

CHIEF JOHN ROSS CANOE TREK



CHEROKEE AREA COUNCIL, INC. BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

6321 East Brainerd Road

P. O. Box 21226

Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421

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CHIEF JOHN ROSS CANOE TREK

The Chief John Ross Canoe Trek is a rugged adventure for real Scouts. The Trek covers 15 miles of scenic wilderness beauty and is located on Lookout Creek only a few miles from Chattanooga, Tenn. The trip will require 5-7 hours paddling plus lunch and rest stops and is designed for people with little or no canoeing experience. The stream generally does not exceed 30 feet in width and is slow moving except after several days of heavy rain. There are places where the stream is shallow and canoes have to be lifted over obstacles. The trail is similar in many respects to some of the streams at the Region 7 Explorer Canoe Base.

HISTORICAL

The Trek runs through an area full of history. In pre-historic times Indians lived along its shores and fished and canoed its waters. Hernando DeSoto was the first white man to visit the area. He passed through with his men and a herd of pigs in 1540 on his way westward to discover the Mississippi River. About two centuries passed before the white man came again. In 1815 John Ross, who was part Cherokee Indian, established a trading business, Ross' Landing, on the Tennessee River. This business was the beginning of the City of Chattanooga. On November 24, 1863 on the banks of Lookout Creek, near the northern end of Lookout Mountain, an important action in the Civil War started. Major General Joseph Hooker forced a crossing of the creek and fought his way around the northern tip of Lookout Mountain in the famous "Battle Above The Clouds." Hooker's Divisions advanced to link up with General's Thomas and Sherman to lift the Confederate siege of Chattanooga.

John Ross, whose Indian name "Gu-wis-guwi" meant Large White Bird, was an educated man and a natural leader. During the 1830's he resisted by all the legal means he could muster, the United States Government's attempt to move the Cherokees west of the Mississippi. His efforts failed and in 1838 he led his people west of the infamous "Trail of Tears." In 1839 he was chosen Chief of the Cherokee Nation that was west of the Mississippi River.

TRAIL REQUIREMENTS

1. Scouts and Explorers must be in complete uniform. Tee shirts are O.K. in warm weather, however.
2. Cover the entire Trek in canoe or boat.
3. The trip may be made in a single day or extended into a two day overnight trip.
4. No firearms or fireworks of any type are permitted.
5. Keep sneakers or moccasins on feet at all times. The shoes will protect your feet if there is an accidental upset or if it is necessary to get out of the boat and into the water.
6. Camp and picnic only at the designated sites. The land adjoining the creek is privately owned. Help maintain the spirit of cooperation and goodwill with the property owners and help retain the good reputation of Scout groups.

7. An official tour permit is required of all Scout groups. Check your local Council office for details.

8. Do not cut or disfigure any trees on property.
9. Carry a litter bag in each boat. Pick up any litter or trash in the stream or on the bank. Double check your lunch stop for litter. Leave the trail a cleaner place for your having been there. Your actions will reflect on all Boy Scouts and Explorers.
10. Follow all safety rules outlined in the section on safety.

SAFETY

There must be at least one and preferably two adults with every group of boys. It is a good idea to have one adult for every eight boys.

Each person must be equipped with a life preserver. (State Law) Don't take chances with the creek. If the level of the water is high, don't go.

This is a wilderness type trail so "Be Prepared" to take care of the unexpected. In addition to the normal precautions one takes on such a hike or camping trip, remember that there may be some new hazards. Boats and water and boys mean "use caution." If an accident occurs, it may take several hours to obtain help. Help will generally be easier to reach by hiking westward toward Route 11 or by continuing downstream in the canoe.

