

# EXPLORING HISTORIC CAMP AQUEHONGA

A Walking Tour of Historic Camp Aquehonga, T.M.R.

Ten Mile River Scout Museum, 2005

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To obtain information about the Ten Mile River Scout Museum, visit our website (tmrmuseum.org) or send us an E-Mail (questions@tmrmuseum.org). You can also write to:

Greater New York Councils, B.S.A. Ten Mile River Scout Museum 350 Fifth Avenue New York, N.Y. 10018

The Ten Mile River Scout Museum Archival Website (tmrarchive.org) has numerous photos on Camp Aquehonga.

Topographic maps are based on a 1962 survey of the Ten Mile River Scout Camps, mostly updated to reflect current (2005) buildings, roads and wood boundries.

The Ten Mile River Scout Museum is looking for information and memorabilia relating to Camp Aquehonga. This includes camp and staff photos, patches and neckerchiefs, and memories of former campers and staff. Contact the Museum (questions@tmrmuseum.org) for additional information.

We want to improve this walking tour guidebook. Send your corrections, ideas, photos, camp history and suggestions for additional tour stops to questions@tmrmuseum.org.

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### EXPLORING HISTORIC CAMP AQUEHONGA A Self-Guided Walking Tour of Historic Camp Aquehonga, T.M.R.

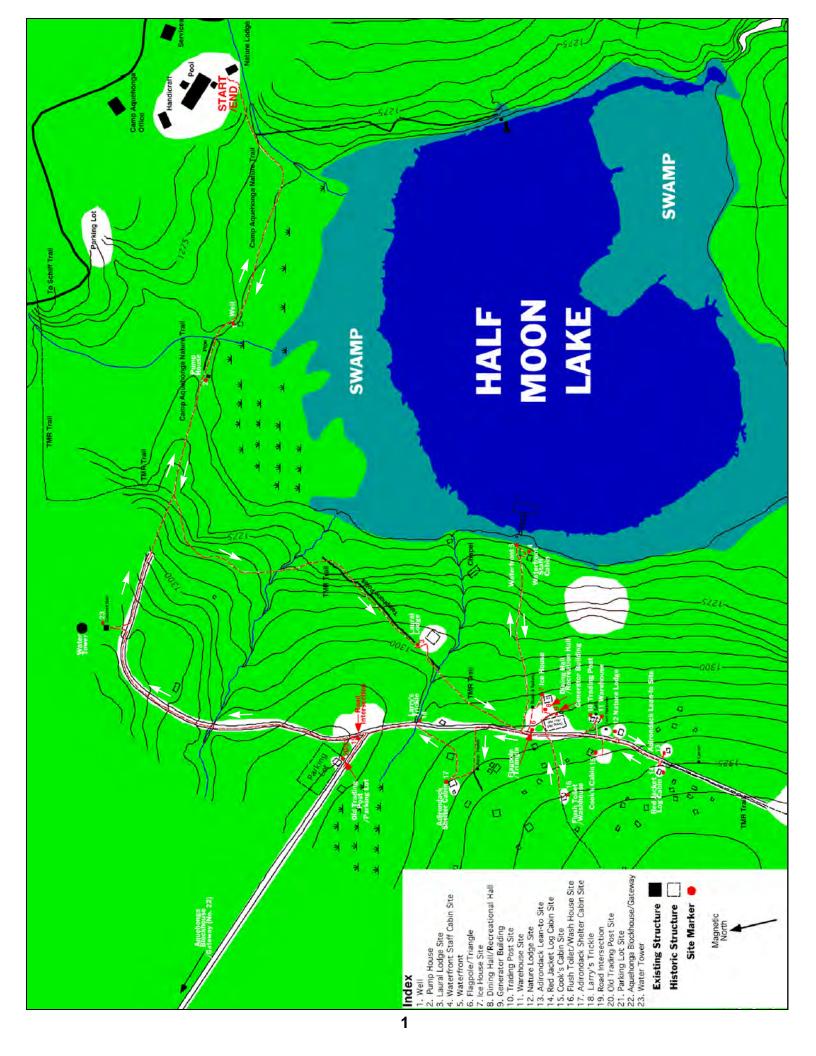
Camp Aquehonga, the Staten Island Council Borough Camp from 1929-1967 is long gone except for the memories of former campers. While almost all the buildings were torn down years ago, much physical evidence of the camp still remains.

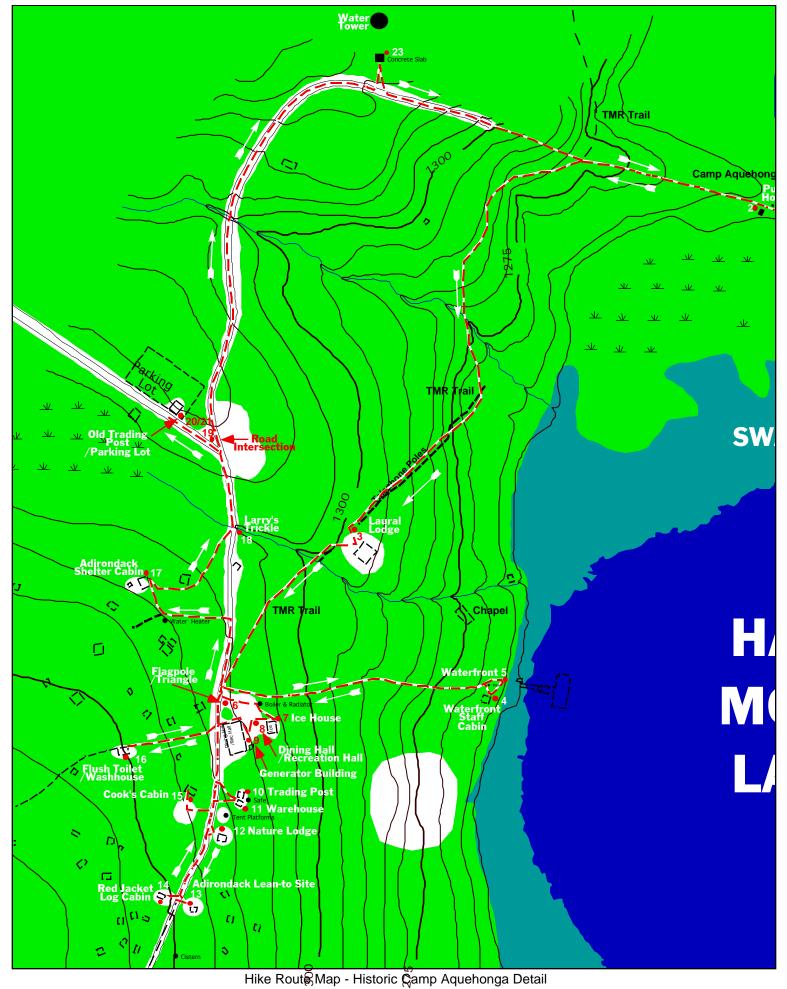
On this self-guided walking tour, you will visit the key landmarks of historic Camp Aquehonga. Each stop is identified with a yellow sign on a tree or short metal pole. Use the map and site markers to visit each landmark. The tour guide provides the history and photos of each site.

