

**BOOKER T. WASHINGTON  
NATIONAL MONUMENT  
PATCH PROGRAM**



**LEADER'S GUIDE  
JUNIOR, CADETTE, AND SENIOR GIRL SCOUTS**

GIRL SCOUTS OF VIRGINIA SKYLINE COUNCIL, INC.



# Introduction to Booker T. Washington National Monument

Booker T. Washington National Monument honors the life and accomplishments of an internationally recognized educator, author and spokesman for African-Americans. The park includes most of the farm's original 207 acres, reconstructed buildings, and trails. Park hours are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm daily and they are open year-round, except for January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25.

Admission is free to the park and grounds. At the visitor center you can view an audiovisual program, exhibits, or browse the bookstore. Park Rangers are on duty to answer questions and provide information. A shaded picnic area is available for use by park visitors. Restaurants and motels or camping are available in nearby towns.

The visitor center and the unpaved Farm Trail Loop are accessible to physically handicapped persons; however, the Jack O'Lantern Branch Trail, although quite wide, may present some challenges as it has several areas of rough ground and steep sections of trail.

The troop should plan to spend approximately 1½ hours to view the exhibits, audiovisual program, and historic places. Allow an additional hour to walk the Jack O'Lantern Branch Trail.

Prior to visiting Booker T. Washington National Monument in person, you can visit on the web at <http://www.nps.gov/bowa/>. There you can find general information about the park, a schedule of special events being offered at the park (such as the annual Juneteenth celebration, talks on farm life or the Civil War, and wild flower walks). You can write to the Superintendent, Booker T. Washington National Monument, 12130 Booker T. Washington Highway, Hardy, VA 24101-9688 or call (540) 721-2094.

Booker T. Washington's autobiography, *Up From Slavery*, can be found in any public library, the bookstore at the visitors center. On the Web, information about Booker T. Washington can be found at [www.tlc.ai.org/washinbt.html](http://www.tlc.ai.org/washinbt.html), which is through the Access Indiana Teaching & Learning Center Guide to African-American Studies. Other interesting web sites about Washington are: [www.asc.edu/archives/famous/b\\_wash.html](http://www.asc.edu/archives/famous/b_wash.html), [cyberprof:bradley.edu/Herbert/ENG129/LECT/wash2.html](http://cyberprof:bradley.edu/Herbert/ENG129/LECT/wash2.html), and [www.historychannel.com/](http://www.historychannel.com/).

## ADDITIONAL READING:

*Booker T. Washington* —Bernard Weisberger

*Booker T. Washington, An Appreciation of the Man and His Times* —Barry Mackintosh

The Fox Fire Books series—Published by Anchor Books (accounts and essays of life, folkways, crafts, and skills in the Blue Ridge and Appalachian mountains)

## Leader's Information

1. Remember to submit the Council Activity/Trip Permission to your Service Unit representative two weeks before your trip.
2. Be sure your troop dresses for the weather. Wear a hat or scarf to avoid getting ticks in your hair. Sandals are not appropriate footwear for walking around the park. If the weather is hot, the girls may want to bring water bottles, as there are no water fountains outside of the visitors center.
3. Upon arrival at the park, give each girl a questionnaire and pencil to use during your tour. Some of the questions concerning the hike of the Jack O'Lantern Branch Trail should be brought to their attention at the beginning of the tour. Collect the questionnaires from the girls when you are finished with your tour. It does not matter how many questions were correct, just that they participated in the tour, the answers, and discussions. Booker T. Washington program patches can be purchased at the Skyline Shop in Salem.
4. Check in with the receptionist at the visitors center. The audiovisual program runs at certain times. If you have to wait to see the video, look at the exhibits in the lobby and the books available in the bookstore area.
5. Start your tour with the Farm Trail Loop and then go to the Jack O'Lantern Branch Trail. Remind the girls to stay together in their group.
6. Please do not disturb the fields, gardens, or farm animals. Do not climb on the fences. Stay on the trail to avoid wild animals, snakes, and poison ivy. Also remember to do a tick check after your hike.
7. Remember to bring your First Aid Kit on the tour and hike. Report any serious injuries to the park ranger on duty.
8. For the trail hike you may want to bring bird, wild flower, or tree identification resources to help answer questions.
9. Remember Girl Scouts always leave an area cleaner than they found it. Please dispose of all your trash, and keep the park clean by picking up any trash you may find during your tour and hike.