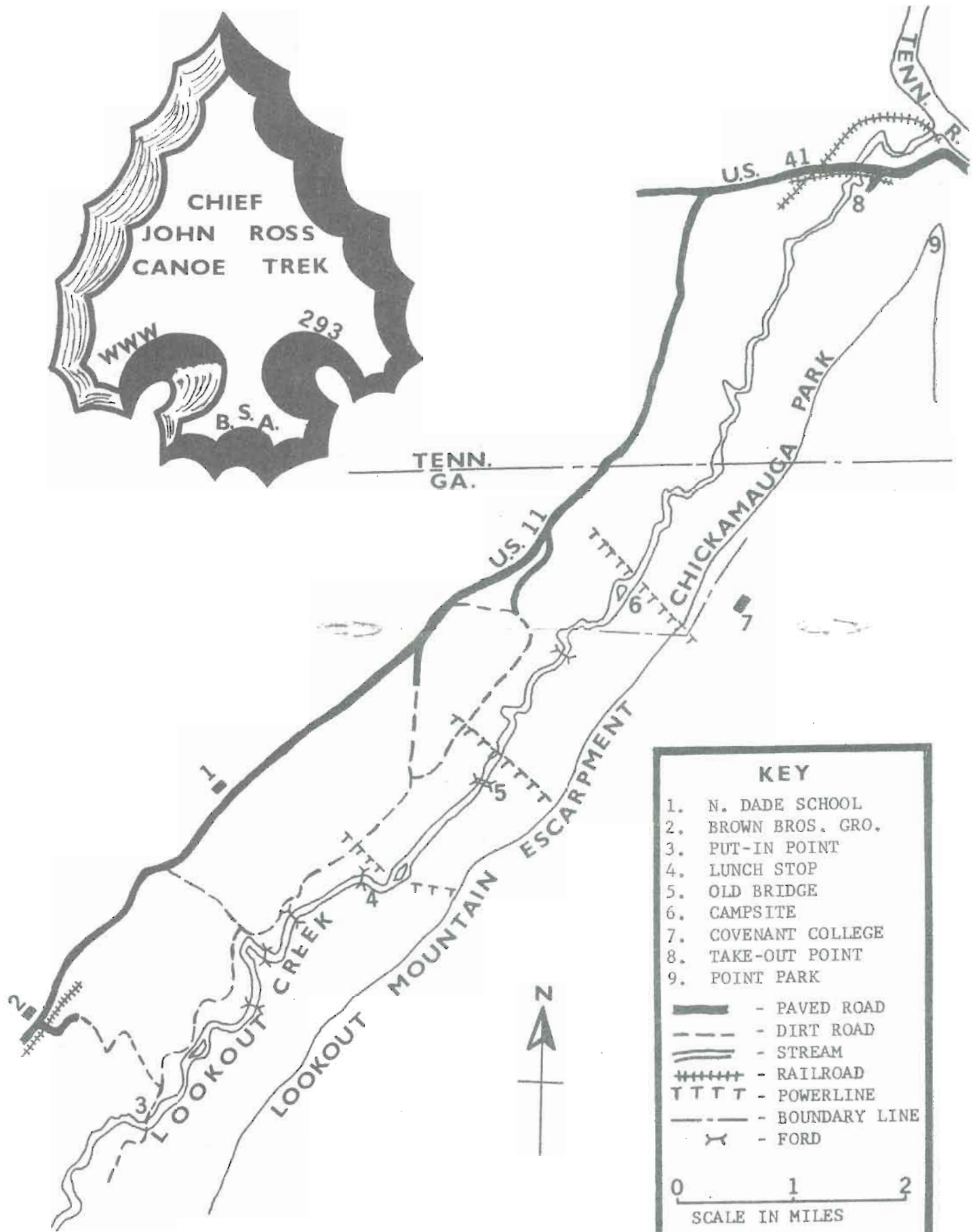
The following rules are excerpts from the rules of the American Whitewater Affiliation Safety Code and should be observed.

1. Never boat alone.
2. Be a competent swimmer.
3. Wear your life jacket whenever an upset may occur.
4. Beware of cold water and weather extremes.
5. Be suitably prepared and equipped.
6. Support your leader and respect his authority.
7. Be sure craft is in good repair.
8. Have a spare paddle.
9. Each boat is responsible for the boat behind.
10. Keep party compact.
11. If you spill, stay on the upstream end of the boat and hold onto the boat.
12. If others spill, go after the boaters first.

TRAIL LOCATION

A. The put-in point (No. 3 on map) is near the New England community, Go south on Rt. 11 from Chattanooga to New England, Ga. (3 miles north of Trenton, Ga. and 7.2 miles south of the Tenn.-Ga. state line). Turn left at Brown Brothers Grocery and proceed 2.2 miles to the bridge that crosses Lookout Creek. Cars may be parked along the left of the road near the bridge. The best place to launch canoes is about 100 yards downstream from the bridge.

B. The take-out point (No. 8 on map) is near the Red Caboose No. 148 at the junction of Highways 11 and 148. There is parking space for automobiles behind the building and small pond. At least one car should be left at the take-out point so that when the group arrives down-



KEY

1. N. DADE SCHOOL
2. BROWN BROS. GRO.
3. PUT-IN POINT
4. LUNCH STOP
5. OLD BRIDGE
6. CAMPSITE
7. COVENANT COLLEGE
8. TAKE-OUT POINT
9. POINT PARK

