

MA-KA-JA-WAN SCOUT RESERVATION TRAIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Hiking the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Boundary Trail and the other shorter trails can be one of the greatest adventures of the summer. The variety of flora, fauna, terrain, and different environments can be an exhilarating and fun experience. The trails will challenge you, and if you are up to the challenge, you will have succeeded in mastering some of the most rugged terrain in all of Wisconsin. There are easier trails for the younger scouts, but the Boundary is the "Ultimate Challenge." Please leave these trails as you found them for the next scout that comes by. Do not leave trash on the trail- take it out with you.

YOU MAY PURCHASE A COLOR TOPOGRAPHIC MAP OF THE TRAIL SYSTEM AND ALL POINTS OF INTEREST AT THE TRADING POST OR COUNTRY STORE. WHILE HIKING, WRITE DOWN THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS ALONG THE TRAIL. YOU MUST TURN THESE IN IF YOU WISH TO PURCHASE A PATCH FOR YOUR HIKE.

GENERAL TRAIL INFORMATION

The Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Trail system has been improved again this year. All trails including the Boundary Trail have steel markers and are marked in both directions. The trails are: Killian Lake Trail (blue), Lost Lake Trail (yellow), Horseshoe Lake Trail (white), Muskrat Lake Trail (light green), Twin Lakes Trail (red), Northwoods Trail (almond with a black "N"), and the Boundary Trail (orange). All of the trails can be hiked by first year scouts; however, the Lost Lake and Boundary Trails should be led by more experienced hikers.

TRAIL SAFETY: All scouts and leaders should follow a few simple precautions before hiking. First, never hike alone. If you get hurt or lost, there will not be anyone to help you. Second, never hike without letting your leaders know where you are going and when you expect to get back. **IF YOU GET LOST, DO NOT PANIC. REMAIN CALM AND STAY PUT. IF YOU FEEL YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST MOVE, ORIENT YOUR MAP AND HEAD FOR THE CENTER OF CAMP OR ANOTHER TRAIL.** The Boundary Trail runs along sections of every trail in camp except the Muskrat Lake and Northwoods trails.

Things to bring include: a pocket knife, map, compass, a small first aid kit with moleskin (for blisters), poncho, insect repellent (a must), and plenty of water. There are few places along the trail to get water. If you are hiking the Boundary Trail, you may wish to cache water jugs where you can find them later and refill your canteens. You may also want to leave lunch there in a strong rodent-proof container. **ALWAYS** hike in long trousers and a long sleeve shirt. These trails are no place for shorts, even in the hottest weather. A hat, sunglasses, and a bandana are also helpful. Pants should be tucked into boots (military style) to keep ticks out. Shirts should be tucked into trousers and sleeves buttoned. When you come off the trail, check each other for ticks.

If you hike safely and follow the above tips, including the rules in the Scout Handbook, you will have a great time hiking the trails.

KUDOS

Special "THANKS" to Bill Rankin and Keven Hansen for our new map and to Matt Horbal for his work on this packet and on trail improvement in general. Thanks to all those who have helped work on the trails. Also thanks to the Order of the Arrow Lodge #40 for their support, and to Bob Atkins whose dedication saved this trail system and made it a key feature of Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan. The Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Trail system is dedicated to all the leaders that have brought scouts to camp since 1929. Their dedication to helping boys become responsible citizens has made a difference. Without volunteers we would not have scouting today.

Thank You.

KILLIAN LAKE TRAIL

A clear and easy trail to follow, the Killian Lake Trail circles the east side of Lake Killian and most of West Camp. At the north end of Lake Killian you will see cattails and water lilies growing in the lake and can often see turtles sunning themselves on logs along the shore. Great blue herons, osprey, ducks, and kingfishers can also be seen at times, fishing these rich waters. The white cedar and hemlock lining the shore at the north end provide homes for a host of smaller birds as well as other animals.

On the east side of the lake the trail passes the East Camp waterfront and firebowl. Along this shore cedar and hemlock also predominate. Towards the south end of the lake you will see Indian Rock, left by glaciers during the Ice Age long ago. The trail meets the camp road at the south end of the lake and if you look closely, you can see Muskrat Lake and the carpet of moss in the bog surrounding it. Osprey have nested near Muskrat Lake for years and if you are quiet, you may see them flying overhead. You may also see a bald eagle soaring high over Lake Killian.

