

# 3rd Annual Thoreau Leave No Trace Trail Hike

**July 12, 2020**

**Trip Description:** 1 day hike approximately 10 miles throughout Concord, Massachusetts.

Boy Scouts of America National Historic Thoreau Leave No Trace Trail opened in 2017 on the 200th Anniversary of Thoreau's Birthday.

Scouts who hike the trail will visit over a dozen sites that demonstrate Thoreau's rich life and Leave No Trace principles. The trail ends at Walden Pond where swimming is open to the public.

In Concord, MA, this 10-mile trail was created with the help of the Thoreau Society and Thoreau Farm: Birthplace of Henry David Thoreau.

To earn one of the very first Thoreau Leave No Trace Trail medals, you must meet the following requirements:

- Hike at least from Concord Train Depot along the designated trail to Walden Pond Visitor's Center (the return to Concord Train Depot is optional)
- Wear Class A or Class B uniform while hiking the trail
- Complete the questionnaire included with this sheet and submit it to Mr. Owen

**When:** Sunday, July 12, 2020

Muster Time & Location: Sunday July 12 at 9:30 AM @ Concord Train Depot

Return Time & Location: Sunday July 12 5:00 PM @ Walden Pond Visitors' Center

**Signup:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0849ACAE28A7FE3-4thannual1>

Honchos: David Owen: Concord Unit Commissioner (781-879-4714)

david.owen@concordscouthouse.org

**Transportation:** Hikers should find their own transportation to Concord Train Depot. Drivers should coordinate logistics of retrieving cars to pick hikers up at Walden Pond.



### Scouts food planning:

1. Eat a hearty breakfast before arriving.
2. Bring high protean snacks, lunch and water. (There will be the opportunity to refill water bottles at the halfway point at Thoreau Farm.)

**Merit Badges to Pursue: Hiking Merit Badge** (10 hike). Scouts are responsible for any merit badge prep-work that needs to get completed prior to the trip. Feel free to contact a MB counselor prior to trek.

### Itinerary

- Muster at 9:30 AM at Concord Train Station at 90 Thoreau Street.
- Hike to Concord Library.
- Hike from Library to Thoreau's Grave Site by way of sites in Concord Center.
- Hike to Thoreau Farm to see the room Thoreau was born in and a replica of Thoreau's Walden Cabin
- Hike from Thoreau Farm to Concord Museum to see Thoreau's Desk
- Take the Emerson-Thoreau Amble from the Museum to Thoreau's Cabin Site
- Hike from Thoreau's Cabin Site, around pond to the Walden Pond beach and Visitors' Center

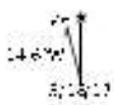
### Personal Equipment

1. Class A or B for hiking
2. Good boots or shoes with plenty of toe room for wool socks. The trail is primarily concrete, asphalt and hard packed earth
3. Two thick pairs of wool or poly socks with three thin inner poly layer socks. *No cotton socks!* Bring at least an extra pair for sock changes.
4. Daypack
5. Fleece pullover or coat as weather dictates.
6. Shell top and wind/water resistant pants as weather dictates.
7. Poly or wool hat/cap as weather dictates.
8. Warm, water-resistant mittens (or gloves if you must), liners if mittens are lighter as weather dictates.
9. Water container. One liter will probably do, because there are many places to refill water.
10. Smartphones permitted with Google maps and or AllTrails installed for navigation

# Thoreau Leave No Trace Trail Participant Questionnaire

What does Thoreau's gravestone say on it?	
Where is Thoreau's Desk today?	
What Thoreau quote is engraved on the threshold of the entrance to Brister's Hill on the Emerson-Thoreau Amble?	
What were the approximate dimensions of Thoreau's Cabin at Walden?	
Does the window Thoreau was born under face North, East, South or West?	
What was the effect of Thoreau not following Leave No Trace and Fire'n Chit near Fairhaven Bay?	
What furniture did Thoreau keep in his cabin?	
What did Thoreau mean when he said, "Alas! how little does the memory of these human inhabitants enhance the beauty of the landscape!"	
What year was Henry David Thoreau born?	

Participant Name:	
Date Trail Hiked:	
Participant Rank:	
Participant Unit No.	
Participant Home Address:	



Scale: 1:26648 D. 1/1/2014

## Trail Landmarks

The following are the sites identified with the help of Thoreau Farm and The Thoreau Society. Those marked with a 🌿 indicate that they are sites that must be visited as part of the Thoreau Leave No Trace Trail.

1. **The Texas House site**, Belknap Street. The house that Henry and his father built, and the home for the Thoreaus in the 1840s, is no longer standing. It would be located beside the house at 156 Belknap Street. *Please respect this private property.*

2. **South Bridge Boat House**, 496 Main Street. Navigate the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord rivers as Thoreau did in his rowboat for a visit to Fairhaven Bay and Egg Rock, located at the confluence of the Sudbury and Assabet rivers. Canoe rentals are available here.

3. **The Thoreau-Alcott House**, 255 Main Street. Privately owned today, this was Henry's home for the last 12 years of his life. The family pencil factory was attached to the house. Henry died in the room to the right of the front door in May 1862. Louisa May Alcott helped her sister Anna buy this house in 1877. A plaque marks the house. *Please respect this private property.*

4. **The Old Academy Building**, 25 Middle Street. Originally located along Academy Street, this building was the structure of the old Concord Academy, the school that Henry and his brother John attended. They later conducted their own school for a short time in the building. Look for the words "The Old Academy" above the front door. *Please respect this private property.*

5. **The Concord Free Public Library**, 129 Main Street. The library holds an excellent collection of Thoreau books, a bust of Thoreau by Walton Ricketson, and several N.C. Wyeth paintings for F. H. Allen's collection of Thoreau's writings, *Men of Concord*. The Special Collections room houses additional Thoreau material, including the original manuscript of "Walking" and many of his land surveys and surveying tools.

