

1 Begin your hike by crossing the bridge to the northwest. This bridge was built by scouts only a little older than you in a group called the Order of the Arrow (OA). The OA is an honors society of scouts that provides new, fun ways to serve others. The OA actually maintains ALL of the trails, bridges, and switchbacks around camp.

Continue along the southern edge of the Carpenter campsite, across the road, and around the Schroeder cabin.

2 The Schroeder cabin to your left is one of eleven cabins at Firelands Scout Reservation that your unit can rent for the weekend. Imagine a sleepover with your entire Pack and everyone gets his own bunk bed! You can also rent campsites and make arrangements with the Council Shooting Sports Director for bb-gun or other program activities. Visit [www.heartofohiocouncil.org](http://www.heartofohiocouncil.org) for details.

The trail loops most of the way around Schroeder, makes a sharp right, descends the hill, and joins the road.

Pause at the bridge across the Vermillion River. Across this bridge even greater adventures in Boy Scouts await you, including a huge climbing tower and zip line and shotgun ranges, and a lake where you can canoe and learn to sail a boat.

Flowing under the bridge is the Vermillion River which flows north into Lake Erie. Decades ago, before either lake was built at Firelands, the river was dammed here to form a pool. This is where scouts took their swimmer test during the first years of Camp Firelands.

Turn right and leave the road (don't cross the bridge, remain on the north side of the river). Watch for animal tracks in the moist, sandy soil here. Pause after approximately 20 yards.

3 The river attracts wildlife. It is a source of food, water, and habitat. Even animals that don't live in the water benefit from habitat that the river provides.

The river has caused erosion, which led to the landslide to the east (right), and the landslide created small caves where many animals have made dens and nests. The risk of future landslides, wild animals, and falling trees make the landslide area to the east very hazardous. Do not enter it.

Animal tracks are common here. How many can you identify?



Continue on the trail, parallel to the river. Stay left when the trail splits (the right trail goes up hernia hill, back to the dining hall). Pause after an additional 5-10 minutes of hiking.

This is approximately halfway, and a good place to take a headcount. Plant life in this part of the forest is astounding. Some of the trees are over 100 feet tall and over 100 years old. The Lake Erie Watershed Conservancy protects a large portion of Firelands Scout Reservation to protect plants and places like these.

How many plants can you identify?  
4 **SKUNK CABBAGE** has large leaves that stink if you tear them. Neither people nor animals can eat it – but why would they want to?  
**PAWPAW** have large leaves and yield edible fruit in late August or early September. In fact, pawpaw has the largest fruit native to North America.  
**HORSETAIL** is a living fossil. This plant species is so old that a lot of coal is made of it. It is also called snake plant and Lego plant. Can you guess why?



Continue northwest (downriver). Watch for trees that have been hit by lightning. Whether or not you find a specimen, review how to safely weather a lightning storm.

Many of the trees here have been hit by lightning; many survive. Humans aren't that tough. If you are outside in a lightning storm, what should you do to stay safe?

1. Go inside a building or get in a car
2. Find a low place
3. Avoid trees
4. Crouch, don't lie down

Continue along the trail until you reach the steel bridge. A good photo-opportunity is for scouts to stand in a line on the bridge and to take the picture from the left (south) bank of the river.

5 This steel bridge was also built by scouts and scouters just like you. They pulled pieces of steel through the woods, and a neighbor used a tractor to carry a welder through the woods to weld all the steel together. Can you imagine a farmer's tractor driving through these woods?

Return to the north (Cub Scout) side of the river, and proceed with the hike, following the trail north, then curving back east, not quite back-tracking.

You will come to the base of the hill that leaves the river valley. Explain what a switchback is. Another good photo-opportunity is from the bottom of the hill, upwards as scouts climb the switchbacks.

6 In the woods or on a mountainside, it is difficult to build stairs. Without stairs, how can we climb a steep hill? Can we just walk straight up the steepest part? Trailblazers make **SWITCHBACKS** that zigzag across the face of a steep hill, so hikers can climb gradually. You walk farther, but save a lot of energy by the time you reach the top.

You should never shortcut between switchbacks because it causes erosion when rain water follows the same shortcut during the next storm. Switchbacks are no place for horseplay because there is often a steep drop on one side of the trail.

