

## Station 1 – Price Lodge, Sand Pond

Welcome to the history trail at Camp No-Be-Bo-Sco. This trail takes you through much of the history of this land, both as a Boy Scout camp, as well as its history prior to 1927. You are standing near Price Lodge, one of the largest cabins in camp. The lodge is named for Thomas J. Price, Scout Executive from 1940 to 1956. Price guided the camp and Council through hardship, world war, and through its largest expansion. He was responsible for hiring Newt Woodruff as ranger, and for giving Newt the resources he needed to build most of the cabins you use today.

Sand Pond was “discovered” by Samuel Green while surveying land during October of 1715. Green was the first European to stand where you stand and look across the pond and see the profile of Catfish Mountain in the distance. It was named sometime between 1774 and 1796, due to its white sandy beach. Beginning in 1812 or so, crews from the Columbia Glass Works used oxen to haul much of the sand from the beach to make glass about 12 miles away. Through the 1800’s, as more people moved to Hardwick Township, Sand Pond was used by nearby farmers and settlers for fishing. When the camp was first founded in 1927, the original swimming area was at the inlet.

## Station 2 – Former campfire site

You are standing where Scouts sat for campfires between the 1940’s and the 1960’s. Below, you can see the old fire circle. In addition, to the right of the fire circle, there is an old spigot to help put



out the campfire. Today’s campfire has a large Indian head (Chief Oratam) in the background. In 1964, a large blue thunderbird totem was built here, in similar fashion.

Uphill is the shooting sports area, established around 1970. Before that time, the area was known as Indian Village. In the 1930’s there was a program for older boys known as the Senior Division. The older boys were divided between Indian Village, where they lived in tepees and focused on Indian lore, and Pioneers’ Village (near ParBan Cabin) where they lived in lean-tos and focused on pioneering.

## Station 3 – Blackfoot & the original Council ring

You have just passed Blackfoot campsite. You may have noticed that you had passed a pile of stones and broken cement on your way here. At one point, there were nine lean-to sites in camp, including this campsite. In the 1970’s, the lean-to’s were removed as the BSA was promoting environmentally-friendly camping. That pile was the footings that the lean-to’s were built on.



From 1927 through the 1940’s, the original Council ring was likely located within what is today the Blackfoot campsite. Scouts were seated on logs circling the big fire pit. One of the earliest camp postcards is a picture of the Council ring (above). In that postcard, there is one chair. That chair was probably for the Scout Executive, who in those times was also the Camp Director.

## Station 4 – History of the forest

Most of the forest you see around camp is only slightly older than the camp itself. In the late 1700’s and early 1800’s, the countryside around Camp No-Be-Bo-Sco was settled, mostly by farmers. However, since the forest in most of camp was too rocky, the forest was probably only selectively logged for large trees for sawtimber. This changed in the late 1800’s, as technology changed, making sawmills easier to construct. In 1874, there were 3 sawmills surrounding camp. The first was by the pond at the corner of Sand Pond Road and Shannon Road that you passed on your way into camp. The second was where Jacksonburg Creek meets Sand Pond Road. The third was due east of camp, along the Blair Creek.

In addition to sawlogs, smaller trees could be used to make charcoal. The result was a near-clearcut of most of the forest in the area. Old photographs and postcards from the 1920’s show a very young forest at the time of the first Scout summer camps. There were enough large trees on the property to make the log cabins in camp. In addition, from the 1940’s through 1960’s, trees were milled into lumber on the property to make many of the other buildings in camp. To this day, forestry is still practiced at the camp, as well as taught to Scouts.

## Station 5 – Clandenin farm

In 1774, James Clandenin purchased most of camp and cleared about 8 acres here and built a home for his family. The cleared ground extended from near the swamp to the property line, which was the foot of the Kittatinny Ridge. As the crow flies, the nearest neighbor was at least a mile away at the time. In 1778, Clandenin and his sons joined British forces during the American Revolution. In response, the State of New Jersey confiscated his lands in 1779.

During the early 1800’s another farmer settled here. Little is known about this family, although buttons found here are thought to have been

manufactured in England. Evidence has been found that these farmers had horses and pigs on the property. This farm may have been used by others up until about 1878. Soon after the camp was founded, an outpost lean-to was built at this spot. The bottom two logs are all that remain of the old leanto.

## Station 6 – Jacksonburg Creek

You have just crossed Jacksonburg Creek, source of surface water for Sand Pond. The creek (originally named Stout’s Brook), begins less than a half of a mile upstream. It then enters the swamp near this point. During its meandering path through the swamp, the water picks up its tea-colored hue from leaves decomposing in the swamp. It then flows into Sand Pond.

Jacksonburg Creek then flows through the swamp and leaves Sand Pond (below). It flows through a ravine before crossing under Sand Pond Road near an old dam and sawmill site. Eventually, it flows into the Jacksonburg section of Blairstown, near other old mills.



## Station 7 – Warren and Sussex Counties

At or near this point is the dividing line between Hardwick Township, Warren County and Stillwater Township, Sussex County. Warren County was created in 1825, having been divided from Sussex County. The county line is almost a straight line between a point on the Musconetcong

River below Mt. Allamuchy to the Walpack Bend on the Delaware River.

Belvidere is the seat of Warren County (where county government is located). Newton is the Sussex County seat. Newton was and is an economic center, and has many ties to past owners of the camp. Many of them lived in Newton at one time or another. Newton, as county seat, was always a fairly important place. However, when the railroad opened, linking Newton to other places in New Jersey and beyond, the city boomed. While the railroad no longer runs through Newton, it remains one of the population centers of Sussex County.

