

ABOUT THE TRAIL

The Blackhawk Trail is a 20-mile round trip along the east bank of Rock River from Camp Lowden to Lorado Taft's statue of Blackhawk in Lowden Memorial Park. The trail between Camp and Daysville crosses land that belongs to the family of former Governor Lowden, for whom the Camp, and Lowden State Park, is named. It follows an old Indian trail that was once a great highway for native hunters and travelers. Hike on Saturday only.

TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Blackhawk Area Council will send you two forms to be completed and returned. The "Application for the Blackhawk Trail Hike" is to be signed by your Unit Leader and Committee Chairman. If you wish to stay overnight at Camp Lowden, the "Application for Short Term Camp Reservation" also is to be completed and returned in entirety to Blackhawk Area council, BSA, Inc., 1800 Seventh Ave., P.O. Box 4085, Rockford, Illinois 61110. Since there is a great demand for this hike, it is wise to select a first, second and third choice of dates, and to apply well ahead of the time you wish to hike.

NATIONAL TOUR PERMIT

All units except those in Blackhawk Area Council are required to obtain a Tour Permit. If the distance is 500 miles or less, you may use a local Tour Permit. If the distance is more than 500 miles you must secure a National Tour Permit (Cat. No. 4419). Allow three to four weeks for your National Tour Permit to clear the Regional Office. **DO NOT COME WITHOUT YOUR TOUR PERMIT. WE CANNOT ACCEPT YOU UNLESS YOU HAVE IT!**

HOW TO GET TO CAMP LOWDEN

The road to Camp Lowden turns south from highway No. 64 about 3-10ths of a mile east of the bridge at Oregon, Illinois. From this point the road is well marked to the camp gate. (see hike map).

CAMPING

Camping reservation, fees and rules are found in Blackhawk Area Council Year-Round Outdoor Program Guide and on the reverse side of the Camping Reservation form.

FOOD

All cooking must be done outdoors. No meals are provided at Camp Lowden. Groceries may be purchased at Oregon. Lunch and water for the trail must be carried by the hikers.

TRADING POST

Camp Lowden maintains a Trading Post with Scout supplies and confections available. Leaders may also purchase trail patches and medals at the Trading post. Unit Leaders are to purchase trail patches for their units, after hike has been completed.

CONDUCT ON THE TRAIL

1. This trail runs through privately owned property, so it is essential that all hikers maintain a high standard of courtesy and friendly consideration for the property of others.

2. Leaders are in charge of their Scouts and are responsible for their behavior at all times. A Scouts rule should be, "This is a better cleaner trail because I passed here".

3. The group will remain together at all times with one leader at the front of the group and one leader at the rear. Large groups should be broken down into smaller units.

4. Hikers must walk single file facing traffic on all roadways and roads. Also safety vests will be provided. Vests must be turned in after hike.

5. Hikers must remain on the marked trail at all times except to summon aid in an emergency.

6. Rowdy behavior will not be tolerated on the trail or near homes. There will be no throwing of objects, harassing people or animals and no picking flowers or plants. Private and public property will be respected.

7. You may rest at Whirlpool Rock, but do not carve on it or throw anything from it. Be careful to stay away from the edge of the Rock and the edge of the trail near it.

8. There must be no smoking between Camp Lowden and Daysville.

9. If the group is instructed to leave the trail by a landowner, Sinnissippi employee, law officer or Scout personnel; the unit will leave the trail at the nearest exit to a public road and return to camp.

10. Any trail changes or incidents along the trail should be reported to the Ranger or Campmaster.

11. After completion of the trail the adult leader will report to the Ranger or Campmaster that his unit has returned to camp.

12. Do NOT approach electric fence or gates.

PREPARING SCOUTS FOR THE HIKE

It will be helpful if you review the "Handbook for Boys", with special attention to the care of the feet. Review the sections on the compass and map reading. Explain to hikers that all rules are rigidly enforced. There are no exceptions made for any reason.