The walking tour begins (and ends) at the (New) Camp Aquehonga Nature Lodge.

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#### **Contructing Camp Aquehonga**

Camp Aquehonga was constructed on undeveloped woodlands near Half-Moon Lake in 1928. At the time, the Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York owned only the extreme western part of Half-Moon Lake (see 1930 map).

It was designed and constructed under the direction of Harvey A. Gordon (T.M.R. Director of Construction) with input from Staten Island Council Executive Joseph D. Carstang. Gordon noted that the Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York gave him great flexibility in the design of the camp. As a result, he was able to include many inovative features.

It was designed as a year-round camp, with winterized buildings, fireplaces and stoves for heat. Gordon called it "One of the best, most unique and well equipped camps (for it's size) in the country." It was built to stand for 50 years.



Harvey Gordon

Unlike most of the other T.M.R. camps, Scouts had a variety of facilities to stay in, including the Red Jacket Log Cabins, Adirondack Shelter Cabins, Adirondack Lean-tos and tents on platforms. A unique Indian Tee-pee with fireplace was constructed.

A peg was driven into the ground near the telephone at the Dining Hall/Recreation Hall. From this central point the wash houses were located 200 ft. away at the same angle. The cabins, lean-tos and shelters were laid out in pegs in the same way, in the shape of a Half-Moon. Each building was constructed in the center of the peg.

The construction crew pulled the wood necessary to build the camp structures from peg to peg, creating the camp trails.

Cut lumber was provided by Saw Mill No. 1, more than a mile away, past the archery range. The "Aquehonga Railroad" consisted of log "rails" on either side of the trail from the saw mill to the Dining Hall/Recreation Halll.



Joseph Carstang

Sand, rock, gravel and lumber for the construction of Camp Aquehonga came right from the T.M.R. reservation property.

Construction was completed in time for a visit by 70 Scouts and fathers who came up for three days over the 1928 Columbus Day weekend. The camp opened for summer camp in 1929.

#### **Camping at Aquehonga**

Scouts stayed in the Red Jacket Log Cabins, Adirondack Shelters, Adirondack Lean-tos and tents on platforms. The camp had a capacity of 120 boys in the early 1930's. Additional lean-to sites were built in later years.

#### **Program**

Scouts completed requirements for rank advancement, earned merit badges, learned how to swim, went on multi-day canoe trips, day hikes, bird hikes, overnight and multi-day hikes. Scouts learned astronomy and were inducted into the Order of the Arrow. Scouts sang campfire songs in the dining hall, after lunch and after supper, generating much enthusiasm.

The camp bugler began the day with "reville", then sounded bugle calls throughout the day at mealtime, when to change periods to go to the next activity, and when to assemble at the flagpole to raise and lower the American flag. At the end of the day, he sounded retreat fifteen minutes before taps.

#### **Indian Pagents**

Camp Aquehonga presented annual Indian Pagents at the Archery Range from 1929 to the early 1930's. The pagents were open to the public and included a campfire, indian teepees and indian dancing.

#### Camp Aquehonga compaired to other T.M.R. Camps

Camp Aquehonga was always the smallest T.M.R. camp, with attendance of only 249 scouts and a paid staff of 17 persons in 1937. It had the highest percentage of Troops attending under their own leadership (23.4%). Attendance was 739 Scout-weeks in 1937, compaired to a range of 2,806-5,036 in the other camps. The average length of stay was least in 1938, 2.48 weeks compaired to a range of 3.17 - 4.35 weeks in the other camps.

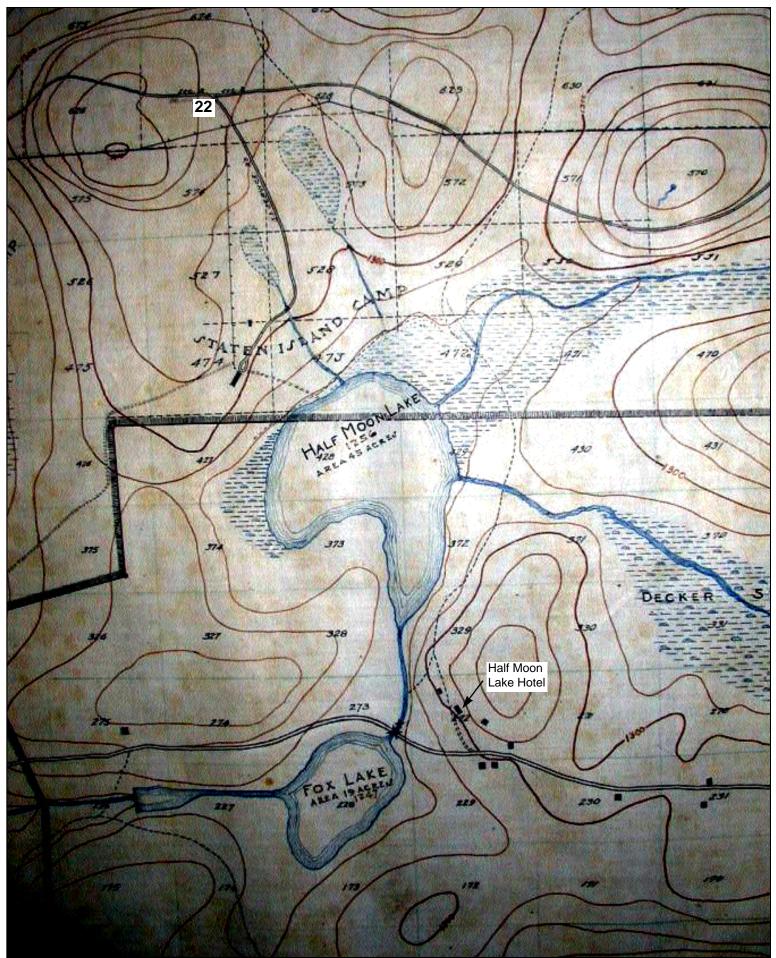
#### Winter and Easter Camps

Winterized camp facilities permitted annual Winter Camps for about 25 Scouts during the early 1930's. The camp was also open during the Easter vacation. Winter Camps featured skiing, snow sleighing, ice skating on Half-Moon Lake, ice hocky with other winter camps, indoor craft work, New Year's party and movie shows. Scouts worked to complete requirements for the special winter camp emblem.

