

Established and Administered
by:
The Greater Niagara Frontier Council
Boy Scouts of America
401-Maryvale Drive
Buffalo, NY 14225

The Niagara Frontier Family Trail Program



Year 2003 Revisions

Changes to Note:

• **Required stops:** The Schoellkopf Geological Museum (an original required stop), which has been undergoing transformation into the *Niagara Gorge Heritage Center*, did not re-open on its originally intended date, and as the 2003 season moved on, it became apparent that new questions could not be added to the Trail Medal booklet in a timely manner. Therefore, the “Niagara Gorge and Discovery Center” **will not be a requirement for the year 2003**. The 2004 booklet will be revised to reflect the new nature of the site, and the location will be added back to the list of required stops. When you visit the area, by all means stop in to see the exhibits!

Please note, also, that the **New York Power Vista** may be closed at various times due to Homeland Security concerns. If this is the case at the time of your visit, you are exempt from that location as well, but are urged to re-visit, for the knowledge, when opened to the public again.

So, to sum-it-up...for the year 2003, there are 6 required Trail stops: *Old Fort Niagara National Historic Landmark* (Youngstown), the *New York Power Vista* (Lewiston), *Niagara Reservation State Park* and the mighty Falls of Niagara (Niagara Falls), the *Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society Museum* (Buffalo), the *Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site* (Buffalo), and the *Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park* (Buffalo). In 2004, there will (again) be 7 required (hopefully). **Warning:** Parking fees for New York State lots in the *Niagara Region State Parks* (that includes the Falls) skyrocketed for 2003. Municipal and private lots are equally expensive.

Niagara Frontier Trail Medal Certification & Order Form

Please complete the "Certification Statement" on the reverse side. Thank you.

Name: _____

Address (full): _____

Phone: _____

of Medals @\$5.25: _____ Total \$ _____ + \$2.00 per order-postage

Grand Total (\$US): _____ Payment: Check Credit Card

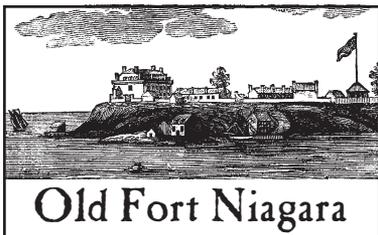
Credit Card (please circle): Master Card/Visa/Discover/American Expr.

Name as it appears on Credit Card: _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____

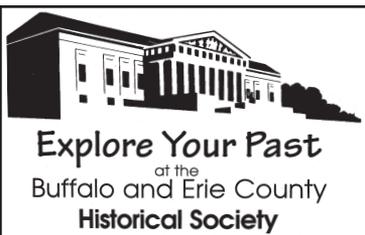
Mail to: GNFC Boy Scouts of America •401-Maryvale Dr. •Buffalo, NY 14225

Please Make Checks Payable to: "Greater Niagara Frontier Council-BSA"



Old Fort Niagara

DATE VISITED: _____



Explore Your Past at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society

DATE VISITED: _____



DATE VISITED: _____



DATE VISITED: _____



BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY

NAVAL & MILITARY PARK



NIAGARA RESERVATION
STATE PARK
"THE FALLS"

DATE VISITED: _____

DATE VISITED: _____

Niagara Frontier Trail Medal Certification

I do hereby attest to the fact that the following named individuals have completed all of the requirements for the Niagara Frontier Trail Medal: (X) _____

1. _____ 6. _____

2. _____ 7. _____

3. _____ 8. _____

4. _____ 9. _____

5. _____ 10. _____

Did you complete the Trail as a: Family ____ Group ____ or Individual ____?

If done as a Group, please include organizational name: _____

The Niagara Frontier Family Trail Program



**Welcome to Western New York
and the Niagara Frontier !**

The Niagara Frontier is one of the most historically significant areas in the United States. Few regions can claim as much impact on our early development as a nation: The Iroquois Confederacy; military fortresses and battlegrounds; the development of hydro-electric power; gateway for the mass movement of settlers and goods across the Great Lakes and Mid-West heartland of America; home to immigrants and refugees from all lands; and, the awesomeness of Niagara Falls, are just some of the unique heritage treasures that should be known and appreciated by people of all ages.