### Directions to Booker T. Washington National Monument

The park is on VA Rte. 122 (Booker T. Washington Highway). All distances are approximate.

**From Roanoke and West:** I-581 to U.S. 220 south to Rocky Mount. Take VA Rte. 40 east to VA Rte.122 ( on left). Follow Rte. 122 north approximately 16 miles to the park on your right.

**From the South:** U.S. 220 north to Rocky Mount. Take VA Rte. 40 east to VA Rte. 122 (on left). Follow Rte.122 north approximately 16 miles to the park on your right.

**From Charlottesville/Lynchburg:** U.S. 29 south to Lynchburg. Take U. S. 460 west to VA Rte. 122. Go south on Rte. 122 approximately 25 miles to the park on your left.

**From Danville:** U.S. 29 north to VA Rte. 40 at Gretna. Take Rte. 40 west approximately 30 miles to VA Rte. 122 (on left). Follow Rte. 122 north approximately 16 miles to the park on your right.

## LEADER'S GUIDE TO THE HIKING ROUTE & QUESTIONS

Go to the visitor center and check in at the center's desk. View and read the exhibits in the center. Watch the video. Most of the answers to this questionnaire can be found in the brochures, exhibits, and the video. When you complete the hike be sure to check out at the visitor center so the park rangers will know you are no longer in the park. Please remember the park closes at 5:00 p.m.

1. What year was Booker T. Washington born? **1856**
2. When was Booker T. Washington freed? **1865**
3. What is the title of Booker T. Washington's autobiography? ***Up From Slavery***
4. Who were James and Elizabeth Burroughs? **Booker's owners**

(You may wish to visit the Burroughs family cemetery on the hill above the parking lot.)

5. Where did Booker go to school after he left Malden? **Hampton Institute**
6. What school did Booker T. Washington start and where is the school?  
**Tuskegee Institute; Alabama**
7. Name two important beliefs held by Booker T. Washington. **Education and nature, also cleanliness, religion, and freedom**
8. What was Booker T. Washington's most famous speech? **The Atlanta Compromise**

After viewing the film and exhibits, exit the visitors center through the back doors and proceed to the site of the Big House.

9. What type of structure was the Big House? **It was a log house**
10. List two jobs that Booker had at the farm. **Fanning flies, sweeping the yard, carrying water & buttermilk from the spring; carrying corn to the mill for grinding**
11. What was the primary use of his cabin? **The kitchen**
12. Where did Booker sleep? **On the floor**
13. In Booker's cabin there is a hole in the middle of the floor; what was the purpose of this hole? **It led to the root cellar, where vegetables were stored to keep them cool and dry**

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Why was the kitchen separate from the main building?

**All cooking was done on an open hearth, by having the kitchen in a separate building fire hazards were reduced (kitchens could be rebuilt much faster and easier than a main house if a fire occurred) It kept the main house cooler by not having the extreme heat from the open hearth.**

14. What was the purpose of the smokehouse and what kind of meat was stored there? **Meats were cured and stored there; mostly pork, but also other meats**

Walk down the hill to the spring.

15. What was the spring box used for? **To keep dairy products chilled**

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Why were these methods of storing food used?

**Because they did not have refrigerators and freezers, nor did they have neighborhood grocery stores and markets. Almost all the food needed was grown on the farm and needed to be stored for winter, the root cellar kept vegetables such as potatoes, corn, turnips, and onions cool and dry so they would keep through the winter. The smokehouse traditionally used salts and smoke to cure meat. These methods would keep the meat from spoiling. Spring houses were usually in shaded areas near the mouth of the spring. Here the water was the coolest, having just come out of the ground. Dairy products such as milk, eggs, and butter were kept cool by the spring's water.**

16. What job requiring large amounts of water, other than cooking and washing dishes, and was done at the spring? **Laundry**

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Why is the sign posted warning people not to drink the spring water?

