

# JOCKEY HOLLOW TRAIL

**A 10-MILE HISTORIC HIKE FOR SCOUTS BSA**  
*Created in 1962 by Boy Scout Troops 25 and 27 of Madison, NJ*



**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®**  
**PATRIOTS' PATH COUNCIL**

Cedar Knolls, New Jersey

[www.ppcbsa.org](http://www.ppcbsa.org)



## The Jockey Hollow Encampment December 1779-May 1780

“It was December 1779. Having lost most of New England, and one of their armies surrendered at Saratoga, the British moved the war south. However, the redcoats still held New York City, and General Washington must keep a watchful eye on those rascals. He needed a safe place to winter the Continental Army and maintain that watch!

After conferring with General Nathaniel Greene, the army’s quartermaster, General Washington ordered his army to march for Morristown. Referred to as the Military Capitol of the Revolution, vital storehouses and bake ovens were located there. Also, the area offered enough space, trees and water to support the 10,000-11,000 soldiers soon to arrive. The main army would camp at Jockey Hollow, an area of farms some five miles south of town. Nine brigades, comprising troops from several states, like Maryland, Pennsylvania and Connecticut, would call it home for the next six months. The New Jersey Brigade, the last unit in, camped two miles further south. General Henry Knox and his artillery units set up camp closer to Morristown.

Huts sites were located along the sloping hillsides in Jockey Hollow. Each brigade was allotted an area 320 yards long by 100 yards deep. The quartermasters laid out a uniform plan: eight huts per row, with three to four rows, for the enlisted men. Officers’ huts were spaced behind and uphill, with wide streets between. During the two months it took to build the 1,000-1,200 huts, the army slept in tents. As schoolmaster Ebenezer Fitch called it, the soldiers built ‘a log house city.’

Unfortunately for the soldiers and Morristown’s citizens, they experienced the worst winter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The horrendous weather, combined with a worthless currency, meant vital supplies were often not available. Soldiers lacked proper clothing, sufficient food, and the pay promised them. Over 1,000 men deserted the army, while others stole what they desperately needed. Maintaining discipline was a constant problem for General Washington. During that hard winter of 1779-1780, the army’s battle against the British had been temporarily replaced by a battle for survival. That his army endured these hardships can be attributed to General Washington’s determination to overcome those obstacles, keep the Continental Army united, and the cause for Independence alive.

The Ford Mansion, in Morristown, served as General Washington’s headquarters. Assisted by his aides, including Alexander Hamilton and Tench Tilghman, Washington worked many winter months deciding the army’s strategies for the 1780 campaigns. Fortunately, in April, ministers of France and Spain arrived to reaffirm their countries’ commitments to the American fight for freedom. In May, General Lafayette, returned from his diplomatic mission to France. His news: King Louis would send warships and 6,000 soldiers to support the Continental Army! With this vital help, General Washington might achieve what he long sought to date: victory!”

Written by and used with permission from National Park Ranger Kevin Hanley, July 2013.



## **A History of Scouting in Jockey Hollow**

Fred Bruehne and Warren Wheeler of Troop 25 and Troop 27 in Madison, New Jersey put together the first Jockey Hollow Trail, in 1960 as a 17-mile overnight hiking and camping event. The Arrowmen of the Allemakewink Lodge of the Order of the Arrow helped to maintain the trail and it was officially opened in May 1962. Some of the original trail markers can be seen on trees along the trail.

The idea was that Scouts from New York and Newark and Jersey City, New Jersey could hike and camp along the trail as a weekend adventure. They could travel by train to Peapack on a Friday and hike to the then Schiff Scout Reservation by dinnertime and camp overnight. The next day they would hike to Jockey Hollow and set up camp at the Grand Parade. On Sunday they would hike to Morristown to visit the Ford Museum - Washington's Headquarters, returning home by train in time for dinner. Scout troops would also hike the entire trail in one day to earn the Hiking merit badge.

The legacy of the Jockey Hollow Trail teaches Scouts about the history of Morristown during the Revolutionary War and the hardships the soldiers endured during the harsh winter of 1779-1780.

## **Before You Begin Your Hike**

A Scout is courteous. Call the ranger at the Visitor Center at 973-543-4030 or 973-539-2016, ext. 210, before you schedule your hike to assure there are no other events scheduled that will interfere with your ability to complete the hike. Part of the Jockey Hollow Trail 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 10-mile hike makes a Scout hungry. Bring a compass as well. Plan for the weather and dress appropriately.