The Greater Niagara Frontier Council, Boy Scouts of America, has established and maintains the “Niagara Frontier Trail” as an opportunity for families of Scouts, and non-Scouts alike, to discover the rich heritage of the Niagara Frontier. Through this program, the Council also has an incomparable opportunity to further its work in providing educational support to young people, and fostering family unity.

The Niagara Frontier Family Trail is a unique program, centered around a two day experience that includes a 30 mile motor tour of many of the historical highlights of the area, with specific activities along the way and follow-up projects afterward. Upon completion, each participant — Scout or not, young or old — is eligible to receive the trail medal. This program can be completed at any time during the year, however, it is strongly urged that it be attempted between April 1st and October 31st, as some of the sites maintain seasonal closing periods.

The “Trail” begins at *Old Fort Niagara National Historic Landmark* (Youngstown) and proceeds to the *New York Power Vista* (Lewiston), the *Niagara Gorge and Discovery Center* (Niagara Falls), *Niagara Reservation State Park* and the mighty Falls of Niagara (Niagara Falls), the *Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society Museum* (Buffalo), the *Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site* (Buffalo), and concludes at the *Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park* (Buffalo). Numerous

side-trip options abound including: the *National Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Fatima* (Lewiston); the *Aquarium of Niagara Falls* (Niagara Falls); the *Niagara Aerospace Museum* (Wheatfield); and, in Buffalo, the *Albright-Knox Art Gallery*, the *Buffalo Museum of Science*, Frank Lloyd Wright's *Darwin D. Martin House*, and *Forest Lawn Cemetery* (burial site of President Millard Fillmore, famed Seneca orator "Red Jacket," and "Pony Express" partner William D. Fargo).

An important part of the Trail program is its "Hunt for Knowledge." At each stop on the tour, you must look for answers to certain questions — listed in the Trail Booklet — which deal specifically with each site. Good touring, good learning, and, Good Luck! The list of specific requirements follows.

***Please note:** While this program contains the name "Family Trail," and was developed to help encourage family unity, it is open to anyone and any group interested in participating. It is a recognized reality of life, today, that "family" takes many forms. The important thing in all of this is that you undertake and experience the journey together.

Trail Medal Requirements:

1 . Read this pamphlet thoroughly. Sit down as a family and plan your Historic Trail, including any side-trips you may want to take. Designate responsibilities to everyone, such as:

- Making advance reservations
- Navigating and map reading
- Driving and paying tolls
- Asking questions or directions
- Taking pictures or collecting postcards and brochures

2 . Visit all "required" sites on the trail and answer all the questions listed in this booklet for each location.

Everyone must be neat and courteous at all times. Scouts are encouraged to wear their uniform while on the Trail.

Pre and post-visit research is strongly encouraged !!!

3 . Complete any two of the family projects listed below:

- a. Make a family album of your trip, using either photographs you have taken, or postcards and brochures (or a combination) of the places you visited.
- b. Construct a diorama of the Niagara River, showing Lake Erie, the Falls, the Niagara Gorge, and Lake Ontario. Show it at school or group meeting.

- c. Write “thank you” notes to all those who helped you along the Trail.
- d. Take a side-trip and visit another point of interest that was not one of the required seven.
- e. Put together a presentation, and show it at school, Scout, or other group meeting.

