

BUTTE CREEK SCOUT RANCH

CROSS COUNTRY HIKE (PLEASE READ OTHER SIDE)

Start: on the road to the Adirondacks, near the pond, with the pond located at 340°.

Start walking on a compass heading of 260° following the road. Go through the gate. (Close all gates behind you.)

Hike following the road for about 4/10 of a mile. When you come to a road that goes approximately in a direction of 250° (when you are standing in the middle of the intersection) take that road.

Follow the road as it curves around the valley until you can see a small red bluff, across the valley, at a heading of 30°. Walk through the valley(s) to the red bluff (there is no trail). Look for easy ways to cross streams--you don't need to get wet.

From the red bluff go on a heading of 70° through the trees until you come to a road.

Go on a heading of 80° through the clear cut, across a clear-cut valley, until you come to a logging road on the eastern edge of the clear cut. Go on a heading of 160° and follow the road (some of which is overgrown with trees making the trail hard to see). When the road comes to a "T" go south to return to camp on the same road you originally hiked up.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This is approximately a 4 mile hike ($\pm 1/2$ mile). It is partly on a road and partly cross country (there is no trail). Expect to encounter blackberries, thistles, water, steep hillsides and other natural obstacles that can hurt you. This is a difficult hike. NO ONE should be wearing shorts. Hiking shoes are strongly recommended. Bring plenty of water, even on a cool day. This can be a hot hike (it gets very warm in the valley bottoms). Bring your 10 essentials and be sure to have a First Aid kit. A good walking stick will be helpful. This hike may not be appropriate for younger Scouts.

Important: The straightest route may not always be the best route. This hike is more than just walking, it also involves good judgment. Watch out for steep drop-offs--go around them not over them. You should be able to cross all streams without getting wet. Be careful in situations in which twisted ankles are a risk, such as walking on top of slash from the logging. If at all possible go around obstacles, not over or through them.

Watch and listen for animals. It's not uncommon to see anything from deer to snakes.

Most importantly: BE CAREFUL!!! THINK BEFORE YOU ACT. Do not go on this hike without telling someone, who is staying behind in camp, you are going on this hike. Expect this hike to take 2-1/2 to 3-1/2 hours.