

MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



THE MORAVIAN TRAIL

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



Minsi Trails Council. BSA
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HISTORIC TRAILS PROGRAM

10/22/2023 Edition

HISTORIC TRAILS PROGRAM

This historic trails program was developed by the Minsi Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America to provide additional outdoor program activities as well as an insight into our American heritage. Its purpose is to promote citizenship training and physical fitness. This is accomplished through an exciting hiking program that features recognition for achievement.

In order that we might understand the story of our trails we must go back in time and relive the events that shaped our nation over 250 years ago. Our trail emblem is symbolic of those events in history that played such an important role in our nations development.

Upon examining the emblem we see the profiles of three figures, each symbolic of the people that shaped our land. The Native American is a symbol of our earliest history. The Pioneer represents the hardy men who opened up the frontier and the Continental Soldier is a reminder of the sacrifices endured so that we might be free.

The Liberty Bell was housed in Allentown during the British occupation of Philadelphia and is our National symbol of freedom. The Moravian belfry is representative of the Moravian influence in this area and is symbolic of our religious heritage. The Easton flag was the first stars and stripes flag. It was flown at the reading of the Declaration of Independence in Easton, PA on July 8, 1776.

The trail segments symbolize the various aspects of our early history. The tri-cornered hat is representative of the Colonial period and as such is the symbol of the **Colonial Trail**. The Durham boat represents the extensive use of the canal system of the early nineteenth and twentieth centuries and is a symbol of the **Durham Trail**. The Paschal Lamb of the **Moravian Trail** symbolizes the Moravian influence in our valley. The Peace Pipe of the **Uncas Trail** symbolizes our Native American Heritage and the powderhorn of the **Sullivan Wilderness Trail** is symbolic of the early struggles of our country. The hammer and pick ax symbolize our industrial heritage for the **Industrial Heritage Trail**. The Moravian Star is another symbol of our Moravian cultural heritage and represents the **Nazareth Trail**. The bull's eye is the symbol of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. which owned the Lehigh and Delaware canal and represents the **Towpath Trail**. The ore car represents the **Quarries Trail**. The mountains and the river represent the Delaware Water Gap, the gateway to the Poconos and is the symbol of the **Gateway to the Poconos Trail**.

The trail medal features a bronze medallion suspended from a red, white and blue ribbon. The medallion consists of the three figures on the emblem and also a fourth, that of a Moravian woman. This latter figure is in honor of all the Colonial women and their extensive contributions to our land.

Thus, the emblem and medal are symbolic of the men and women who settled our Country and guided its destiny. We are the inheritors of their dream. As you journey along these trails, may you be inspired with the same love for and devotion to our nation as were our forebearers.

REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAIL AWARDS

1. Only current registered Scouts BSA, Venturers, Explorers, Unit Leaders, Cadette or older Girl Scouts and Leaders may receive the trail medal. For those groups traveling more than 500 miles, a national tour permit is required.
2. Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, Brownies, Junior Girl Scouts and any other individuals who hike the trails may purchase the patches and segments only for which they qualify. Any three of the required five trails for a medal may be completed as a Tiger Cub, Cub Scout, Brownie, or Junior Girl Scout.
3. Awards may be purchased at the Minsi Trails Council Scout Shop. Rockers (depicted on the back cover and shaded for the hike in this pamphlet) are available for each hike. Upon completing the first hike you may also purchase the round center patch.
4. Qualifications for the trail medal is to hike, in full, any five of the Minsi Trails Council, B.S.A., Historic Trails. Trail medals may also be purchased at the Minsi Trails Council Scout Shop.