Crafts included broom making, trick and fancy braiding with belts & lanyards, tooling in leather and the popular wooden furniture construction.



Making Crafts in the Aquehonga Recreation Hall



Camp Aquehonga and Vicinity (1930). The camp owned only the extreme western shore of Half Moon Lake. The Aquehonga Blockhouse and Gateway (22) was at the Zumi Trail/Mortimer Schiff Trail.

## **Start at the Camp Aquehonga Nature Lodge and follow the Camp Aquehonga Nature Trail.**

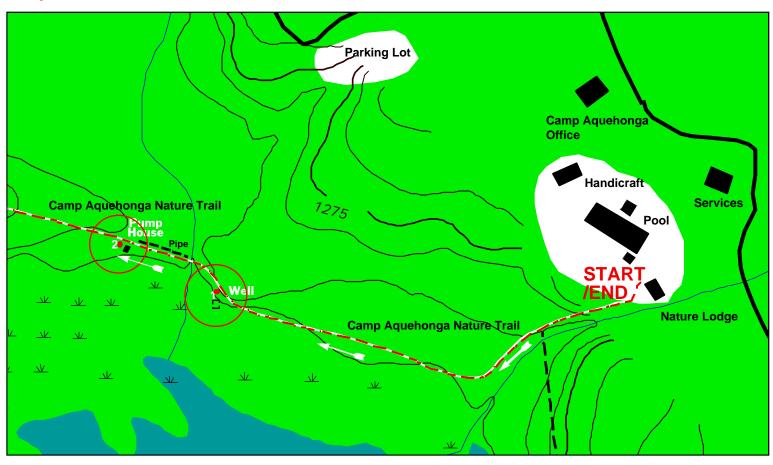
#### Well and Pump House

Well (No. 1). The Well originated from a natural spring and provided all the water needed by Camp Aquehonga. See the concrete foundation.

See the water pipe running between here and the **Pump House.** 

Pump House (No. 2). The Pump House was rated at 10 gallons per minute. See the **building remnants**.

Turn LEFT on the T.M.R. Trail (Red Dots).





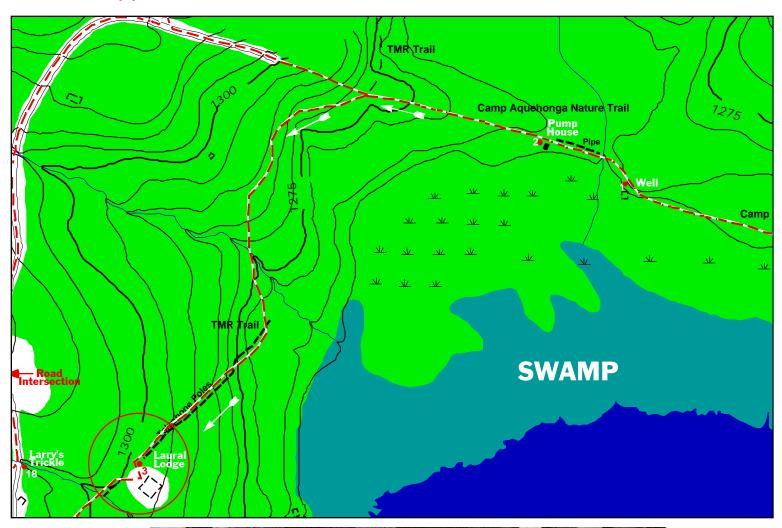


Pump House (2003)

#### **Laural Lodge Site**

Laural Lodge (No. 3) past the sign in the clearing on your left. Laural Lodge was the Camp Director's Cabin with a capacity of four persons. See the concrete slab and water pipe remnants.

**Note:** If you reached the stream without finding the **Laural Lodge Site** you went **too far.** 





Laural Lodge Interior (1950)

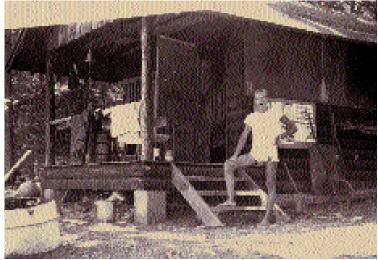


Laural Lodge (1948)



# Waterfront Staff Cabin (No. 4). The Waterfront Staff Cabin (No. 4). The Waterfront Staff Cabin had a capacity of four persons. See the stone foundation and concrete posts.





Waterfront Staff Cabin, 1948



Waterfront Staff Cabin and Canoes



Waterfront Staff Cabin, Waterfront Staff and staff from Half Moon Lake Hotel



Concrete Post (2003)



Stone Foundation (2003)

#### **Waterfront**

Waterfront (No. 5). The Waterfront had a 100-camper capacity dock, swimming crib and float. Scouts learned how to swim, canoe, row and their livesaving skills. Non-swimmers stayed in the crib. After supper, scouts could take out rowboats or canoe for a ride on the lake.

The Half Moon Lake Hotel bath house was visible across the lake.



Aquehonga Waterfront (2003)



Trail to Aquehonga Waterfront with Waterfront Staff Cabin on right.



Aquehonga Waterfront



Aquehonga Waterfront, 1948



Aquehonga Waterfront, 1948. Waterfront Staff Cabin (4).



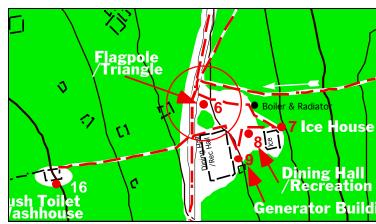
Chapel



#### Flagpole/Triangle

Flagpole (No. 6). See the remnant. The Triangle was the center of the camp and assembly area every morning and evening. Each morning was a flag raising and report from each area leader that all were present or accounted for. The evening ceremony was complete with the firing of the camp cannon. It was also fired when a group of campers would leave by bus after a two week stay at Aquehonga.

