

# FORESTBURG HERITAGE TRAIL

## Na Tsi Hi Lodge Monmouth Council BSA



### TRAIL GUIDE AND QUESTIONNAIRE

Start the trail at the Forestburg Reservation Office: the Waud-Thecker Welcome Center. The Forestburg Heritage Trail is like a treasure hunt and the treasure is knowledge. By visiting the sites along the trail you will discover the answers to all of these questions. Your unit leader will check your answers and order medals. The loop trail is a little over two miles and can be hiked as a group or with a buddy.

**Waud-Thecker Welcome Center:** In 2006, to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Forestburg, Duncan Thecker issued a challenge to match his gift. Duncan's challenge was met and on July 17, 2010 the new Reservation Office was dedicated in memory of his wife Alice Waud Thecker. The flagpole in front was given in honor of Joseph N. Betrus, Forestburg Camp Director 1976-1977 and District Executive 1972-1980.

**Blockhouse & Stockade:** A log blockhouse and stockade stand at the entrance to Forestburg Scout Reservation. The blockhouse was given in memory of Lt. (JG) John Simon Mark USN by his mother and father and was built by Troop 50. Question: What year was the blockhouse built? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_ The Forestburg emblem on the stockade was designed by J. Fred Billett. The emblem is also used for Monmouth Council. Mr. Billett was the Scout Executive when Forestburg was built and was the first Camp Director. Mr. Billett also founded Quail Hill Scout Reservation and built the Oakhurst Service Center. Later in his Scouting career he was the Region 1 Director and the second-in-command at the national BSA office. In 2001, Central Camp was renamed J. Fred Billett Camp in his honor.

**Protestant Chapel:** The Bodman Memorial Forest Chapel was built in 1968 with a grant from the Bodman Foundation. Question: If you sight from the pulpit to the cross, what structure is in your line of sight? (Hint: You can use the trail map.) Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Wilkinson Lodge:** A gift from Mr. & Mrs. Roger I. Wilkinson, this lodge originally served as a boathouse to shelter canoes and rowboats. The lodge housed the camp office in the 1970s and 1980s and is now our Handicraft Center. Question: What year was Wilkinson Lodge built? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Dining Hall:** When Monmouth Council purchased the Darlington estate, there was a small dining hall standing at this location. The council leaders realized that it was insufficient for the many Scouts who would be attending camp, so a larger building was erected. The roof trusses were recycled from a chapel at Fort Monmouth that was razed. It is said that this is the reason the building is shaped like a cross. The dining hall is named in honor of our Council President (1925-1930) who left a bequest to build the council's camps. His portrait hangs in the dining hall. Question: What is the official name of the dining hall? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_ In the early 1960s, one of the most influential leaders of the council carved from a white pine log two totem poles that were placed in front of the dining hall. He was the first "life member" of Na Tsi Hi Lodge and was a Ranger at Camp Housman, which is now part of Allaire State Park, NJ. There is a photograph of him in his Native American regalia hanging in the front of the building. Question: What is his name?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_ By the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the original totem poles had completely rotted away and were removed. To replace them, two new totem poles which replicate the originals were carved by Scout Leader Herb Kaasmann of Atlantic Highlands. The plaques in the front of the dining hall recount the history of the founding of Forestburg Scout Reservation and provide answers for the following questions. Question: On what date was Forestburg

purchased? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_ Question: What year was Forestburg opened as a summer camp? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_ Question: On what date was Forestburg dedicated? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_ The longest serving camp director was Thomas Fraley. After his retirement, the old camp office (originally the ranger's house) was renamed the Bear's Den in his honor. The dedication plaques have since been moved to the dining hall. Question: How many years did Tom "Bear" Fraley serve as Camp Director? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_ The sign over the entrance to the kitchen reads Dave's Philmont Kitchen. Read the story on the small plaque next to the door for the answer to this question. Question: What is a core value of Scouting? (Hint The G\_\_\_\_ T\_\_\_\_) Answer: The \_\_\_\_\_ Spend some time looking at the unit plaques and other plaques that tell the story of Forestburg. Do you see one from your troop?