TRAIL USE GUIDELINES

1. The Scout Oath and Scout Law apply at all times
2. Safety is a major concern. Use proper hiking methods, precautions and common sense (see Scouts BSA Handbook for additional information). Individuals need to check weather and safety conditions prior to hiking the trails. Note that some trails are in hunting areas, please check local hunting dates. Additionally, leaders should be familiar with the [Guide to Safe Scouting \(GSS\)](#) as well as course SCO_800 Hazardous Weather Training, available at my.scouting.org. The BSA also has the S.A.F.E. program which provides a concise checklist for running safe activities: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safe/>
3. No trespassing on private property. Respect the rights of others.
4. All the hikes have been prepared as day long hikes. Toilet and overnight facilities have not been provided.
5. Knowledge of basic compass, map reading and hiking procedures is necessary.
6. Scouts are encouraged to be in uniform and carry their current registration cards.
7. Two responsible adults (21 years or older) are necessary for any group of hikers younger than 21. If the group exceeds ten youths, it is recommended that there be an additional adult for every additional five youths. These adults must be current with BSA Youth Protection Training and Pennsylvania ACT 15 requirements. If female youth are hiking at least 1 female leader must be in attendance on the hike as well per BSA guidelines.
8. Trail lunches and a garbage bag to be carried out should be taken with you.
9. Most of the hikes note museums and buildings which may be visited. The hikes, due to time constraints, do not lend themselves to visitations during a hike. Should you want to visit any of the museums or buildings noted, please make arrangements with the appropriate groups prior to your visit.
10. The Historic Trails Committee has attempted to provide areas where parking should be sufficient at both the beginning and end of each trail. Be sure you have sufficient and safe transportation at both the beginning and end of the trails.

THE MORAVIAN TRAIL

(Approximately 13.5 miles)

It was probably along the Indian trail known as the Minsi Trail, which extended from Philadelphia to the mouth of the Saucon Creek and on to Nazareth and the Appalachian Trail, that the first small group of Moravians traveled. They established a community in Nazareth, and from there they began other settlements. On December 22, 1740 a few of these Moravians walked south through the woods to the Monocacy Creek and felled a tree at a spot suitable for a new settlement. It was at the Christmas Eve Vigil, 1741, that Count Zinzendorf named that community “Bethlehem”.

The Moravian Trail covers the historic areas of Bethlehem and continues on to Hellertown. It is in Hellertown that the Durham Trail begins. It extends from Hellertown to the Durham locks on the Delaware Canal.

The Moravian Trail takes you back to the days prior to the Revolution. You will see the Moravian Community as it existed at that time. You will also see the site where the Marquis de Lafayette convalesced after a battlefield wound received at the Battle of Brandywine.



Illicks Mill Park



Illick's Mill - 1856

Start of Trail

- **The Moravian Trail starts at the Illick's Mill parking area at the ruins of the Boy Scout Cabin.**

On the north side of the parking area are the remains of a cabin built in the 1800's. During the 1930's and 1940's it was used by the Boy Scouts. It was destroyed in a fire in 1949. This site contains additional information on Illick's Mill: <http://illicksmill.com/>

The creek is called the Monocacy, which is a Delaware or Lenni Lenape name meaning "stream with many bends". The creek was home to many native Americans and early settlers and provided an abundance of fresh water food including mussels, clams and fish. It is the only existing stream of its type and size with a native trout population running through a city the size of Bethlehem. It is noted as one of the most important environmentally safe creeks left in the continental United States.

- **Cross Illick's Mill Road and walk in an Easternly direction across the bridge. Make a left onto Monocacy Creek Rd, and subsequently make a left on the foot path.**
- **Follow the creek to the pavilion at the top of the falls. Proceed down the steps to the suspension bridge and cross the bridge (going south) to the west side of the Monocacy Creek.**
- **Follow the creek to Illick's Mill Road. Carefully cross the road, heading south across the parking lot to the entrance of the Monocacy Nature Center.**

- **Follow the Monocacy Way (path) through the Nature Center, approximately 0.75 of a mile to your next point.**

The Nature Center was a Scout Project which saved an old limestone quarry site for the City of Bethlehem. The remains of the carting areas and of the quarry are visible throughout the sanctuary. The quarry was in operation from the early settlement of the Bethlehem area (1730's through the early 1940's).

- **At the end of the path, cross Schoenersville Rd, (also known as Mauch Chunk Rd. or Paint Mill Rd.) to the Burnside Plantation.**



Burnside Plantation - 1748

- **Continue on the west side of the Monocacy Creek along the Monocacy Way (path) following the original, that is, the first fork, of the creek. Continue until you reach the bridge at Union Blvd. The Monocacy Way (path) ends here at the ramp to Route 378.**
- **CAREFULLY cross Union Blvd. to the south side of the street.**
- **Head east to the first road on your right.**
- **Then head south, (Old York Rd.), following this road under the Broad St. Bridge through Johnston Park to the Bethlehem Historic Industrial Area (approximately 2.0 miles from the fork noted above).**
- **You will see the Luckenback Mill on your left and the stone bridge (1742) on your right.**
- **Cross the stone bridge to Conestoga Street , continue south to Spring Street**

- At Spring St. head west to the first street on the right (First Avenue).
- Walk north on First Ave. to the corner of First Ave. and W. Market Street.

