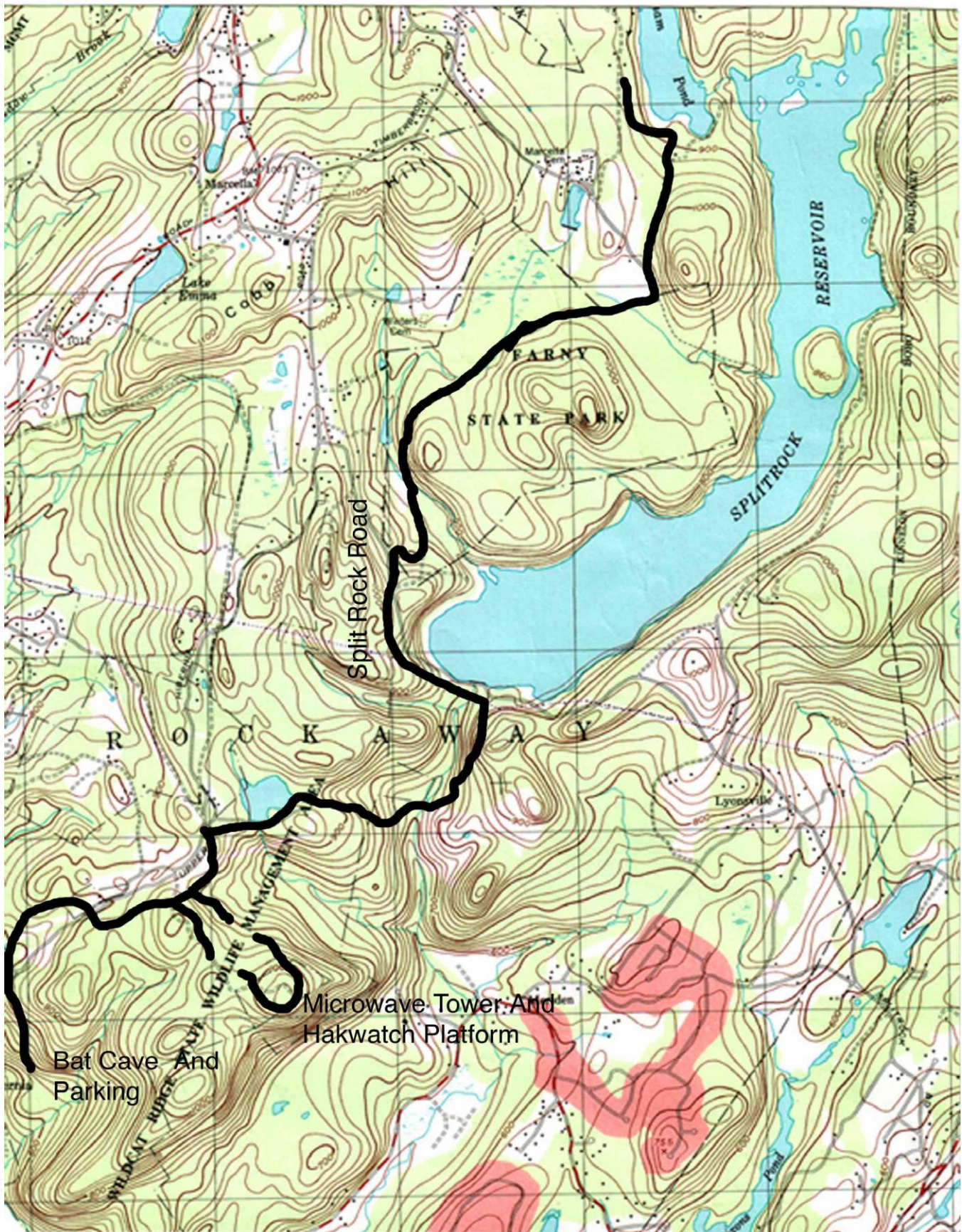
The trail questions can be found in the trail guide. The trail guide must be followed closely, both to show you the trail and where to find the answers to the questions. YOU WILL NEED A COMPASS AND PENCIL. Fill in your answers in the following blank lines.

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