**Billett Parade Field:** The commissioner staff of Chingarora District constructed the parade field and erected the center flagpole in memory of Robert Alt and Capt. Earl Buchmann. Question: On what date was the parade field dedicated? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Aquatics Center:** Dedicated on July 23, 2011, this year-round facility replaced a small life guard tower. After you pass the new aquatics center, continue on the road. To your left is an original camp building, **Lake Cabin**, which was used for many years as the Camp Director residence. Follow the sign to the Jewish Chapel and you will pass one of our newest buildings, the **Econ Center**. You are now hiking on the Lake Trail.

**Jewish Chapel:** The Jewish Chapel was dedicated on July 28, 1968 in honor of Harry Feldt of Fair Haven, a veteran Scouter. In 2002 it was rededicated to the memory of 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Howard Jon Schnabolk who was an Eagle Scout from Troop 58, Oceanport. He was a helicopter pilot in Vietnam and was killed in action on August 3, 1967. Question: Which point of the Scout Law appears on the plaque? Answer: A SCOUT IS \_\_\_\_\_

Hiking along the Lake Trail, a favorite with fishermen, you pass a clearing that was the original **Dan Beard Waterfront** and arrive at the **Econ Shed and Totem Pole**. Question: What animal is at the top of the ECON totem pole? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Continue on the Lake Trail to Dan Beard Camp Headquarters.

**Dan Beard Camp:** Beginning in 1958, troops could camp at Dan Beard Camp and cook their own meals. As there were no permanent buildings at Dan Beard, Scouts needed to travel to Central (Billett) Camp to pick-up their food. Each day a pair of Scouts from each troop would paddle a canoe from their campsite to the Boathouse (Wilkinson Lodge) to load up food and then return to their campsite. This is why the traditional symbol of Dan Beard Camp was a Scout in a canoe. Daniel Carter Beard founded the youth organization Sons of Daniel Boone in 1905, which later merged with the Boy Scouts of America. Beard, along with Ernest Thompson Seton, was a pioneer in forming the Scouting movement. A writer and illustrator, "Uncle Dan" served as editor of Boys' Life magazine and was one of the first National Scout Commissioners.

**Todd Lodge:** The A-frame building is Todd Lodge which is named for the council board member who donated it, E. Murray Todd. This building serves as the headquarters for the Dan Beard Camp. Read the plaques on the front of the lodge. Question: What year were the buildings at Dan Beard Camp built? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_ Question: The Dan Beard camps were made possible by E. Murray Todd and the Bodman Foundation to teach Scouts what? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Climbing Wall:** The family of a young Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor Order of the Arrow member donated the climbing tower in 2003 in his memory. Question: What was his name? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Rogosin Lodge:** Facing Todd Lodge is Rogosin Lodge – originally the Dan Beard trading post and commissary, the lodge is now the High Adventure Program Center and commissary. This building was named in honor of Israel Rogosin who served on the council board with his friend E. Murray Todd.

Travel up Dan Beard Road to start the return hike to J. Fred Billett Camp.

**Seminole Campsite:** The flagpole was erected by Troop 85 in memory of one of their Scouts, Cory Snyder. Question: What does a troop need? Answer: Every Troop Needs a \_\_\_\_\_

**Onondaga Campsite:** The flagpole in the Onondaga campsite was erected in memory of Troop 66 Assistant Scoutmaster Stephen J. Fiorelli. The plaque contains the words We will always remember W.T.C. 9/11/01. Question: This plaque references what historic event?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Wilson Lodge:** This lodge was named to honor dedicated Scouter and Campbuilder, Bill Wilson. Wilson Lodge, renovated and expanded 2015-2016, was one of the original camp cabins.

**Shooting Sports Center:** The modern Shooting Sports Center was constructed for year-round use day or night and is fully accessible. Greatly expanding the shooting program at Forestburg, our new center replaced the original open pavilion which was destroyed in a windstorm.

**Waterfront Cabin:** Continuing on the road you will pass the Waterfront Cabin just before crossing the bridge. This building housed the waterfront staff in the 1960s and was nicknamed the Tiger’s Den. The aquatics director had emblazoned the cabin door with a large Esso Tiger poster and encouraged Scouts to “roar” before heading into the water for swimming instructions.

**Pollak Lodge:** Pollak Lodge replaced the original camp headquarters, known as Darlington Lodge and later Lush Lodge for the donation Joseph Lush made in 1960. The original building, which burned down in the early 1970s, was a large, 2-story building that housed the camp office, infirmary, library, Scoutmaster lounge, and staff quarters. The present building was made possible by a gift from Maurice A. Pollak and serves as the camp trading post and health facility.

