

George Washington -- Learning To Be A Leader

Leader's Guide

Information for Scoutmasters

When entering the visitor center, begin by paying the entrance fee. The park ranger will let you know when the next showing of the film is scheduled.

Ask the Park Ranger for

- the Fort Necessity Map and Guide
- the pamphlet "Enlist with a young George Washington – See the Pennsylvania frontier."
- the flyer entitled "Hiking Trails."
- this Leader's Guide

Scouts and leaders are to conduct themselves in a manner which is a credit to Scouting and the Scout Oath and Law. It is always important for each scout to set an example by their conduct.

For Safety's Sake

- Walking surfaces may become slippery when wet.
- Stay on posted walks and hiking trails.
- Follow National Park Service regulations.
- Hike in groups of ten or less. Each group should have at least one adult for every ten scouts.
- It is highly recommended that all participants carry water, especially in the summer. Hats and sunscreen are also recommended.
- Scouts are encouraged to wear their official uniforms while participating in the program.

Please have your scouts read the Stewardship section on page 20 before you leave the visitor's center.

What to Expect- Completing this patch program will take approximately 3 to 4 hours. You might consider having a lunch break after completing requirement 3. There are picnic tables at the visitor center available for groups. Check with the park rangers.

The focus of this patch program is to gain an understanding of George Washington's role in The Battle of Fort Necessity and how that affected his development as a leader. The film and visitor center also have information about Jumonville Glen, the French and Indian War, Braddock's Road, The National Road and Mount Washington Tavern. For the purpose of this program, however, we are emphasizing George Washington's role in the Battle of Fort Necessity.

There are three informational sections in the back of this booklet starting on page 11. Those sections will provide the scouts with additional information which is not readily available in the film or visitor center. You may want your scouts to preview this information.

Another suggestion for getting the scouts ready to learn about George Washington is to ask them what they already know about him from lessons in school. This can be done before you start the program....even at an earlier troop meeting. At the end of the day, you may want to ask again what they know of George Washington.

When working on this Boy Scout Patch's requirements, please encourage the scouts to fill out their booklet completely. They can use it for future reference. Encourage each boy to participate in discussions as this helps each boy have a better learning experience.

Possible answers to the questions in requirements 1 through 5.

1. Film “Road of Necessity”

- A. Governor Dinwiddie did not send the promised troops and supplies. Washington started to understand that politicians could not be trusted to keep their promises.
- B. The Indians abandoned The British and Washington for a number of reasons.
 - The Indians recognized Washington’s fort was in a bad location to win a battle.
 - The Indians began to understand that even if the British would win, they would not be able to stay on their own land...that the British would take it.
 - Washington had meager supplies and no more goods were coming. Indians expected to be paid for their services as scouts and warriors with trade goods (wampum, clothing, muskets and axes).

2. Braddock Road Trace

- A. Building the road was very hard physical labor. The land was full of boulders which needed to be moved. The trees were virgin forest timber and were very large, tall, and close together. Cutting them down and removing them from the road was quite difficult. The land was hilly

and the weather was often hot. In addition, the soldiers were constantly bothered by insects.

3. Reconstructed Fort

- A. The tree line where the French and Indians were hiding is farther than the range of a musket in some places. The British were lined up in the open field in the European style of battles. The French and Indians were hiding behind trees and moving from place to place in the dense forest. They were using a guerilla style of warfare. Where the trees were very big, two could hide behind and shoot at the British. Washington did not consider the Indians' skill as warriors.
- B. Washington's men were surrounded. They were in a lower position and in an open field with little protection. They were "sitting ducks". They were also ill and exhausted from hiking back 14 miles in two days from hard labor building a road. They were hungry, had worn out clothes and shoes, and had very wet musket powder due to the heavy rainfall. They were miserable and their moral was completely gone. Some of the soldiers were drunk. They had been feeling hopeless and desperate and had broken into the rum kegs.
- C. The battle style of the British was to line up in rows in an open field. The French and Indians were on higher ground and could look down at the British who had no place to hide.

4. George Washington Informational Sections

A. Always find a good defensive position for a battle. Try to not be below your adversary. Have an avenue of retreat if it becomes necessary. Never sign a document you cannot read.

B. Keep your men's morale up by providing as much food and equipment as possible. Have the men learn discipline and be ready to follow orders.

Examples:

- Keep morale high
- Equip men and provide instruction
- Keep men healthy
- Keep men rested

C. The four math problems answers are:

#1- 400lbs of meat, 600lbs of flour, 12.5 gallons of rum.

2- 24 kegs, 14,400 musket balls.

#3- 100 tents, the men would share the load—some taking canvas, some taking poles.

#4- 6 wagons, 12 horses, 21,380 pounds.

(Perhaps assign different problems to scouts so they could discuss all four problems.)

5. George Washington, the Person

- A. He knew he was in charge but he couldn't get the men to follow his orders. He had not listened to the advice of the Indians and had built his fort in a bad location. He had not planned for a loss and did not have an escape route.
- B. The soldiers need to have been fed and rested before a battle if possible. The soldiers need to believe in their cause and that they can win the battle.
- C. Washington learned that politicians may mean well but they cannot be trusted to deliver on their promises. He learned that he could best rely on himself. During the Revolution, he started finding supplies and equipment for himself, using whatever resources were at hand.
- D. George Washington was a tall man, 6'3", who carried himself well. He always dressed as well as possible and had a good horse. He knew that appearing like a leader helped his men have confidence in his leadership abilities. He tried to always take care of his soldiers and they knew that. Therefore, the soldiers were loyal to Washington and even stayed with him through the harsh winters during the Revolution.

Completion

After all requirements are met, you may apply for the patch. The cost of the patch is \$5.00. Please fill out the information below, send the form and payment to:

George Washington Learning to be a Leader
Westmoreland-Fayette Council, Inc.
Boy Scouts of America
2 Garden Center Drive
Greensburg, Pa. 15601 – 1393

Troop # _____

Boy Scout Council _____

Scoutmaster _____

Number of patches _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Address where the patches should be mailed