4. Complete and sign the certification form in the front of this pamphlet (if you are under 18 years of age have parent, guardian or leader sign it) and mail to:

Greater Niagara Frontier Council
Boy Scouts of America
401-Maryvale Drive
Buffalo, NY 14225

**A correct “Answer Key” will be sent with your medals so that you can double-check your answers.*

For additional assistance in planning your “Family Adventure,” and more information on the many experiences the Niagara Frontier has to offer, you may wish to contact:

•Niagara County Tourism•

Niagara County Department of Planning,
Development & Tourism
139 Niagara Street
Lockport, New York 14094-2740
Phone: (800)-338-7890

www.niagara-usa.com niagara@niagara-usa.com

•Greater Buffalo Niagara Convention and Visitors Bureau•

617-Main Street, Suite 400
Buffalo, NY 14203-1496
Phone: (716)852-0511 or (888)-2BUFFNY
www.buffalocvb.org info@buffalocvb.org

• “Everything Buffalo” •

www.Buffalo.com

• New York State Tourism Information (official) •

Phone: (800)CALL-NYS

Required Sites for 2003 (6 in all) :

1. Old Fort Niagara National Historic Landmark

Fort Niagara State Park

(PO Box 169)

Youngstown, NY 14174-0169

Phone: (716)745-7611 Fax:(716)745-9141

www.oldfortniagara.org ofn@oldfortniagara.org

Old Fort Niagara is one of the most significant historic sites in North America and the Great Lakes Region. Situated on the shore of Lake Ontario at the mouth of the Niagara River, the permanent fortress was begun and garrisoned by France in 1726 (after two failed attempts in the 17th-century), lost to Great Britain (1759-1796) during the French & Indian War, turned-over to the United States (1796-1813) under terms of “Jay’s Treaty,” re-taken by Britain (1813-1815) during the War of 1812, and returned to the United States (1815-Present) in accordance with provisions of the Treaty of Ghent. Following the Civil War era, the Fort was modernized and vastly expanded beyond the “old” walls of the original. The expanded post, or “new” Fort Niagara was an active Army base until 1963.

In the 1920’s, the Old Fort Niagara Association was formed to save and restore the “old” Fort — which was still being used for living quarters, and storage — as a museum. With the help of Federal and local citizens, school children, Scouts, and Army officials, the goal was achieved. Today, Old Fort Niagara is a Registered National Historic Landmark, owned by the State of New York, and operated by the Old Fort Niagara Association under license from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. Six original 18th-century buildings stand within its wall. The “French Castle” was the first permanent structure on the site (1726) and is the oldest original building in the Great Lakes area. The Fort is a center for a multitude of colorful “living history” events, and houses a significant archaeological collection, research & conservation facility. The grounds of New Fort Niagara were converted into a State Park when the United States Army decommissioned the base in 1963.

- Location: Inside Fort Niagara State Park, Youngstown, N.Y.
- Open: Daily (9:00 a.m.), except New Year’s, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Closing time varies by season.

- Admission: Yes; various rates. Contact Fort office for current structure. General group, educational group, and AAA discounts are available. Educational/Scout group overnights — and other educational programs — are available by prior arrangement.
- Parking Fee (seasonal): Check with Fort office for current policy, which is governed by the State Parks Department.

Questions to be answered:

1. What major lakes are connected by the Niagara River, and why was the location of Fort Niagara and its control so critical to France and Great Britain?

2. What is the oldest building at Fort Niagara?

3. Prior to the construction of Fort Niagara, the French made two other attempts to garrison the site. What were these forts named; when were they built; when were they abandoned? What famous French explorer built the first of these forts?

4. What fort was Niagara's main adversary during the War of 1812?

5. Why do the two British-built "Redoubts" have chinese-style roofs?

6. What does the Rush-Bagot Memorial commemorate?

7. In which Native American nation's territory was Fort Niagara built, and to what powerful confederacy were, and are, they a member?

2. Niagara Power Project — Power Vista

Power Vista & Visitors Center
New York Power Authority
5777 Lewiston Road
Lewiston, NY 14092-2121
Phone: (716)285-3211, 286-6661 Fax:(716)286-6654

One of the earth's greatest natural wonders, Niagara Falls is also one of the world's largest electric power producers. Since colonial days, man has harnessed the waters of the Niagara River to aid him in his daily labors. The ways in which that energy has been developed, and how it is being used today, are described in the exhibits of the New York Power Vista.

The Vista is located 350 feet above the Niagara River Gorge, crowning the New York Power Authority's Niagara Power Project generators. It is part of the total complex of intakes, underground water conduits, reservoir, holding bay, and turbines which are integral to the production of the hydro-electric power. In addition, the view of the magnificent gorge is unsurpassed from the outer deck.