See the Boiler & Radiator.





Flag Ceremony at the Triangle. Dining Hall/Recreation Hall (8).



Flagpole (2003)



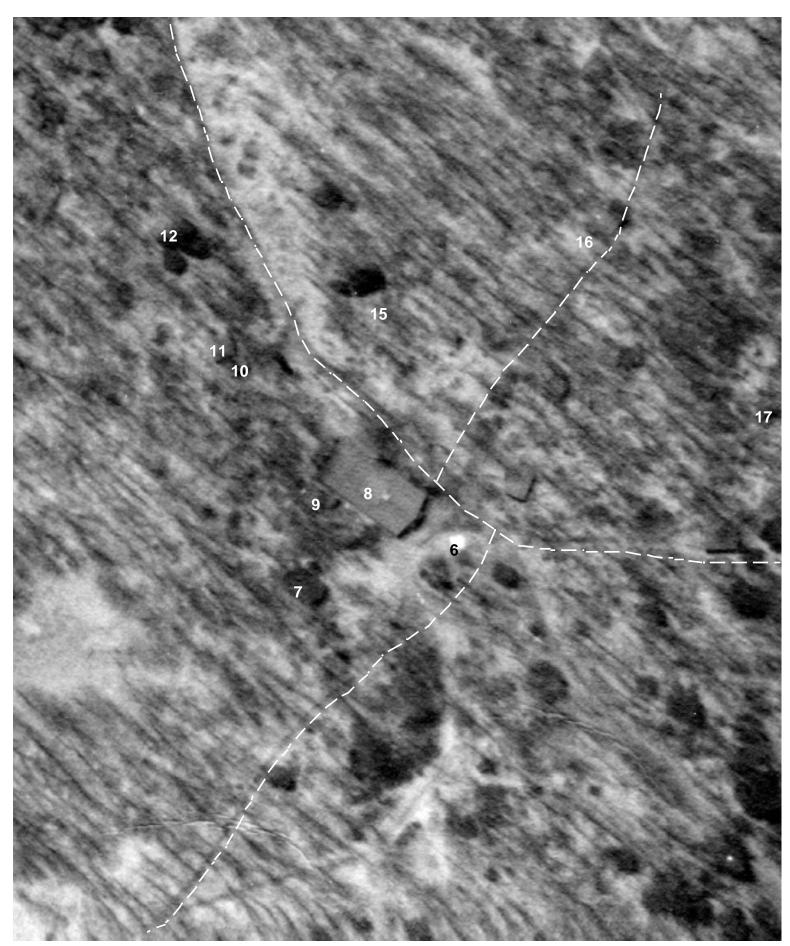
Triangle (2003)



Boiler and Radiator (2003)



Scouts leaving for home. Cannon about to be fired (1949). Dining Hall/Recreation Hall (8).

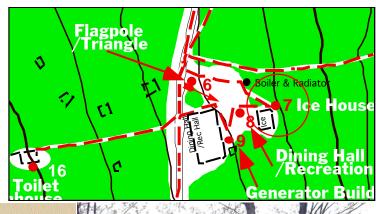


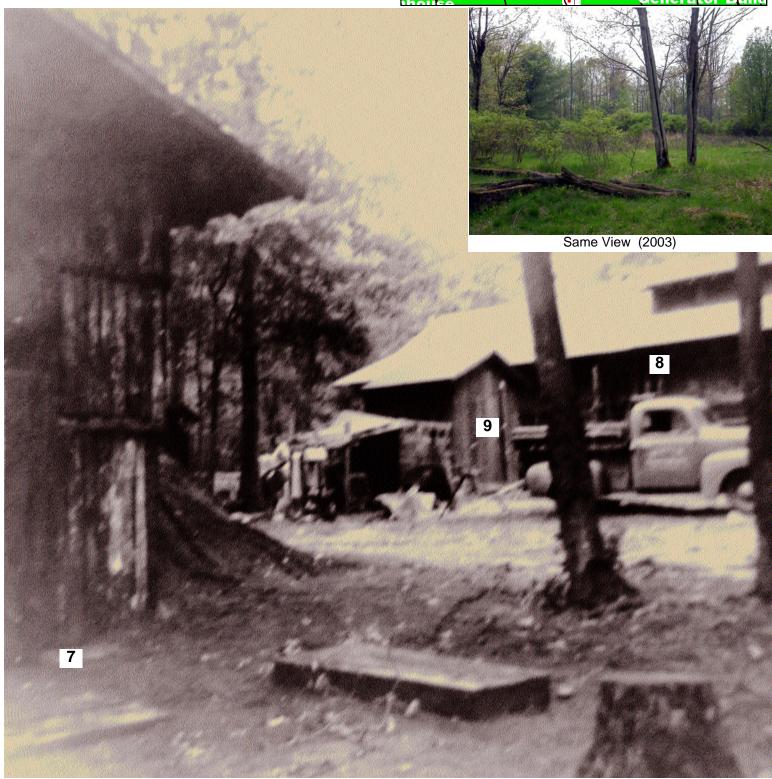
Camp Aquehonga Aerial Photo (1962). 6 - Flagpole/Triangle, 7 - Ice House, 8 - Dining Hall/Recreational Hall, 9 - Generator Building, 10 - Trading Post, 11 - Warehouse, 12 - Nature Lodge, 15 - Cook's Cabin, 16 - Flush Toilet/Wash House, 17 - Adirondack Shelter Cabin.

#### **Ice House Site**

Ice House (No. 7). The Ice House had a capacity of 50 tons of ice. The 18 in. thick blocks were cut from Half Moon Lake each winter and stored in sawdust. "Ice duty" entailed getting ice from the Ice House and bringing it to the kithen for use during the day for cold drinks or for cooking food.

See the concrete foundation.





Ice House (7) Generator Building (9) and Dining Hall (8)



1947 Staff Photo in front of Dining Hall/Recreation Hall (8) with Ice House at far left (7).



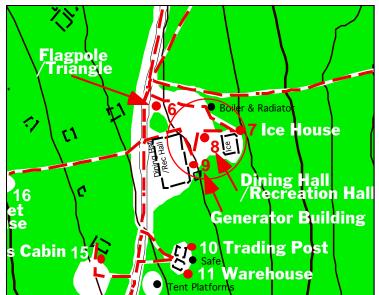
Ice House remnant (2003)

#### **Dining Hall/Recreation Hall Site**

Dining Hall/Recreation Hall (No. 8). The 33 ft. x 72 ft. combination Dining Hall and Recreation Hall had a capacity of 200 campers. It was fully enclosed and designed for year-round use, with fireplace and stove.