A Scout Leaves No Trace. Food is not permitted in the Visitor Center but is allowed in open fields. Scouts will need to carry out anything they bring with them.

The Jockey Hollow National Park is free for all ages.

The Ford Mansion Washington's Headquarters Fees: \$7 per person ages 16 and up, 15 and under-free (No group discount. Annual passes are available for \$30.00 per person).



## Park Regulations

All paleontological, natural and historical resources are protected. Special activities and groups may need permits. Contact a ranger at the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center at 973-543-4030 or 973-539-2016, ext. 210, for more information.

- The use of bicycles on hiking trails is prohibited. Bikes are allowed on paved roads.
- Driving or parking outside of established roads and parking areas is prohibited
- The use of roller skates, skateboards, roller skis, in-line skates and similar devices is prohibited.
- Open flame fires are prohibited.
- Pets must be kept on a six-foot leash at all times while visiting any area of the park. Pets are not permitted in park buildings. Pets also may not be left unattended while their owners explore the park. You are required to clean up after your pet.
- Use of metal detectors or digging to retrieve any object is prohibited
- Feeding of, or harassing any wildlife is prohibited.
- Gathering of plants, wood, pine cones, rocks, and artifacts of any kind is prohibited.
- Gathering of flowers, nuts and fruits, for other than limited personal use is prohibited.
- Operating drones is prohibited.

## Camping

1. Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation or Winnebago Scout Reservation are the best choices; about 30-minute drive from Jockey Hollow. Camp reservations: To do electronically go to [ppcbsa.org/camping](http://ppcbsa.org/camping), look for weekend camping. If you need assistance contact Richard Hawkins at (973) 765-9322, ext. 225 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
2. Lewis Morris Group Campsites are available through Morris County Park Commission for Scouts and other organized groups only. Reservations: (973) 326-7631. There are three sites accommodating 40 people each; platforms for tents, fire ring, tables at each site; communal water pump and port-a-john. Call for availability.
3. Watchung Reservation in New Providence and Berkeley Heights has a designated Scout area with campsites, amphitheater and fire ring. Reservations: 908-527-4900, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
4. Schiff Nature Preserve in Mendham was dedicated by the BSA as Schiff Scout Reservation in 1933 and served the BSA for nearly 50 years. It was the BSA National Training Camp and served as the Boy Scouts' Service Camp for the 1939-40 New York World's Fair. Schiff Scout Reservation was part of the original 17-mile Jockey Hollow Historic Hike developed in 1960. Now owned by The Schiff Natural Lands Trust, it has maintained ties to Scouting through Eagle Scout projects, conservation programs and camping. If you are interested in overnight camping, please contact [info@schiffnaturepreserve.org](mailto:info@schiffnaturepreserve.org).



## Jockey Hollow Trail Hike Plan

Visitor Center - Movie and reconstructed soldier hut display	15 minutes
Wick Farmhouse - Garden, farmhouse and demonstrations	15 minutes

Hike	Miles	Kilometers	Time
Wick House to New Jersey Brigade	3.0	4.9	50 minutes
New Jersey Brigade to Stark's Brigade	4.2	6.7	75 minutes
Stark's Brigade to Soldier Huts	1.8	2.9	30 minutes
<u>Soldier Huts to Visitor Center</u>	<u>1.2</u>	<u>1.9</u>	<u>20 Minutes</u>
Total	10.2	16.4	205 minutes

## The Visitor Center and Wick House

As you arrive at the Visitor Center let the park ranger know you will be hiking the Jockey Hollow Trail for Scouts BSA. Have your Jockey Hollow Trail Award application stamped at the front desk. While in the Visitor's Center, Scouts will watch the movie, "Morristown, Where America Survives." Be sure to take a close look at the reconstructed soldier hut. The panoramic painting of the encampment will give you an idea of the general route you will be taking for the hike.

Leaving the Visitor Center, head towards the Wick Farmhouse. The Wick House was refurbished by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1934 to reflect its original historic appearance of winter of 1779-1780, when the Commander of the Pennsylvania Line General St. Clair made his headquarters there while living with the Wick family (Mary age 61, and daughter Temperance, age 21). Henry Wick, age 72, was serving as a volunteer with the Morris County Cavalry during this time. The NPS ranger in colonial costume will explain the events that took place on this site. Before you leave the Wick House grounds, enjoy the garden with its well-kept variety of fruits, vegetables, herbs and plants that were used for medicines, dyes, seasonings, polishes and cleansers. Most of what you see today are the same items grown by the Wicks.