- It should be noted that the Power Vista goes through regular renovations which can affect its opening to the public. Check with their office to confirm current visitor status and public hours; admission and parking have traditionally been free, but double check.

- The complex is located directly next to the campus of Niagara University (founded in 1856), home of the renown Castellani Art Museum (University phone: 716-285-1212; Castellani Museum: 716-286-8200).

Questions to be answered:

1. What body of water directly supplies the Niagara Power Project? Where does water first enter the system?

2. In general, how is hydro-electricity generated at Niagara?

3. Who was the first person to tap the river for commercial purposes?

4. In what year was hydro-electric power first produced on the Niagara River?

5. How large is the Niagara Power Project Reservoir in size (acres) and volume (gallons)?

6. The Hydro-Canada counterpart to the Niagara Power Project (located directly across the River) was named in honor of whom?

3. Niagara Reservation State Park~ Niagara Falls

NY State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Niagara Regional Office
Niagara Falls, NY 14303-0132
Phones: Main Office (716)278-1770 Fax: (716)278-1744
www.nysparks.com

Established in 1885, Niagara Reservation State Park is the oldest STATE park in the nation. In addition to the United States' portion of the "Great Cataracts," it includes Prospect Point, Goat Island and its Terrapin Point, Luna Island at Bridal Veil Falls, and the Three Sisters Islands. The seasonally operated *Maid of the Mist Boat Tour*, *Cave of the Winds*, people-mover system, and *Orin Lehman Visitors' Center-Festival Theater* are all accessed here. The Falls can be viewed free-of-charge, but parking fees exist, as do fees for the *Maid of the Mist*, *Cave of the Winds*, *Festival Theater*, and the people-mover vehicles.

- The New York State Park "Master Pass Niagara" offers a good savings if you are going to visit ALL of the included attractions AND (highly recommended) use the new "people mover" system.
- Parking in any of the three State lots (1 at Prospect Point, and 2 on Goat Island) is extremely expensive, but is the most practical if spending the day. The one to aim for first is the Prospect Point lot, directly south of the Rainbow Bridge and accessed from the mainland; next is the large lot on the west end of Goat Island

(at Terrapin Point); absolute last resort (it's a very long hike) is the small lot at the east end of Goat Island (in all cases, use the "people mover system" to get around the State Park). Municipal ramps are equally expensive, inconvenient, and charge per entry.

• Avoid the area of the Seneca Niagara Casino on Fourth Street.

• If you are planning on crossing the international border to visit Canada, please be advised to have proper identification (e.g. birth certificate, passport) for everyone in your group. Border security is taken extremely seriously, and is not something to be trifled with. If anyone in your group is not a United States Citizen or Resident-Alien (with proper documentation on their person), do not cross the border without checking with United States Immigration for any passport and/or visa requirements for re-entry into the country, and proper forms of identification. Special-class visa aliens may have additional restrictions regarding re-entry as well. Also, be advised that Canadian Immigration officials are in no mood to play games with anyone either, when it comes to security, and have been known to refuse entry into their country for those without absolute proof of identification. This is all deadly serious!!!

Questions to be answered:

1. Who was Father Louis Hennepin, and why is he important to the history of Niagara Falls?

2. How did Goat Island get its name? _____

3. What is the name of the group of 3 islands clustered off the south side of Goat Island, and who were they named after?

4. "Niagara Falls" is actually composed of two primary cataracts — the "American Falls" and the "Horseshoe Falls" — plus the small "Bridal Veil Falls." Is the "Horseshoe Falls" in United States or Canadian territory? _____

5. In what year were the American and Bridal Veil Falls “turned off” by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers so that they could be examined, and stabilization options evaluated? How did they accomplish this feat? _____
-
6. The rate of water flow over Niagara Falls is greater during daytime hours than at night. Why is this? _____
-

**** Niagara Gorge and Discovery Center
(former Schoellkopf Geological Museum)**

NY State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Niagara Reservation State Park
Niagara Falls, NY 14303-0132
Phone: (716)278-1780
www.nysparks.com

***Not a required stop for 2003, however, it is strongly urged that you visit if the site is open when you work on the Trail Medal. The Center will be re-added to the required list in 2004. It is really small, but really big in terms of the story it tells.*

•Scheduled to be open seasonally (April through October), the site was still under construction, well into May (2003). Check with Museum for hours, admission information, and special programs.