**The water may be polluted. Pollution may occur from many sources, such as farm run off, which may contain pesticides or animal waste, dead animals may fall in the spring and decompose, or the ground water itself may have become contaminated by seepage of contaminants into the water table. (You could further expand on this topic by asking how to prevent water pollution from these various sources).**

Walk over to the blacksmith shop.

17. What did the blacksmith on a small farm do? **Repaired and made small tools; sharpened tools**

You can walk over to the garden area and see what is growing, or return to the Big House and follow trail to the animal and storage barns and on around to the tobacco barn.

18. What types of animals were kept on the farm and what was each used for? **Sheep, wool and meat; horses, plowing or transportation; cows, milk; chickens/ducks, feathers for pillows or mattresses and meat; pigs, meat**
19. Name three major crops grown on the farm other than tobacco. **Flax, popcorn, oats, barley, wheat, broom corn, Indian corn, rye, peanuts**
20. Name three major vegetables that were grown on the farm? **Peppers, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, cabbage, black-eyed peas, sugar peas, watermelon, squash, onions, sweet corn, string beans, cucumbers, cantaloupe, beets, white potatoes, English peas, lima beans, pole beans, bunch beans**
21. How and why is the corn crib constructed differently from the other farm buildings? **Open air construction to allow corn to dry**
22. How was tobacco cured and what was it used for? **Smoke cured with oak and hickory wood; Cigars and tobacco twists (chewing tobacco); cash crop (farm income)**

DISCUSSION TOPIC: What is the term used in farming when different crops are planted in the same field each year and why is this done?

**Crop rotation. Certain plants, such as tobacco and cotton, will remove soil nutrients very quickly. Other crops, such as corn and peanuts, will add nutrients to the soil. By rotating what is planted in the field each year, the soil stays healthy and the farmer gets better harvests.**

From the tobacco barn proceed to the start of the Jack O'Lantern Branch Trail. Hike the approximate 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> mile trail. This will take approximately 1 hour at a leisurely pace.

23. What is one possible reason Jack O'Lantern Branch was named what it is? **The Jack O'Lantern mushroom is found along the trail**
24. What direction does Gills Creek flow and where does it flow? **Southeast; Smith Mountain Lake**
25. Why are some portions of the creek bank above the trail covered with sand and matted-down vegetation? **During heavy rains, the creek has overflowed its banks; debris and sediments have been deposited above the stream bed**
26. Name four species of trees seen on the trail. **Red maple, white oak, cedar, locust, black walnut, pine, sycamore, hemlock**

(We suggest that you read this question at the beginning of the trail and have your scouts identify four trees as a group.)

27. If you have seen any signs of wildlife, what are they? **Tracks, droppings, browsing, actual sightings**

28. What signs of man's presence have you seen on the trail? **Barbed wire, tire tracks, trash, old youth camp, etc.**

Walk into the cemetery.

29. Do any headstones have dates on them? What is the oldest legible date? **1823, if not totally eroded**

30. At the large meadow, a dirt road runs off to the left. This is a "fire road." Why does the National Park Service have and maintain fire roads? **They provide a fire break or fire lane and also allow fire fighters and fire fighting vehicles and other equipment to get close to a fire**

The building you see at the end of the meadow is the National Park Service Headquarters at Booker T. Washington park. It was originally an elementary school, built to educate black children when schools were segregated. Follow the trail to the right across the meadow to return to your starting point.

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Why does the National Park Service maintain such areas as Booker T. Washington National Monument?

**To protect and conserve natural and historical areas for future generations.**

This patch program was redesigned by Leigh Ann Hopkins, Danielle Gooding, Lesley Gray, and Whitney Stone of Troop 505, Bassett, Virginia, as their Silver Award Project.