#### Station 8 – Frontier/Kit Carson/Cherokee

Along this old road are three campsites that were built in the late 1970's or early 1980's. The furthest from camp was frontier, the middle one was Kit Carson, and the one closest to camp was Cherokee. By 1988, these campsites were no longer used, and all that remain are the old latrine holes and some scattered pieces of wood from latrines or old tent platforms that were never moved.

Since 1952, most of the campsite names have stayed roughly the same. Kit Carson was originally located just uphill from Oratam Lodge. Today, it's on the other side of the cable cut, by Onondaga and the new showerhouse. Cherokee was originally located where Parsons Cabin (the trading post) is, and today is located just uphill from the older showerhouse. Frontier was located out near Paul Bunyan campsite, and had its own cooking shelter.

#### Station 9 – Old rifle range

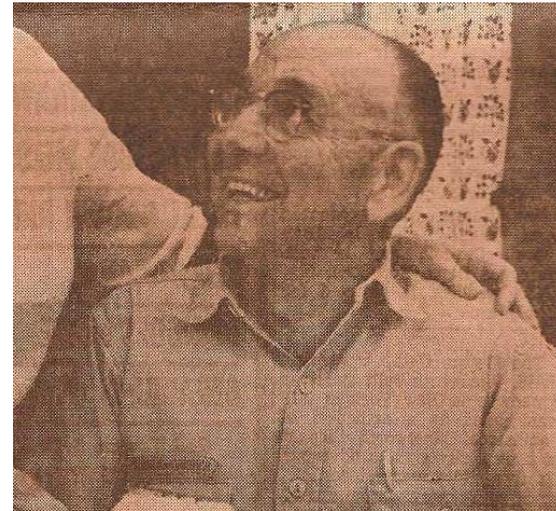
From the 1950's until about 1970, the area just ahead was where the archery, rifle, and shotgun ranges were located. Today, highbush blueberry bushes cover most of this land. The archery range was located to the right, while the other ranges

were located to the left. Remnants of the berm, or backstop, still remain.

Around 1970, the Indian Village campsite was removed and the new shooting sports area was constructed. As you can see, the new facilities are much larger than what was here. However, the original reason for the move was due to increased security for the camp equipment.

#### Station 10 – Order of the Arrow at No-Be

The Order of the Arrow was established in North Bergen County Council during November 1952 at Camp No-Be-Bo-Sco. The ceremonies were conducted by members of Wakanta Lodge #84 (Tamarack Council). The new lodge was named Oratam Lodge #484 in honor of Chief Oratam, who brokered a peace with the Dutch in Bergen County in 1645.



On that weekend, nineteen Scouts and two adults (including Ranger Newt Woodruff shown above) were inducted into the brotherhood of cheerful service. The Order continues to work to improve the camp to this day. Now known as Lenapehoking Lodge, the OA is still an important part of the camp.

#### Station 11 – Conkle's Mountain Farm

Israel C. Conkle inherited this section of camp from his father and built a home for his family here in about 1829. The foundation of his home (below) is seen nearby. His daughter Mary married Andrew J. Hill, who would first farm the big farm on Shannon Road, and later own and operate the sawmill on Jacksonburg Creek and Sand Pond Road. Mr. Conkle lived and farmed this area until about 1859 when he moved to Newton.



In 1865, a Civil War veteran named Peter S. Hyatt moved here with his wife and began farming this area, and also possibly the old Clandenin farm. Mr. Hyatt served as a private in Battery A of the 1<sup>st</sup> New Jersey Light Artillery. Hyatt lost the farm during a big recession in 1878.

#### Station 12 – The PSE&G rights-of-ways

During the negotiations for the camp, Public Service Electric & Gas was looking to place a transmission line from Bushkill, PA to Roseland, NJ. In exchange for a piece of land near the lake and some cash, the trustees of the camp fund agreed to allow the right-of-way that runs over the mountain, crosses the lake and continues straight.

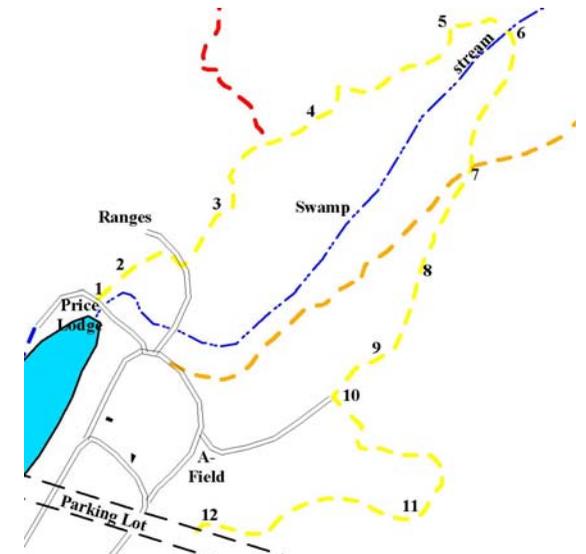
In 1964, PSE&G negotiated a second right-of-way connecting the power generation facilities at Yards Creek Pumping Station to the Bushkill-Roseland transmission line. This is the line that passes behind Onondaga and Paul Bunyan campsites.

# Camp No-Be-Bo-Sco History Trail

Follow the yellow trail from Price Lodge, past Blackfoot campsite, around the swamp, back to Lenape campsite, then to the Mountain Farm, and end near the top of the parking lot.

Distance: ~1.75 miles

Change in elevation: ~100 feet



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returning it to the trailhead. Thanks!

Written and edited by Northern NJ Council, BSA Conservation  
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