

Old Guard Hike



Length: 5 miles

Map: NY-NJ Trail Conference *North Jersey Trails Map # 115*

Highlights

This hike takes you to the northern area of Camp Glen Gray. As you hike the trails you will also get to see spectacular scenic lookouts as well as several historical sites in Camp. The hike follows the entire current Old Guard Trail and then loops back on other trails in Camp. The historic Old Guard Trail was a complete loop that ran through the northern reaches of Camp, for this hike the returning part of the Old Guard Trail is replaced with the approximately parallel but further east Yellow Trail. The Yellow Trail runs along the eastern edge of the Ramapo ridge rather than following the alignment of the historic Old Guard Trail through the center of Camp.

Trail Description

0.00 mi. The Old Guard Trail starts at the walkway up to the top of the end of the dam near the spillway next to the Dining Hall. The trail is blazed with a unique White blaze with a Green Tulip Leaf on each blaze.

0.02 mi. Dam

0.03 mi. Dining Hall

0.05 mi. Old Guard Campfire Ring

0.08 mi. HT 6

0.15 mi. Turn to Chapel

0.17 mi. Hemlock Chapel

0.25 mi. West Well Road

0.32 mi. Troop 2 Verona Cabin

0.34 mi. Troop 5 Verona Cabin

0.40 mi. Channel Cabin

0.52 mi. The Schuber Trail which is blazed with Orange blazes joins from the left. You want to stay on the co-aligned Old Guard and Schuber Trail.

0.56 mi. The building up the hill to the left is Tindall Lodge.

0.75 mi. The Old Guard Trail makes a hard left turn as it leaves the the Schuber Trail which continues straight ahead. Stay on the Old Guard Trail by continuing to follow the Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes.

1.03 mi. You are now passing through Laurel Hollow, named for the Mountain Laurels that are as big as trees in this area of Camp.

1.11 mi. The three historic Middle Valley Lookouts are on the right of the trail.

1.18 mi. The Old Guard Trail joins the camp road, just continue to the left by following the Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes along the camp road.

1.20 mi. The large hill to the right as you approach the Algonquin Gas Pipeline is the highest Middle Valley Lookout. Cross the pipeline cut and find the Old Guard Trail's Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes as you re-enter the woods across the pipeline. This area of Camp across the pipeline is traditionally called the North Quad and was the site of extended remote camping programs for older Scouts.

1.27 mi. The Old Guard Trail meets the Cannonball Trail with its distinctive White C on Red blazes. You turn left to stay on the Old Guard Trail and continue to follow the Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes, as well as the White C or Red blazes.

1.30 mi. Continue straight by following the Green Tulip Leaf of White blazes as the Cannonball Trail 's White C on Red blazes turn to the left.

1.73 mi. The Old Guard Trail crosses the Yellow blazes of the Hoeflerlin Memorial Trail. You just keep walking toward the western edge of the Ramapo Ridge by following the Green Tulip Leaf blazes of the Old Guard Trail.

1.80 mi The trail makes a hard right turn, you are now at the edge of the Ramapo Ridge, another 100 yards and the drop off from the ridge takes you down 400 feet in 15 yards, be sure to stay on the trail and back from the edge.

1.97 mi. To your left you will pass a series of lookouts facing to the west out over the New Jersey Highlands.

2.08 mi. The Old Guard Trail is joined by the Ringwood-Ramapo Trail coming in from the left. Together the Red blazes continue with the Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes. The Old Guard Trail along with the Ringwood-Ramapo Trail run

along the western edge of the Ramapo Ridge and a series of lookouts that let you see across Lake Erskine and the northern portion of the Wanaque Reservoir.

2.18 mi. After you're done taking pictures of the view you leave on the Old Guard Trail by turning to the right back into the woods. The blazes of the Ringwood-Ramapo Trail leave you here as they go north along the ridge. Stay with the Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes.

2.31 mi. The Old Guard Trail again crosses the Hoeflerin Memorial Trail and its Yellow blazes, just stay with the Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes.

2.64 mi. The trail now crosses the Cannonball Trail which is blazed with a Red C on White blaze, as before stay on the Old Guard Trail by following the Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes.