•Located along the Robert Moses Parkway, just off of Main Street, directly north of the Rainbow Bridge. Getting there can be a challenge at times; ongoing long-term road construction also may impact as well. Check for recommended access directions. Access to the site can also be made by way of a pedestrian “sky-bridge” crossing from the Aquarium of Niagara.

4. Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society

25 Nottingham Court
Buffalo, NY 14216
Phones: (716)873-9644 Fax: (716)873-8754
www.bechs.org

The Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society is one of the oldest regional organizations of its type in the country. Founded

in 1862, its first president was Millard Fillmore (13th President of the United States).

The building, which now houses the Society and serves as a museum-research center, was built of white Vermont marble and designed to be used as the “New York State Building” for the 1901 Pan-American Exposition. This National Historic Landmark was the only building specifically designed to remain after the Expo, and is the primary repository for: more than 80,000 artifacts documenting the area’s cultural heritage; 20,000 books; 200,000 photographs; and, 2,000 manuscripts.

•The Museum is open daily, except Monday. It is also closed New Year’s Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Check with their office for times and admission costs, and any potential seasonal changes.

•The Museum is near the world famous Albright-Knox Art Gallery (www.albrightknox.org), whose permanent collection includes works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Matisse, Derain, Monet, and Renoir. Although intended (hoped for in planning) to serve first as the Fine Arts Pavilion of the 1901 Pan-American Exposition, the “Albright Art Gallery” was not completed until 1905, well after the Expo.

Questions to be answered:

1. In what year was the original Erie Canal completed, and what was the relationship of Buffalo, New York, to it? Name the first boat to transverse the Canal; when, and from where, did it depart. Also, by what derogatory “nick-name” was the Canal known by its detractors, and why? _____

2. Why was the Erie Canal so important to the history of the United States, as well as the State of New York? _____

3. By what “regal” sounding title is the City of Buffalo known? _____

4. In what building at the 1901 Pan-American Exposition was President William McKinley shot? _____

5. During what armed conflict was Buffalo attacked and burned by British forces? _____

6. When was the original “Buffalo Lighthouse” built? _____
7. The east-coast based whaling industry of the 19th and early 20th centuries advertised heavily, for sailors, in Buffalo as well as Boston and New York City. Why those cities, in general, and Buffalo in particular? _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

5. Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site

(Wilcox Mansion)

641-Delaware Avenue

Buffalo, NY 14202

Phones: (716)884-0095 Fax: (716)884-0330

www.nps.gov/thri

Following the assassination of President William McKinley, in Buffalo, at the 1901 Pan-American Exposition, Theodore Roosevelt was inaugurated as our nation’s 26th President in the library of the Wilcox Mansion (an historic home in its own rights at the time). The building is the only National Park Service location in Western New York, and one of just five inaugural sites located outside of Washington, D.C. For the record, Theodore Roosevelt was, and remains, the youngest President of the United States at the time of his inauguration.

Featured attractions include: guided tours of the house; permanent and changing exhibits; architectural walking tours; period gardens; and, numerous special events throughout the year.

“Teddy” Roosevelt was a good friend of Scouting in its early years; his oldest son, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., served on the National Board of the Boy Scouts of America for many years, and was a strong advocate for the program until his tragic death during World War II’s “D-Day” operations in 1944.

• Open daily, except, New Year’s Eve and Day, Easter, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Day. Check with their office for hours of operation and admission fees.

• There is a parking area behind the building; check with site for best way to access it.