## The Jersey Brigade

Follow the Old Road along the split rail fence until you reach the paved Jockey Hollow Road. Turn left and go part of the way up the hill to visit the grave of Captain Bettin who was accidentally killed during the mutiny of the Pennsylvania line. Return to the Old Road keeping an eye out for the Patriots' Path trail marker where you will turn right onto the New Jersey Brigade Trail. After crossing a brook, you will climb a small hill before descending into the valley of the Passaic River. On the other side of the bridge, follow the trail downstream until just past the ledge above where the river takes a sharp left turn. You will leave the river here, taking the trail to the right, following a long heap of stones.

You are now on the Audubon Society's property. Turn right on the Dogwood Trail and climb the long hill where the trail splits. A sign, Cross Estate NPS, will direct to the right, over the crest and down into the valley of the Indian Grave Brook. At a pile of stones, turn left where the trail meets the Patriots' Path.



At the end of this trail is the winter encampment of the Jersey Brigade. Note the map-post number, turn left and head up the hill to two plaques that detail the Jersey Brigade's encampment at Jockey Hollow. Turn left at map-post 63 and go to the Jersey Brigade hut excavation sites. Follow the Patriots' Path back to the Old Road.

## **Stark's Brigade**

Continue past the Cross Estate. If you have time, explore the grounds and garden of the Cross Estate. Follow the Patriots' Path down to the bridge over the Passaic River. You will be back on the trail to the Old Road. General Hand's Brigade, a tough unit that had seen a lot of fighting, camped along the slopes above this road.

The trail heads down into the valley. Two Connecticut Brigades built log hut cities on the slopes to your left. Close to the bottom of the valley, the path will level out above the Primrose Brook for about three quarters of a mile. Cross over the brook and turn right onto the Old Camp Road that leads to the saddle between Tea Hill and Mount Kemble. At the crest of this hill, pass quietly; this is private property. Turn left into a pine grove and skirt the hillside to Stark's Brigade.

During the bitter winter of 1779, British General Clinton left New York under the command of General von Knyphausen. The harsh weather and the protective hills around Morristown worked in favor of Washington's Army, which was able to endure the winter encampment without attack.

Using a compass, you should be able to see New York City, due east. If the day is especially clear, you may be able to see the top of the Empire State Building. At 142 degrees you should see a water tower on the ridge of Watchung Mountain.

On top of the hill at 110 degrees was the South Mountain lookout where sentries watched for the British Army and their spies. Local militias set up signal posts on hilltops from Newburgh to Monmouth where huge smoky bonfires could be lit to send an alarm across the countryside. Stark's Brigade watched for these signals day and night. Smoke on the horizon meant trouble and word would reach General Washington as quickly as possible.

## **The Soldier Huts**

The Mt. Kemble Trail continues along the hillside, meeting a private driveway beyond a barrier-pole gate. Follow the driveway as bends behind its home and pick up the trail again at the next gate on the left. At the base of the hill make a left at the brook and walk down to Cat Swamp Pond. This is one of the sources of the Primrose Brook that supplied water to most of the troops camped in Jockey Hollow.

Take the trail on the right to the New York Brigade Comfort Station. Can you identify the trees that have been attacked by birds? Why are the other trees unharmed? Note the piles of rocks that were once chimneys.

Take a short walk down the road to the Grand Parade where the troops assembled every day and lined up for inspection. Officers checked to make sure their guns were working and that the soldiers had enough ammunition. Imagine this field being six times its size during the Revolution.



In this field soldiers who disobeyed their officers were possibly punished and deserters who were caught risked being hanged. However, General Washington did not like to give the harsher punishments because he felt the men were already suffering enough.

The trail over the hill can be difficult to see when there is snow on the ground. It could be even easier to miss the left hand turn halfway up the hill. Over the summit, just past a map post are the reconstructed soldier huts.

## **Back to the Visitor Center**

When you have finished exploring the soldier huts, head down the hill to the copse of cedar trees. Historians believe this is the site of the army's cemetery. Pick up the yellow trail that follows Cemetery Road back to the Wick Farm. Make sure you make the right turn after passing the spring and stay on the yellow trail.

