

# MYSTERY HIKE

*PARENTS' GUIDE • SEPTEMBER 2020*

## Safety

*Please adhere to the following safety guidelines:*

**Plan ahead for weather and conditions.** The hike will take around 1-to-1.5 hours at a moderate walking speed with stops. Check the weather forecast before starting on your hike, and make sure you have enough daylight to complete the hike.

**Be prepared for the hike.** The hike is around 2 miles and includes some steep sections. The trail is mostly dirt with some wooden bridges to cross over. There are some narrow spots that make it hard for strollers to get through, and some wooden steps in one downhill area.

**Look out for nature.** We are fortunate enough to live in an area with plenty of wildlife, so keep an eye out on the trail for snakes and even the occasional bear that might cross your path. (Actually, it's fair to say you are crossing its path.)

## Cub Scout Six Essentials

*Please review the following with your cub and have them prepare the following for the hike:*

<b>First-aid kit:</b>	adhesive bandages, moleskin, gauze, antibiotic ointment, etc.
<b>Water bottle:</b>	filled and large enough to last until it can be filled again
<b>Flashlight:</b>	for emergency use only
<b>Trail food:</b>	can be made as a den activity prior to hike or campout
<b>Sun protection:</b>	sunscreen of SPF 30 or greater and a hat
<b>Whistle:</b>	also for emergency use only

## The Stops

The hike begins at the Clubhouse at Western Ridge, located at 5030 Lake Tree Ln. In the back corner of the parking lot there is a trail that leads down the hill. Look for a laminated card with a riddle that leads to the next stop. The last word is left blank but will rhyme with the second line. In this guide, the answer is included in parenthesis in case your child gets stuck. In case the cards get damaged or lost, the GPS coordinates are provided. You can type them in to your phone's mapping app.

## Introduction

(38.0645, -78.67271)

*Beginning your mystery hike  
Like a knight in some very old fable  
Follow the trail to the meadow  
Your next clue is at the green (table)*

## Stop 1: the picnic table

(38.06448, -78.67145)

*Hiking is always a blast  
In the sun, or the snow, or the rain  
Follow the trail 'till you see a side path  
That leads to the tracks of a (train)*

## Stop 2: The train tracks

(38.06452, -78.66967)

**Note:** do not take the trail to the train tracks. The next clue is at where the side trail begins.

*Continue our mystery hike  
Follow up and down the ridge  
Walk past the 'z' and soon enough you  
Will cross over the creek at the (bridge)*

## Stop 3: the bridge

(38.06342, -78.66819)

*Bring a healthy snack on your hike  
Maybe something with peanuts or raisins  
Continue down the trail 'till you see a white sign  
That points to Lickinghole (Basin)*

#### Stop 4: the Lickinghole Basin sign

(38.06181, -78.66474)

**Note:** do not take the path to the right that the sign points to! Continue forward.

*In Cub Scouts we follow the buddy system*

*Never alone, but in pairs*

*Stop at the fork in the trail*

*After you go down the (stairs)*

#### Stop 5: the fork in the trail after the stairs

(38.06135, -78.66342)

*Follow the trail to your right*

*Cross over the bridge like you should*

*Soon you'll come to a place to watch nature*

*It's a blind that's made out of (wood)*

#### Stop 6: The nature blind

(38.06070, -78.66553)

*Stop and enjoy the wildlife*

*Rest until you feel fine*

*Continue on the trail you are on*

*Until you come to the (sign)*

#### Stop 7: the trailhead sign

(38.06045, -78.66818)

*You're nearing the end of your journey*

*And your backpack has lessened its load*

*Follow the trail up the hill*

*Until you encounter the (road)*

The End

(38.06204, -78.66913)

After meeting up with the road, head left (west) a quarter-mile to return to the parking lot where you began. Congratulations on completing the mystery hike!

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/virginia/pack-79-mystery-hike>

