



# Trail Guide for Scouts

## through Independence National Historical Park

**Welcome to Philadelphia, the city of Brotherly Love! You are about to walk the same streets, enter the same buildings, and talk about the same issues that our Founding Fathers grappled with over 200 years ago.**

This area is full of history, and you couldn't possibly see all that there is to see in just a few hours. Hopefully, this Trail Guide will challenge you to learn more about our nation's rich history.

Remember: the path to freedom and self-government was not an easy one to take. Sacrifices would have to be made. People would have to take risks, put aside their differences, and agree to compromise over how their new government would truly reflect "We the People."

**Please note:** If you decide to use this Trail Guide, it may help you to earn a *Merit Badge*. Be sure to discuss your visit with your counselor.

**-Safety Message-** Please be careful when crossing the city's busy streets. Please watch the uneven surfaces and cross only at intersections.

**-Building Hours-** Check with a Park Ranger at the Independence Visitor Center (IVC) and pick up *The Gazette*, a free guide of the buildings in and around Independence National Historical Park.

**-There are no restrooms on Independence Square or in the Liberty Bell Center!** Use restrooms at the IVC or at corner of 5<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut Streets.

**-Tickets** (free of charge) for Independence Hall can be obtained at the Independence Visitor Center every day except the months of January & February (when no tickets are required).

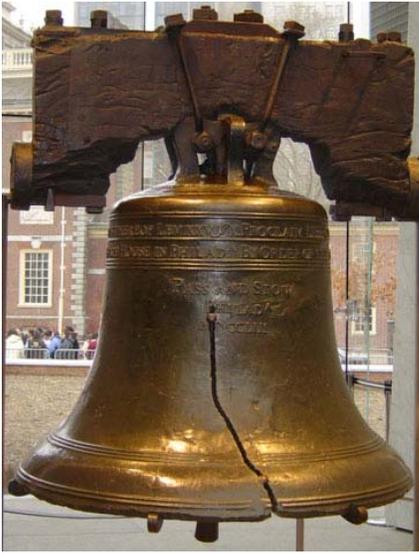
### **Stop #1- Independence Visitor Center** (Corner of Sixth and Market Streets)

To begin this walk, proceed to the Independence Visitor Center (IVC). If time allows, obtain a free, timed ticket for Independence Hall (tours are about ½ hour in length). Pick up a map, and ask a Park Ranger about daily activities in the park.

**Activity A:** Watch the movie *Independence* (30 minutes) or the movie *Choosing Sides* (20 minutes).

- What ideas were the filmmakers trying to convey?
- If you lived around the time of the American Revolution, which side would you choose, Patriot or Loyalist? Why?
- Your decision in "choosing sides" could impact the rest of your life. In what ways?

**Activity B:** (optional). You may be able to take a 45-minute, Park Ranger-led walking tour through Old City. Check with the Park Ranger at the desk for scheduled tours and times. After taking this tour, name three things that you didn't know before.



Liberty Bell

**Stop #2- Liberty Bell Center** (From the IVC, proceed directly across Market Street at Sixth Street. Walk east on Market to the screening area located near Fifth Street).

**Activity A:** As you enter the building, read the exhibit text located on the left hand side. The Liberty Bell has been a symbol for many people over the last 150 years.

- How did it get its name?
- Name at least three different groups of people who used the Bell to get their message across. In each case, name their struggles for liberty.
- Do their struggles for liberty and human rights still continue today?

**Activity B:** Proceed directly to the movie screen that continuously shows a 12-minute film about the Liberty Bell. Watch the film.

- Name at least three important occasions when the Bell was rung. Why were these occasions important?
- The Liberty Bell's message reflects the struggles that many people have encountered over the centuries. What were they? Do some of these struggles go on today? Explain your answer.

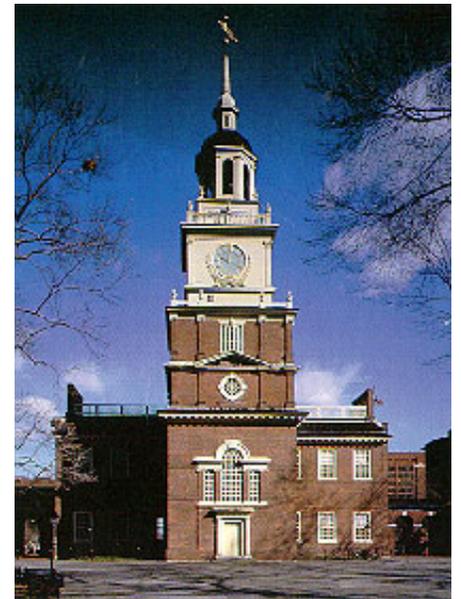
**Activity C:** Talk to a Park Ranger about the importance of the Bell and why people come from around the corner, and around the world to see this internationally recognized symbol of American freedom.