If leaders will adhere to the above rules and suggestions, you may be sure the Blackhawk Trail Hike will be a highlight in the Scouting experience of your unit.

This is one of the great opportunities we have to get Scouts and Explorers "on their feet" — it is a valuable aid in your program of physical fitness — it is instrumental in developing Scouting skills — it is great fun for all who participate.

BLACKHAWK TRAIL HIKE REQUIREMENTS

1. This hike requires nine hours for completion. It must be completed during daylight hours. No unit will be allowed to start the trail later than nine hours before sunset.

2. Unit must be registered with Blackhawk Area Council Service Center prior to hike date and have forms in their possession.

3. All hikers must be a registered Scout, Explorer or Scouter.

4. As complete a uniform as possible must be worn by all hikers including leaders.

5. Fee for the hike is 50 cents per hiker.

6. All persons must receive a current briefing from the Ranger or Campmaster prior to hiking the trail. The briefing is required to review rules of conduct and current trail conditions.

7. Adequate adult trail supervision is required by all units. No group will be allowed to hike the trail without adult leaders. One adult should be with every 6 to 8 Scouts. These adults will be held responsible for the conduct and safety of the hikers.

8. No sheath knives or axes are allowed on the trail.

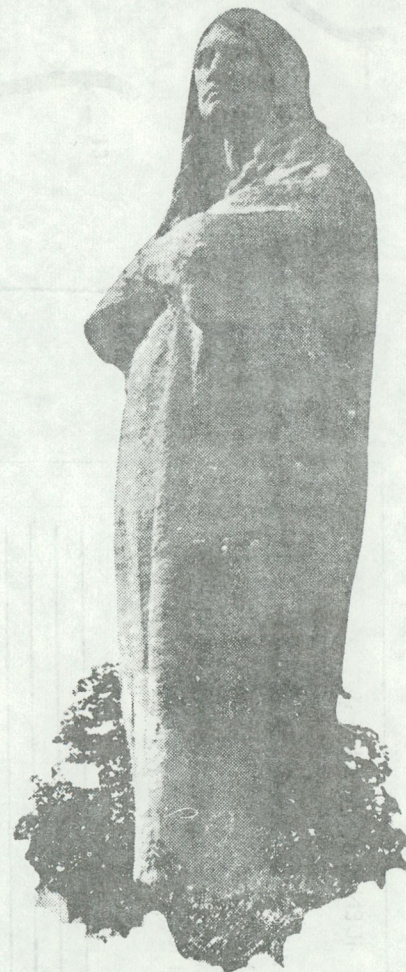
9. Hikers will be required to identify trees along the trail and complete a 250 word report on Blackhawk. Leaders will be responsible for the completion of these requirements.

10. The trail hike must begin and end at Camp Lowden. Units not camping at Camp Lowden must be transported to camp for the hike.

BLACKHAWK TRAIL HIKE

Camp Lowden

Oregon, Illinois



Blackhawk Area Council, Inc.
Boy Scouts of America
1800 Seventh Avenue
Rockford, Illinois - 61108
Phone: 815-397-0210

IDENTIFICATION TEST

Along the trail, numbers from one through 16 are marked with yellow paint and a yellow circle around them. All of these trees and other tests of observation should be identified either on the trail up or back. The approximate location of each number is marked on the map.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. (Not a tree) _____
16. _____

When you arrive at the statue, look for big sign on north side. With your back to the north end of the sign, take a compass reading of 350 degrees, pace off 205 feet and record the mark painted on the base of a large oak. Three other trees are marked but only the above described has the correct mark.

The complete trail is blazed with yellow spots and arrows. Necessary equipment: compass, pencil, copy of map.

This Hike is not a Speed Test - - - Take your Time and Observe.

Name.....Unit.....

Town.....State.....

One and one-half miles from starting point, the trail detours past a High Voltage Electric Fence for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. DO NOT APPROACH OR TOUCH FENCE OR GATE. Observe all warning signs and trail markers.