At the corner of West Market and First Avenue look for a:

HISTORIC PLAQUE

An _____ rests in the crypt. The memorial also commemorates the (number) _____ other soldiers whose graves were moved from this area.



Bethlehem Tomb of the Unknown Soldier - 1951

- Hike in a northerly direction (14 degrees) until you reach Broad Street. From this junction continue east (120 degrees).
- At the intersection of Broad and Main Streets, hike for 100 feet at a southerly direction along the east side of the street



The Sun Inn - 1758

HISTORIC MARKER

What historic building stands here? _____ Erection had begun in the year _____.

At the corner of Walnut and Main Streets is a **HISTORIC MARKER** noting what building and event?

- **Follow Main St. to the south for a distance of 300 feet.**

What building stands to the west? _____. Built about 1810 it is one of the earliest brick structures in Bethlehem, and is an example of the Federal architectural influence which displaced the Germanic tradition of the 18th century.

- **From the corner of Main St. where the previous distance ended, hike 360 feet east on Market Street** (Note approx. 180ft. on the right is the Heckewelder Home, the residence of an early Moravian missionary family.) At the 360 foot mark whose residence was this building?

_____ The house and the addition, the latter which was later destroyed, gave Bethlehem its first general store.

- **Cross the street at a bearing of 180 degrees to:**

HISTORIC MARKERS

One commemorates the Moravian Cemetery; the second one commemorates _____ . The Moravian Cemetery is called _____ .

- **Take a reading of 278 degrees and walk about 100 feet to the cemetery gate.**
- **Enter gate and walk south for 325 feet following the path through the cemetery. Continue south to the brick pathway.**
- **STOP at the end of the brick path facing south.**

The building on the left is the Christian Education Building of the Central Moravian Church.

On the right is the oldest existing building of Moravian Academy. (Formerly the Bethlehem Steel Band building and and later Bethlehem Public Library.)



Das Schnitzhaus - 1746

- **Continue following the path in a southerly direction until it meets Church Street.**

The building on the left is the Schnitzhaus which was originally used for drying fruit, particularly apples. (known as schnitz in German), The building on the right is the Single Sisters House.

- **At this point take a reading of 280 degrees and continue down Church Street to the first street, Heckewelder Place.**

On the right, past the Single Sisters House, is the Bell House and the Gemein House; on the left opposite the Bell House is the Widows House.



Bell House - 1746



Das Gemeinhaus - 1741

- **At Heckewelder Place head in a northerly direction (14 degrees).**

The building on the left is Central Moravian Church whose congregation started in 1741. The church building itself was built in 1803.

HISTORIC MARKER

The Moravian Church was founded on the teachings of _____ who was burned at the stake. _____ was a term for the Moravians' communal way of life. The congregation was divided into groups called choirs according to sex and marital status.



Central Moravian Church - 1803

- **Continue approximately 290 feet to the Nain House (429 Heckewelder Place)**

In this house lived the Delaware Indians who were converted to Christianity by the Moravians.

- **Make a 180 degree turn and walk south for 102 feet. Take a reading of 280 degrees and proceed down the steps to Main Street.**

The house at the corner was the Pharmacy which housed all the ingredients for medicines. To the east end of Main Street is the Single Brethren's (i.e. Brothers') House which was used as a hospital during the Revolutionary War. It is now part of Moravian University.

- **Cross Main Street at the near traffic light. After crossing the street face north.**

To the left is the site of the Pottery and Blacksmith Shop.

In 1777 the "Liberty Bell" was taken by wagon through Hellertown and Bethlehem for safekeeping in Allentown because the British were

threatening Philadelphia. On its way the wagon broke down, spilling the bell near the corner where you are standing.

- **Proceed north for a distance of 200 feet to:**

HISTORIC PLAQUE

Which commemorates the site of Bethlehem's first house. Erected in the year _____. Also look for the cornerstone indicating the buildings originally on this site. They were:

- **Turn south to a low stone wall with steps. Proceed down the steps and follow the path to the left between the Pottery and Blacksmith Shops (following the old Ohio Road) proceed down the hill and STOP at the bottom of the hill.**

This is the Historic Industrial Area

The building immediately in front of you (at 20 degrees) is the miller's house. The building to its left is the Luckenbach Mill. the log house on your left was the springhouse.