6. **The Jail Site**, east of 70 Monument Square. The grassy area at the intersection of Monument Square and Main Street was once the site of the Middlesex Hotel, and the county jail was just behind it. A stone marker now stands on the site where Thoreau spent a night behind bars for not paying the state poll tax.

7. **Masonic Temple**, 58 Monument Square. Before the Masons bought this building, it was used as the Center School for Concord children. Henry Thoreau attended this school; it was here that he took his first teaching job after

graduating from Harvard in 1837. He lasted two weeks in the position before resigning because of a disagreement over discipline.

8. **Colonial Inn**, 48 Monument Square. This hotel consists of three connected buildings. The Thoreau family lived in the one to the right of the main entrance when Henry attended Harvard in the 1830s. In later days, his aunts lived here. In July 1846, one of them reputedly sneaked over to the jail during the night to pay the tax that Henry owed.

9. **The Town House**, 22 Monument Square. Built in 1851, this building originally housed town offices, a town library, two classrooms, and a hall for large group functions, including Lyceum lectures. Thoreau delivered "A Plea for Captain John Brown" here in October 1859.

10. **The Old Manse**, 269 Monument Street. Originally owned by Emerson's ancestors, the Old Manse was also the first home for Nathaniel and Sophia Hawthorne. Before the couple was married in 1842, Thoreau planted a garden for them here as a wedding present. A recreation of that garden still grows at this location.

11. **The Concord River and the North Bridge**. Flowing under the North Bridge is the Concord River, immortalized in Thoreau's *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*. The monument on the Old Manse side of the bridge was dedicated in 1837. Emerson composed the words to the famous "Concord Hymn" for the service. Thoreau sang in the choir. In Henry's lifetime, no bridge spanned the river at this location.

12. **Thoreau's first gravesite**, New Burying Ground, Bedford Street. When Henry died in May 1862, he was buried in the Dunbar and Thoreau family plot in the New Burying Ground, near the intersection of Bedford Street and Court Lane. Some Dunbar graves are still here. Look closely at the stone wall separating the cemetery from the road. Stones from the old jail (where Henry spent one night) are said to have been used to build that wall.

13. **Thoreau Family gravesite**, Author's Ridge, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Follow the signs to Author's Ridge to find the Thoreau Family gravesite as well as those of the Hawthornes, Alcotts, and Emersons. Many visitors leave natural "offerings" on the gravestones. The Thoreaus were moved here in the early 1870s from the New Burying Ground.

14. **Thoreau Farm: Birthplace of Henry David Thoreau**, 341 Virginia Road. In 1817, Henry was born in the upper east room of a farmhouse then located at 215

Virginia Road. In 1878, the house was moved up the street to its present location. The birth house is opened to the public and tours are offered on weekends from May through October, and for special events and programs. Visit [www.thoreaufarm.org](http://www.thoreaufarm.org) to learn more about the birth house and how you can donate, volunteer or become a member.

15. **The Wayside**, 455 Lexington Road. Henry visited residents of this house, for it was at various times the residence of the Alcotts, the Hawthornes, and the Manns during Thoreau's lifetime.

16. **Orchard House**, 399 Lexington Road. Thoreau visited his friend Bronson Alcott and his family after they made their home here in 1858. He attended Anna Alcott's wedding in the house in 1860.

17. **The Concord Museum**, 200 Lexington Road. Many Thoreau artifacts including his flute, walking stick, and Walden furniture are on display here. A chronicle of Concord's history makes up an extensive part of the museum.

18. **Ralph Waldo Emerson House**, 28 Cambridge Turnpike.

Just across the street from the Concord Museum, this house was the home of Henry's mentor and friend. Many transcendentalists stopped here to talk with Emerson. Thoreau lived in the house several times, usually occupying the room at the head of the stairs.

19. **Thoreau survey marker**, 110 Walden Street. Henry Thoreau surveyed many properties in Concord and the surrounding towns, and he was known for his accuracy. Here a contemporary granite post to the left of the driveway indicates that this property was surveyed by Thoreau. His surveys are on file at the Concord Free Public Library. *Please respect this private property.*

20. **Emerson-Thoreau Amble**, Heywood's Meadow. A wetland on the southwestern shore of Walden Pond, across the water from the house site. Pitcher plants, sundew and Thoreau's favorite flower, the Andromeda, grow here.

21. **Thoreau's bean field**, Walden Pond State Reservation. Thoreau set about "making the earth say beans instead of grass" during his stay at Walden. The plot is wooded today. Follow the Wyman Road trail from Route 126 and look for the marker.

22. **Thoreau's Cabin Site**, Walden Pond State Reservation. Walk along the pond path to Thoreau's house site and leave a stone or pebble on the cairn. This tradition began in the 1870s.

23. **Thoreau Cabin Replica and Statue**, Walden Pond State Reservation. A replica of the Thoreau cabin and a

bronze statue of Thoreau by Jo Davidson are located near the parking lot.

🌻 **24. Walden Pond State Reservation Visitors' Center.** Be sure to stop by the new visitor's center to see artifacts and

educational exhibits about Thoreau, and watch an introductory film by documentarian Ken Burns on Walden Pond. Visit the Thoreau Society's **Shop at Walden Pond** where you can find books by and about Thoreau, gift items, and

Concord area information. Learn more about Thoreau Society membership and how you can join to keep Thoreau's ideas alive, [www.thoreausociety.org](http://www.thoreausociety.org).