### Stop #3- Independence Square

(Proceed directly across Chestnut Street. Watch for traffic).

**Activity A:** If you received a ticket for **Independence Hall** at the Independence Visitor Center, check the time on your ticket, and get in line behind the East Wing about 5 minutes before your tour will begin.

- Why did the Continental Congress choose Philadelphia as its meeting place?
- Who was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence?
- Can you list at least three grievances that the Congress had against the King?
- Why was the Constitutional Convention formed? Who was its presiding officer?
- Did the Constitution guarantee rights for everyone?
- How many branches of government were created under this proposal? What does the term "checks and balances" mean? Explain.



Independence Hall

**Activity B:** Enter **Congress Hall** (corner of 6<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut Streets).

- Why is this building important?
- There are two "houses" that make up our U.S. Congress. Which part of Congress met on the first floor? What were some of the important decisions made here?
- There were two presidential inaugurations conducted in this building. The second one was more important than the first. Why?
- If time permits, proceed to the second floor.
- Who met up here? How were their jobs similar or different to their counterparts downstairs?
- Compare the upstairs with the downstairs rooms. How are they similar? How are they different?
- Take a look at the portraits in the two committee rooms. Who do these portraits represent? Why are they hanging here?

**Activity C:** Enter the **Great Essentials** exhibit in the West Wing (next to Congress Hall).

- Name and describe the importance of the three documents located in the exhibit cases.
- Recently, the movie *National Treasure* was made about one of the documents. Which document was that?
- What is different about the document you see in the glass exhibit case and the more famous one, located in Washington, D.C.?
- Go to the other side of the exhibit case. What is important about the inkstand that you see before you? What is it made of? Who may have used it?

**Activity D:** Enter **Old City Hall** (corner of 5<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut Streets).

Listen to the Park Ranger's program. Enter the court room.

- Who used this room? For how long?
- What is the job of the Supreme Court?
- When Philadelphia was the capital of the United States, were the Justices here all of the time? If not, where else would they be?
- Can you name some members of the original Supreme Court? How is a member of the Supreme Court chosen? Do current members of the Supreme Court still "ride the circuit"?
- If this was City Hall, where was the mayor's office?

**Activity E:** (optional) Enter **Philosophical Hall**. (Behind Old City Hall). Who helped to found the American Philosophical Society (APS) here? (Hint: He was a longtime printer here in Philadelphia, among many other accomplishments). What is the mission of the American Philosophical Society? Name at least three exhibits that impressed you the most. Why? What famous explorer was trained about medicine here in Philadelphia by Dr. Benjamin Rush, a member of the APS? (Hint: He traveled west, where few, if any, white men had gone before).

**Stop # 4-*The Second Bank of the United States*** (Chestnut Street between 5<sup>th</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Streets).

There are many original portraits painted by Charles Willson Peale. Enter the building and walk all the way to the back of the museum in the *People of the Land* exhibit.

- What is the idea behind the exhibit? (Hint: Find the self-portrait of Peale in his museum).
- The subject of each portrait played a role in the development of the nation. Can you identify at least 3 famous people from the portraits in this room?
- Can you find the stuffed eagle? Why is it here?
- Where could you find some of Peale's exhibits in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century?



Second Bank of the United States

**Stop # 5- *Carpenters' Hall*** (South of Chestnut Street—between 4<sup>th</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets).

- When was the Carpenters' Company founded?
- What is the importance of Carpenters' Hall?
- Can you name at least *three* famous people who worked in the building? What did they accomplish that is important to us?
- Who is one Founding Father who had several secret meetings with an envoy from France in Carpenter's Hall in 1775?

