

ONTEORA SCOUT RESERVATION  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

# ONTEORA TRAILS and TREKS



# ONTEORA SCOUT RESERVATION

## HIKING THE TRAILS



WELCOME TO ONTEORA SCOUT RESERVATION !

WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL ENJOY YOUR STAY - - AND THAT YOU WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO HIKE OVER ONE OR MORE OF ONTEORA'S TRAILS.

ONTEORA IS BUT FOUR YEARS OLD. IT IS WITH A LITTLE TREPIDATION THAT WE OFFER THIS ROUGH GUIDE TO HELP YOU PLAN AND CONDUCT YOUR HIKES. THERE ARE MANY INACCURACIES IN THIS GUIDE AND SOME OF THE TRAILS ARE POORLY MARKED. HOWEVER, WE HOPE YOU WILL USE THIS GUIDE IN CONJUNCTION WITH YOUR COMPASS AND TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP IN SEARCHING OUT SOME OF THE ADVENTURES, THAT LIE WAITING FOR YOU ON ONTEORA'S TRAILS.

WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL HELP US TO CORRECT THIS GUIDE AS YOU HIKE THE TRAILS AND THAT BY 1960 WE WILL HAVE A MORE ACCURATE HIKING BOOKLET.

YOU MAY PURCHASE TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS OF THIS AREA IN LIVINGSTON MANOR. YOU WILL NEED THE LIVINGSTON MANOR QUADRANGLE AND THE NEVER SINK QUADRANGLE. YOUR PROGRAM COMMISSIONER WILL BE HAPPY TO GET THEM FOR YOU.

WE ASK YOU TO OBEY THE FOLLOWING HIKING RULES AT ONTEORA.

1. MANY OF THE TRAILS CROSS PRIVATE PROPERTY. PLEASE DO NOT ABUSE THIS PRIVILEGE BY UNNECESSARY DAMAGE TO TREES OR PROPERTY.
2. DRINKING WATER - ONLY DRINK AT SPECIFIED PLACES AND LEAVE AREA IN GOOD CONDITION - DO NOT TAMPER WITH PIPES.
3. GARBAGE - BURY ALL GARBAGE THAT IS NOT BURNABLE. LEAVE A CLEAN CAMPSITE.
4. PERMISSION TO CAMP AT FRICK POND MUST BE SECURED. CONTACT YOUR PROGRAM COMMISSIONER.
5. PERMISSION IS REQUIRED TO TOUR THE CONSERVATION CAMP. CONTACT YOUR PROGRAM COMMISSIONER.

# RED TRAIL

## Onteora Scout Reservation Boy Scouts of America

THE RED TRAIL is a small loop that covers most of the central part of Onteora. It begins and ends at the Manor House. Along its four mile course the hiker will see a surprising variety of Wild Life and natural beauty. He will also step back into history and see vestiges of an early settlement and travel over land that the Indians treaded upon and saw fit to name "the Land in the Sky." DISTANCE - 4.6 miles.

North Bound		South Bound
Mile		Mile
0	<u>THE MANOR HOUSE</u> (El. 1120 Ft.) This stately old house stands majestically on a hill looking out over Orchard Lake. It was the home of the New York Rod and Gun Club and at one time was an exclusive mecca for the outdoorsman. Just opposite the main house is an old ICE HOUSE which is quite interesting. The Red Trail runs behind the small buildings opposite the Manor House where it joins with the YELLOW TRAIL going to the STAFF TRAINING CAMP.	4.6
.5	<u>STAFF TRAINING CAMP</u> (El. 2280 Ft.) The trail meets the Explorer Base Camp Road. This is also the site of the Staff Training Camp. During the camp season many boys attend this training camp to prepare themselves for future camp jobs.	4.1
.7	<u>EXPLORER BASE CAMP</u> The trail follows the Base Camp Road left over the bridge into the Base Camp. Here, Explorers crave adventure and a more rugged type of camping experiences. Some of their activities include out - of - Camp Canoe Trips and Horse-back Treks.	3.90
.8	<u>DEVIL'S GORGE</u> - The Red Trail goes over a monkey bridge erected by the Explorers. It's quite a Fall and very dangerous, so watch your step. The trail follows the stream down-hill. During the Spring, when the snows melt, this stream turns into a ROARING DEMON as the water rushes forth over the smooth bed-rock.	3.80
1	<u>WILDCAT FALLS</u> This is probably one of the most beautiful water falls in the Catskills. During the Summer months it is fairly dormant as it basks in the Sun, exposing its lining of shimmering stone walls and its slippery bed of stone. There are several Large Drops. In the early Spring this lazy stream turns into a roaring river as it hurtles its waters down towards Wildcat Falls. At Wildcat it is embraced and tossed against its sides. It wildly leaps into the air plummeting through space and lands with cascading force upon the apron continuing its course downwards. No wonder the Indians marveled at the beauty of these Falls and so aptly named them Wildcat.	3.60
1.4	At the foot of the hill the trail crosses the valley and goes into a huge grassy field.	3.20
1.75	<u>SKEET RANGE, ROD AND GUN CLUB</u> This was the former skeet range of the old Rod and Gun Club. However, this particular ground dates further back into history when a small settlement stood here. You can still see the foundations of former homes.	2.85
2	<u>OLD HUNTER ROAD</u> The trail crosses the field and proceeds up the hill and crosses the Old Hunter Road. This road is steeped in the history of the land. It runs East and West through Onteora and was used by the Indians in traveling from the Delaware to the Hudson.	2.60
2.25	<u>ARCHERY RANGE</u> The trail runs behind Apache, Blackfoot and Cheyenne Campsites to the present Archery and Skeet Range. Note the number of Wild Cherry trees. These tall stately trees are numerous on the Reservation and are an excellent source for our tables and benches. Just before entering the fields there is an excellent Spring with cool water	2.35

