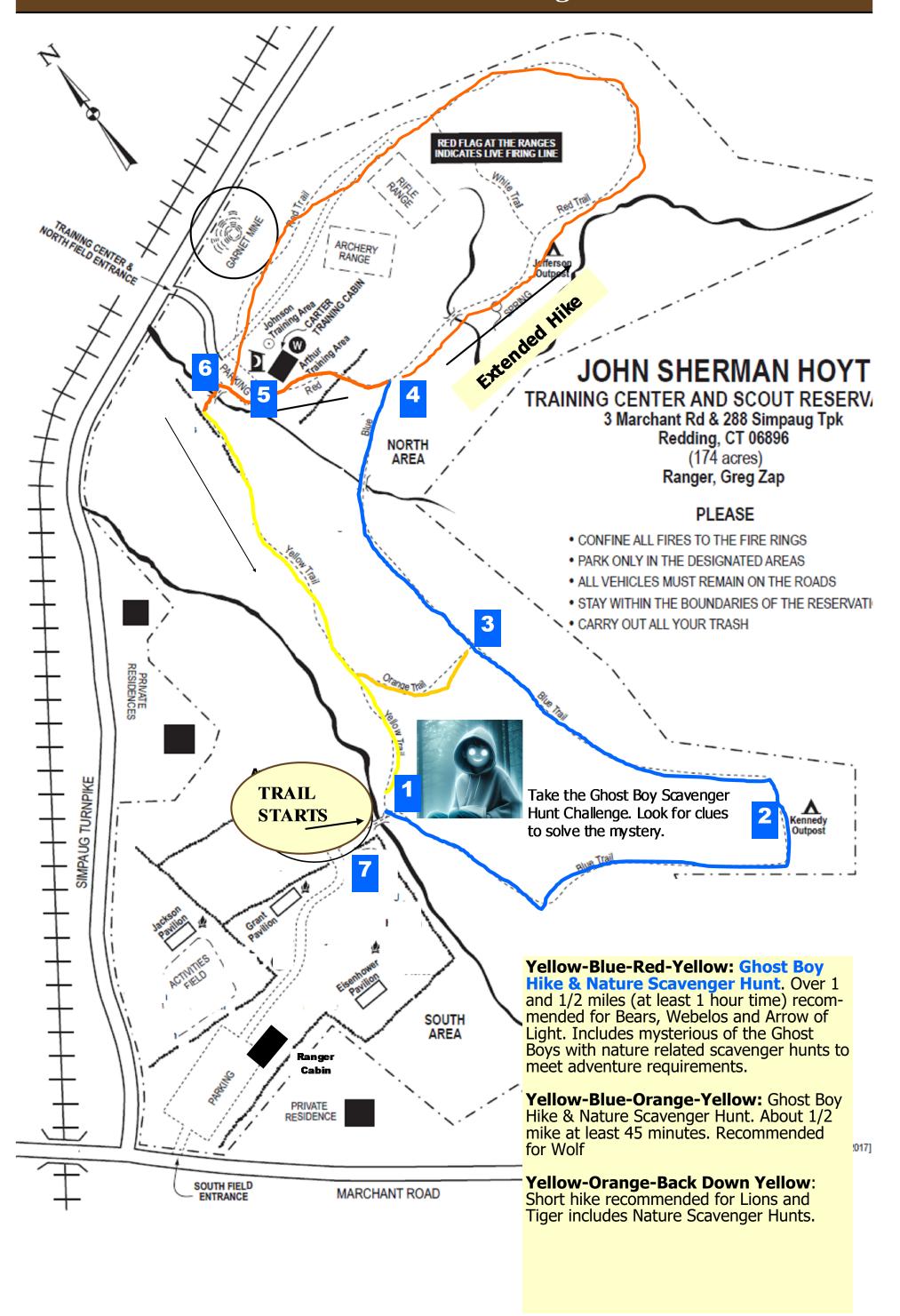
Cub Scout Safari — Hiking Trails



The Mystery of the Ghost Boy of Hoyt Mystery Hike

This ghost story, about a lost Scout at Hoyt, was a highlight of fall camporees in the 1980s. A master storyteller captivated newcomers while veterans eagerly anticipated it year after year. We've reimagined the tale as a friendly ghost story, perfect for Cub Scouts.

The full story will be told at the evening campfire, but to build excitement, we've created a Mystery Hike that provides background on the legend while exploring the woods. Along the way, Scouts will be challenged to answer two key questions:

What was Toby's last name? What year did he go missing?

Additionally, this hike encourages Scouts to engage with nature, as part of their adventure awards requirements. Remind them that staying quiet increases the chance of spotting animals!

Leader's Introduction:

"There's an old legend in these woods," the leader says in a hushed tone. "They say a ghost wanders the trails—a boy who watches over campers. No one knows why he's still here, but we do know his name was Toby."

"Today, we're hiking to learn more about Toby, but also to observe nature along the way. Keep your eyes open for animals, and listen closely. You might just hear something unusual."

1 . Start at the Trail Bridge — read below and the Cross the Bridge and Head South on the Blue Trail

Leader: "The hike begins at the Trail Bridge over a small stream. Today, it seems calm, but many years ago, it was a formidable river known for flooding during storms. This is where Toby saved a lost Scout and led him back to camp—but tragically, Toby was never seen again. It's believed he was swept away by the rushing waters while making sure the other boy was safe."

). Follow the Blue Trail to Kennedy Outpost

Leader: At this location, see if you can spot the remnants of an old campsite. Over the years, hikers have reported strange noises and sightings of a boy wandering the area. Be quiet and listen—can you hear anything? Years ago, a Scout found a small, weathered stone near the fire pit with a faint letter "T" carved into it.

Take some time to explore the area. Can you identify different types of trees or spot signs of wildlife?

3. Continue North on the Blue Trail to the Yellow Trail Intersection

Leader: At this spot, a Scout named Jake got separated from his Troop in the dark. As panic set in, he heard a soft voice whispering his name. Following the voice, he saw a faint, glowing figure guiding him back to camp. Stop here and listen—do you hear Toby?

Take a moment to look around. Notice any new trees or signs of animals?

1. Follow the Blue Trail to the Red Trail Intersection, and Head Toward Upper Hoyt Cabin

Leader: This section of the trail is known for frequent sightings of the Ghost Boy. He's been seen pointing hikers in the right direction, preventing them from getting lost. Is Toby watching over us now?

Again, pause to observe nature. Notice the trees, wildlife, and any

other natural features.

🗲 . Reach Upper Hoyt Cabin

Stop at the porch of the cabin (no need to go inside). Here, you'll find a newspaper article revealing Toby's full name and the year he disappeared. (Note: a copy of this article is in the hike leader packet.)

Leader: Read the article to the Scouts. Answer the questions

What was Toby's last name? What year did he go missing?

6. Cross the Parking Area and Take the Yellow Trail Back to Lower Hoyt

As you head back, use the Nature Scavenger Hunt sheet to further engage Scouts in exploring their surroundings.

7. After the Hike

Take a few moments to discuss the hike with your Scouts. What did they learn? Did they enjoy the experience?

Be sure to get your Ghost Boy Sticker	#7: Feedback Session: It would be neight for future events if we could get reedback on the Hike. What did they learn? Did they enjoy the experience?
	Name & Pack