At the top of the switchbacks and stairs, you emerge into the Fauver campsite. Turn right (SE) and follow the top of the ravine back toward the front of camp.

Pause at the Willard Shelter and review the Scout Law. More than plant identification or lightning safety, THIS is what we try to teach our scouts.

A Scout is...  
7 **TRUSTWORTHY.** He tells the truth, is honest, and keeps his promises. People can depend on him.  
**LOYAL.** He is true to his family, friends, leaders, school, and nation.  
**HELPFUL.** He cares about others and volunteers to help without expecting payment or reward.  
**FRIENDLY.** He is a friend to all and a brother to other Scouts. He offers friendship to people of all races and nations, and respects them even if their beliefs or customs are different from his own.  
**COURTEOUS.** He is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows that using good manners makes it easier for people to get along.  
**KIND.** He treats others as he wants to be treated. He does not harm or kill any living thing without justification  
**OBEDIENT.** He follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules or laws are unfair, he tries to change them in an orderly manner rather than disobey.  
**CHEERFUL.** He looks for the bright side of life. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.  
**THRIFTY.** He works to pay his own way and saves for the future. He conserves natural resources and carefully uses time and property.  
**BRAVE.** He can face danger although he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what is right even if others laugh at or threaten him.  
**CLEAN.** He keeps his body and mind fit. He chooses the company of those who live by high standards.  
**REVERENT.** He is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

Continue along the top of the ravine to the chapel. Show the scouts a full map of Camp Firelands, and ask them to find the other chapel at Firelands and use the map's legend to estimate the distance between the two chapels.

Farther southeast is the Lorain Nature cabin, which can also be rented by units for weekend stays. A long time ago, THIS building was the dining hall. The present dining hall was built in 1957. Can you tell which direction the current dining hall is? (SE) In the direction of the present dining hall, down in the ravine, was the original location of the rifle and archery ranges in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is thick forest now.

8 Proceed southeast past the dining hall. Gilwell field to the north (left) is named after the first scout leader training facility in England. Adults can still earn their Wood Badge beads here. Farther ahead to the north is Waldock pond, which is great for fishing and for fun boating during Cub Residence camp in the summer. Who wants to go to Cub Residence camp?

9 Turn south and pass the parking lot. Pause at the Webelos Program Area. This is where our hike ends, but your journey as a Scout should continue for a long time. Like many Cub Scouts and Webelos before you, you should strive to cross the bridge into Boy Scouts in search of greater adventures.

Ask your volunteers to repeat the headcount and confirm that all are present or accounted for.

To recognize completion of the Frog Jog hike, patches and pins are available for a small fee at the Scout Shop or the Camp Master cabin (after hours, attached to the Scout Shop).

Cub Scout requirements that can be completed as part of the Frog Jog:

**Tiger 1f: Tigers in the Wild** (all except #5)

1. With your adult partner, name and collect the Cub Scout Six Essentials you need for a hike. Tell your den leader what you would need to add to your list if it rains.
2. Go for a short hike with your den or family, and carry your own gear. Show you know how to get ready for this hike.
3. Do the following:
  - a. Listen while your leader reads the Outdoor Code. Talk about how you can be clean in your outdoor manners.
  - b. Listen while your leader reads the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids. Discuss why you should "Trash Your Trash."
  - c. Apply the Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace Principles for Kids on your Tiger den and pack outings. After one outing, share what you did to demonstrate the principles you discussed.
4. While on the hike, find three different kinds of plants, animals, or signs that animals have been on the trail. List what you saw in your Tiger Handbook.
6. Find two different trees and two different types of plants that grow in your area. Write their names in your Tiger Handbook.
7. Visit a nearby nature center, zoo, or another outside place with your family or den. Learn more about two animals, and write down two interesting things about them in your Tiger Handbook.

**Wolf 1e: Paws on the Path** (all except #8)

1. Show you are prepared to hike safely by putting together the Cub Scout Six Essentials to take along on your hike.
2. Tell what the buddy system is and why we always use it in Cub Scouts.
3. Describe what you should do if you get separated from your group while hiking.
4. Choose the appropriate clothing to wear on your hike based on the expected weather.
5. Before hiking, recite the Outdoor Code and the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids with your leader. After hiking, discuss how you showed respect for wildlife.
6. Go on a 1-mile hike with your den or family. Watch and record two interesting things that you've never seen before.
7. Name two birds, two bugs, and two animals that live in your area. Explain how you identified them.

