



VICKSBURG NATIONAL  
MILITARY PARK

## **TREK HIKE**

A 7 Mile Hike Through History

**Vicksburg Trail Committee**  
A Service Organization  
to the  
Boy Scouts of America

## **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

Before starting your Trek through the Vicksburg National Military Park, read *these instructions thoroughly*.

**Each hiking group** must purchase the booklet, "Vicksburg A Self-Guiding Tour," available at the information desk in the Visitor's Center. As you hike past tour stops on the TREK, stop and have one of the hikers or an adult leader read the appropriate passage from the booklet. Pictures in the booklet provide a different aspect of the battlefield area. Pass the booklet around to let all see the pictures when you stop.

**Register your group** at the Visitor's Center. After viewing the introductory film, you are ready to begin the hike. Take your group to one of the two cannons directly in front of the Visitor's Center, and read aloud the first and fourth paragraphs on page 7 of the booklet. Begin hiking north along Confederate Avenue (to your left as you face the Visitors Center.) The fee for automobiles supporting Scout Units hiking the Trek Hike is waived. As you pass the toll booth, tell the Ranger that you are with a visiting Scout Unit and are providing food or water to them.

**There are no questions** which must be answered by the hikers. The Trek, however, is not intended to be a speed hike. Each hiker is requested to read as much of the information given on the plaques and monuments as time will permit. As the Trek is hiked, adult leaders should remind the hikers of the thousands of Americans, many the same ages as they, who gallantly fought and died on these same grounds. Every one of them, both from the North and the South, was fighting for a cause he felt to be right.

**As you complete the Trek** and leave the Military Park, carry this thought with you: *"Here brothers fought for their principles; here heroes died for their Country. And a united people will forever cherish the precious legacy of their manhood"*.

**Complete the Award Application** and mail to the Vicksburg Trail Committee. Be sure to include a check or money order for each patch desired.

**It has been our pleasure** to host your Scout unit. Your comments on the Trek and suggestions for improvement would be sincerely appreciated.

**Vicksburg Trail Committee**

## **WHAT IS THE VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK?**

The Park is an area set aside and preserved as a memorial to one of the most famous sieges of all times. History will forever tell the story of the military action that took place on these hills and ravines that surround the City of Vicksburg. The siege ended on July 4, 1863, with the surrender of the City to the Federal Army after a long and gallant defense by the Confederates.

## **WHAT IS THE PLAN OF THE PARK?**

The Confederate Army occupied a strong line of fortifications that extended along the top of a ridge from the Mississippi River south of Vicksburg and encircled the city to Fort Hill on the north. This fortification line is now called Confederate Avenue. Directly across a ravine, Union Avenue follows the fortification line of the Federal forces. Many monuments, markers, tablets, and cannons have been placed along both of these avenues to memorialize the soldiers who fought on these lines and explain the battles that took place. The total Confederate defense line was some 9 miles long and the total Union line was about 16 miles long.

## **WHY WAS VICKSBURG SO IMPORTANT?**

The North had to control the Mississippi River. By doing so, they would divide the South, would have a waterway to the Gulf of Mexico and cut off the food supply to the South. Of course the South could not afford to lose control of the River. By the middle of 1862 the North had captured all of the Mississippi except the 5 miles in front of the "*Gibraltar of the South*", Vicksburg. The Union navy, being unable to run the gauntlet of cannons on the high bluffs, had to rely on the Union army to encircle the City and silence the deadly cannons. The Union army made several furious charges against the Confederate defensive works, but all failed. The only way Vicksburg could be taken would be to starve the Confederate army. With 72,000 Union soldiers surrounding 18,500 Confederate soldiers, there was no way to get food into Vicksburg. After 47 days of fighting, sickness and starvation was everywhere. There was only one thing to do and that was to surrender. On July 4, 1863, General Ulysses S. Grant, commander of the Union forces, accepted the surrender of General John C. Pemberton, commander of the Confederates.

## HIKING HELPS

As a guest of the National Park Service, and as representatives of the Boy Scouts of America, all hikers must maintain a high standard of conduct along the trail in order that others may also enjoy the hike.

Show courtesy to the people you meet along the way.

The Trek runs along the side of privately owned property. Stay on the trail and away from private property. Do not stop at any of the homes along the way, and do not stop to pet dogs or other pets.

Carrying of firearms, sheath knives and axes is NOT permitted.

Defacing National Park property, including monuments, statues, plaques, cannons, trees, and so on, is not permitted. Do not leave litter in the Park. Carry it out with you.

Fires and smoking along the Trek is NOT permitted. The fire hazard is too serious.

Be sure to carry water. Water is only available at the Visitor's Center on the Trek Hike.