The trail leaves the lake shore on the west side of the lake and follows the camp road northwest until you get to the old camp road west of West Camp. Maples predominate here, while birch, basswood, and balsam firs are also common. The old camp road is a great place for wild raspberries and blackberries when they are in season (late July to early-August). In the center of West Camp the trail passes through a planted pine forest that was logged out in 1990 to promote more growth. Notice how the selection of trees to cut was made-- carefully and not just haphazard cutting. This will promote more growth for another 50 years. These trees are mainly red pine with sizeable sections of jack and white pine, and some red and white spruce. Be sure to say "Hi" to the West Camp Eco-Con staff as you go by. The Killian Trail is great for younger scouts.

Trail Rating: Easy (3 miles)

Trail Marker: Blue

Trail Notes: Ground is soft and wet around the north end of lake.

Starting Point: May start anywhere on trail, as trail makes a complete loop. Suggest hiking clockwise, but may also be hiked counter-clockwise.

NORTHWOODS TRAIL

The Northwoods Trail is very short, but it can be a challenge since it covers very rugged territory. Begin in the southwest corner of the parking lot of the camp commissary Butler Building (the gray steel building across from the Administration Building above family camp).

Start straight up the steep gully running back from the first pole. After you have reached the top of this gully, follow the ridge in the same direction. You will soon encounter a deep valley on the left into which you must descend. Climb the shallower opposite end, follow the low ridge until it ends on an old logging road. You will briefly follow the road to your left and then the trail swings left down another steep valley. The trail descends to the basin of the valley then climbs the left bank and up the opposite side, swinging to the right on the far ridge. Proceed down the ridge until you reach a large semi-open area. If you look closely, you can find evidence that this was a campsite years ago. Proceed through the open area to your left and down the hill to the camp road.

Once on the camp road, the trail ends, but if you wish to make a full loop you can hike the camp road left up the hill back to the commissary parking lot. A quick glance at a map of Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan will show you that you have just hiked some of the most difficult terrain on the reservation. Keep your eyes open for a variety of trees (mainly pine and maple), fungus, and evidence of deer and smaller mammals (this area is a favorite haunt of porcupines) However, as you enjoy the scenery, watch your footing and BE CAREFUL OF BARBED WIRE.

Trail Rating: Moderate, but very short (1 mile)

Trail Marker: Almond with a black "N"

Trail Notes: This trail has changed color and direction many times and may do so again-- pay close attention to the markers!

Starting Point: southwest corner of the commissary parking lot

HORSESHOE LAKE TRAIL

The Horseshoe Lake Trail is clear and easy to follow. Be sure, however, to start following the leftmost set of white signs (the ones on the right that follow a logging road represent your return route). Starting from the large wooden map at the south end of Lake Killian, the trail shares its beginning with the Muskrat Lake Trail and the Twin Lakes Trail. As you hike you may catch glimpses of Muskrat Lake on your left. The trail will eventually "T" into a logging road. The Horseshoe and Twin Lakes Trail break to the right while the Muskrat turns left.

These logging roads are excellent examples of variations in plant succession. Grasses and other ground cover have almost concealed some of the logging roads in camp completely, but because of the nature of the forest here, with tall maples blocking out most of the sunlight, trees and shrubs have not grown on the old roads. Other old logging roads in other parts of camp which are less shady are choked with saplings and bushes of various kinds.

The trail follows this road but PLEASE BE CAREFUL OF BARBED WIRE ON THE GROUND. The fence on your left is the old camp boundary as you are going south. As you follow this road the Twin Lakes Trail will break off to your left: continue along the road. The trail then leaves the road, heading past a small valley to the camp boundary, marked at this point by barely visible barbed wire—be careful! Heading south, you will soon pass a small mudhole named "Warden Puddle" Here you will see many animal tracks, including several varieties of frogs. Horseshoe Lake is directly east, though usually not visible. Soon the trail turns south through the tall maples again. The tall maples have shaded out most of the undergrowth here, while several small clearings provide a "forest fringe" that offers food and shelter for many animals.

After coming out of the maples go to your right around the fence, then continue west across the meadow where you will pick up the trail again. A little further up, the Boundary Trail breaks off going west and the Horseshoe Trail will turn north down an old logging road and take you back to the visitor's picnic area. If you are on the trail at the right time of summer, eat some of the excellent blackberries or raspberries along the way.

Trail Rating: Easy (3 miles)

Trail Marker: white

Trail Notes: Sharp turns in trail. Intersects several other trails and is part of the Boundary Trail.

Barbed wire in several places.

Starting Point: Large wooden trail map-- may be hiked either direction, but we suggest clockwise.

