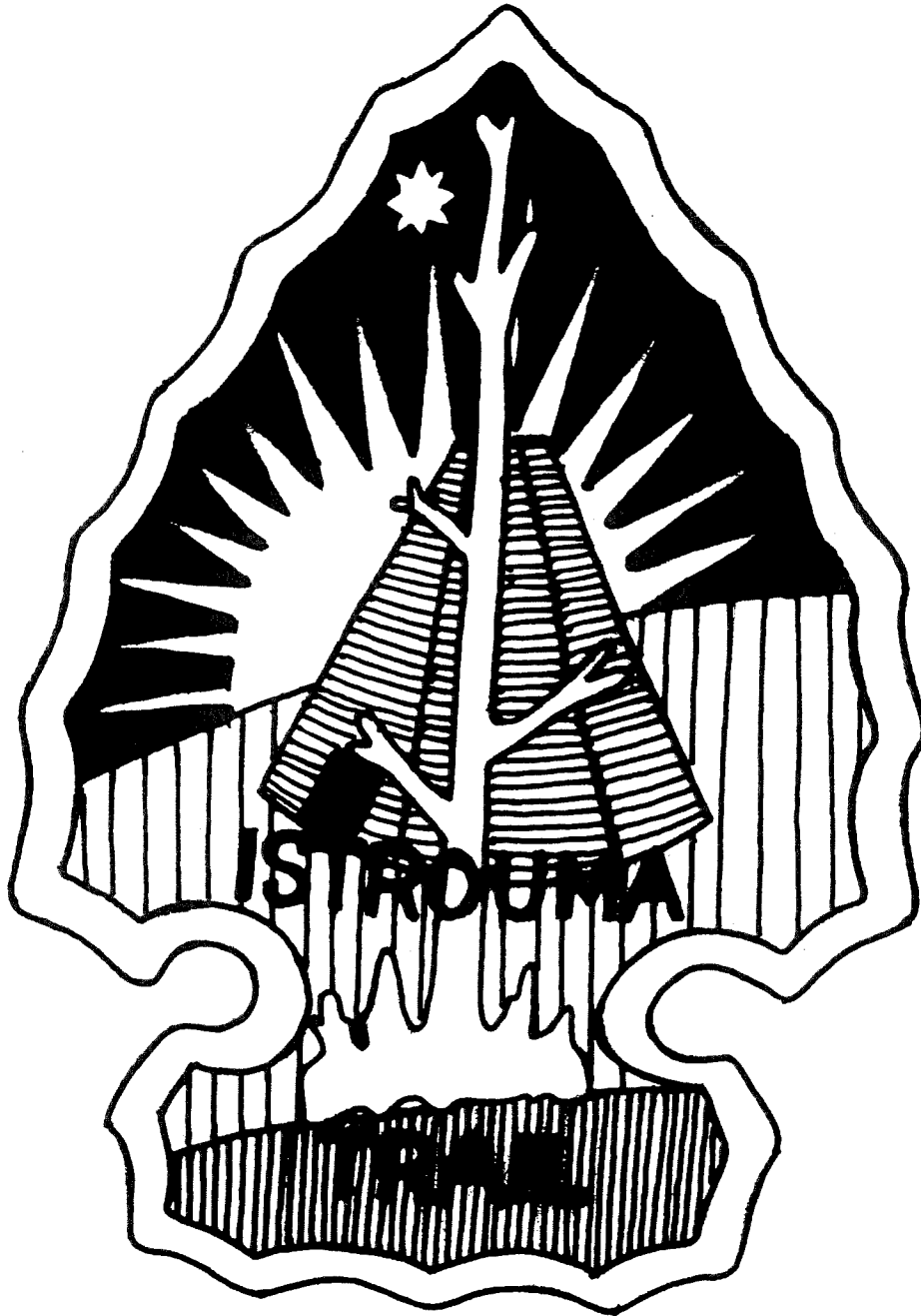


# Istrouma Trail



## Istrouma Trail

# Avondale Scout Reservation

## Istrouma Trail General Information

1. The length of the trail is about 10 miles.
2. Average hiking speed is about 2.5 miles per hour.
3. We advise wearing good comfortable hiking boots and protective clothing, bring food and water.
4. CAUTION: We have tried to make the trail safe for foot travel. But REMEMBER, this is a wilderness area and you may encounter any of the poison snakes found in Louisiana. You may encounter the following:
  - a. Insects – stinging and biting, bring mosquito spray and sulfur for chiggers.
  - b. Marsh Lands – walking through water
  - c. Narrow foot logs to walk across – bring a rope for hand line.
  - d. Briars – dress for back woods and bring a first aid kit.
5. The marking, destruction or injury of trail signs, buildings, vegetation, and wildlife will result in the disqualification of the hikers or his group.
6. Disqualification penalties will also apply to littering. Refuse of any kind should be removed from the reservation, show the scouting spirit. Trash is not to be thrown on the ground or left along the trail. THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR LITTERING. If your group sees any litter, please pick it up. If you pack it in, pack it out. Remember, “A Scout leaves an area cleaner than he found it” and all principles of “Leave No Trace” are required.
7. A camp permit is required for hiking the trail. Local units must obtain a permit at the Pennington Scout Service Center of the Istrouma Area Council at least two weeks prior to hiking the trail.
8. Troops outside the Istrouma Area Council jurisdiction are required to mail FORM A to the Pennington Scout Service Center three weeks prior to their proposed hike. Tour permits are required for all units. Over-night camping at the reservation will be arranged upon request.
9. Camping on the trail is permitted, but you are encouraged to camp at one of the existing campsites. Some campsites are along the trail or close. Leave no trace camping is encouraged.
10. FORM B should be completed and returned to the Scout Service Center for the records. The purchase of trail awards is optional.
11. White and Red Triangular trail signs have been placed at all compass points and points of interest. White and yellow arrow blazes have also been placed on trees where there might be doubts in trail routing.
12. One map of the trail is supplied to the hike leader for reference in case of “confusion”.
13. The trail should be hiked, if possible, using only the compass bearings given for each trail point. The trail is a test of orienteering knowledge and trail sign reading ability.

|   |                  |   |     |
|---|------------------|---|-----|
| <b>FORM A: Before hiking the Istrouma Trail Complete and mail to:</b> |                  |   |     |
