

Meriwether Lewis Boy Award Patch

Meriwether Lewis Chapter
of the Southeast Region
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.



“The mission of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation is: As Keepers of the Story – Stewards of the Trail, The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) provides national leadership in maintaining the integrity of the Trail and its story through stewardship, scholarship, education, partnership and cultural inclusiveness.”

The Meriwether Lewis LCTHF Chapter undertakes this mission along the Natchez Trace Parkway in the States of Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi between Hohenwald, Tennessee (Meriwether Lewis Park/Grinder’s Stand) in the north to Tupelo, Mississippi (The National Park Service Headquarters) in the south.

On August 6, 2007, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Boy Scouts of America and the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation was signed. The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding was to establish a general framework for cooperation between the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc., and the Boy Scouts of America. Through this MOU the Foundation and BSA will collaborate on projects and programs that interpret the stories of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and provide stewardship of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

The Lewis and Clark Trail also is an automobile route with distinctive road signs that follows the water route, mostly along the Ohio, Missouri, and Columbia Rivers taken by the expedition. In Tennessee, the Meriwether Lewis Park on the Natchez Trace is part of the Lewis and Clark Trail. The Chickasaw Trail (Highway 78 and 15 in Mississippi), and the Natchez Trace in Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee, follows the final journey of Meriwether Lewis from Ft. Pickering (Memphis, TN) to the Chickasaw Agency (Pontotoc, MS) to Grinder’s Stand (Hohenwald, TN). The Meriwether Lewis Chapter wants to encourage Boy Scouts to learn more about the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the Final Journey of Meriwether Lewis by offering an embroidered patch. By way of agreement with the Middle Tennessee Council, BSA, this patch can be earned by Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Explorers and Venturers. Requirements to earn this patch should be completed with certification by the scout leader. An application form is attached. We are also hoping that school children and other youth organizations will want to work on these requirements. The scout leaders can act as counselors and sign off that the scouts have done the requirements and kept their journals.

Requirements

Requirement #1 and #2 are required of **all** Scouts. All other requirements are optional, but at least two additional requirements must be completed for a total of four to earn the patch.

- 1. (Req'd)** Visit the Meriwether Lewis Park on the Natchez Trace in Tennessee (Grinder's Stand), AND the Lewis County Museum/Discovery Center in Hohenwald, TN. Keep a journal in which you note the date you visited the sites, the date that Lewis visited Grinder's Stand, what you did while at the sites, and what you learned while there. Record in your journal the condition of the sites and whether or not you had to pick up trash to clean the sites, as well as any other observations, such as any repairs that might be needed. Note the significance of the monuments found at the sites.

Alternate Option. Scouts who live further than 350 miles from Meriwether Lewis Park on the Natchez Trace near Hohenwald, TN may complete this option in lieu of the above: Research the Meriwether Lewis Park on the Natchez Trace in Tennessee. Write a minimum 250-word journal (on paper or electronically) about the history of the site and how it relates Meriwether Lewis' final journey. Include information about what monuments or interpretive sites are located here and at least two commemorative events that have been held to honor Meriwether Lewis at this location.

- 2. (Req'd)** Visit the National Park Service headquarters AND the Chickasaw Village Site on the Natchez Trace near Tupelo, MS. Look for information that represents the history of the Natchez Trace as it relates to Meriwether Lewis' final journey. Record in your journal the paintings, busts, and books in the headquarters building that tell about the history of Meriwether Lewis and the Chickasaw Nation through which he traveled. Note the items, the artists or sculptors, and what you thought of these items. Record the date of your visit and whom you were with on the visit.

Alternate Option. Scouts who live further than 350 miles from National Park Service headquarters AND the Chickasaw Village Site on the Natchez Trace near Tupelo, MS may complete this option in lieu of the above. Research the National Park Service Headquarters and the Chickasaw Village on the Natchez Trace. Write a minimum 250-word journal (on paper or electronically) about the history of the Natchez Trace as it relates to Meriwether Lewis' final journey. Include information about interpretive exhibits that tell about Meriwether Lewis and the Chickasaw Nation through which he traveled. Are there any sculptures relating to Meriwether Lewis on exhibit at this site?