LOST LAKE TRAIL

The Lost Lake Trail is somewhat longer than the other trails, making a loop through West Camp, past Lost Lake and through the eastern part of Wabaningo. The trail travels through dense forest in places, so you must keep your eyes open.

The Lost Lake Trail starts at West Camp Eco-Con. The trail heads down the old Beaver Dam Nature Trail (white triangle markers) and hooks up with the Boundary Trail. The forest here is largely balsam fir with numerous maples and occasional hemlocks and spruces. The damp soil along Skid's Creek is ideal for fungi, and many different species of mushrooms can be found along the trail. **DO NOT EAT THESE MUSHROOMS--MOST ARE HIGHLY POISONOUS!!!**

The Lost Lake trail breaks away from the nature trail but continues to share this portion with the Boundary Trail all the way to the Triangle M Ranch. The small bog the trail passes through is filled with reptile and amphibian life. All the characteristic bog plants can be found here. On the other side of the bog the trail passes behind Crockett and Cody villages before crossing the shooting sports trail. **STAY OUT OF THESE AREAS PLEASE!** Just beyond the shooting sports trail is a small field. Cross the field to pick up the markers again on your right.

The trail continues west of the meadow and passes over one of the highest points in West Camp. As you head west, the trail becomes very rugged: a storm many years ago uprooted nearly all trees along this path. Eventually you will come out of the woods at the edge of the field near the main camp road where a number of pines have been planted **YOU WILL SEE A HOUSE AND GARDEN ON THE RIGHT -WITH A DIRT ROAD DRIVEWAY- THIS IS NOT PART OF CAMP AND ALL SCOUTS SHOULD RESPECT THE OWNER'S PRIVACY. THE CAMP OWNS ONLY THE PROPERTY TO THE LEFT OF THE ROAD-THEREFORE WALK OFF TO THE LEFT OF THIS ROAD.**

When you get to County "T", carefully cross the road and follow the fence line along the horse pasture due north parallel "T". The trail picks up at the northeast corner of the horse pasture meadow. The trail runs with the Boundary Trail for only about one hundred yards, then breaks west and south, left, down the road to the horse corral and maintenance barn. Say "Hi" to Ranger Trent if you see him. Heading south past the barn, turn left on the main camp road. About 200 yards after turning the trail picks up again with the Boundary Trail and heads south into the woods.

You will come out in the field across from the cemetery. Follow the tree-line to your right around the field and out to "T". Take "T" left to the main camp road. Follow this to the OLD camp road with the chain hanging in front of it. Follow the old camp road back into West Camp, past Scoutcraft, finishing the trail at Eco-Con.

Trail Rating: begins hard, ends easy (4 miles)

Trail Marker: Yellow

Trail Notes: None

Starting Point: West Camp Eco-Con

TWIN LAKES TRAIL

The Twin Lakes Trail is a very clear, well-traveled trail but it takes several sharp turns which are easily missed if you are not careful. Also, at one point the trail parallels the barbed wire fence at the border of camp so be careful. The trail starts at the large wooden map at the south end of Lake Killian where the Horseshoe Lake and Muskrat Lake trails also begin. The first leg follows these trails as well. The trail then meets an old logging road and turns right with the Horseshoe Lake Trail, departing the Muskrat Lake Trail, which goes to the left. The Twin Lakes Trail follows this old logging road until it intersects another logging road just before it reaches the barbed wire fence marking the old camp boundary. The trail turns left leaving the Horseshoe Lake Trail running southeast to the south boundary of the camp. This turn is easily missed so be careful.

After the trail hits the south boundary (barbed wire fence) it takes sharp turn to the left and parallels the Boundary Trail. The steep hills are the result of glacial action. The forest contains many young aspen here as well as maples. The trail goes through a bog making several turns within it. Note the carpet of moss, Labrador tea, tamarack, and spruce common to these Northwood bogs. This area was once probably part of Little Twin Lake but over the centuries vegetation has filled in the area, creating the marshy area you see today.

On the other end of the bog, the trail ascends a ridge, from which you can see Little Twin Lake. The considerable amount of fallen branches and trees is the result of southerly winds sweeping across the lake and hitting the trees on the ridge. If you look closely you will observe beaver-chewed stumps even far above the lake. The trail meets another logging road and after following it awhile turns south, away from the road to the right and goes down to the edge of Little Twin Lake. The area around this lake was logged off many years ago; the saplings are the result of reseeded.

The trail ends at this point. You may follow it back to the picnic area, the Muskrat Lake Trail, or the Horseshoe Lake Trail. You may also follow the Boundary Trail around East Camp. Next to the Horseshoe Lake Trail, this is one of the nicest in camp.

