



The Chipmunk Quest at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Park

Woodstock, Vermont

Physical Difficulty: Easy

Special Features: Natural

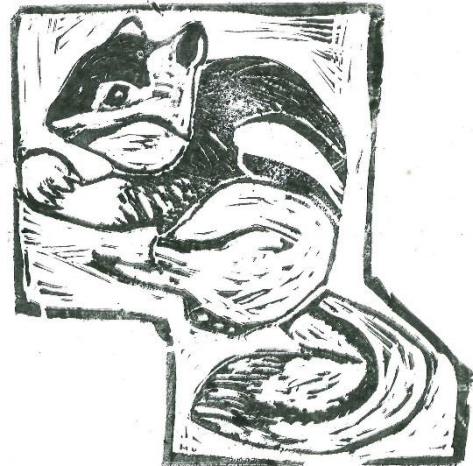
Walking Conditions: Trail

Duration: 1:00

Season: May-Oct

Bring: Field Guide, Binoculars

To get there: Your destination is Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park. Take Route 4 west to Woodstock, then turn right onto Route 12 North and bear right after the iron bridge, continuing 1/4 mile. Park in the Billings Farm & Museum parking lot. Take the walkway up to Rt. 12 and cross the street to the National Park. Keep to your left up the hill. Your Quest begins past the Carriage Barn Visitor Center and right behind the red brick Mansion.



Overview:

Follow our chipmunk friend as he explores the trees in the forest and finds food and shelter along the way. Designed for children and families visiting Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, but fun for all ages!

Clues:

To the right of the parking area, in the forest,
Hidden stone steps that begin your quest
Are in the forest to the right of the parking area.
Chipmunks will be scampering if you quietly do your best,
To find the secret path to my Chipmunk Quest!

Station 1

At the base of the steps, cones in a bunch
Can you pick one the red squirrel had for lunch
Explore the stone wall with holes
Perfect to hide food and make my home.

Station 2

Venture up the steps and please stay on the trail
Not touching the plants as some are frail
After 15 footsteps to the left, a pile of cone shells
A "midden" or food cache for the red squirrel.

Station 3

Staying to the left up the steps you go here,
A silent walk to a hidden little pond is near.
Who comes here to drink?
I do! Which other animals come here do you think?

Station 4

Walk along the little pond keeping it to your right
Making your way to a bridge, caution it is tight.
It is fun to climb! Another high bridge is coming,
Listen to the sound of the water, so relaxing.

Station 5

Turning left at the very top,
down the hill a few feet
Finding three different kinds of
cones, what a treat!
One is hard to find
The smallest of its kind.



Station 6

Walking along quietly you may see
 More steps to a stone bench for you and me
 Birds, squirrels, and chipmunks left clues here
 Close your eyes and listen, they are near.

Station 7

Down the hill through many kinds of ferns,
 Stop before the road, where big trees stand firm.
 Collect 2 acorns, lean against a tree, look up at the sky,
 Feel their bark, don't be shy!

Activity 1 (optional)

A chipmunk tunnel is 20 feet long
 Now take a foot long twig, look around.
 How can you see how long is the tunnel using the twig?
 Help each other, you don't have to dig.

Activity 2 (optional)

Chipmunk escapes in his tunnel really fast,
 When foxes, weasels, owls, coyotes, snakes come past.
 They can freeze too when there is danger near.
 How well can you freeze, have no fear.

Station 8

Can you spy another set of steps from where you stare?
 Go up by 5 fragile little ponds with respect and care.
 You may find a stone to leave your acorns for me
 It will be my breakfast by a tree.

Chipmunks collect 165 acorns a day for their needs
 Can carry 6 in their cheeks, or 60 sunflower seeds.
 Digging their tunnel, they carry the dirt in their mouth
 Give them a soft shout.

Station 9

Go down from the last little pond,
 To chain link railing on a path of which I am fond.
 You are close to the end of our Quest.
 Walk quietly and see what you can spy, do your best.

Station 10

At the end of the path, a carriage road,
I don't think it is for the toad!
Look behind one of the giants to your right.
Find the treasure well hidden in a log, just out of sight.



I had fun sharing my home
Isn't it fun not to walk alone!
Down to the gardens you go
Take time to spy chipmunks, what a show!

This Quest was created by Steve Glazer and Lauren Whittlesey in 2015. Revised in 2020 by Marie Hanson (MBR National Park) and Vital Communities.

Other things to do nearby: Check out the Unicorn shop at 15 Central Street in downtown Woodstock for intriguing odds and ends. <http://unicornvt.com/>. And several other Quests in Woodstock.

Please be a good steward of the land: leave it better than you found it and pack out any trash you find.



Valley Quest is a collection of treasure hunts that share and teach the natural gems and cultural heritage of the Upper Valley with children, families, adults, and visitors. It is a program of Vital Communities, a regional nonprofit working to engage citizens, organizations, and communities in creating solutions to our region's challenges. Learn more at vitalcommunities.org.

Have a suggestion, question, comment, or idea for us? We'd love to hear from you. Reach us at valleyquest@vitalcommunities.org or 802-291-9100.