## Stop # 6- *Franklin Court*

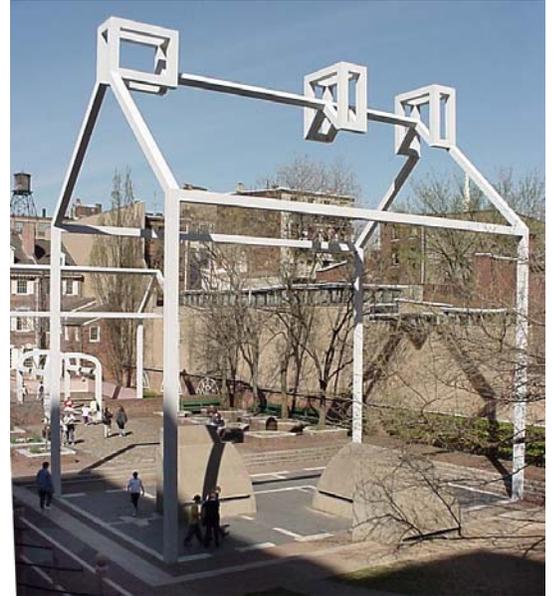
(Proceed to north side of Chestnut Street- next to the National Liberty Museum)

**Activity A.** Walk up the cobblestone alley and read the sign when you get to the entrance of the courtyard. Look at the two “ghost structures” in front of you.

- What do they represent?
- What happened to the original house?
- Read the tile slates in the ground, underneath the “ghost structure” representing Franklin’s home.
- Where was the “privy” or “necessary”?
- Which room was described as the “music room”?
- How many people could fit in the expanded dining room?

**Activity B:** Proceed toward the Underground Museum. Its entrance is marked by two glass doors. Enter the museum and walk down the long ramp. When you enter the first room, you’ll see a Park Ranger. Then proceed into the gallery.

- How many portraits of Ben Franklin do you see?
- What were the names of his family members?
- One of the Franklin children grew up to be the royal governor of New Jersey. What was his name, and what happened to him?
- Franklin lost an infant son to smallpox. What was his name and when did he die?
- Name at least three Franklin inventions that you found in the gallery.



Franklin Court

**Activity C:** Proceed to the rear of the museum and watch the 22-minute film, *The Real Ben Franklin*.

- Can you identify at least *three* things that interested Franklin?
- Why did he run away from Boston?
- After retiring from printing, Ben Franklin entered the world of politics. Why was he berated before the King’s Privy Council in London?
- Can you name at least two documents that Franklin signed? (Hint: One of them was signed in Paris).

**Activity D:** Leave the Underground Museum and walk toward the *Franklin Court Print Shop*.

(It is located left of the passageway that leads out to Market Street, on the *far left-hand side of the courtyard*.)

- As you enter the print shop, observe what is going on.
- Was this the site of Franklin’s original print shop?
- Why did Franklin become so successful at printing?
- Look around the room. Can you name at least *three* of Franklin’s publications?
- Was typesetting easy to do in Franklin’s time? How is typesetting done today?
- If you observe a printing demonstration, find out how the paper and ink were made. Do you think this was easy to do? How many sheets could a journeyman printer produce in a minute?

**Stop # 7 Christ Church** Exit the Print Shop onto Market Street and turn right. Walk 1½ blocks east to Second Street. Turn left on Second Street, and cross Market Street.

As you enter the building, try to find a pamphlet about Christ Church. There may be a tour guide there who will explain the importance of the church and its people.

- The baptismal font belonging to the founder of Pennsylvania is there. Who was he? (Hint: He was a Quaker, and invited people of different religious groups to come and live in the colony).
- Name several people who worshipped here.
- There are a number of people buried underneath the church floor. One of them was a long time rector of Christ Church, as well as St Peter's Church at 3<sup>rd</sup> & Pine. Who was he?



Christ Church (Interior)

**Stop # 8** Return to the *Independence Visitor Center* (Walk four blocks west to 6<sup>th</sup> & Market Streets).

Proceed to the NPS desk and talk to a Park Ranger about the park you have just visited.

If there is time, you might want to tell the Park Ranger what you liked best about your experience. What did you like the least? What have you learned? Would you come back with your family for another visit? Why or why not? Ask the Park Ranger to sign his/her name at the bottom of this page.

Name of Scout \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Troop# \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Park Ranger \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Congratulations! This concludes the Trail Guide for Scouts through Independence National Historical Park. Talk to your counselor about what you have seen and learned. It may help you to achieve a **Merit Badge!**



**The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may enjoy our heritage.**