North Bound Mile	<u>ARCHERY RANGE</u> (continued)	South Bound Mile
	for the tired hiker. Also note the peculiar mounds of stones near this site. These three fields were cleared and used for farmland in past history.	
2.75	<u>WATER TOWER</u> - The trail follows road out to meet Camp Road, just past Cheyenne Camp site. The Water Tower supplies the water to all camp-sites. The water is pumped to the tower from a well at the foot of the hill. To the Right and in sight is the Dining Hall. The trail crosses the Camp Road and goes down the Service Road. It follows this road and runs down past Keuka Camp-site to the water-front.	1.85
4	<u>WATER - FRONT</u> - This is one of two water-fronts on Lake Orchard. It is the oldest. The Lake crosses the stream below the dam and proceeds around the Eastern side of the Lake to the Manor House.	.6
4.6	<u>TRAIL ENDS</u> - As you walk along the Lake you will notice many Deer prints and perhaps a Deer.	0



# WHITE TRAIL

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THE WHITE TRAIL is our Border Trail. It will eventually come full-circle. However, right now it starts at the Junction of the upper and lower roads into Camp and ends near Lake Uncas. This trail runs for some six miles covering some of the most beautiful parts of the Reservation. DISTANCE - 5.85 miles

West Bound Mile		East Bound Mile
0	<u>CAMP ENTRANCE</u> Located at the junction of the upper and lower roads going into camp. The Brook you cross is fed from Orchard Lake and joins with the Brook from Lake Uncas to form Sprague Brook. Sprague Brook empties into the famed Willowemoc.	5.85
.5	<u>LAKE UNCAS</u> The Trail runs up the hill to the S.E. corner of beautiful Lake Uncas, where it flows into the Brook. Lake Uncas and Forest Lake are part of OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CAMP. This camp is private property and we are not allowed to cross it. Along the east bank of the Lake you will see many beautiful Evergreens. The White Trail follows the ridge overlooking the Lake.	5.25
1.5	<u>TRAIL ENDS</u> - Following the trail in a N.W. direction the trail signs abruptly end. The trail is to be completed this summer.	4.25
2	<u>RATTLE HILL</u> Proceeding N.N.W. you begin to climb Rattle Hill (Elev 2400 Ft.) along the ridges you will see many natural caves and dens. Although it is called Rattle Hill there are no Rattlers on the Reservation.	3.75
2.5	<u>HUNTER ROAD</u> - This historical road runs East and West through the Reservation. It dates back many years to the time when the Indians used this path in traveling from the Delaware to the Hudson. Many Legends have been handed down regarding the Indians who traveled through Onteora. Onteora is an Indian word meaning "The Land in the Sky."	3.25
3	<u>LOGGING ROADS</u> - Proceeding N.N.E. for approximately 3/4 of a mile you will see several Logging roads and Loading Skids used by Tom Quick. Tom Quick's land meets Onteora on the westerly slope of Rattle Hill. Tom is a direct descendant of the famed Indian fighter, Tom Quick, of whom many a legend has been handed down.	2.75
3.7	<u>NORTH END</u> This is the northern most section of Onteora. It is very forested and mountainous. Proceed in a S.E. direction to the Explorer Base Camp.	2.05
4.5	<u>EXPLORER BASE CAMP</u> An outpost camp for Explorers including out-of-camp trips and short adventure hikes. <u>CAMP STAFF TRAINING</u> - Just a short way down the road is the Staff Training Camp where prospective Camp Staff are trained.	1.25
4.7	<u>HUNTERS ROAD</u> This is the same road you crossed on Rattle Hill. Proceed in a southerly direction on the Base Camp Road to the Ranger's House.	1.15
4.85	<u>RANGER'S HOUSE</u> The Camp entrance and Gate were erected in 1958. Proceed down the Town Road to junction of the upper and lower roads to Onteora. Trail ends.	1
5.85	<u>END OF TRAIL</u>	0