This was probably the most important area in camp because it brought together the campers as well as staff on a daily basis. Scouts has a chance to meet and interact with scouts from other troops and learned to sing songs together. Songs were always sung after meals. On occasion, skit nights would be held in the dining room.

At breakfast there were daily announcements and the assignment of camp duties such as "ice duty" or "latrine duty."





Dining Hall/Recreation Hall (1953 Staff Photo).



Dining Hall/Recreation Hall



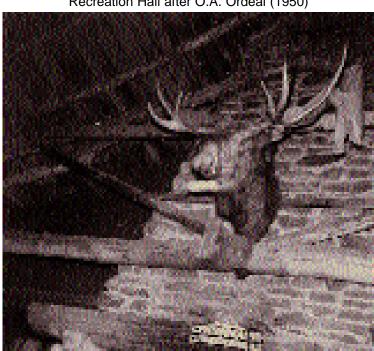
Dining Hall/Recreation Hall site (2003)



Dining Hall/Recreation Hall. 70 Scouts and Fathers dedicated the new Camp Aquehonga, Oct. 12. 1928.



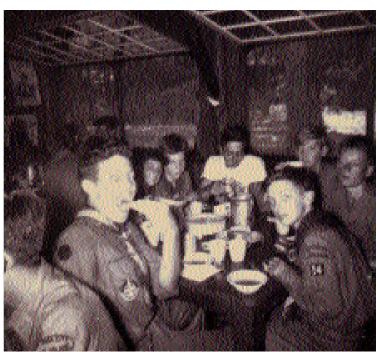
Recreation Hall after O.A. Ordeal (1950)



Recreation Hall (interior)



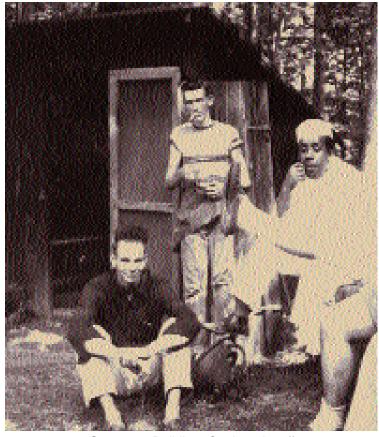
Recreation Hall



Recreation Hall (1949)

#### **Generator Building Site**

Generator Building (No. 9). Behind the Dining Hall/Recreation Hall was a small shed that had a generator and a bank of nickel cadium batteries for the 32 volt lighting system in the kitchen.



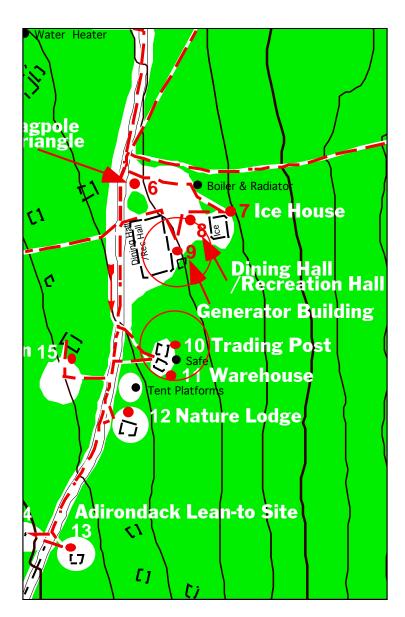
Generator Building, Cook and staff

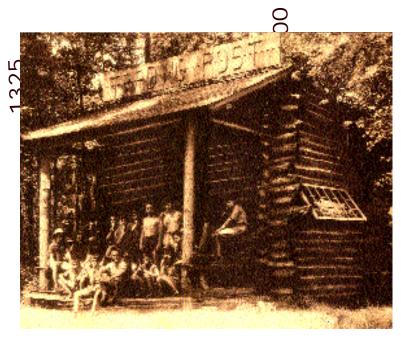
#### **Trading Post Site**

**Trading Post (No. 10).** Scouts were able to purchase a variety of refreshments and craft items at the **Trading Post.** See the **Safe.** 



Trading Post





**Trading Post** 

#### Warehouse Site

Warehouse (No. 11). See the concrete slab.



Warehoue slab (2003)

#### Nature Lodge Site

Nature Lodge (No. 12). The Nature Lodge was filled with various objects and displays, such as plaster casts of animal tracks, leaf and bark collections, bird nests, butterfly and insect collections, ect. In and around the lodge were various live displays with snakes, turtles and an occasional live racoon. The program was run by a Nature Counselor.

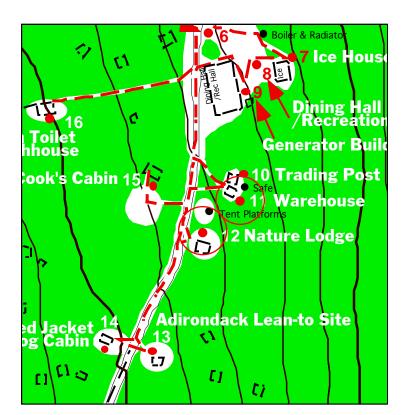
Scouts spent time in the Nature Lodge during rainy weather and to introduce specific subjects. During good



Nature Lodge Remnant (2003)



Nature Lodge, 1941



weather Scouts spent time outdoors identifying different types of trees, plants, birds, insects, animals and cloud formations. The extent of the instruction depended on the rank, TMR badge or merit badges being achieved.

Advanced Scouts were led on an evening nature walk along the "fire trail" beyond the ball field at least once during each two week period. Usually Scouts saw some deer grazing at the edge of the woods, a treat for boys even from rural Staten Island.

See the concrete slab.



Nature Lodge

#### Adirondack Lean-to Site

Adirondack Lean-to Site (No. 13). Four were initially constructed, each with a capacity of eight scouts.

Clusters of lean-tos were called Areas and the staff member in charge was called the Area Leader. Each morning, Area Leaders oversaw the cleanup of their campsite, making sure that each scout made his bunk and cleaned up the sleeping area.

Scouts slept on cots or in bunk beds. Each camper was given a large cloth sack in which he stuffed straw and used as a mattress. Scouts called these mattresses "tics".