Trail Rating: easy, good for new scouts (2.5 miles)

Trail Marker: Red

Trail Notes: This is a fun trail. Bring your nature study books. Many merit badge requirements can be completed in several hours on the trail. Crossing the bog can be the highlight of the hike.

Starting Point: Large wooden map along south end of Lake Killian

MUSKRAT LAKE TRAIL

The Muskrat Lake Trail is a short, relatively clear trail making a broad loop around Muskrat Lake. The trail starts at the family picnic area off the main camp road at the south end of Lake Killian. The Horseshoe Lake and Twin Lakes trails also start here. The first 1/4 mile is all three trails combined.

Along the beginning of the trail you will see the types of forest typical to both West and East camps. West of Muskrat Lake sugar maples are by far the most common trees in a relatively open part of the forest. Looking in the direction of Muskrat Lake, you can see the large bog surrounding the lake.. The bog, with its carpet of moss and

scattered fir, spruce, and tamarack trees, is a result of the gradual process filling in Muskrat Lake. The bog provides homes for many varieties of snakes, frogs, and toads, not to mention mosquitoes.

The trail T's into a logging road where the trail turns to the left. The Horseshoe Lake and Twin Lakes trails turn right here. The trail follows the road around the south end of Muskrat Lake and passes through the bog at one point. At the south end of this bog the trail passes right through it. The trail eventually breaks off the road towards the lake and goes through a large pine stand. After the pine stand, the trail crosses a logging road a couple times before descending into Grasshopper Valley. The large blue flowers are blue flag irises.

The trail now leads through Grasshopper Valley. Be careful as you come down this part of the trail as you will have to make a SHARP left turn in the valley. Watch the markers carefully at this point of the trail—if you lose track of them, backtrack until you find the sharp left.

The area around Grasshopper valley is more typical of East Camp. The steep hill north of the valley is an extension of the ridge that runs through East Camp. At the top of this ridge is an area that was burned in a small forest fire in 1999. The forest of the valley contains many red oaks as well as maples. Grasshopper valley is edged with sumac and contains a multitude of wild strawberries and gooseberries, delicious when in season. Wild raspberries and blackberries can be found in many areas around the valley. The trail ends northwest of Grasshopper Valley on the main East road just north of the chapel.

This trail and Grasshopper Valley are excellent locations for overnights, Wilderness Survival, or Nature merit badge work.

Trail Rating: Moderate (1.5 miles)

Trail Marker Light Green (with some plain green)

Trail Notes: Trail does pass through a marsh at one point.

Starting Point: Family picnic area on main camp road south of family camp. Trail should be hiked counter-clockwise.

MA-KA-JA-WAN BOUNDARY TRAIL

Hiking the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Boundary Trail can be one of the great summer camp highlights for your troop or patrol. You can see every type of tree or plant that is common to the Reservation along the trail. You will see changes from primal forest to meadows to bogs to rocky slopes. This is truly a magnificent trail and may be the finest trail on any scout camp in the Midwest. The amount of wildlife and signs of wildlife along the trail is an education in itself. The trail is also a place of peace and tranquility and will allow the hiker to become part of the environment, instead of an intruder. Please respect the trail.

We have improved the trail again for this year. More markers have been added and several difficult spots have been made easier to walk and follow. However, the hike will still take anywhere from 8 to 10 hours depending on how fast you hike and what activities you choose to do along the way.

The best place to start is West Camp Eco-Con or East Camp Waterfront. In West Camp the trail starts in the same place as the Lost Lake Trail by the Nature Lodge, and in East Camp you can start anywhere you can find an orange marker near the waterfront. If you start in East Camp, head around the north end of Lake Killian. FOR INFORMATION RELATED TO TYPES OF TREES AND ANIMALS IN EACH AREA, PLEASE REFER TO THE OTHER SPECIFIC TRAIL GUIDES IN THIS PAMPHLET.

The Boundary Trail will follow parts of every other trail in camp except for the Muskrat Lake Trail and the Northwoods Trail. If you get lost or have an emergency it is best to follow one of the shorter trails back to camp.

The trail begins at West Camp by following the Lost Lake Trail all the way to County Road "T" and a little past that. The trail picks up at the northeast corner of the horse pasture. Soon, the Boundary Trail will break off from the Lost Lake Trail heading northeast along an old logging road. This portion of the trail is the easiest so save your energy for what is ahead. The trail turns west fairly soon and the next point of interest is Mole Meadow. Head directly across the meadow until you pick up the logging road again.