- **Take a reading of 190 degrees. and follow the path south**

The building on the right is the Tannery and Butchery. Past this is the site of the old Oil Mill, on the right, and the restored Waterworks, on the left.



Lukenbach Mill - 1869



The Tannery - 1761

- **Cross the bridge over the Monocacy Creek and follow the path south along the creek to Main and Spring Streets.**

The Monocacy Creek was a favorite Indian fishing spot. The name “Monocacy” was corrupted from the Indian Menagassi or Menakessil signifying “a stream with many bends”. The Bethlehem area was known as Menagachsink or “at the bending of the creek.” The Lenni Lenape (Delaware) Indians inhabited the area before the settlement by the White Man.

- **Take a reading of 260 degrees, proceed to the stairs leading onto the Hill-to-Hill Bridge.**
- **Walk in a southerly direction across the bridge.**

While crossing the bridge note the first building on the left which is the site of the former Reading Railroad Station. On the right is the Lehigh Valley Railroad office building (now apartments). Across the street is the Wilbur Mansion (formerly the Masonic Temple), and the Sayre Mansion which is now a bed and breakfast / reception center. Mr. Sayre was the president of the Lehigh Valley Railroad.

This area of Bethlehem was known as “millionaires row”. It was associated with steel and railroads. Other houses of importance in this area are the homes of Charles Schwab, founder of Bethlehem Steel; Edwin Drake, who established the first oil well in the United States; and Stephen Vincent Benet, poet, famed for the Civil War poem, “John Brown’s Body”.

To the east along the south bank of the Lehigh River is the site of the former Bethlehem Steel Plant. The Bethlehem Steel Corporation, the nation's second largest producer of steel, came into existence in 1857 as the Sauconia Iron Company taking advantage of the rich veins of ore and abundant limestone in the area. The third necessity, coal, was easily transported here. Bethlehem Steel eventually absorbed many of the numerous small iron and steel industries that came into existence after the middle of the 19th century. Steel operations ceased here in 1998 and the area is now being developed as an entertainment, educational and an industrial complex. A fascinating photo collection is housed by the National Museum of Industrial History here: <https://nmihbethlehemsteel.omeka.net/>. This site hosted by Lehigh University has additional photographs and artifacts: <https://wordpress.lehigh.edu/beyondsteel/topics/iron-steel/>

- **At the first crosswalk on the 2nd street ramp (as it splits from 378) cross the ramp to the western side of the 2nd street ramp.**
- **From the bridge follow the sidewalk down the 2nd Street ramp east to the south corner of Wyandotte and Third Streets to the Pulaski Monument.**



Pulaski Monument

- **Continue to Polk and Third Streets**

Note to the left is the “Banana Factory” home of the Bethlehem Musicfest Association. The building known as the Banana Factory is located on Plymouth Street. It was originally a Plymouth car dealership from 1920 until the 1950's, when it was sold to D. Theodoredis, a merchant whose main product was bananas.

To the right up the hill you will see Lehigh University, founded in 1867 by Asa Packer, one of the principals of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. and later of the Lehigh Valley Railroad.

- **At Polk Street head north and then east on E 2nd Street. On the left you will come upon this building: _____.**



National Museum of Industrial History - 2016

Image credit Glenn Koehler / NMIH

The National Museum of Industrial History is housed in the former Bethlehem Steel Electric Repair Shop. It is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. First opened in August 2016, it was first proposed in the 1990's. There are four permanent exhibitions, and one rotating gallery. The four permanent exhibits are: Machinery Hall, Iron and Steel, Silk Gallery Hall, and the Propane Gallery.

More information on the National Museum of Industrial History can be found at their website: <https://www.nmih.org/>

- **Continue east on E. 2nd Street until you come to Founders Way, head north. You will be standing in front of the blast furnaces of the former Bethlehem Steel. Head at a bearing of 300 degrees and follow the steps up the: _____.**
- **Follow the trestle past the blast furnaces until you come to the end. Proceed down the steps and follow the sidewalk east towards the Wind Creek Event Center.**



Bethlehem Steel Blast Furnaces

- **Make a right onto Sands Blvd and follow that up the hill to Daly Avenue. At the light, cross Daly Avenue using the crosswalk to the South Bethlehem Greenway.**

The Greenway was started in 2005 and follows an old right-of-way that belonged to the Norfolk Southern Railroad. Note the large ore crane to the left (with the Wind Creek logo). This was one of two cranes that were used for unloading iron ore to be made into steel. After you pass the Bethlehem Skatepark you will see the remains of the railyard where hopper cars were unloaded.