KEY (LEGEND)

- XXXXXX BLACKHAWK TRAIL
- PRIVATE ROAD
- LANDMARK
- +++++ RAILROAD
- ===== STATE HIGHWAY

CASTLE ROCK

ELECTRIC FENCE

PRIVATE ROAD

ROCK RIVER

1 1/2 MILES GRAVEL ROAD

PARKING LOT

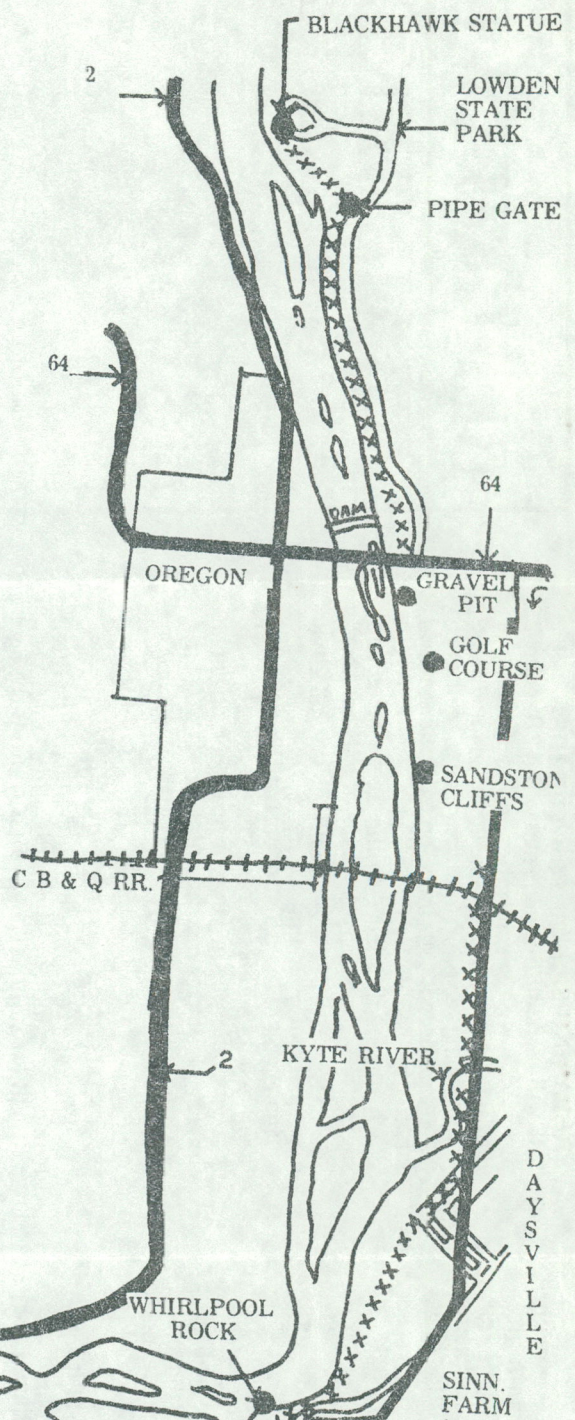
LOG CABIN

WATERFRONT

ENTRANCE TO CAMP LOWDEN

Blackhawk Trail Map

(Round Trip 20 Miles)



APPLICATION FOR BLACKHAWK TRAIL HIKE

Post # _____ Number in Party _____
 Troop # _____ City and State _____
 Desired Hike date _____ (1st Choice) (2nd Choice) (3rd Choice)

Scouter in Charge - (must be over 21) Address _____
 Camp Application attached _____ We will camp elsewhere _____
 Signed _____ Chairman of Unit Committee _____

Approved for Council by: _____
 Scout Executive _____ Date _____

This form and the Camp Application should be submitted to the Blackhawk Area Council Service Center and confirmed before you make application for a Tour Permit.