The trail then swings southwest and crosses Pickerel Creek. The damage to the road was caused by beavers building dams. The dams caused the entire road to be washed out several years ago. Cross the creek carefully and head to the northwest corner of the large meadow in front of you (Pickerel Meadow, aka Tick Valley). At the northwest corner, you will pick up another logging road. This area is thick with wild blackberry patches. Feel free to get a great natural energy boost.

Continue to follow the logging road around until it comes out at the head of a large dirt road (Pickerel Creek Road). Follow the road south until the markers will lead you back into the pine forest; be sure to keep your eyes open for this sharp left. This is one of the most beautiful parts of the trail. It is usually cool in the pines and the smell of fresh pine is great. Notice the logging operation from years ago. This is the way trees should be logged. It is called selective cutting. Follow the trail to Pioneer Campsite.

Follow the south edge of the field till you come to the opening of the campsite on the eastern side. Now follow the road about 100 yards or so to the east and watch for a marker on your right. If you follow the road around to your left you will end up at Lake Bannard (Hindu Lake). **THIS IS A CRITICAL PART OF THE TRAIL AND ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW. YOU MUST FOLLOW THE MARKERS ON YOUR RIGHT (EAST OF PIONEER) TO COMPLETE THE TRAIL!!!** The trail goes through the woods till you come to some tall white bushes. These are quaking aspen trees. You will see a few markers on some trees and some orange paint on some others. If you do not see markers or orange paint you better backtrack and start over again. If you did it correctly you will come to a bog. Follow the edge of the bog on your right until you see a pine tree-line going through the middle of the bog. Follow the tree-line across the bog and turn left across the bog-- you will pick up the markers again. Follow the markers to the next logging road.

Turn left, and follow the road northeast until you get to the main Wabaningo road. If you passed through the middle of an old garbage dump, you are doing great! Go right on the main road and look for markers on your right again. Look for the yellow and orange markers together. Here you will again pick up the Lost Lake Trail. Follow this portion of the trail until you come out to the pasture across from where the farmhouse used to be. The old barn foundation is still standing, not too far from the cemetery.

Head right along the tree line of the field out to "T". Go up "T" past the cemetery and back down the main camp road toward camp. The trail turns to the right just after the large wooden Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan sign. The trail cuts in behind the big fields and heads south up the hill. Look for an incredible vista when you come out of the woods. The trail then heads southeast along several fence lines; watch out for barbed wire. The trail will then head east toward the Horseshoe Lake Trail. This is a relatively new portion of the trail and makes some unexpected turns, but otherwise it is not too bad. There are some blackberry bushes along this part. When the trail joins up with the Horseshoe Lake Trail, follow it until you come to the Twin Lakes Trail. Head east following the Twin Lakes Trail until the Boundary Trail breaks north. You are now coming to the roughest part. of the trail.

The trail will head north, then east, along a fence line. The next turn north is a little tricky, so watch for the markers. The trail will now head due north parallel to the eastern edge of East Camp. This section of trail is quite hilly and the toughest part of the trail. **DO NOT PROCEED IN THIS SECTION UNLESS YOU CAN SEE THE NEXT MARKER AHEAD!** It is easy to get lost in this section, so be ready with map and compass and prepared to backtrack a time or two. Also, the tops left behind in this area from recent logging are home to numerous beehives—watch your step! The trail will pass behind several East Camp sites and near the East Camp Shooting Sports area. The trail will eventually swing past the logged out areas northeast of camp which are now heavily overgrown with poplar trees and into a cultivated pine forest.

The trail then follows a logging road south until you get near Iroquois Village and passes around Comanche. The trail then goes back down to the waterfront past handicraft where it will pick up the Killian Trail and swing around the north end of Lake Killian. Follow the trail crossing Skid's Creek and back to West Camp Eco-Con.

You have now completed one of the premiere trails in the Midwest. Congratulations.

Trail Rating: Moderate to Difficult (20 miles)

Trail Marker: orange

Trail Notes: I strongly encourage you and your scouts to hike this trail. There are many program ideas such as nature study, forestry, orienteering, and basic hiking skills that can be worked into a great program day on the trail. It is also an excellent trail to challenge the most serious backpacker. Bring plenty of water or leave water jugs where you can find them to refill your canteens. A good place for this is near the camp road as the trail runs behind the pasture fields. Snacks such as fruit or gorp are strongly recommended for this trail. This trail will qualify them for the 20 mile hike requirement for Hiking Merit Badge. Starting Point: West Camp Eco-Con or East Camp Waterfront