- **Continue southeast on the Greenway. After crossing the Saucon Creek, on the left you will see an old light tower from the railroad. At the top the tower is an eagle's nest.**



Eagles Nest

- **Continue until you reach the end of the Greenway in Hellertown at Auburn Street.**

- **Head north on Traveler Ave. until it intersects with Millside Drive, continue on Traveler Avenue across the Saucon Creek until you get to Fire Lane, turn left.**

The Saucon Creek comes from the Lenni Lenape work Sakunk meaning “that place where a small stream empties into a large river.” The Saucon Creek flows into the Lehigh River.

- **Proceed through Saucon Park on Fire Lane, passing the maintenance building on your left and a parking lot. After the parking lot there is a gravel road on the right.**
- **Walk on the gravel path up the hill to the grass between fields 4 and 5 at a bearing of 275 degrees until you come to William Street.**
- **Head in a southerly direction, passing under I-78. At the intersection with College Dr. continue south on William Street. You will come to a 3-way intersection with Seidersville Rd. and Creek Rd.**

At this intersection stands the Michael Heller Farmstead.



Michael Heller’s Farmstead - 1750

- **Proceed for 0.8 of a mile on Creek Road to Friedensville Road, passing an old cemetery and what is now a private residence.**

Originally a Mennonite meeting house built in the early 1700’s stood here. The structure you see today was built in 1891 as a schoolhouse, and was sold and converted into a private home in 1954. The cemetery is known as the Lime Kiln Burial Ground, and is the resting place for the Hellers. More information can be found on the Saucon Valley Conservancy’s website here:



Lime Kiln Burial Ground

- **Continue along Creek Road.**

The town you are about to enter is Hellertown, named for the brothers Christopher and Simon Heller. They emigrated from Germany and settled the area in 1740.

- **Turn due east (90 degrees), cross the Saucon Creek bridge, into the Water Street Park in Hellertown.**

END OF TRAIL.

This concludes the hiking requirements for the Moravian Trail and its related patch segment. Another interesting historic trail that connects with the Moravian Trail is the Durham Trail. Information regarding this trail can be found in a separate booklet.

Start of Moravian Trail: In Bethlehem at Illick’s Mill Park, 100 Illicks Mill Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017. Parking is available in the parking lot.

End of Moravian Trail: In Hellertown at Water Street Park, 90 West Water Street, Hellertown, PA 18055. Parking is available in the parking lot.

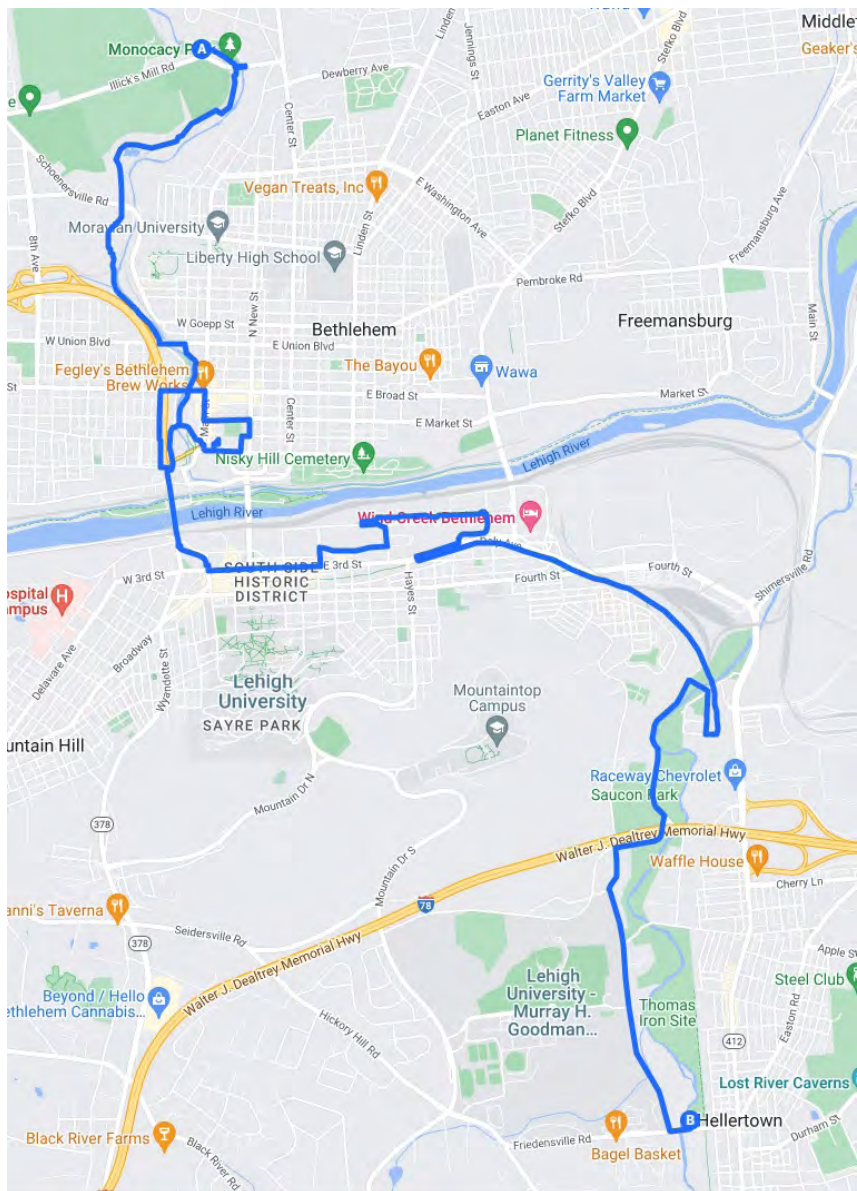
To view an online version of the map on the following page please [click here](#).

