

AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY TRAILS ORDER FORM

Council Name: _____

District: _____ Unit No#: _____

Leader's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

1777 Medals	@ \$10.00 ea.	=	\$ _____
1779 Medals	@ \$10.00 ea.	=	\$ _____
77/79 Patch	@ \$ 3.00 ea.	=	\$ _____
Shipping	@ 1.00 ea.	=	\$ _____
Total:			\$ _____

Historic Trails Patch #00188 is available at the Hudson Valley Scout Shop. (845-564-4210)

Please make check payable to Hudson Valley Council, 6 Jeanne Drive, Newburgh, NY 12550. Awards will be shipped to the Leader's address above.

All Boy and Girl Scouts and leaders that qualify for medals by hiking the trail must submit a note signed by an adult verifying completion of a trail service project.

Camping Guidelines

Camping is not permitted along the trails. Camp Bullowa (BSA) is the site of the American Army's rest stop before making their midnight assault on Stony Point. This camp can serve the same purpose for Boy Scout groups.

For More Information:

Boy Scouts of America, Hudson Valley Council
845-566-7300, Ext. 300
www.hudsonvalleyscouting.org

TRAIL INSTRUCTIONS

Scout leaders should see that their groups get pre-trip training in highway safety, first aid and hiking manners. Short conditioning hikes are also advisable. Units should not race but set the pace by their ability of their slower hikers, so that all can travel as a group during the entire hike.

Approach highway and parkway crossing with caution. Be advised that copperheads and rattlesnakes frequent the park, although they are rarely met on the hiking trails.

Each hiker should carry his own water supply. Untreated water from streams and lakes is not safe to drink.

Allow adequate hiking time (14 miles for 1779 trail, and 10 miles for 1777 trail), so that your group can also visit museums at Bear Mt. or Stony Point and enjoy other explorations.

Fires may not be built along the trails. Bring a bag lunch instead. Please carry out leftover food and containers. Take along a litter bag, or use your packs and pockets.

Help preserve our parklands and wildlife. Remember that others follow you. Always "Leave No Trace."

These trails are a joint project involving the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, Cooperative Extension, Hudson Valley Council, BSA and NY-NJ Trail Conference.

For trail awards, groups can start 1777 trail at pull off on route 9W seven tenths of a mile north of Hudson River power line tower. This avoids trail detour shown on map (Hike into History leaflet). Also, either fork, where British forces divided, can be hiked for awards.

1777 & 1779 REVOLUTIONARY TRAILS PROGRAMS



The American Revolutionary Trails follow the authentic routes of two military expeditions. One is the march of the British Army in 1777 from Stony Point to the attacks on Forts Clinton and Montgomery at Bear Mountain, N.Y. The other follows the American Army in 1779 from Bear Mountain to the battle of Stony Point.

Both trails cross ridges and valleys in the scenic Hudson Highlands. The routes are largely contained in Harriman-Bear Mountain State Parks, and offer some of the most accessible "wilderness" hiking in the northeast. This total package of history and physical challenge is ready made for the Scouting experience.

The trails are 10 & 14 miles long, and have museums, earthworks, and historical markers tracing troop and battlefield movements. As an added attraction, the Trailside Museum at Bear Mountain also has a memorial exhibit dedicated to one of the Scouting's founding fathers...Daniel Beard.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
HUDSON VALLEY COUNCIL

HIKE INTO HISTORY

1777

1779

Two important military marches of the American Revolution have been retraced thru Harriman-Bear Mountain State Parks for historic hiking by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission with the help of Cooperative Extension, Hudson Valley Council, BSA and the NY-NJ Trail Conference.

The events associated with these trails deal with the struggles of British and American forces to control the strategic Hudson Valley. One follows the march of the British Army to attack the forts at Bear Mountain (1777), and the other, the march of the American Army to the assault on Stony Point (1779).

Each trail is ideal for a day's walk, and has opportunities for circular hikes and spin-offs. As added attractions there are museums, redoubts, cannon and battlefield strategies to see and ponder at Bear Mountain and Stony Point State Parks.

This unusual combination of history and outdoor recreation is ready made for urban Americans... especially school, Scout and family groups seeking to celebrate the "Spirit of 1776" by Hiking into History.

The Scouts who hike either trail qualify for the Historic Trails Patch #00188 available at your local Scout Shop, or the 77/79 trail patch available only at the Hudson Valley Council Office.

To qualify for the medal Scouts must hike the trail and complete a six hour service project on the Trail.

To order awards, use the Order Form on the reverse side of the brochure.

With the outbreak of armed hostilities between America and Great Britain on April 19, 1775, the strategic importance of the Hudson River was quickly realized by both sides. For the British to control the river would mean the severing of New England from the rest of the Colonies and the disaster of the American cause. To prevent such an occurrence, Fort Clinton and Montgomery were constructed in the Hudson Highlands.

In 1777 the British planned to gain control of the river by having General Burgoyne drive south from Canada, Barry St. Leger east thru the Mohawk Valley, and Sir William Howe north from New York City.

Meanwhile, contrary to plans, General Howe sailed for Philadelphia leaving Sir Henry Clinton in command. On October 4th, Clinton sailed north, making a feint towards Peekskill on the 5th.

Hidden by fog on the 6th, the main force landed at Stony Point. They divided at Doodletown, one force going west around Bear Mountain to attack Fort Montgomery, the other north to Fort Clinton (named for the American Commander of the forts, Governor George Clinton of New York.)

After initial skirmishes in the afternoon, the British, with the aid of cannon fire from their ships, stormed and captured the forts.

The British force continued upriver and burned Kingston. Despite their brilliant maneuvers in the Highlands, they failed in their primary objectives of creating a diversion for their northern armies. St. Leger was defeated at Oriskany, and Burgoyne surrendered at Saratoga.

The storming of the British fortress at Stony Point by the American forces on July 15-16, 1779 was one of the Revolution's boldest adventures. It came at a time when the spirit of the Americans was at low ebb, and rallied their determination to be free.

After careful planning by George Washington, and with General "Mad" Anthony Wayne as their leader, the American Army assembled near the ruins of Fort Montgomery and marched westward thru the mountains to the Springsteel Farm where they waited for advance guards to prepare the way. Residents who might give the alarm were sequestered, and farm dogs were killed to prevent their barking.

General Wayne's battle plans called for three assault troops ... attacking from right, left and center. Musket fire by the center troops was to make the enemy believe that the main attack was coming from that direction. Meanwhile the other two forces were to storm thru the open flanks and take the fort at bayonet point. An officer and twenty men, known as the "forlorn hope," were sent ahead from both left and right columns to clear the way thru fallen trees and other obstructions.

The midnight attack went as planned and although General Wayne was slightly wounded, the fortification was taken after a brief but violent hand-to-hand struggle.

The British control of the Hudson River made the post difficult to maintain, so after all guns were removed to West Point, it was evacuated and destroyed by the Americans two days later.

For More Information contact:
Hudson Valley Council
Boy Scouts of America
845-566-7300, Ext. 300