# BLUE TRAIL

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**THE BLUE TRAIL** - The Trail to the Beaverkill. The Beaverkill is one of the most famous Trout streams in the East. The trail begins where the old Hunter Road crosses the Hill Road (Road going to Dining Hall) just below Apache campsite and proceeds over Rattle Hill to the Beaverkill State Park. Total Distance to Beaverkill - 7 miles.

North Bound Mile		South Bound Mile
0	<u>HUNTER ROAD</u> - Trail begins just below Apache Campsite on Hill Road where Hunter Road crosses. Proceed in N.W. direction to Rattle Hill. This path runs East and West through Onteora. It is rich in history. The Indians used this trail in their travels from the Delaware to the Hudson.	7
.2	<u>WILD CHERRY TREES</u> Note the abundance of this tall stately tree. We have used many of these trees to make benches for our chapels and tables for our camp-sites.	6.8
.5	<u>CAVES AND CRAGS</u> - There are many natural caves and dens here. As far as we know they are not used by any animals.	6.5
1	<u>RATTLE HILL</u> - (Elev. 2400 Ft.) You are now at the top of Rattle Hill. Although it is named Rattle Hill there are no Rattlers at Onteora. Note the Leanto just off the trail, this and another (see if you can find it) were built to be used for short over-nighters. The rough outlines of a road now disappear and you will find that the trail follows the wash of a brook. <u>Note</u> the Logging roads. You are now on Tom Quick's property.	6
1.75	<u>TOM QUICK'S POND</u> This is an artificial Pond made by Tom Quick. If you take a sharp right near the Dam and follow this Logging Road you will come to a Stone Quarry. <u>Tom Quick</u> , is a direct descendant of Tom Quick, the Indian Fighter of whom many a tale has been handed down. Tom has a lumber mill in Livingston Manor and has done much Lumbering in this section. As you hike about Onteora and the surrounding areas, you will see many of his Logging Roads and Loading Skids.	5.25
3.5	<u>BEAVERKILL ROAD</u> The Hunter Road comes out on the Beaverkill Road which is macadam. Across the road is a gravel pit. Four miles to the right is Lew Beach, the rallying point for Fishermen. Proceed down road to left in S.W. direction - you will soon be hearing the Beaverkill as it runs toward the State Park. This road is dangerous for traffic so use good road safety. You can actually see the Trout in the stream below. The road now follows the stream.	3.5
5.5	<u>LOWER ROAD TO BEAVERKILL STATE PARK</u>	1.5
6	<u>UPPER ROAD TO BEAVERKILL STATE PARK</u> Proceed down-hill to Ranger's house.	1
7	<u>BEAVERKILL STATE PARK</u> = Camping facilities; water; swimming; Fishing Campsite cost: \$1.00 per day per 6 boys or \$5.00 per week per 6 boys. NO SHELTERS. You must bring tentage. REFRESHMENT STAND furnishes milk, eggs and bread.	0

# YELLOW TRAIL #1.

## ONTEORA SCOUT RESERVATION BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

THE YELLOW TRAIL To State Fish Hatchery and Conservation Camp.  
DISTANCE: 3.5 miles.

East Bound		West Bound
Mile		Mile
0	<u>OLD HUNTER ROAD</u> The trail begins at the S.E. corner of the Parking Lot and proceeds East up the Old Hunter Road. This path runs East and West through the Reservation and was used by the Indians in their travels from the Delaware to the Hudson. It is a long, hard climb to the top of the ridge, so hike slowly.	3.5
.5	<u>BASE CAMP ROAD</u> The trail crosses this road. The Explorer Base Camp is one mile up this road.	3.25
.75	<u>LOGGING ROADS</u> Notice the Logging Roads and Loading Skids.	1.75
1	The trail becomes an accessible road. Private homes off road. This is all private property so stay on the road.	2.5
2	<u>OLD CEMETERY</u> The oldest stone is 1855.	1.5
3.5	<u>STATE FISH HATCHERY</u> The Hunter Road comes out on a macadam road. The Fish Hatchery is across the road. All visitors are welcome. There are some tables and fireplaces. Mongaup Creek runs behind the Hatchery.	0
	<u>STATE CONSERVATION CAMP</u> Proceed south on macadam road from Hatchery. Along Mongaup Creek opposite the Conservation Camp you will see various methods of water conservation control such as: Dams; Bank Planting; Cribs; Deflectors and Natural formations.	
	<u>WATER FALLS</u> Proceed North on road from Hatchery 1/2 mile. You will see a wooden wheel and a road going down-hill. Proceed down this road and cross the bridge over the creek. Now follow the creek down to the Falls. At the Falls you see the foundations of an old mill and the huge Mill Stone. The Falls are not only beautiful, but refreshing as a shower.	