You may also open the online map using this QR Code:

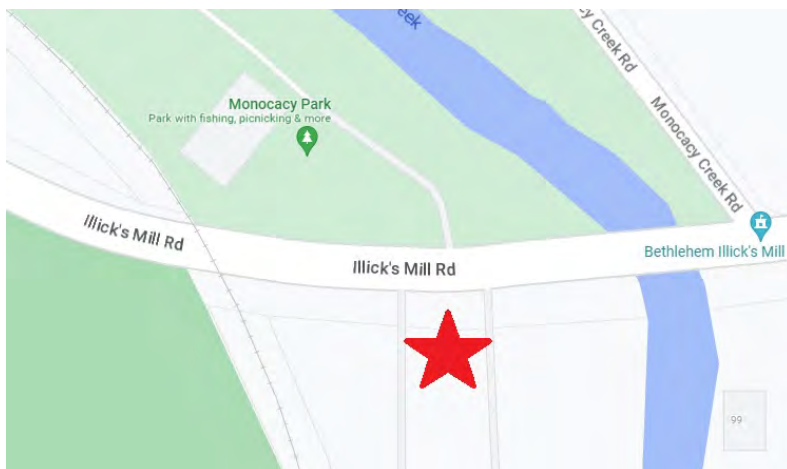


Please note: There are some limitations with Google maps. While the online map is fairly accurate, it only can trace roads / mapped walking paths. Use it as a guide, but it's not 100% accurate.

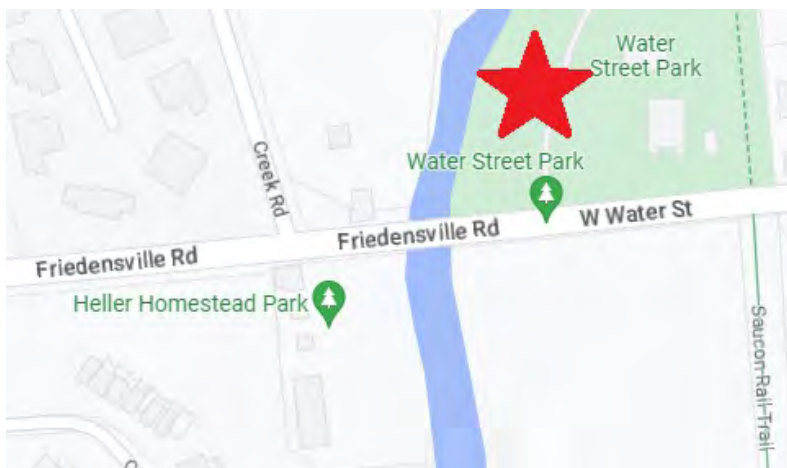
THE MORAVIAN TRAIL



Approximately 13.5 miles



Start of Trail - 100 Illicks Mill Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017



End of Trail - 90 W. Water Street, Hellertown, PA 18055



A view of ArtsQuest from the Hoover-Mason Trestle, 2023



The Old Chapel

MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL HISTORIC TRAILS COMMITTEE

2022-2023 HISTORIC TRAILS COMMITTEE

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Darren S. Woodruff
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Special thanks to Scouts BSA Troops 2022 and 51, Phillipsburg NJ for their assistance in this 2023 refresh of The Moravian Trail.

