



public facilities on the same basis as all other citizens; to have food and shelter, even if the family does not earn enough to pay for them.

The duty to attend school; to pay for public services on the same basis as other citizens; to avoid littering and damaging public and private property; to learn the traffic rules for bicycles and follow them.

- Hold a junior leader training session on knowing resources (Scoutmaster Handbook).

FEATURE EVENT

The Heritage Hike

This big event, like almost everything else in Scouting, should be fun. But it should have an educational purpose, too, although not in the classroom sense.

The aim should be to expose the Scouts to some aspect of their American heritage. It might be a historic site, either a national monument if one is within easy reach of your troop, or a place of local historical interest—the site of the first settlement or the oldest building in your region, the ruins of a pioneer stockade or grist mill, or the local historical society if it has a collection of pioneer artifacts, weapons, and costumes.

Or your destination might be a place where the Scouts can bask in America's beauty or be awed by the world's wonders. Such a place could be a pristine lake, a wildlife refuge, a zoo or museum, a deep canyon or high mesa, or an ancient forest. If you are using this program feature close to a national holiday, your "hike" might be as part of a parade, or perhaps the troop can attend an ethnic festival or town fair.

The hike can be a day outing or an overnight campout. The PLC should decide based on the patrols' desires, the distance involved, and campsite availability at the destination. If you stay overnight, the possibilities for passing requirements for outdoor-oriented merit badges are increased, of course.

Assign a patrol to research some facts about the destination and report to the troop—its history, if that is why you're going there, or whatever else is significant about the place. For example, if you're going to a wildlife refuge, what animals live there? How can you tell? What is the purpose of the refuge? What does the manager or director do? This kind of advance information is especially important if the troop won't have a guide at the site; without it, the site might be just another piece of woods as far as the Scouts can tell.

Historic trail hike. In most states there are existing historic trails, already marked and waiting for your troop. More than 250 of them have been approved by the Boy Scouts of America for their historic significance and the condition in which they're kept. You can get a list of the approved trails from your local council service center or by writing: Boy Scout Camping Service, Boy Scouts of America, 1325 Walnut Hill Lane, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079. Ask for "Nationally Approved Historic Trails."

If there is no BSA-approved trail in your area but you know of a historic site, your troop might consider establishing such a trail and, at the same time, earn the Historic Trails Award. Ask your council service center for the requirements.

If you undertake the project, be sure to work with the local council since it will have ultimate responsibility for the trail. The requirements for historic trails are explained in *Historic*