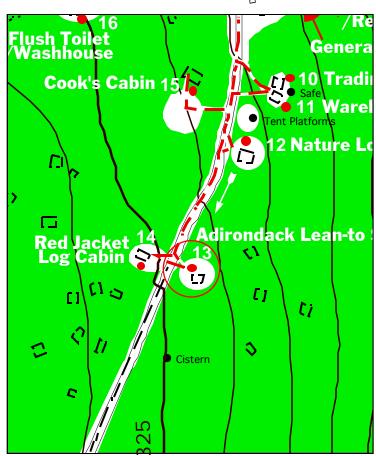
See the concrete posts, metal bed frame and roof tile remnants.



Adirondack Lean-to site - Area 4

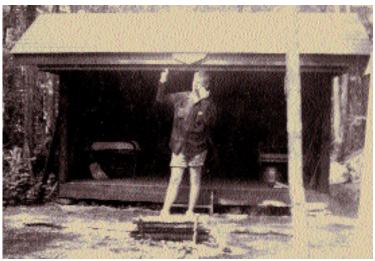


Concrete Post (2003)





Adirondack Lean-to with stone fireplace

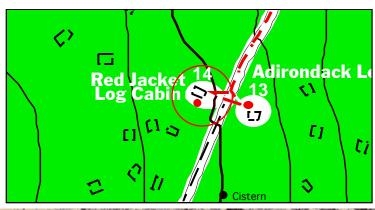


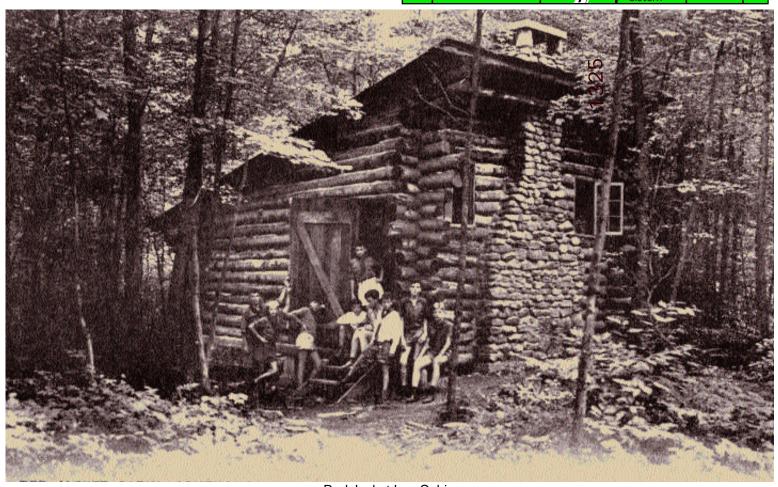
Adirondack Lean-to with fireplace and cots

#### Red Jacket Log Cabin Site

Red Jacket Log Cabin (No. 14). Four 16 ft. x 18 ft. Red Jacket Log Cabins were constructed, each with a capacity of eight scouts. They were designed for year-round use with fieldstone fireplace, stove for heat and lockers.

See the fieldstone fireplace.





Red Jacket Log Cabin







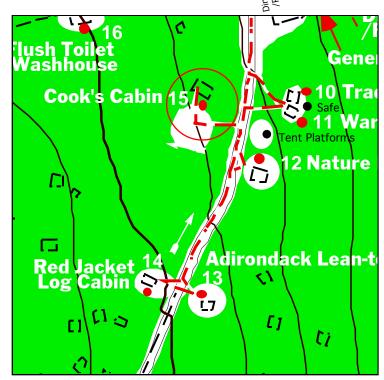
Red Jacket Log Cabin fireplace (2003)

#### Cook's Cabin Site

Cook's Cabin (No. 15). See the four concrete posts.



Cook's Cabin

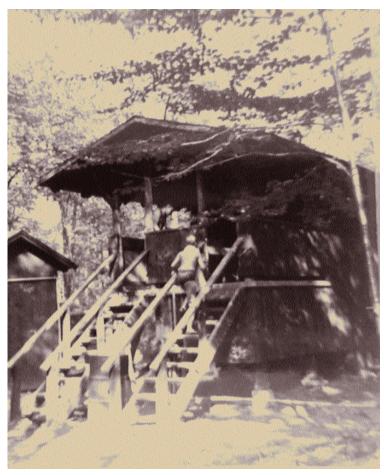




Cook's Cabin site (2003)

#### Flush Toilet/Wash House Site

Flush Toilet/Wash House (No. 16). The automatic Flush Toilet/Wash House had a capacity of 65 campers. Wast water from the washhouse was used to flush the toilet. See the sewer pit.



Flush Toilet/Washhouse



Flush Toilet/Washhouse (rear view)



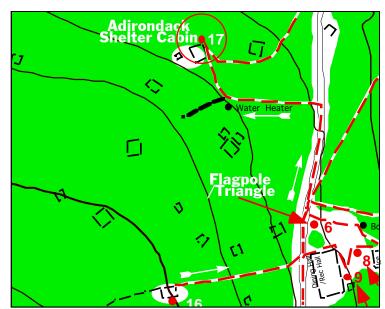


Sewer Pit (2003)

#### Adirondack Shelter Cabins Site

Walk along the road until you see the Water Heater on your left in the woods. Walk to the Water Heater.

Adironack Shelter Cabins Site (No. 17). Five 9 ft. x 18 ft. Adirondack Shelter Cabins were constructed, each with a capacity of 10 scouts. See the concrete posts.





Adirondack Shelter Cabin



Water Heater (2003)



Adirondack Shelter Cabin Concrete Posts (2003)

#### Larry's Trickle

Larry's Trickle (No. 18). This was a major stream-containment project in the early 1950's to prevent leaves and silt from washing into the lake near the swimming area. It was named after then nature counselor Larry Soldovieri, and was dedicated in 1951 to Hans Boos, a former Aquehonga camper. Almost every camper was involved in this project.

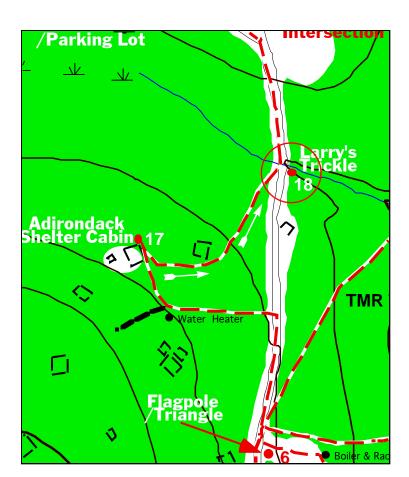
See the remnants.