——— PAVED ROAD
 - - - DIRT ROAD
 ~~~~~ STREAM  
 + + + + RAILROAD  
 T T T T POWERLINE  
 - - - BOUNDARY LINE  
 X FORD

0 1 2  
SCALE IN MILES



stream the drivers can be taken back to the put-in point to pick up the cars. Allow 30 minutes to drive from the canoe take-out point to the put-in point. At the end of the Trek take the canoes all the way downstream to the railroad bridge abutment near highway 11. Turn right and paddle into the small inlet at the abutment and the take-out point will be visible.

C. Lunch stop — Holmes Ford (No. 4 on map) is located at the third cable footbridge across the stream. You may stop anywhere on the west bank for lunch. A TVA power line crosses the creek about 1/2 mile downstream. Be sure to leave the site clean.

D. The overnight campsite (No. 6 on map) is located in Chickamauga Military Park on an island in the stream, a short distance upstream from a power line that crosses the creek. The site is marked by blazes of cream paint on the trees. The site is primitive.

Skyuka Spring is about 1/4 mile downstream from the power line and on the east bank. If you use water from Skyuka Spring, be sure to take adequate water purification precautions. Take plenty of drinking water with you. A pure water supply is not available at the campsite. Do not cut or disfigure any trees or property in the Park. Do not leave or bury any garbage at the campsite. Take all your garbage with you and dispose of it at the end of the Trek. If you camp overnight, carry your own fuel. Be absolutely certain that all fires are completely extinguished when you leave.

## CANOE AVAILABILITY

The Cherokee Area Council has twelve canoes and two six-canoe trailers which can be reserved by units in the Cherokee Area Council. Contact the Council Office well in advance of your trip for reservations.

The following businesses have canoes for rental. Contact these businesses directly for details and rates.

1. Canoeist Headquarters, 3003 Ozark Circle, Chattanooga, Tenn. 37415. Phone 877-6256
2. Sportsman's Den, Ooltewah Exit of Interstate 75, P. O. Box 24, Collegedale, Tenn. 37315. Phone 238-4803

## MAPS

A small scale map of the area is on page 4 and 5. Larger scale Coast and Geodetic Survey Maps may be obtained from the TVA Map Section, Pound Bldg., Chattanooga, Tenn. at a cost of 50¢ each. Three maps are needed to cover the entire trail. 1. Hooker, Ga.-Tenn. Quadrangle (106-NW) 2. Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.-Tenn. Quadrangle (106-NE) 3. Chattanooga, Tenn. Quadrangle (105-SE). Only a small portion of the Trek is on Map 2.

## WILDLIFE

You will have an opportunity to observe plenty of wildlife, if you paddle quietly. It is fun to keep track of all the different types of animals that you see. There are poisonous snakes in the area so keep a sharp lookout and keep clear of them. Take a snake bite kit along, just in case. Take along a good insect repellent. Mosquitoes are plentiful in warm weather.

## FOOD AND WATER

Carry something to eat and drink. A trail snack will be genuinely appreciated part way through the trip. We suggest that (if the trip is to be made in one day) sandwiches or food that does not require cooking be used.

## OVERNIGHT FACILITIES IN CHATTANOOGA AREA

Winter Quarters:

1. Commanding Officer  
Tennessee National Guard  
1801 Holtzclaw Avenue  
Chattanooga, Tenn.  
Phone 624-2639
2. Commanding Officer  
Naval Training Center  
12 Meadow Avenue  
Chattanooga, Tenn.  
Phone 267-2111

Summer Camp Sites: (Tentage required)

1. Hamilton County Park  
Gold Point Circle  
Hixson, Tenn.  
Phone 877-6596
2. Chickamauga Battlefield Park  
Park Superintendent  
Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.  
Phone 866-9241
3. Harrison Bay State Park  
Park Superintendent  
Harrison, Tenn.  
Phone 344-6214.

## OTHER TRAILS IN THE AREA

Blue Beaver Trail Starts at the take-out point of the Chief John Ross Canoe Trek and climbs Lookout Mountain. Additional information may be obtained from P. O. Box 38, Hixson, Tenn. 37343.

Chickamauga Military Trails Located in Chickamauga Military Park. There are six hiking trails in the park and vicinity. Additional information may be obtained from the Rossville Kiwanis Club, P. O. Box 488, Rossville, Ga.

River Mont Cave Located near Bridgeport, Ala. and Russell Cave, Ala. Additional information may be obtained from River Mont Cave Historic Trail, P. O. Box 122, Bridgeport, Ala. 35740.

## RECOMMENDED READING

1. "Basic Canoeing," American Red Cross, \$0.35
2. "Canoeing," American Red Cross, \$1.25
3. "Canoeing Merit Badge Pamphlet," Boy Scouts of America, \$0.35

## POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE AREA

1. Reflection Riding, on east bank of Lookout Creek, approximately 1 1/2 miles from take-out point. Follow signs.
2. John Ross House, Rossville, Ga.
3. Craven's House, Lookout Mountain
4. Point Park, Lookout Mountain
5. Fuller Gun Collection, Chickamauga Park Headquarters, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.

**AWARDS**—Those who complete the Trek may purchase a patch if desired. Patches \$1.00 each—limit 2 per person. Additional brochures may be obtained at 5¢ each.

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**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**  
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