You have completed the hike portion of your Jockey Hollow visit. If you have not already had the Trail Award sheet stamped in the Visitor Center, don't forget to have it stamped at the reception desk before you leave.

## **Washington's Headquarters at Ford Manor**

Jacob Ford-Jr. had already made a fortune in many ventures, including iron mines and forges, when he moved into his new mansion before the American Revolution took place. The Intolerable Acts imposed by the British Parliament required that he deliver most of his raw iron to London merchants. It was illegal for colonists to make steel goods for local markets. Ford and his father were popular local leaders. They and their neighbors shared the same support for the fight for independence, making General Washington especially comfortable in this patriotic community. Of greater interest was Ford's gunpowder mill, hidden below the mansion along the banks of the Whippany River.

Jacob Ford-Jr. died suddenly during the Continental Army's first winter encampment in Morristown in 1777-1778. He was buried with full military honors. When Washington brought his army back to Morristown for the winter of 1779-1780, Jacob's widow Theodosia Ford agreed to allow her home to be used for the general's headquarters. Theodosia and her four children remained in the house using only one room for themselves; they shared the kitchen with Washington's staff. The Ford Mansion became a key target for the British for the next six months.

The building and grounds were sold at auction in 1873, nearly 100 years after the encampment in Morristown and Jockey Hollow. Both were purchased by a group called the Washington Association of New Jersey and turned into a private museum. Sixty years later it became the first historical park in the United States in 1933.

Be sure to have your Jockey Hollow Trail Award application stamped before leaving.



## Jockey Hollow Trail Award Requirements

Revolutionary History Hunt (see below)	
Wick Farmhouse to Stark's Brigade to Soldier's Huts Loop (5.2 miles)	
Jersey Brigade Hike (5.0 miles)	
Visit Ford Mansion-Washington's Headquarters Museum (in Morristown)	
Essay, minimum of 250 words. "What part did Morristown and the Jockey Hollow area play in the American Revolution?" OR "Why did Washington select the Morristown area for his encampments?"	

### Revolutionary History Hunt

1	Approximately how many soldiers were encamped on Jockey Hollow during the winter of 1779-1780?	
2	Which Major-General lived in the Wick farmhouse during the hard winter?	
3	What is Captain Bettin's first name?	
4	What is the number on the map-post at the end of the Jersey Brigade Trail?	
5	Supply the missing word: "Stark's Brigade occupied this _____"	
6	Name an "exotic invasive" plant that is common in Jockey Hollow.	
7	How many bunks are in the soldiers' huts? How many bunks are in the officers' huts?	Soldiers: Officers:
8	Which state's troops lived where the soldiers' huts are?	
9	What park is adjacent to Jockey Hollow?	
10	What is the weight of the link of the chain that blocked the Hudson River at West Point?	
11	What is the true (non-magnetic) orientation of the Ford Mansion?	
12	How many of the Ford Mansion's rooms did General Washington's "family" occupy?	





## Rank Advancement on the Jockey Hollow Trail

### Tenderfoot

- 1 c. Tell how you practiced the Outdoor Code on a campout or outing.
- 5 a. Explain the importance of the Buddy System as it relates to your personal safety on outings and in your neighborhood. Use the Buddy System while on a troop or patrol outing.
- 5 b. Describe what to do if you become lost on a hike or campout.
- 5 c. Explain the rules of safe hiking, both on the highway and cross-country, during the day and night.

### Second Class

- 1 a. Since joining, participate in five separate troop/patrol activities, three of which include overnight camping. These five activities do not include troop or patrol meetings. On at least two of the three campouts, spend the night in a tent that you pitch or other structure that you help erect (such as a lean-to, snow cave or tepee).
- 1 b. Explain the principles of Leave No Trace and tell how you practiced them on a campout or outing. This outing must be different than the one used for Tenderfoot requirement 1 c.
- 3 a. Demonstrate how a compass works and how to orient a map. Use a map to point out and tell the meaning of five map symbols.
- 3 b. Using a compass and map together, take a 5-mile hike (or 10 miles by bike) approved by your leader and parent or guardian.
- 3 c. Describe some hazards or injuries that you might encounter on your hike and what you can do to help prevent them.
- 3 d. Demonstrate how to find directions during the day and at night without using a compass or electronic device.
- 4 Identify or show evidence of at least 10 kinds of wild animals (such as birds, mammals, reptiles, fish, or mollusks) found in your local area or camping location. You may show evidence by tracks, signs, or photographs you have taken.
- 6 c. Tell what you can do while on a campout or hike to prevent or reduce the occurrence of the injuries listed in Second Class requirements 6 a and 6 b.
- 6 d. Explain what to do in case of accidents that require emergency response in the home and backcountry. Explain what constitutes an emergency and what information you will need to provide to a responder.
- 9 a. Explain the three R's of personal safety and protection.