Larry's Trickle



"Driving of the Golden Toothpick"





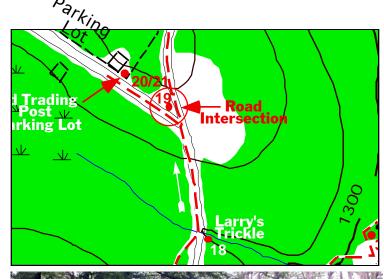
Larry's Trickle (2003)

#### Road Intersection

Road Intersection (No. 19). To your left is the Camp Road to the Zumi Trail, later renamed the Mortimer Schiff Trail. This was the only way into Camp Aquehonga during it's operation. To the right is the Service Road to the Water Tower. This road was used to provide access to the Water Tower in case repairs had to be made.



Road to Zumi Trail/Mortimer Schiff Trail (2003)

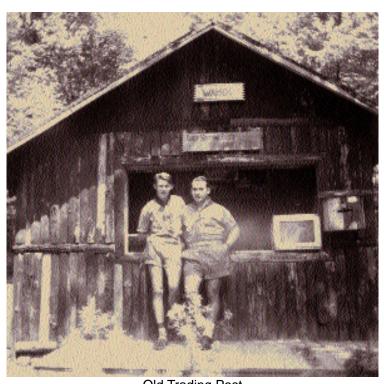




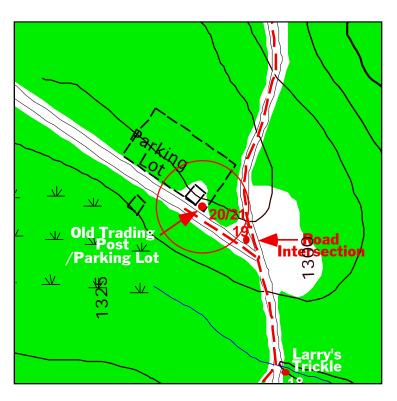
Service Road to Water Tank (2003)

#### Camp Parking Lot/Trading Post

Old Trading Post (site) (No. 20).



**Old Trading Post** 



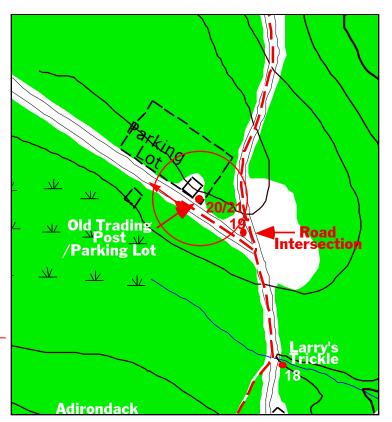
#### Camp Parking Lot (No. 21).

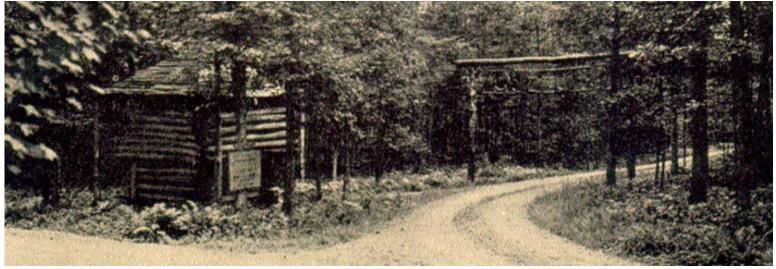


Bus in Parking Lot

#### Aquehonga Blockhouse/Gateway

Aquehonga Blockhouse/Gateway site. (No. 22.) At the access road and the Zumi Trail/Schiff Trail. (Not on Marked Tour.) See the 1930 Camp Aquehonga Map for location.





Blockhouse and Gateway at Zumi Trail/Schiff Trail



Blockhouse and Gateway site (2003)

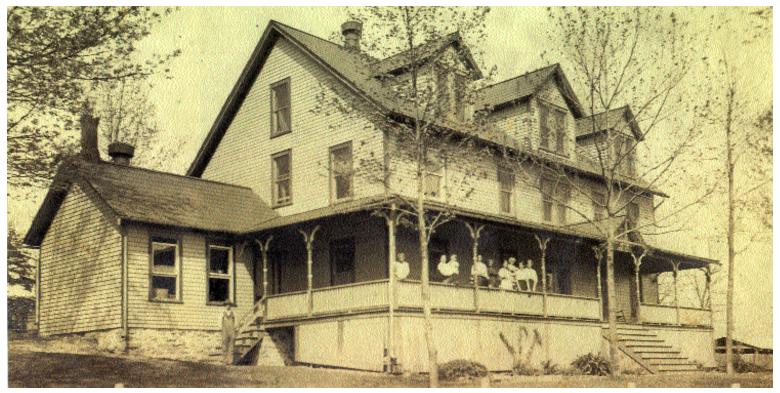
Ω

Water Tower (No. 23). Walk to the concrete slab and stop. Still standing, the 7,500 gallon Water Tower supplied drinking water for Camp Aquehonga for almost 40 years. Water was pumped from Well to the Water Tower, which provided water pressure for the camp.



Water Tower and slab (2003)

— <mark>Road</mark> Inters<mark>ectio</mark>



Half Moon Lake Hotel, circa 1910s

#### Half Moon Lake Hotel

The Half Moon Lake Hotel was located across Route 26 from Fox Lake. (See page 4.) Its bathhouse could be seen from the Camp Aquehonga waterfront.

Conrad Freund was an early owner, replaced by Hans Howald, an immigrant from Switzerland, in 1912. Howald operated it into the 1960's with his wife Lily. Hans tended the bar and ran the hotel whie Lily managed the kitchen and did all the cooking. It had room for 70 guests and a tennis court. Most guests were Swiss from New York City and New Jersey. Half Moon Lake and Fox Lake provided opportunities for boating, bathing and fishing.

The hotel was rebuilt after heavy damage in 1941 by storm and fire. Female staff at the hotel were often friendly with the Camp Aquehonga staff, leading to several marriages.

The property was purchased by the New York City Boy Scouts in the 1960's and the Half Moon Lake Hotel was demolished.