# TREK HIKE

## APPLICATION FOR AWARD

TROOP/PACK \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE \_\_\_\_\_ Council.  
(No.) (City and State) (Name)

HIKE LEADER IS \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

POSITION IN SCOUTING \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Each applicant listed below has completed the **Trek Hike** on foot and has completed the following requirements:

- a. Read selected portions of **“Vicksburg · A Self-Guiding Tour”** booklet;
- b. Registered at the National Military Park Visitor Center and attended the introductory movie;
- c. Visited locations along the **Trek Hike** and read the information given on the plaques and monuments at these locations.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Adult Leader

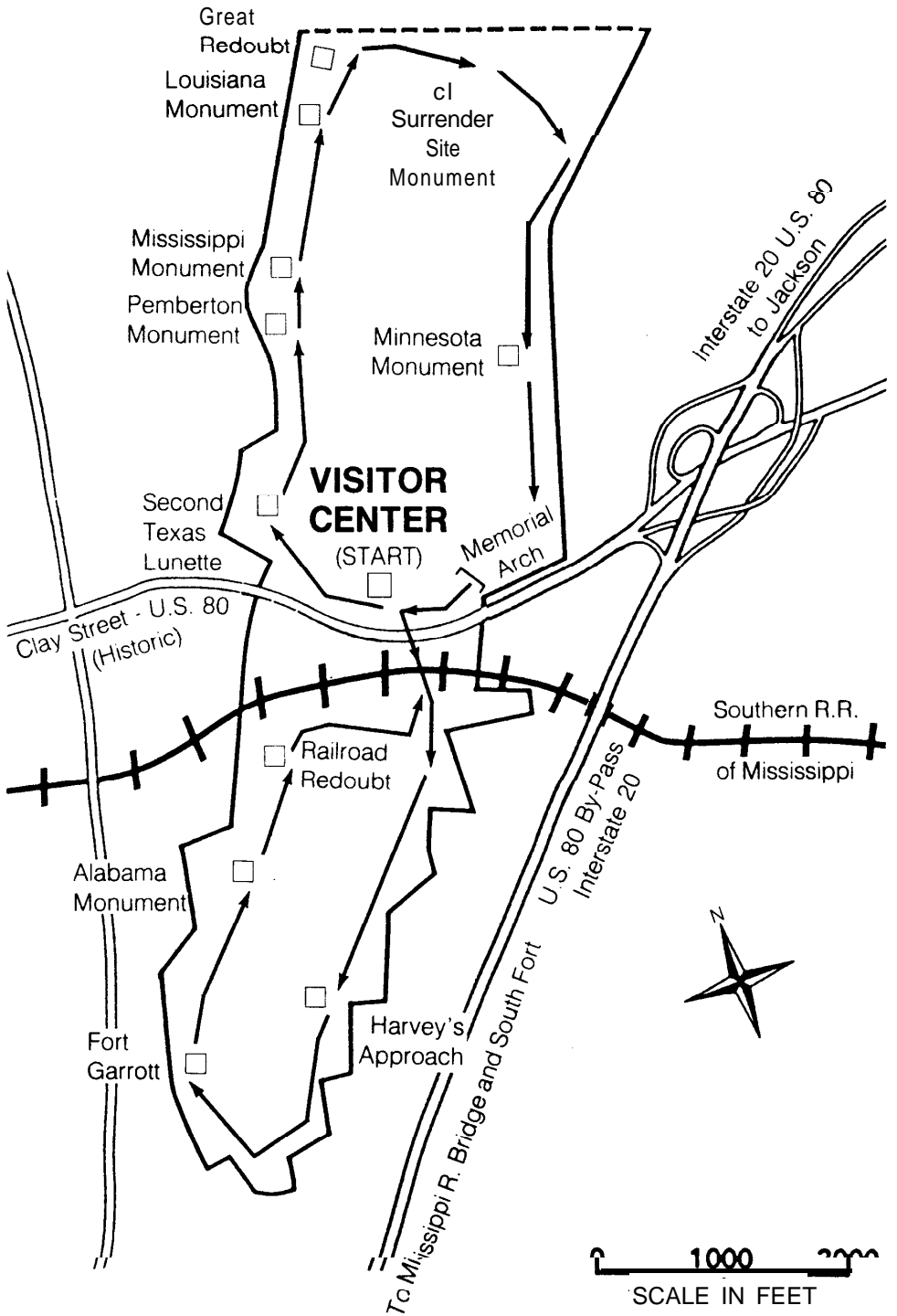
**TREK PATCH cost: \$3.00 each**

**Hat Pin cost: \$1.50 each**

APPLICANTS:	AWARDS	
	Patch	Hat Pin
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____
13. _____	_____	_____

CONTINUE NAMES ON A SEPARATE SHEET.

# VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK



- Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.

*In pristine areas*

- Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.
- Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

**DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY**



- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter.

- Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter stained dishwater.

**LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND**

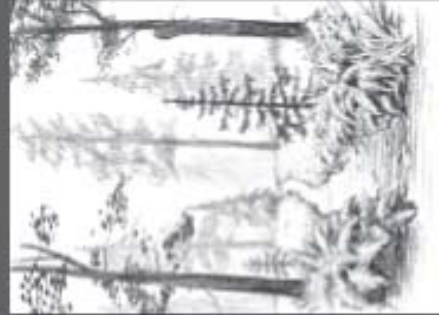


- Preserve the past: observe, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.



**LEAVE NO TRACE**  
PRINCIPLES of OUTDOOR ETHICS

FROM YOUR BACKPACK TO YOUR BACKCOUNTRY



**LEAVE NO TRACE**  
*Center For Outdoor Ethics*

For more information please contact the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics at [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org) or call 1.800.332.4100

©2008 Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. All rights reserved

### PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Visit in small groups. Split larger parties into smaller groups.
- Repackage food to minimize waste.
- Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns or flagging.



- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

### MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.



### TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.
  - Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams.
  - Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.
- In popular areas*
- Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.
  - Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.



### RESPECT WILDLIFE

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.
- Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.



### BE COURTEOUS OF OTHER VISITORS

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experiences.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.
- Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.