Next to Pollak Lodge is the camp staff area and ranger’s shop.

**PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE STAFF AREA OR BERG LODGE.**

**Berg Lodge:** Berg Lodge is the camp staff headquarters. It is an original camp building dating from the time the Darlington family owned the property. It was renovated with a donation from the family of George Phillip Berg, who was a staff member in 1967 and 1968. Berg was a Chief Warrant Officer and helicopter pilot. He was killed in Vietnam on February 18, 1971 on a mission to retrieve an American patrol. His remains could not be retrieved and so he is considered Missing in Action.

**Quakenbush Lodge and Eagle’s Nest:** Down the hill from Berg Lodge are staff cabins, Quakenbush Lodge and Eagle’s Nest. They are named in honor of two volunteers who greatly impacted Scouts in Monmouth Council: Alice Quakenbush and Dennis “Eagle” Wood.

Continue hiking on the camp road in front the trading post and stop at the memorial tree.

**Thunderbird District Scouters Memorial:** On the road in front of Pollak Lodge, a tree was planted to honor the memory of veteran Scouters from the Thunderbird District. Six Scouters are named on the plaque. Question: How many years (combined) were they in Scouting? What is the average?

Answer: total = \_\_\_\_\_ average = \_\_\_\_\_

Take the left fork in the road to the trail to Tecumseh Rock. Hiking down the trail you will come upon three cabins.

**Kittatinny Cabins:** These three cabins were relocated from Kittatinny Mountain Scout Reservation in 2016. Kittatinny is Lenape for “Endless Mountain.”  
Continue down the trail and take the small trail on the left to the Catholic Chapel.

**Catholic Chapel:** The Catholic chapel is named Our Lady of Hope Chapel. “Hope” is taken from the name of the lake, Burnt Hope Lake. “Burnt” recalls several forest fires and “Hope” comes from the Hope Lumber Company that owned all of this land many years ago. Question: On what date was the chapel dedicated? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Hiking to Tecumseh Rock and Darlington Falls is optional - they are down the trail from the Chapel.

**Tecumseh Rock:** Tecumseh Rock is named after the brilliant Shawnee warrior and orator who attempted to rally various Native American tribes. Hundreds of council fires have been held at the base of Tecumseh Rock.

**VISITS TO DARLINGTON FALLS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.**

**Darlington Falls:** The Forestburg property was purchased for \$78,000 from Florence Darlington and her late husband Dr. Thomas Darlington, who had been a health commissioner for the State of New York. It was her wish that some part of the camp would be named in his memory, and so our beautiful waterfall is named Darlington Falls.

Hike back to the main camp road, turn east and travel towards the camp entrance.

**Sterner Hike Center:** The Sterner Hike Center is the center for Scoutcraft activities. Donated by Council President E. Donald Sterner who worked closely with J. Fred Billett, the hike center has recently been expanded. This building was constructed in 1966 replacing a smaller Scoutcraft shack. The hike center was also the starting point for troops embarking on hikes to the outpost campsites and contained the camp quartermaster store and office. Past the hike center is a road on the left. This road leads to the Billett troop campsites, commonly known as “The Hill.”

**Original Family Cabin:** This storage building (across the road from the Dining Hall) was originally a family cabin. There were several of these cabins in the camp. Some still survive as utility buildings.

**Signpost:** A signpost stands opposite the Technology Center. It points to different areas in camp and one destination off camp – Oakhurst, NJ. When the camp opened, Oakhurst was the location of the Council Service Center. Question: How many miles from Forestburg to Oakhurst? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Technology Center:** This is another original building, however, it was only half the size of the current building. The owners of the Steinbach department store in Asbury Park enlarged the building for use as a trading post. Converted into the Tech Center in 2007, it is now the hub for STEM activities and features a “radio shack.” Question: What animal is carved on top of the Tech Center totem pole? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Porch:** This lodge is one of the buildings surviving from the original summer camp for families. It is now used by commissioners and is affectionately known as “The Porch” and the occupants as “The Porch People.” The name was coined by beloved camp commissioner J. T. Kwon. Question: What does the sign on the building say? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_ Quarters

**End of the Trail:** You are now back where you started your trek – the **Waud-Thecker Welcome Center**. This completes the Forestburg Heritage Trail. We hope you have learned a little about the history of this great camp and some of the people who, through their dedication, have created so many memories for so many Scouts for so many years.