Questions to be answered:

1. On what date was President McKinley shot? Who was the assassin, and why did he do it; what was the killer's ultimate fate? _____

2. On what date did President McKinley die and Vice-President Theodore Roosevelt take the oath of office as President?

3. What was the name of the house in which President McKinley died, and where was it located?

4. During President McKinley's first term of office, he appointed Theodore Roosevelt to what federal position? How long did he hold this post, and why did he resign it?

5. At the time of his election in 1900 as Vice-President (for McKinley's second term), what political office did Roosevelt hold? Who did McKinley and Roosevelt defeat in that election?

6. Teddy Roosevelt was, himself, the victim of an assassination attempt while running for President on the Progressive (or "Bull Moose") Party line in the 1912 election. Just before he was to make a speech, in Milwaukee, he was shot; a glasses case in his pocket deflected the bullet and probably saved his life. Even with the bullet in his chest, Roosevelt insisted on making the speech; he recovered in about two weeks. What was the date of the attempt; who was the would-be assassin and his occupation; what was the shooter's fate? _____

7. The Roosevelt Inaugural Site is also known as the "Wilcox Mansion." Who was Wilcox, and why was the inauguration held there? _____

8. What was the “Buffalo Barracks,” and what was their relationship to the location of the Wilcox Mansion?
-
-

9. In what year was the mansion officially acquired by the National Park Service to care for as the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site? _____

6. Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park

One Naval Park Cove

Buffalo, NY 14202

Phones: (716)847-1773 Fax: (716)847-6405

www.buffalonaivalpark.org

Located on the Buffalo waterfront, the Naval & Military Park is the largest inland facility of its kind in the United States. All branches of the Armed Forces are represented in the exhibits. Visitors have the opportunity to tour the decks and hulls of the Guided Missile Cruiser *USS Little Rock* (CL-92/CLG-4), the battle scarred Destroyer *USS The Sullivans* (DD-537), and the WW-II era Submarine *USS Croaker* (SS-246/SSK-246). Also on site is Motor Torpedo Boat *PTF-17*, as well as planes, a tank, and more. Overnight encampments are available for youth groups, such as Scouts, on board the *Little Rock*.

- The site is open to the public on a seasonal basis: daily, from April through October; weekends, in November; open holidays during season. Check with their office to confirm hours and admission fees, as well as parking information.

- Directional signage (to the Naval Park) in the downtown area is somewhat confusing. If you are unfamiliar with the street approaches, you should contact the site for their recommended route. Also, be prepared for possible delays and inconveniences caused by seasonal road repairs and municipal projects in the area. Extensive long term construction is scheduled for the area; be patient, it's worth it!!!

- As with any museum, certain areas may not be open to the public at the time of your visit. Repairs, renovations and the preparation of new exhibits are necessary elements of any historic site operation, especially one as unique as this.

Questions to be answered:

1. What kind of airplane (manufacturer and type) is “Snooks 2nd,” and who was its pilot? _____
2. When was the *USS Little Rock* (CLG-4) decommissioned, and what was her approximate compliment of crewmen?

3. What are the names of the five Sullivan brothers for whom the *USS The Sullivans* (DD-537) is named? On what ship did they serve during World War II? _____

4. In what two combat theaters of World War II did “Motor Torpedo Boats” (PT Boats) prove invaluable to U.S. and allied forces, and wreak havoc on enemy targets?

5. In what operational areas did *USS Croaker* serve under its initial designation (SS-246), and after conversion (SSK-246)?

6. The nuclear-powered submarine *USS Buffalo* (SSN-715) – which was named after the City of Buffalo, New York – is designated as what “class” and “type” of vessel? What was the date of its “christening” and launch? _____

7. In whose memory is the Museum Building named? Also, a permanent exhibit gallery on board the *Little Rock* show-cases uniforms and memorabilia from which allied (WW-II) group – many of whose veterans settled in, and around, Buffalo? _____

Niagara Frontier Trail Medal: May 2003 – Revision by Harry M. DeBan; © GNFC – BSA

“Thank You”
for your interest in the
Niagara Frontier Family Trail Program.



May 2003-Revised Edition

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