**Bear 1d: Fur, Feathers, and Ferns** (all except #6 & #7)

1. While hiking or walking for one mile, identify six signs that any animals, birds, insects, reptiles, or plants are living nearby the place where you choose to hike.
2. Name one animal that has become extinct in the last 100 years and one animal that is currently endangered. Explain what caused their declines.
3. Visit one of the following: zoo, wildlife refuge, nature center, aviary, game preserve, local conservation area, wildlife rescue group, or fish hatchery. Describe what you learned during your visit.
4. Observe wildlife from a distance. Describe what you saw.
5. Use a magnifying glass to examine plants more closely. Describe what you saw through the magnifying glass that you could not see without it.

**Webelos 2d: Webelos Walkabout**

1. Create a hike plan.
2. Assemble a hiking first-aid kit.
3. Describe and identify from photos any poisonous plants and dangerous animals and insects you might encounter on your hike.
4. Before your hike, plan and prepare a nutritious lunch. Enjoy it on your hike, and clean up afterward.
5. Recite the Outdoor Code and the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids from memory. Talk about how you can demonstrate them on your Webelos adventures.
6. With your Webelos den or with a family member, hike 3 miles (in the country if possible).
7. Complete a service project on or near the hike location.
8. Perform one of the following leadership roles during your hike: trail leader, first-aid leader, lunch leader, or service project leader.

**Webelos elective:** Into the Wild

**Webelos elective:** Into the Woods



## The Frog Jog

Firelands Scout Reservation, Heart of Ohio Council  
Official Trail Guide



Welcome to Firelands Scout Reservation! Thank you for bringing your group to enjoy the trails at our great camp. This pamphlet will guide you on the Frog Jog, so you won't miss any highlights, and your scouts won't miss any opportunities to fulfill requirements along the way. Numbers in the margin correspond to numbers on the map. You can read aloud the sections in italics.

Before the hike, as your group gathers, make a detour to the Weather Rock.

Ask the scouts:

- 0 • *What does the Weather Rock tell us about the weather today?*
- *How have you prepared for the weather today? Is it enough?*
- *What is the Boy Scout Motto?*
- *How have you prepared for your hike today? Who has a water bottle? Camera? Compass? First aid kit? Flashlight? Pocket knife?*

At the trail head, find volunteers to do the following jobs:

**HEADCOUNT:** Ask 2 adults to separately obtain an accurate headcount.

**SWEEP:** Ask 1 adult to be the "sweep". No one should lag behind this adult for the duration of the hike.

**POINT:** No one should pass in front of the "point" during the hike. This job will rotate throughout the hike. Select a scout to begin as "point", give him a hat or bandana to designate his job. The hike is approximately **2 miles** long, and will take **45 minutes** to complete. Divide this duration by the number of scouts on the hike to determine how long each should be "point". For example, if you have 9 scouts, each should be "point" for 5 minutes.

Then, review the rules of the road:

*Just like drivers must agree to obey traffic laws before they are granted a license, you must agree to follow the rules of this road – the Frog Jog.*

**FOLLOW THE BUDDY SYSTEM.** *The long history of the "buddy system" in Scouting has shown that it is always best to have at least one other person with you and aware at all times of your circumstances and what you are doing in any outdoor or strenuous activity.*

**STAY IN A GROUP.** *Firelands covers more than 451 acres. If you get lost, it will take many people a lot of time to find you. No one should be in front of the "point" (scout in the lead), and no one should be behind the "sweep" (adult in the rear). The point should be no further than 1 trail sign ahead of the sweep (the entire group should be between the same 2 trail signs).*

**NO RUNNING ON THE TRAIL.** *There are many hidden roots and other tripping hazards. Sections of the trail are treacherous including bridges, uneven stairs, and switchbacks.*

**LEAVE NO TRACE.** *Do no damage to the trail. Where there is gravel, don't kick it off of the trail. Do not harm plants or wildlife along the trail.*