

# Jockey Hollow Trail

A TEN-MILE ADVENTURE FOR BOY SCOUTS OF ALL AGES  
since 1962



Patriots' Path Council, BSA  
Horham Park, Nj

# The Jockey Hollow Encampment

## December 1779 - May 1780



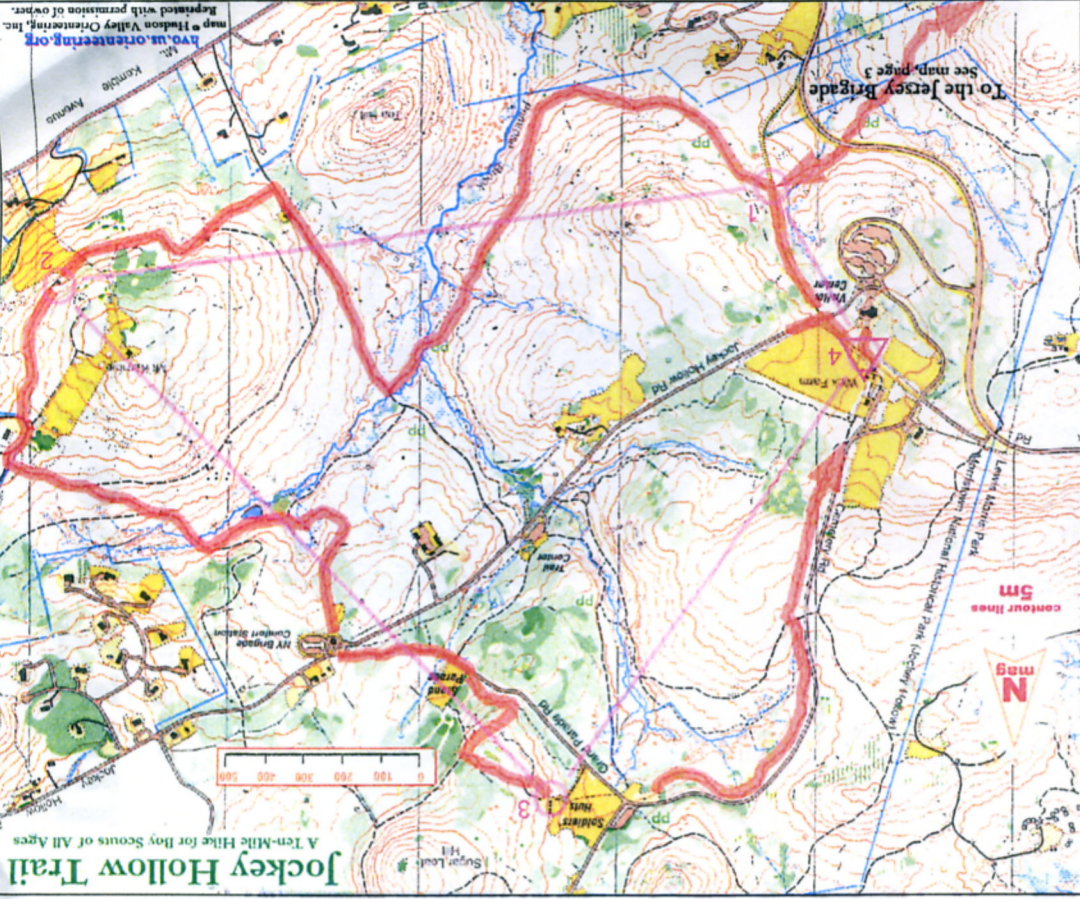
For most of 1779, the Revolution was a stalemate. In December, Washington ordered his troops to Morristown, where nine brigades encamped in two lines behind the crest of Kemble's Mountain, a few miles south of town. The New Jersey Brigade settled a little farther southwest near the mouth of Indian Graves Brook, and the artillery Brigade set up camp with their cannons closer to Headquarters. In all, about 12,000 troops from Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Canada spent the worst winter of the century here in Jockey Hollow.

Each brigade at Jockey Hollow set up their own "log hut city" on the slopes of these well-drained hills. Their encampments were about a kilometer in length and about a hundred meters deep. The soldiers' huts were precisely arranged eight to a row and three or four rows deep. Officers' huts were placed higher up the hillsides. In a matter of weeks, the troops built more than a thousand buildings for living quarters, hospitals, and storage.

Life in the log-hut city was hard and dull. Discipline was a daily problem and desertions became frequent. The troops were poorly-fed and clothed, often ill and mostly unpaid. What is most remarkable is that this miserable army survived through the winter at all! That it did is mostly due to the perseverance of General Washington, whose determination to overcome the problems of recruitment and supply helped keep his army intact and the Revolution alive. Many residents of Morristown were strong supporters of independence, and did their best to help feed and clothe the ragged army.

General Washington made his headquarters at the Ford Mansion in Morristown. He and his aides, including the brilliant young Alexander Hamilton, spent the winter planning the 1780 campaign. In April, emissaries from France and Spain confirmed that their Kings were willing to support the Americans. A month later, the young Marquis de Lafayette arrived with the best news of all: six French war ships and six thousand soldiers were on their way.

Maybe the war would soon be over!



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### Award Requirements

Revolutionary History Hunt Answers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wick Farmhouse - Stark's Brigade - Soldier Huts Loop (5.2 mi)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jersey Brigade hike (5.0 mi)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ford Mansion and Headquarters Museum (in Morristown)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Essay or Public Presentation (min. 250 words)	<input type="checkbox"/>
"What part did Morristown and the Jockey Hollow area play in the American Revolution?" Or	
"Why did Washington select the Morristown area for his encampments?"	
Orienteering Course	optional