- 3.** Follow Meriwether Lewis' final journey along the Natchez Trace: Plan and take a ten-mile hike, or a twenty-mile bicycle trip to be taken between the Chickasaw Village to the south and the Meriwether Lewis Site to the north. These can be cumulative miles, i.e. do not have to be done in one trip. Be observant. Record in your journal the animals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, trees, shrubs and wild flowers that you are able to identify. Also record your trip plans, dates, any campsites used, sections of the Trace traveled, menus, and other observations you make about your trip. *See note at end of this document

4. Read a book about the Lewis and Clark Expedition, also called the Voyage of Northwest Discovery, 1803 – 1806. In your journal record the book title, author and report on the content and value of the book. The book can be a documentary or biography.
5. Read a book about the life of Meriwether Lewis. In your journal record the book title, author and report on the content and value of the book.
6. Attend a meeting or a field day event of any local/regional Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Chapter, such as the Meriwether Lewis Chapter. Record in your journal a report on the activities of the chapter meeting, the program presented and/or work accomplished at the meeting or field day.
7. Perform an environment/conservation Good Turn, or an Eagle Scout Project, or Scout service hours on some aspect of the Lewis and Clark Trail or the final journey route of Meriwether Lewis, acceptable to the local/regional chapter, the Scout Council, or your Scoutmaster as appropriate. Record in your journal what your Good Turn or project was, how many, if any, helpers you had, the dates, segment of the trail, etc. and your role in the activity.
8. Make a presentation about the Lewis and Clark Expedition or some portion thereof to a school class, your troop or another troop, a civic organization or church group. Emphasize the post expedition life and final journey of Meriwether Lewis. Record in your journal the research you did, what sources of information you used, and include a brief report on your presentation, how it was arranged, how it was received and what you learned by giving the presentation.
9. Join a Chapter of the LCTHF and participate in its events. Help with the preservation of the story of the Voyage of Discovery. For example, you could participate in maintenance of trail signage, maintenance of a chapter library, write a report on the accomplishments of a chapter financial grant, or help prepare an edition of a chapter newsletter. Record in your journal what chapter you joined, and include a report of what you did as a participating member over the time period of your membership in the chapter.
10. Visit a commemorative site along the Lewis and Clark Trail other than the one visited for the first requirement, having some connection with the Voyage of Discovery, Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, or some other member of the Expedition. Record in your journal what you learned at the site, the date visited and with whom you visited and any other research you did about the site.

***Note for item 3:** The National Park Service discourages hiking along the Natchez Trace Parkway. There is no continuous hiking trail paralleling the road. There are, however, three very interesting short hikes that if combined will satisfy this requirement:

Trail #1: Chickasaw Village Site (mile marker 261.8) to the NPS Headquarters (mile marker 266.0). 4.2 miles. The trail is along the west side of the road and is well maintained.

Trail #2: The Old Trace Drive (mile marker 375.8). 2.5 miles. This trail is a one lane, one-way asphalt road along a ridge on the east side of the Parkway. It is very scenic. Jacks Branch (mile marker 377.8), with picnic facilities and restrooms, is a good place to finish.

Trail #3: Meriwether Lewis Site (mile marker 385.9) has a 4-mile trail surrounding the Site. It is recommended that these three hikes be taken to accomplish the ten-mile hike required.

Cycling: 20 miles. There are two campsites reserved for cyclists within the Meriwether Lewis journey route: 1. The NPS Headquarters (mile marker 266.0) and Colbert Ferry Site (mile marker 327.3). Suggested 20 mile trips with good loading/unloading areas are Pharr Mounds (mile marker 286.0) to the NPS Headquarters, Tishomingo State Park (mile marker 304.7) to Colbert Ferry, and Glenrock Branch (mile marker 364.50) to Meriwether Lewis Site.

Organized or group cycling requires a *Special Use Permit*. Contact the Chief Ranger's Office at (662) 680-4014 to obtain a permit and special information. Organized hiking and camping groups should also make advance arrangements by calling the Parkway Visitors Center at (662) 680-4027 or (800) 305-7417.

Your journal will become a valuable keepsake of your experience in regard to the Lewis and Clark Trail. In addition to a journal, you might want to keep a scrapbook or notebook of materials, informational leaflets, notes and other materials you acquire as reference material for further public presentations. Be willing to share what you have learned with others during the third century of the legacy of Lewis and Clark. Who knows? You might be alive for the 250th anniversaries of the expedition in the years 2053 – 2056 and the final journey of Meriwether Lewis in 2059.

Many of these requirements will fulfill requirements of many merit badges, trail patches, service hours, etc. Be sure to check the merit badge requirement book to see what else you have fulfilled by doing the work for this patch.

The application form for the Meriwether Lewis Chapter embroidered patch is part of this package of information. Please keep a copy of your approved application form you send to the Chapter when ordering the patch.