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DURHAM TRAIL - Hellertown Lions Club
GATEWAY TO THE POCONOS
INDUSTRIAL TRAIL
MORAVIAN TRAIL - Rotary Club of Bethlehem
NAZARETH TRAIL
QUARRIES TRAIL
SULLIVAN WILDERNESS TRAIL - Kiwanis Club of Stroudsburg
TOWPATH TRAIL
UNCAS TRAIL - Rotary Club of Easton

We wish to thank the following individuals and organizations for their support in launching this Historic Trails Program.

B.S.A. Troop 10, Advent Moravian Church, Bethlehem, PA
B.S.A. Troop 14, St. Matthews Evan. Lutheran Church, Bethlehem, PA
B.S.A. Troop 18, Rosemont Lutheran Church, Bethlehem, PA
B.S.A. Troop 86, United Methodist Church, Stroudsburg, PA
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Ironton Railroad & Thomas Iron Co. Museum, Coplay
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Moravian Church of North America
Moravian Hall Square Museum & Craft Shop
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Pocono Mountain School District
Slatebelt Museum, Mount Bethel, PA
Urban Research & Development Corp.
Witachsoman Lodge 44 Order of the Arrow
Woman's Club of Catasauqua, PA

Monroe County Architecture 1737-1979 - C. J. Klofach
Portland Commemorative Book 1976, J. Loyd, E. Kline
Stroudsburg Walking Tour

NOTES

Scout's Name:

Hike Leaders:

Unit:

Date of Hike:

Weather:

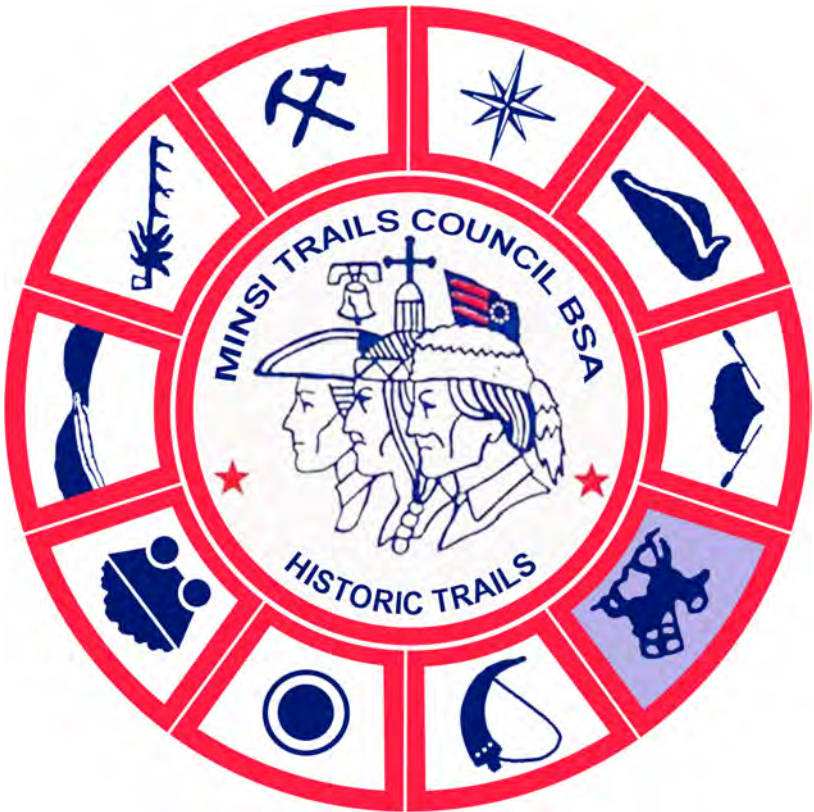
Number of participants:

Interesting things you saw:

For additional information, contact: Minsi Trails Council, B.S.A.
P.O. Box 20624
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0624
(610) 264-8551



View from Hill to Hill Bridge looking east, 2023



**SPONSORED BY:
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