3.09 mi. The trail crosses back over the Algonquin Gas Pipeline.

3.11 mi. On the right is the back side of the highest Middle Valley Lookout which was the highest northern peak within the historic Camp boundaries.

3.32 mi. You will be walking across the central glen of Camp, called Middle Valley, and then back up to the ridge on the eastern side you will come to the end of the current Old Guard Trail. The original routing of the Trail went down the valley you just crossed all the way back to the central area of Camp. Today we will walk the rest of the way out to the edge of the eastern ridge.

3.67 mi. The Old Guard Trail ends at a junction with two other co-aligned trails. The trails you will turn right onto are the Yellow trail with Yellow Diamond blazes and the Schuber Trail which is blazed with Orange blazes, continue to follow the Yellow Diamond blazes south to the right.

3.78 mi. You will now be at the North Lookout. On a clear day you can see the Manhattan Skyline, and on every day you can see the rolling hills of Bergen and Passaic Counties. At the lookout the Schuber Trail will leave to the right, you will continue on the Yellow Trail by following the Yellow Diamond blazes along the edge of the ridge before descending back into Camp.

3.94 mi. You will now be at Alligers Lookout that also had a cabin many years ago, you can see the remains of the cabin as the trail turns to the right to leave the lookout area. Today the trees block the view from this lookout.

4.05 mi. You will come to an area where several trails meet, the Yellow-Silver Trail on a woods road enters from the left on the other side of the old steel water tower. You are entering the area of the Sanders Farm ruins site.

4.08 mi. Follow the Yellow Diamond blazes past the almost completely collapsed maple syrup making house. Feel free to leave the trail to explore the old foundations and streams in the area. Be sure to keep the Yellow Diamond blazes in sight as you will leave this area by continuing on the Yellow Trail back down into Camp.

4.75 mi. After walking through a series of hollows that were once used to make charcoal you will come to a trail junction with the Millstone Trail with its White blazes. You will continue straight ahead following the White blazes of the Millstone trail, both trails will leave by turning left and descending down to Fox Brook, you stay up on the edge of the ridge by following the White blazes of the Millstone Trail straight ahead up on the ridge.

4.80 mi. Along this part of the ridge are several ruins of old Troop Cabins from the earliest days of Camp.

4.86 mi. Up the ridge to your right you will be able to see the last of the Troop Cabins that used to be in this part of Camp. The remaining cabin is the Troop 4 Montclair Cabin.

4.96 mi. The trail leads down the hill and comes to the rear of the Gray Cabin. The trail turns to the right in front of the Gray Cabin. Please respect any campers who may be using these cabins by just walking quietly past the cabins.

5.02 mi. The trail turns to the left and crosses Fox Brook on a plank bridge, the hike ends at Camp HQs just ahead on your right.

The Hiking the Glen Project is the latest effort to encourage hiking in the Ramapo Greenway. The author gratefully acknowledges the efforts of the many Boy Scouts, their leaders and others who over past years have developed and maintained earlier versions of these sheets. While using the existing material the author remains completely responsible for this version. Further information about the Hiking the Glen Project is contained on the Hiking the Glen sheet that should be reviewed by all users for details about the specific hiking sheets.

The trails on these sheets are part of the North Jersey Trails network designed, developed and maintained by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. The trails are subject to changes at the discretion of the Trail Conference and its land management partners. The mileage references used on these sheets are approximate and are based on GPS readings from actual hikes of the route, your GPS readings as well as measured map distances will vary. Further information about the trail network is contained on Trail Map # 115 of the *North Jersey Trails* map set. The complete map set can be obtained at the Camp Glen Gray HQs or directly from the Trail Conference. Additional information about the Trail Conference is available at www.NyNjTc.org.

Camp Glen Gray is a weekend camping facility and as such the camp parking area is not available for use as a day hiking trailhead. The trails in the Ramapo Greenway area, including those described on this sheet, can be accessed for day hiking from trailhead parking areas on nearby public roads, the three closest to Camp Glen Gray are on Skyline Drive and Ramapo Valley Road/Route 202, details are on Trail Map # 115 of the *North Jersey Trails* map set.

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