|   |                  | Istrouma Area Council<br>P.O Box 66676<br>Baton Rouge, La 70896 |     |
| _____ of _____  | _____ and _____  |   |     |
| Troop/Post  | City, State, Zip | Scout Council   |     |
| Plan to hike the trail on _____ (date)                                |                  |   |     |
| Hike Leader will be _____   |                  |   |     |
| Name  | Street           | City/State  | Zip |
| Estimated number of hikers, including adults _____                    |                  |   |     |

## Istrouma Trail

### Istrouma Trail History

When d'Iberville explored the Mississippi River in 1699-1700, he found a tall red cypress stripped of its bark, standing on a 50 foot bluff along the east side of the river. It marked the dividing line between the hunting grounds of the Houma and Bayou Goula Indians. Upon completion of a successful hunt, the Indians would hang their game from the tree in celebration and thanksgiving. The blood of the game stained the tree a dull red. The Indians called the tree Istrouma, which is Red Stick. Iberville translated the Indian name into French, le Baton Rouge. The tree is gone, but in its place stands the capital city of Louisiana.

### The Trail

The Istrouma Trail, commemorating the above event, is located on the Avondale Scout Reservation. The reservation is three miles east of Clinton, Louisiana, on State Highway 10. The trail runs along winding creeks, across open meadows and marshes, over low rolling hills, through dense hardwood and pine forest, and along bright open roads and sparkling lakes. An ancient Indian mound and the remains of an once busy water driven gristmill are along the trail. Occasional arrow points have been found on the reservation. The designated start and finish is located at Hickory Hill campsite, which is off the southwest corner of Woodbadge Hill. The trail can, however, be started from and finished at any of the numbered points, 33 in all. Wildlife of all kinds abounds at Avondale. They're there for the quick of eye and sharp of ear. Trees of all kinds can be seen along the trail. There's a chance to brush up on nature.

### Trail Award Requirements

- Any registered Scout can hike the trail to earn the trail award.
- Only parties of four or more people will receive permits to hike the trail.
- A compass and knowledge of its use is necessary to successfully hike the trail.
- A minimum of two adults must accompany each group of hikers.
- A service project must be completed to earn the award. This must be arranged with the camp ranger or his representative.

## Istrouma Trail

### Istrouma Trail

Note: Distances are approximate; take compass bearings at trail points. Blazes on trees will help to follow trail. Compass bearings are for starting direction only.