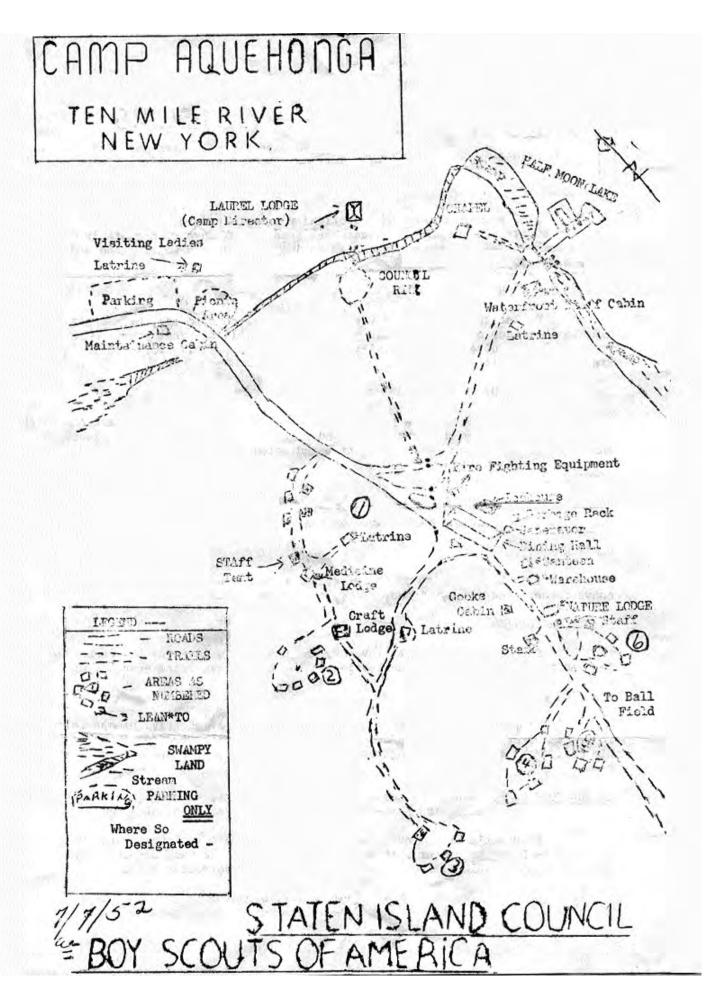
Half Moon Lake Hotel after storm damage, 1941



Tourists at Half Moon Lake Hotel, 1920s



Half Moon Lake Hotel interior, 1940's



#### Roosevelt, Kernochan & T.M.R.



In 1924, Franklin D. Roosevelt selected Judge Frederic Kernochan, his close friend and fishing companion, to head the search for a new, expansive summer camp for New York City Scouts. Three years later, Roosevelt appointed Kernochan to chair the committee to raise \$1 million to pay for what we know today as the Ten Mile River Scout Camps.

No other two individuals had a greater impact on the creation of the Ten Mile River Scout Camps. Both men came from wealthy and privileged New York families and were active in Democratic politics. Both made substantial contributions to Scouting in New York City and nationwide.

In 2005, the Ten Mile River Scout Museum will sponsor a special exhibit on the lives of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Frederic Kernochan and the roles they played in the Boy Scouts and the Ten Mile River Scout Camps.



FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT established his reputation as leader of independent Democrats in the New York State Senate in 1911, attacking the Tammany Hall bosses. He was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Navy in 1913. In 1920, he ran for Vice President of the United States on the Democratic Party ticket. In May, 1921, Roosevelt was appointed chairman of the Committee on New York City Scouting. In June, 1922, the Boy

Scout Foundation of Greater New York was incorporated, with Roosevelt as president, a position he held until 1937. He was elected New York State Governor in 1928 and President of the United States in 1932.

FREDERIC KERNOCHAN graduated from Yale University and New York Law School and fought in the Spanish-American War. In 1908, he received a Congressional Medal of Honor for saving the life of a drowning woman at Highlands, New Jersey, in 1886. He was appointed Justice of the Court of Special Sessions in 1914 and Chief



Justice in 1919. In 1932, Kernochan testified against alliances between Tammany Hall and racketeers. In February, 1933, he watched as Giuseppe Zangara tried to assassinate President-elect Roosevelt in Miami, Florida, after a cruise on Vincent Astor's yacht. Kernochan later interrogated Zangara in his prison cell.

#### **Ten Mile River Scout Museum**

#### **Ten Mile River Scout Museum**



The Ten Mile River Scout Museum is operated by the Greater New York Councils, Boy Scouts of America and is dedicated to preserving the history and artifacts of the Ten Mile River Scout Camps and the local area. T.M.R. is a 12,000 acre reserve in Sullivan County near Narrowsburg, New York, that has been serving the Boy Scouts of New York City since 1927.

Located in T.M.R.'s Headquarters Camp, the Museum has an extensive collection of T.M.R. memorabilia on display, including photographs, patches, neckerchief and neckerchief slides, signs, banners, maps, literature and physical artifacts. It also has a variety of early Scout uniforms displayed on mannequins.

The comprehensive video collection includes narrated color slide shows, camp documentaries, home movies and interviews with former campers and staffers. Our minitheater can seat a group of 15-20 persons. Over 350 staff photos are on display and in the Library. We also have memorabilia from organizations previously active at T.M.R., including the Order of the Arrow.

There are exhibits on local history, including the Donut Machine and other items from the Donut Farm. In addition, Ten Mile River C.C.C. Camp memorabilia, Colonial coins, metal buttons and other early artifacts, dating from the 1700's are on display. See exhibits on the Lenni-Lenape Indians; Colonial Settlements; Delaware & Hudson Canal; Erie Railroad; Lumbering, Tanning, Bluestone Mining and Tourism industries.

Free Admission and Parking. Gift Shop with a variety of Museum and T.M.R. publications, patches and collectibles. Air Conditioned.

#### **2005 Hours**

July and August **Closed Mondays** 

Tues. 11:30 am-12:30 pm, 2-5 pm, 7-8:30 pm

9 am-12 Noon, 2-5 pm Wed.

Thurs.-Sat 9 am-12 Noon, 2-5 pm, 7-8:30 pm

9 am-12 Noon, 2-5 pm Sunday

September through June **Open By Special Request** 

> The Ten Mile River Scout Museum Headquarters Camp, **Ten Mile River Scout Camps** 1481 County Road 26 Narrowsburg, NY 12764 Phone: 845-252-3775 212-242-1100 (Sept.-June)

E-mail: questions@tmrmuseum.org Web Site: tmrmuseum.org

