

Lost Camps Hike



Length: 4 ½ miles

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

Highlights

This hike takes you to the area south of Camp. In addition to Camp Glen Gray there are two other former Boy Scout Camps in the Ramapo Greenway. This hike is dedicated to the many Scouts that used the former camps as well as some of the earliest campers at Camp Glen Gray. The first camp you will visit, Camp Tamarack, is now part of the Ramapo Valley Reservation of the Bergen County Park System. The second camp is Camp Todd which has been partially developed for residential use, the balance of that camp has been joined into the Ramapo Valley Reservation. North of Camp Glen Gray there is a still active Boy Scout Camp, Camp Yaw Paw. As you hike through these former camps you will also get to see a spectacular scenic overlook as well as several historic sites in Camp Glen Gray.

Trail Description

0.00 mi. The hike starts on the Millstone Trail, which is blazed with White blazes. The trailhead is to the left of the parking lot just across the camp road from Camp HQs. A single blaze over two blazes is the sign of a starting trailhead, in this case one White blaze over two White blazes.

0.06 mi. The Rotary Cabin, HT 9, on the right has served as the Camp hospital and Trading Post over the years.

0.15 mi. The Camp Waterfront is on the right, if there is no staff present please don't enter the area.

0.20 mi. As you approach the Mother's Pavilion, HT16. the White blazes are joined by the Orange blazes of the Schuber Trail as they both turn left up the hill past the Explorer Cabin.

0.22 mi. The Schuber Trail stays left at a fork with the White blazes going to the right. You need to stay on the Schuber Trail and follow the Orange blazes. The Schuber Trail will take you over the hill to Camp Tamarack, a former Boy Scout Camp which is now a part of the Bergen County Park System and the Ramapo Greenway.

0.23 mi. As you pass the Explorer Cabin the trail begins a steep climb up the western side of Millstone Hill.

0.33 mi. The Pioneer campsite is on the next ridge over to your right.

0.46 mi. The Schuber Trail crosses the Millstone Trail, just continue to follow the Orange blazes of the Schuber Trail.

0.72 mi. The trail crosses a major seasonal stream that drains the Ramapo Mountains down from the Matapan Rock area.

1.14 mi. The trail crosses another stream that is the primary feeder stream into Lake Tamarack.

1.16 mi. The ruins to the right are abandoned buildings from the original Camp Tamarack, most of the camp buildings have been removed as part of returning the area to a natural green space. The road to the left leads down to Lake Tamarack, if you walk down to the lake be sure to return to the marked trail to continue the hike. There are many old camp roads in this area, be sure to follow the blazed trail to avoid getting lost in the woods.

1.20 mi. The ruins of the original Camp Tamarack archery range can be seen off to the right.

1.49 mi. There are ruins of some of the core camp buildings to your left.

1.53 mi. The Schuber Trail ends at Skyline Drive at the entrance road to the Camp Tamarack portion of the Ramapo Greenway. Without crossing Skyline Drive walk to the left, east along the edge of the road and you will shortly see the White blazes of the Todd Trail arranged as a trailhead blaze, one blaze over two blazes. Is just above the Schuber Trail trailhead blazes indicating the end of the Schuber Trail.

Note: If you are not camping at Camp Glen Gray and want to hike this hike you can park across Skyline Drive from this part of the trail, just start the hike here and you can loop back here as you complete your hike.

1.57 mi. The White blazes of the Todd Trail turn left back into the woods away from Skyline Drive. Follow the White blazes through the second former Boy Scout Camp, Camp Todd.

2.13 mi. The trail goes down through a hollow and climbs back up the other side on the way to Camp Todd. The trail will come to a woods road, continue on the Todd Trail by following the White blazes to the right.

2.19 mi. You will see the trailhead for the Yellow Trail on the left. You want to continue to follow the Todd Trail with its White blazes by staying on the woods road.

- 2.23 mi. You need to follow the White blazes of the Todd Trail as they turn to the right into the woods.
- 2.35 mi. You will now be at the Todd Lookout with a view of the town of Oakland down to the east. After enjoying the view the hike continues by returning back along the trail to the woods road by following the Todd Trail's White blazes back to the woods road. Do not continue down the hill of the lookout, it leads out to Skyline Drive.
- 2.46 mi. You will be back at the woods road, turn left to continue back on the Todd Trail by following the White blazes.
- 2.50 mi. You will come to the trail head of the Yellow Trail located on the right side of the Todd Trail. Turn right into the woods and begin to follow the Yellow Diamond blazes of the Yellow Trail.
- 2.67 mi. You pass to the left of Todd Lake. While there are no buildings from Camp Todd remaining, you will pass one small piece of a building next to the lake on your hike which is the only remains of the camp, besides the lake.
- 3.14 mi. The trail passes over a stream that drains from Lake Tamarack on the way down to the Ramapo River.
- 3.24 mi. You pass over another stream that is the downstream flow from the Matapan Rock area of the Ramapos.
- 3.60 mi. After passing several rock walls from old farms in the area you will begin the climb back up Millstone Hill, and back into the traditional area of Camp Glen Gray.
- 3.83 mi. After hiking through Camp Todd and back into Camp Glen Gray you will again see the White blazes of the Millstone Trail. The trails follow the same route down into Camp Glen Gray. Just after the merge with the Millstone Trail you will see why the trail is called the Millstone Trail. There are two partially completed millstones in the quarry area, HT 11, to the right of the trail, then after a short distance along the trail you will see an almost complete stone on the right, HT 12.
- 4.01 mi. You will cross a woods road and walk past an old rock wall to your right that marks the boundary of the historic Camp property.
- 4.10 mi. The trails cross Midvale Mountain Road and as they enter the woods across the road you will be in the Tulip Springs area of Camp, HT 13, that was the site of the 1917 encampment of the Boy Scouts from Montclair that started Camp.
- 4.22 mi. The trails cross an island using two bridges built by Eagle Scouts as their service projects. The island is called Eagle Island, HT 29, in honor of all the Eagle Scouts who have completed their services projects in Camp.
- 4.30 mi. The combined trails split with the White blazes of the Millstone Trail going to the left and the Yellow Trail and its Yellow Diamond blazes going to the right. You will now follow the Millstone Trail with the White blazes to the left along a ridge that contains the ruins of several of the oldest cabins in Camp.
- 4.41 mi. The cabin up the hill to the right is the Troop 4 Montclair Cabin, HT 14. It is the last of the old troop cabins, HT 25, along this ridge.
- 4.52 mi. As you come down the hill past the Glen Cabin follow the trail to the right and cross Fox Brook back to the main Camp road. Just ahead is the ending trailhead of the Millstone Trail and the end of the Lost Camps Hike. If you joined the hike up on Skyline Drive just continue walking to the right past the Camp HQs.
- 4.58 mi. You will see the Millstone Trail trailhead on the road going up the hill to the left of the parking lot, just go back to the start of the hike description and continue back to Skyline Drive.

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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