### First Class

- 1 a. Since joining, participate in 10 separate troop/patrol activities, six of which include overnight camping. These 10 activities do not include troop or patrol meetings. On at least five of the six campouts, spend the night in a tent that you pitch or other structure that you help erect (such as a lean-to, snow cave, or tepee).
- 1 b. Explain each of the principles of Tread Lightly! and tell how you practiced them on a campout or outing. This outing must be different from the ones used for Tenderfoot requirement 1 c and Second Class requirement 1 b.



## First Class-Continued

- 4 b. Demonstrate how to use a handheld GPS unit, GPS app on a smartphone, or other electronic navigation system. Use GPS to find your current location, a destination of your choice, and the route you will take to get there. Follow that route to arrive at your destination.
- 5 a. Identify or show evidence of at least 10 kinds of native plants found in your local area or campsite location. You may show evidence by identifying fallen leaves or fallen fruit that you find in the field, or as part of a collection you have made, or by photographs you have taken.
- 5 b. Identify two ways to obtain a weather forecast for an upcoming activity. Explain why weather forecasts are important when planning for an event.
- 5 c. Describe at least three natural indicators of impending hazardous weather, the potential dangerous events that might result from such weather conditions, and the appropriate actions to take.
- 5 d. Describe extreme weather conditions you might encounter in the outdoors in your local geographic area. Discuss how you would determine ahead of time the potential risk of these types of weather dangers, alternative planning considerations to avoid such risks, and how you would prepare for and respond to those weather conditions.
- 9 c. On a Scouting or family outing, take note of the trash and garbage you produce. Before your next similar outing, decide how you can reduce, recycle, or repurpose what you take on that outing, and then put those plans into action. Compare your results.



**Jockey Hollow Historic Trail Award-Scouts BSA**

I certify that Boy Scout Troop \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ Council has completed the Jockey Hollow Trail hike, and the Scouts and Scouters listed below have earned the Jockey Hollow Historic Trail Award.

The trail leader should mail the completed documents along with the application, the completed 250-word essay for each Scout, the correct amount for the cost of the awards (\$10 per medal) with a check made out to Patriots' Path Council to:

**Jockey Hollow Trail  
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](mailto: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 =159A**

**National Park Stamp-Jockey Hollow**

**National Park Stamp-Washington's Headquarters**

I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$10. per medal) along with an essay for each award needed.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Please mail the JHT Historic Awards to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Scouts and Scouters 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.





## National Park Service Resource Good Stewardship Scout Ranger Patch



**Calling all Scouts! Lend a hand and earn the Resource Stewardship Scout Ranger Patch.**

Scouts who participate in educational programs and or volunteer service projects at national park sites can:

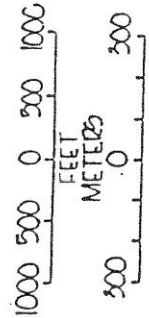
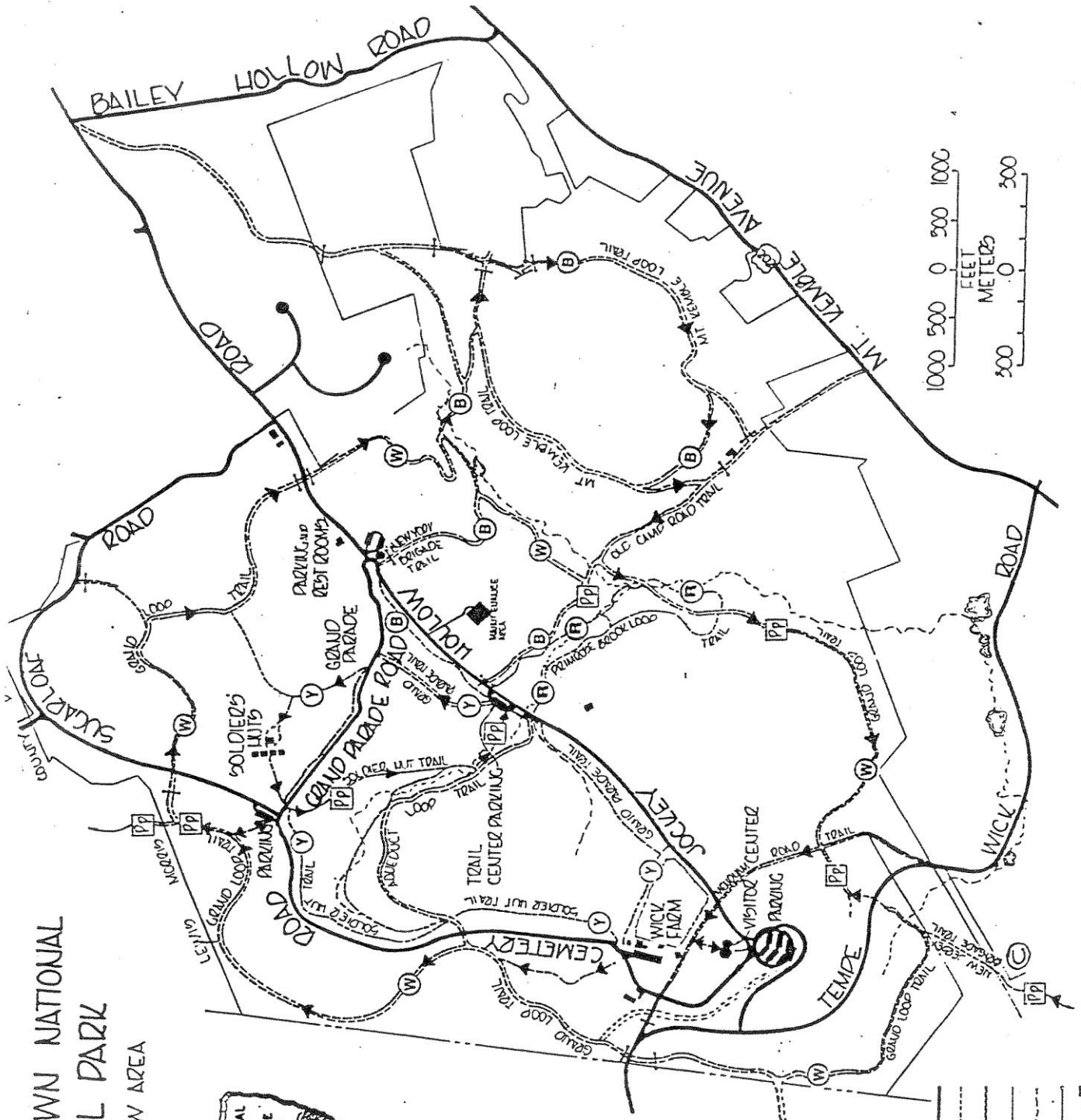
- Gain a better understanding of the National Park Service mission and conserving the nation's natural, cultural and historic resources.
- Explore the national parks.
- Practice good citizenship and kindness.

In recognition of your resource stewardship activities, Scouts are awarded patches for their participation.

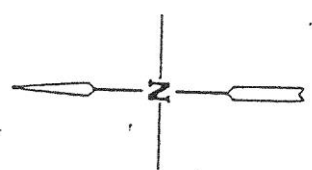
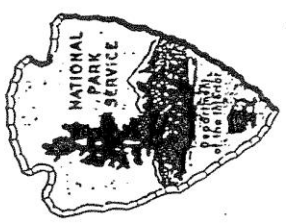
### Patch Requirements:

1. Take part in organized educational programs or volunteer service projects for a minimum of 10 hours at one or more national park sites.
2. Scouts will be awarded a patch upon reporting their completion of the program requirements to the park's volunteer program coordinator. <https://www.nps.gov/morr/learn/kidsyouth/boy-scouts.htm>
3. Scouts are encouraged to share their experience by sending an e-mail and photographs to [npsyouthprograms@nps.gov](mailto:npsyouthprograms@nps.gov)

Scouts are also encouraged to submit a short narrative to the BSA Good Turn certificate application to their local council. <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/GTFAapplication.pdf>



