



Welcome to the Franklin Pond Nature Trail Information Packet! Here, I will outline potential hikes, give some tips, tell you how to find the path and more!

Table of Contents

What You Should Know | *page 2*

Maps of Possible Hikes | *page 3-4*

Directions from the Senior Center | *page 5*

Scavenger Hunt | *page 6*

About the Gold Award | *page 7*

How to Share and Acknowledgments | *page 8*



The Franklin Pond Nature Trail is located within the borough park on Franklin Ave./ County Route 631 just off of Route 23.



What you should know:

- The full loop is just about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile long
- Please stay on the path at all times
- Please do not touch the wildlife or their habitats
- There may be poison ivy, be careful not to touch this!
- The path is mulched and may not be suitable for wheels of any kind
- Be sure to use bug spray and sun screen!
- You can bring fishing equipment! The path gets very close to the water in several places.
- There are benches about halfway through the loop, located directly across from the islands.
- Carry out everything you carry in!





Level: Pleasant

Out and Back

This path is fairly level, so it is suitable for people of just about every age and ability level. Experience beautiful views of the pond, and gain access to some great fishing spots. Once you reach the benches, enjoy the view, then just turn around and head back when you're ready.

Time: around 10 minutes



Level: Mild

Eagle Point Loop

A slightly more difficult trail, this takes you right next to the pond for the first leg, and then deep into the trees on your way back; or do it the other way around! The forest section, completed by Sean Inglis for his Eagle Project, is slightly steeper, slightly narrower and has some exposed roots, so take caution when using this path.

Time: around 20 minutes

Directions from the Senior Center



Walking:

- Walk on the pond side of the football field
- Turn left at the softball field
- Cross the bridge
- Make a right

Driving:

- Make a right onto Franklin Ave/Rte. 631
- Turn into the parking lot on your right

On foot

- Head down the hill
- Make a left before the bridge

Franklin Pond Nature Trail Scavenger Hunt

----->
Welcome to the Franklin Pond Nature Path! Remember to stay on the trail, avoid poison ivy, and carry out everything you carry in. Please be careful not to disturb the wildlife or their habitats! Help keep the path beautiful for other scavenger hunters! Let's see what you can find!

_____ **Maple leaf**

_____ **Animal prints or traces of animal activity**

_____ **“Y” shaped twig or branch**

_____ **Moss or lichen**

_____ **Surfacing or feeding fish**

_____ **Butterfly or ladybug**

_____ **Rounded rock**

_____ **Squirrel**

_____ **Flower**

_____ **Bees' nest or ant hill**

_____ **Berries (DO NOT EAT!)**

_____ **Frog or turtle**

_____ **Poison ivy (DO NOT TOUCH!)**

_____ **Piece of garbage (please pick it up!)**

About the Girl Scout Gold Award Leadership Project



The Gold Award is the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn. It promotes leadership, communication, commitment and organization as well as conviction for a cause. The Gold Award requires 80+ hours of planning and work dedicated to an issue in your community or that interests you in a larger region. Many recipients go on to study or work in a field related to their Gold Award project. In addition, completing the award will open up many doors for those who attain it.

To earn your Gold Award you must be a registered Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador, a high school student or equivalent. You must have completed your Silver Award (50 hours of service) in sixth through eighth grade and Senior or Ambassador Journey (or two Senior/Ambassador Journeys in place of a Silver Award and a Journey).

It seems like a lot of work, but it really pays off. Many if not most colleges and jobs will choose someone who has earned their Gold Award over a candidate who hasn't. It also opens up plenty of scholarship and grant opportunities. Only about 6% of Girl Scouts nationwide receive their Gold Award, which makes it a very distinguished award. If you know someone who is considering going for their Gold Award, please encourage them and offer to help if you can.



<https://www.gsnnj.org/en/about-girl-scouts/our-program/highest-awards/gold-award.html>

My Gold Award Project

I created the Franklin Pond Nature Trail to address the issue of limited multi-use recreational facilities, as most of the park is devoted to youth sports fields. I wanted to encourage people of all ages to get outside and enjoy nature.

How Can I Share?

It's easy!

Talk to your friends, family and neighbors about the path.

Encourage them to take a walk!

Post about it on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social media platforms. Share your pictures!

If you are a local Scout leader, be it Boy (or Cub) Scouts or Girl Scouts, take your younger groups on this path to teach them hiking etiquette!

Bring your children and their friends to have a scavenger hunt competition!

**Just get the word out however
you can!**

Thank you to

Sean Kidd, for some serious heavy lifting and for helping every step of the way

Mike Rathbun, for being my project advisor and supporting my idea

Jennifer Giordano and the Rec. Committee, for approving the project

Brian Vandebroek and the DPW, for cleaning up the brush we left and for supplying the mulch

Dave Scott, Tom Prol and the SCMUA for donating newspapers

Howard Drake of the Sussex Tech Carpentry shop for donating materials and teaching me how to build the signs as well as donating his time to walk me through the construction

Craig Harlacher, Sussex Tech science teacher, for creating a tick and poison ivy factsheet for the signs

Steven Styles, Sussex Tech Graphic Communications shop teacher, for donating materials and printing the sign graphics