# YELLOW TRAIL #2.

## ONTEORA SCOUT RESERVATION

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THE YELLOW TRAIL to Mongaup Pond via Yellow Trail #1 to Fish Hatchery  
DISTANCE: 9 - 10 miles.

East Bound		West Bound
Mile		Mile
0	<u>OLD HUNTER ROAD</u> Use Yellow Trail #1 guide to Fish Hatchery.	8.5
3.5	<u>FISH HATCHERY</u> This is worth your time to take a tour and see the various stages of growth in the Fish. Do not touch the Fish.	5
4	<u>WATER FALLS</u> Follow directions using Yellow Trail #1 guide.	
5	<u>CUT-OFF TO MONGAUP</u> Proceeding on road from Hatchery you will see first cut-off with wagon - wheel. This road goes to Falls. Further on you will see another cut-off to the right. Take this road proceeding in a N.E. direction into the woods.	3.5
6.75	<u>MONGAUP POND</u> You will arrive at the S.W. corner of the most beautiful Lake in the Catskills. This is the point where the Lake empties into Mongaup Creek. Proceed around the west side of the Lake on the Logging Road. The Eastern side is inaccessible.	1.75
7.5	<u>SUCKER BROOK</u> A rickety bridge spans this brook which empties into Mongaup.	1
8.5	<u>CAMPING SITE</u> Continuing along the trail you will come to an open area which is the camping area. Another stream just beyond this also empties into the Mongaup. For drinking water follow the trail over this stream for approximately 200 feet. Close to the Lake Shore you will find an iron pipe with Spring water coming out.	0



# YELLOW TRAIL #3.

## ONTEORA SCOUT RESERVATION

### BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

The Yellow Trail to Frick Pond. This is a Bee-Line Trail to Frick Pond over rugged terrain. The trail markers are up but easy to miss. Distance to Frick Pond - 4 miles.

East Bound Mile		West Bound Mile
0	<u>THE MANOR HOUSE</u> - The Yellow Trail begins behind the small buildings opposite the Manor House where it joins with the Red Trail going to the Staff Training Camp.	4
.5	<u>STAFF TRAINING CAMP</u> (El. 2280 Ft.) Here prospective Staff Members are trained. Proceed to the Right down the Base Camp Road past the Staff Training Camp.	3.5
.7	<u>FRICK POND CUT-OFF</u> - Look carefully for the yellow markers as the trail cuts to the Left from the road and proceeds East.	3.3
2	<u>ROCKY LEDGES</u> After traveling through a low - flat area you will cross some rocky ledges.	2
2.2	<u>LOGGING ROADS</u> Do not be mislead by these roads. Follow the markers closely.	1.8
3	<u>OLD LUMBER CAMP</u> - The trail goes through the remains of an old Lumber Camp. Further on you will come upon a huge Saw Dust pile. In the early evening you might see the Deer as they play in the sawdust.	1
3.1	<u>OLD CORDUROY ROAD</u> The trail now follows this old wooden road. It is best to walk on the side of this road as many of the timbers are rotten. These roads were built over marshy wet lands so that heavy loads could be hauled in and out without getting stuck in the mud.	.9
3.5	<u>FRICK POND</u> You will come out on the west side of the Pond at a huge Evergreen tree. Notice the Beaver houses out in the Pond. Three Beaver live in this Pond.	.5
3.8	<u>BEAVER DAM</u> Proceed to Right, around Lake and you will come to the Beaver Dam. Note how well the animal craftsmen did their job.	.2
4	<u>CAMP SITE</u> Proceed over Brook and up embankment. Follow the path at top of bank to the Right. You will come to an open grassy area. You will see a small shed. This is a food storage bin used by the Beech Mountain Scout Camp. Frick Pond belongs to Beech Mountain Scout Camp and we are their guests. Please act accordingly. <u>WATER</u> - Follow the path leading down to the stream. Just before the stream you will find the iron pipe which empties good drinking water into the stream.	0