MORRISTOWN NATIONAL  
HISTORICAL PARK  
JOCKEY HOLLOW AREA



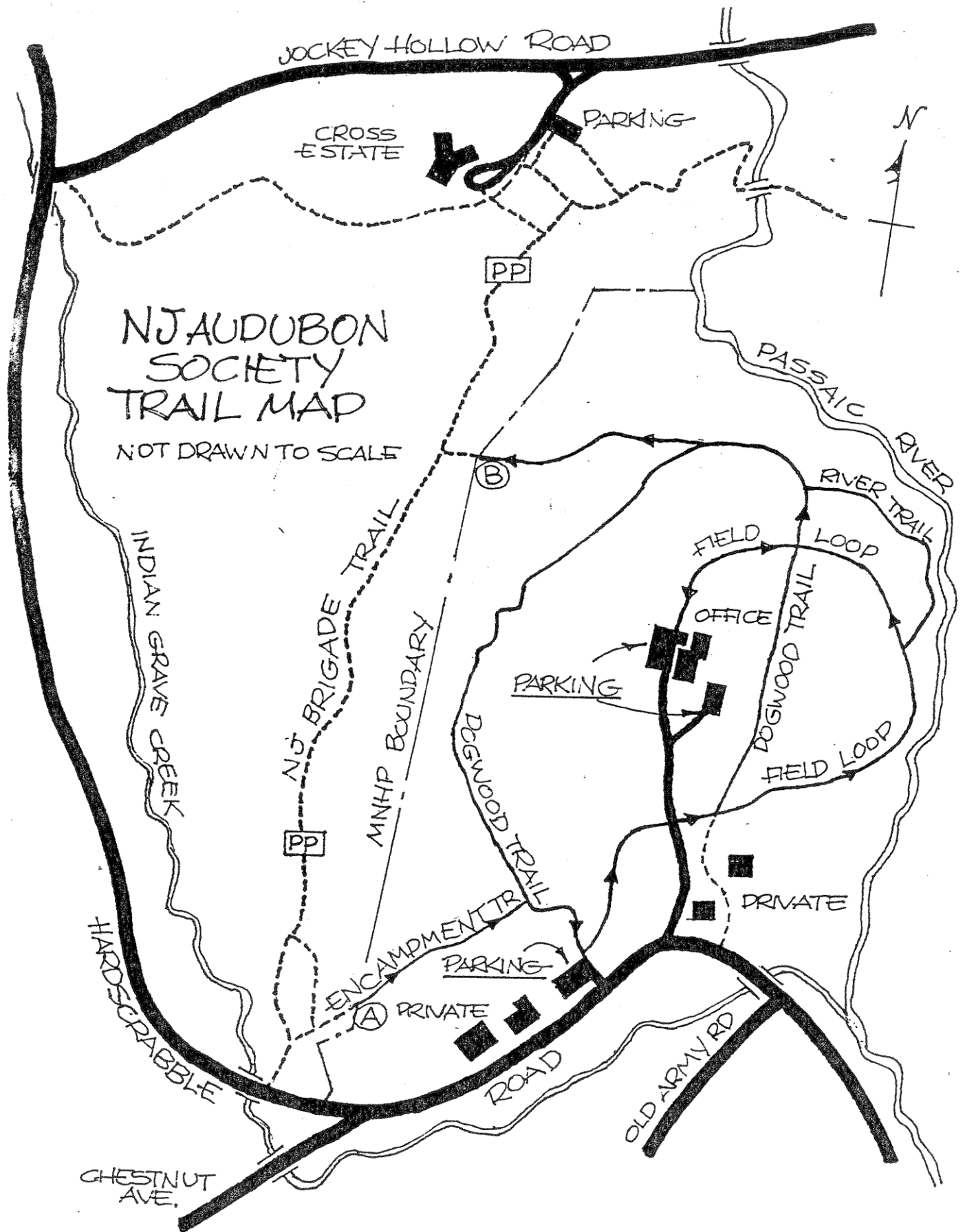
LEGEND

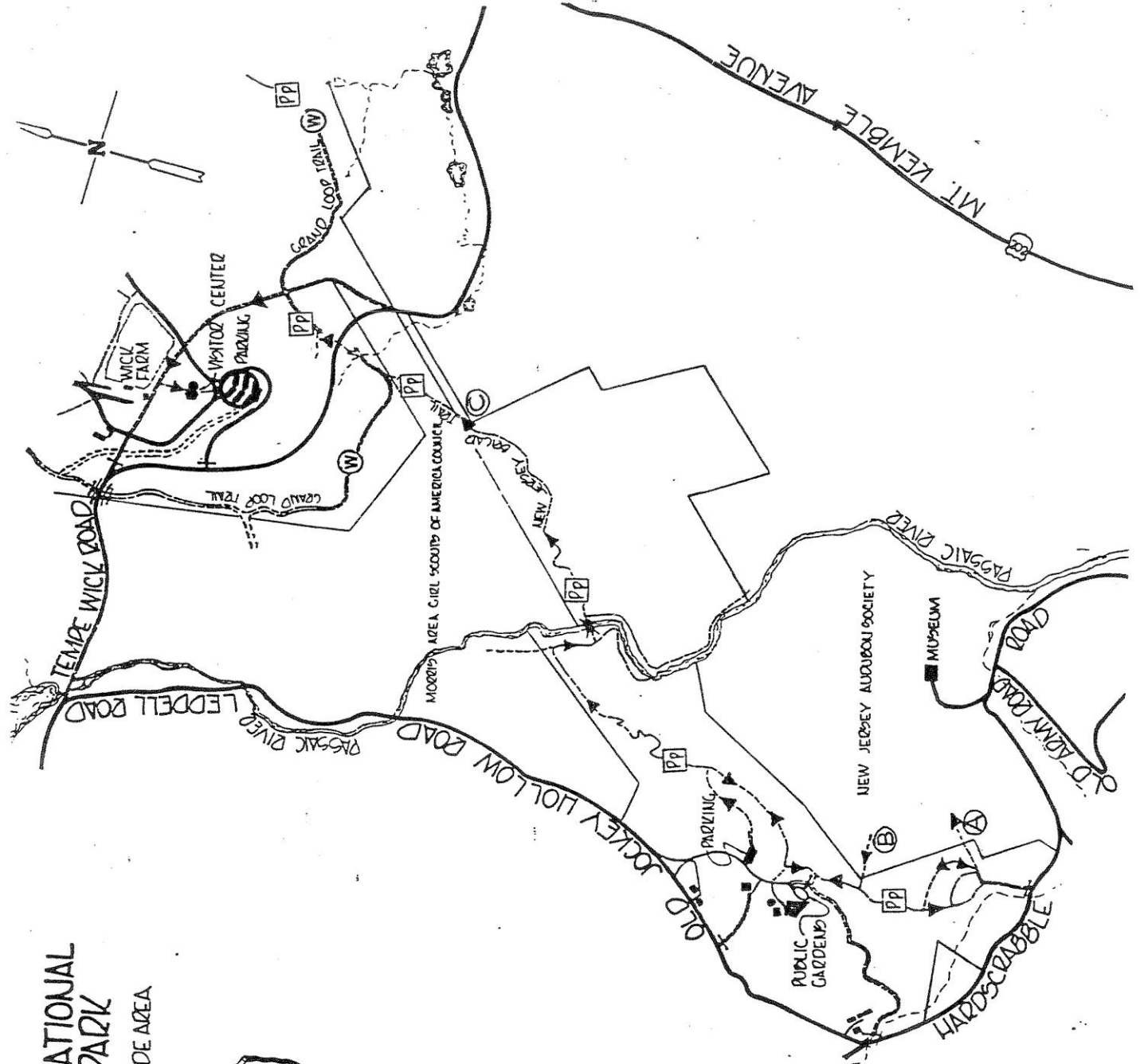
- BLAZED TRAIL
- RED (R)
- WHITE (W)
- YELLOW (Y)
- BLUE (B)
- PATRIOTS' PATH (PP)
- PAVED ROADWAY
- FOOT TRAIL ONLY
- FOOT/BIDLE TRAIL
- PARK BOUNDARY
- STREAM/WATERCOURSE
- GATE
- BUILDING/STRUCTURE



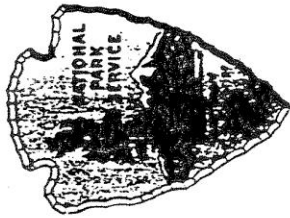
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

PATRIOTS' PATH COUNCIL





MORRISTOWN NATIONAL  
HISTORICAL PARK  
NEW JERSEY BRIGADE AREA



LEGEND

- BLAZED TRAIL
- WHITE (W)
- YELLOW (Y)
- BLUE (B)
- PATRIOT'S PATH (PP)
- PAVED ROADWAY
- FOOT TRAIL ONLY
- FOOT/BRIDLE TRAIL
- PARK BOUNDARY
- STREAM/WATERCOURSE
- GATE
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