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| Train Point 1<br>N30 51.720<br>W90 57.931     | The start of the trail is located at the southwest corner of Hickory Hill. Take a compass bearing of 220°. Follow the trail for 1800 ft. to point number 2 which you will find on the left side of the old fenced-in clearing at the side of the road.                                   |
| Trail Point 2<br>N30 51.450'<br>W90 57.970'   | Compass bearing of 49°. Take the trail to the ravine, then follow the trail for about 2700 ft. Marks on the trees will help you find the way. About 1000 ft. you will pass a small pond on your right and the ravine will be on your left. Follow to point 3 on top of the Indian mound. |
| Trail Point 3<br>N30 50.874<br>W90 58.046     | Compass bearing of 120° to the creak. Enter woods at 39°. Blazes on the trees will lead the way. This is one of the most difficult parts of the trail to follow – 6900 ft. to point 6 passing points 4 and 5.  |
| Trail Point 4<br>N30 51.369'<br>W90 57.861'   | Continue following the trail at 38°, continue across the ravine and through the bamboo.  |
| Trail Point 5<br>N30 51.547<br>W90 57.779     | Site of old gristmill in Sandy Creek. Do not disturb or remove planks or timbers from this site. Cross small creek that leads into Sandy Creek.  |
| Trail Point 6<br>N30 51.842'<br>W90 57.653'   | Bushwhack at 30° across the pipeline to Point 7, 300 ft.   |
| Trail Point 7<br>N30 51.889'<br>W90 57.645'   | Compass bearing 10°. Bushwhack across slough to Caddo House at Lake Istrouma, 700 ft.  |
| Trail Point 8<br>N30 51.997'<br>W90 57.685'   | Locate West of Caddo House, compass bearing 230°. Follow for 1500 ft. to Woodbadge Hill. This is the Avondale Nature Trail.  |
| Trail Point 9<br>N30 51.863'<br>W90 57.852'   | Compass bearing 154°, go over hill, 750 ft.  |
| Trail Point 10<br>N30 51.742'<br>W90 57.781'  | Compass bearing 210°, continue down pipeline until you meet the road and you will find the marker, 3750 ft.  |
| Trail Point 11<br>N30 51.204'<br>W90 58.153'  | Follow road at a compass bearing at 320°. At the fork in the road, keep to the right, 2300 ft. Sign will be on your left. This is the highest elevation on camp.   |
| Trail Point 12<br>N30 51.435'<br>W90 58.1458' | Take a bearing of 180°, follow road for 1500 ft, take a right at the lake, follow the shore for 500 ft. The sign will be on your right.  |

## Istrouma Trail

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| Trail Point 13<br>N30 51.265'<br>W90 58.436' | Compass bearing 150°, follow Tigator shore for 1600 ft., take left fork on road for 100 ft. to sign.   |
| Trail Point 14<br>N30 51.074'<br>W90 58.249' | Compass bearing 220°, about 500 ft. Follow the road until you find Point 15 on the left side of the road.  |
| Trail Point 15<br>N30 50.968'<br>W90 58.304' | Compass bearing 90° walk 1250 feet and follow the blazes.  |
| Trail Point 16<br>N30 50.881'<br>W90 58.116' | Compass bearing 204° and follow the painted blazes for 1650 ft. You will find Point 17 at the edge of the woods.   |
| Trail Point 17<br>N30 50.826<br>W90 58.355   | Compass bearing 214° and walk until you reach a turn in the road, and then follow the road to the right to Point 18. Total distance is 3150 ft. and Lake McGee is on your right. |
| Trail Point 18<br>N30 50.961<br>W90 58.688   | Compass bearing of 32°. Sight across the lake you will see point 19. Walk back across the dam and to Point 19.   |
| Trail Point 19<br>N30 50.862'<br>W90 58.531' | Compass bearing 6° from the base of the pine tree. Trail follows the Magee Lake campsite road to the property fence-line.  |
| Trail Point 20<br>N30 51.154'<br>W90 58.921' | Compass bearing 20°, follow the fence line 2100 ft.  |
| Trail Point 21<br>N30 51.420'<br>W90 58.773' | Cross over bridge to the large sweet gum. Compass bearing 330°, about 670 ft.  |
| Trail Point 22<br>N30 51.508'<br>W90 58.854' | Compass bearing of 315° and take about 54 good steps to the second pipeline. Compass bearing of 50°, 4900 ft. down pipeline.   |
| Trail Point 23<br>N30 51.925<br>W90 58.033   | Compass bearing of 310°, for 1900 ft.  |
| Trail Point 24<br>N30 52.142<br>W90 58.271   | Compass bearing of 10°, for 225 ft.  |
| Trail Point 25<br>N30 52.186<br>W90 58.250   | Compass bearing of 302°, for 3000 ft. down the road. The marker for point 26 on the edge of pine trees.  |
| Trail Point 26<br>N30 52.630<br>W90 58.360   | Compass bearing of 110°, for 1425 ft.  |
| Trail Point 27<br>N30 52.513<br>W90 58.063   | Compass bearing of 148°, for 1750 ft.  |

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| Trail Point 28<br>N30 52.228'<br>W90 58.087' | Compass bearing of 100°, for 525 ft.   |
| Trail Point 29<br>N30 52.175<br>W90 57.972   | Compass bearing of 122°, for 605 feet following the woods trail.<br>Trail blazing will help you find your way. |
| Trail Point 30<br>N30 52.006'<br>W90 57.651' | Compass bearing of 70°, for 50 ft. then 133° and follow the trail for 200 ft.                                  |
| Trail Point 31<br>N30 52.123'<br>W90 57.899' | Compass bearing of 113°, for 750 ft. This will take you back towards Woodbadge Hill.                           |
| Trail Point 32<br>N30 52.043'<br>W90 57.878' | Compass bearing of 199°, for 900 ft.   |
| Trail Point 33<br>N30 51.958'<br>W90 57.912' | Compass bearing of 198°, for 2700 ft and the end of the trail.   |

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