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| <p>1 *Illinois Canyon Parking Lot – Starting Point</p> <p>2a *Starved Rock State Park</p> <p>2b Starved Rock Campground</p> <p>3 LaSalle County Historical Museum</p> <p>4 Father Marquette Memorial</p> | <p>5 Illinois Waterway Visitors Center</p> <p>6 Halfway House</p> <p>7 Buffalo Rock State Park</p> <p>8 *Ottawa Avenue Cemetery – W. D. Boyce Grave Site</p> |
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*Must visit to complete trail. Other noted places are optional for visiting.

LOCAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Starved Rock was the site of the extermination of the Illinois Indians by the Ottawa and Pottawatomi tribes. The Illinois-Michigan Canal, a National Historical Landmark, made Chicago the leading grain market and meat-packing center in the Midwest. The Half-Way House, exactly halfway between Peoria and Chicago on the old stagecoach trail, served as a station on the line that ran between those cities. Buffalo Rock State Park served the French as a trading and missionary post in the 17th century. Washington Park, in Ottawa, was the site of the first Lincoln-Douglas debate on August 21, 1858.

ABOUT W. D. BOYCE

William Dickson Boyce will long be remembered as the Founder of the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Boyce was born in Pennsylvania in 1858, and attended the University of Wooster in Ohio. He became a correspondent, publisher, and world traveler. On February 8, 1910, he incorporated the Boy Scouts of America, becoming one of its founders. A resident of Ottawa from July 25, 1903, he died June 11, 1929, and is buried in Ottawa Avenue Cemetery.



W. D. BOYCE TRAIL

PART OF THE OTTAWA HISTORICAL
AND SCOUTING HERITAGE MUSEUM
TRAIL WAYS SYSTEM

Ottawa Historical and Scouting Heritage Museum

1100 Canal Street
P.O. Box 2241
Ottawa, IL 61350
(815) 431-9353
Hours: Thurs. – Mon.,
10am – 4pm
Closed Tuesday, Wednesday



**W. D. Boyce
Council,
Boy Scouts of
America**
614 NE Madison
Avenue
Peoria, IL 61603
(309) 673-6136

ABOUT THE TRAIL

The W. D. Boyce Trail was established in 1961 as a lasting tribute to the founder of the Scouting movement in America. It is a 16-mile hike starting in Starved Rock State Park, going through Utica, and then to Ottawa along the Tow Path of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. The trail ends, appropriately, at the W. D. Boyce Memorial Statue near the gravesite of William Dickson Boyce in the Ottawa Avenue Cemetery. The Ottawa Historical and Scouting Heritage Museum administers the trail for persons desiring to obtain recognition items for having completed the trail and assumes no liability for injuries to hikers while on the trail and advises caution during all phases of the hike.

GETTING TO OTTAWA

Ottawa is easily reached from all directions, located in the center of Illinois, on U. S. Route 6, Illinois Routes 23 & 71 and just south of Interstate 80. We are 83 miles southwest of downtown Chicago, 220 miles northwest of Indianapolis, 232 miles north of St. Louis, and 100 miles west of Davenport.



MAKING A RESERVATION

To be eligible to purchase trail-completion recognition (patches and medals), prior to taking the trail, you must register at the Ottawa Historical and Scouting Heritage Museum. If after-hours access is needed, the museum staff will make every effort to accommodate your unit if given advance notice.

You will receive a Trail Registration Form which must be completed before taking the trail. Each unit making the hike is required to have a complete roster of the hikers ready to turn in when ordering recognition pieces – this is part of the registration process. While there are no fees to tour the museum, donations are greatly appreciated.

TRAIL FEES

There are no fees for hiking the W. D. Boyce Trail- it's absolutely free!

However, trail patches (see front of this brochure) are available for pre-registered trail completers for \$4 each. Sorry, but we don't sell patches for persons not completing the trail (patch collectors, absent Scouts, etc.).

Trail medals are available for pre-registered trail completers for \$5 each if the following criteria are met:

1. Each applicant must have hiked the entire trail, and
2. Each must submit a 500-word essay on W. D. Boyce and the history of Scouting to the Museum Trail Committee.

When these criteria have been met, medals may be obtained through the museum for \$5 each.

FOOD AND CAMPING

Camp sites are available at Starved Rock State Park (Utica) and Illini State Park (Marseilles). There is a charge per day, per unit for camping. The camping areas fill quickly so advance reservations should be made. Generally, you will have problems if you attempt to come and get a reservation at the last moment. Follow the motto – BE PREPARED.

Camping reservations for all state parks is handled through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources website. Scan the QR code below for more information:



Parks
www2.illinois.gov

No meals are provided at campsites. Groceries may be purchased in Ottawa or Utica if camping at Starved Rock, and in Marseilles if using Illini State Park. There are several restaurants and fast food places located in Ottawa; both Utica and Marseilles have several nice restaurants.

SAFETY ON THE TRAIL

Safety should be everyone's top priority. Scouts and Scouters must always follow the Guide to Safe Scouting and Youth Protection Guidelines – on or off the trail.

The Boy Scouts of America offers additional guidance for a successful hike. Scan the QR code below for more information:



Hiking | Boy Scouts of America
scouting.org