

## Daniel Boone Trail

**20 miles, non-circular  
Recommended for  
older Scouts and  
Venturers**

This 20-mile trail commemorates Daniel Boone, who was the foremost pioneer and frontiersman of colonial America. Boone was born November 2, 1734 on a farm near Reading, Pa., where he learned native ways from a local friendly tribe. His family moved to the frontier country in North Carolina in 1750. There, at age 21, he married Rebecca Bryan.

Boone made his first trip to explore the Kentucky wilderness in 1769. In those days, American colonists were closely settled along the eastern seaboard, and it took less time to sail back to England than to venture into the unknown wilderness beyond the Appalachian Mountains. Boone started to move his family to Kentucky in 1773, but he turned back after hostile Indians killed his eldest son, James.

Boone connected a number of Indian trails in 1775 to form the "Wilderness Road," which was the route used by most of the early settlers of Kentucky. At the end of the Wilderness Road, he built a fort at Boonesborough, where his family and many others came to live. He was captured by the Shawnee in 1778 and lived in harmony with them, to the point of being adopted by the tribe, but he escaped in time to lead the defense of Boonesborough against an attack which the Shawnee had been planning. He became revered as the leading figure in the settlement of Kentucky.

Kentucky had become too well settled for Daniel Boone by 1799. He decided to move to the Femme Osage District in what was then Spanish territory. This area is in current St. Charles and Warren Counties in Missouri. In effect, Boone and his family became the first American settlers in Missouri, which had previously been the domain of French and Spanish explorers and traders. Boone received a land grant from Spain and was made a judge by the Spanish authorities. Even after the area became part of the United States in 1804, other settlers looked to Boone for advice and leadership.

Boone lived in this area in the homes of his children who had settled here. He lost the land granted to him by Spain because he had not established a homestead of his own on it. However, by Act of Congress in 1814 in recognition of his great feats of exploration much of his land was returned. He died in 1820 at the age of 86 at the stone house of his son Nathan, which still stands. He was buried near his wife in a little cemetery near what is now Marthasville. Years later, Kentucky authorities came to move his remains to Frankfort. Many local people believe that Boone is still buried at the site of the Monument, which marks the end of the Daniel Boone Trail. The explanation given is that Daniel Boone was buried at the foot of his wife's grave because the place next to her had already been filled in the somewhat disorganized small family cemetery. Kentucky authorities, not knowing this, took the wrong body.

### PREPARATIONS

The Daniel Boone Trail begins at Defiance, Missouri, which is on Highway 94 south of Highway 40/ I-64. The trail is not marked, and you must follow the route as described below and shown on the map. The trail begins on Defiance Road, where it intersects with Highway 94. Defiance Road is at the south end of the town. If you are coming from Highway 40, you will pass through most of the town of Defiance before you reach Defiance Road. Park in the parking lot which the Department of Natural Resources has established at the Katy Trail intersection with Darst Bottom Road. Please note that the Daniel Boone Trail is not circular, and you must have at least one vehicle available at the end of the trail at the Boone Monument. Many troops prefer to have a driver keep ahead of the hikers and meet them at select intersections. Scouts must pay attention to vehicle traffic on the first 4.2 miles and the last half mile of the trail as well as to bicycle traffic on the middle 15 miles that follow the Katy Trail. Also note that latrines are located only at the

Matson, Augusta, and Dutzow trail heads of the Katy Trail and at the Klondike Park boat access.

### **THE TRAIL ROUTE**

1. Start hiking west (away from Highway 94 and the Missouri River) on Defiance Road. Continue until you reach a T-intersection.
2. At the T-intersection, Defiance Road will be on the left and Holden Road will be on the right. Turn left and stay on Defiance Road. After a short distance, Defiance Road will make a 90-degree right turn, and you should follow it.
3. Where Defiance Road meets Howell Road, turn left and follow Howell Road. You have hiked 1 mile.
4. Where Howell Road meets Matson Hill Road, turn right and follow Matson Hill Road.
5. Where Matson Hill Road passes Matson Hill Park, you have hiked 2.4 miles. The park is a good place for a rest stop away from traffic.
6. Where Matson Hill Road meets Duke Road, keep to the left and stay on Matson Hill Road.
7. Matson Hill Road ends at the town of Matson, where you should pick up the Katy Trail, which is maintained by the State of Missouri as the Katy Trail State Park. You have now hiked 4.2 miles. Turn right and proceed southwest on the Katy Trail. The next 15.3 miles of the Daniel Boone Trail follow the Katy Trail.
8. About one third of the way between Matson and Augusta, the Katy Trail crosses Highway 94. All Scouts should cross Highway 94 together and under adult supervision. Do not permit your troop to become separated when you are approaching this crossing. At the crossing, you have hiked 6.4 miles.
9. Where the Katy Trail passes through Augusta is a good point to have lunch. You have hiked nearly 10 miles. After Augusta, continue on the Katy Trail to Dutzow. In the long stretch between Augusta and Dutzow, keep track of your progress by watching for the Katy Trail mile markers, which follow the same system the railroad used.
10. At Dutzow, you have hiked 17.7 miles. Here the Katy Trail again crosses Highway 94. All Scouts should cross Highway 94 together and under adult supervision. Do not permit your troop to become separated when you are approaching this crossing. After Dutzow, continue on the Katy Trail toward Marthasville.
11. Turn right on Boone Monument Road. You have hiked 19.5 miles. (The Katy Trail crosses Boone Monument Road a little after Katy Railroad Mile 75. You have gone too far if you reach Mile 76.) A short distance after turning onto Boone Monument Road, you will reach a T-intersection. Turn left and follow Boone Monument Road to the Boone Monument.
12. At the Boone Monument, go up the hill and rub Daniel Boone's nose on the bronze marker. You have hiked 20 miles, and you should be happy to have reached the end of the trail. There is a very small parking area across the road from the monument where drivers can wait for hikers.

### **POINTS OF INTEREST**

A. At Defiance, you get the first glimpse of the Katy Trail, although the Daniel Boone Trail does not follow that route until you reach Matson. The Katy Trail was originally the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad. After the railroad ceased operating, the state removed the railroad tracks and built a hiking and cycling trail, which is known as the Katy Trail after the nickname of the closed railroad. When hiking along the Katy Trail, do not stray from the trail boundaries because the adjoining land is private property.

B. Matson Hill Park meets Matson Hill Road near the top of the hill. At the southern edge of the park's junction with Matson Hill Road lies the path of the Old Wagon Road, which was the direct route to the home of Daniel Boone's son Nathan, which is now popularly known as the "Daniel Boone Home." Daniel Boone used this road to descend into the Femme Osage Valley from the hills along the Missouri River. At the bottom of the Old Wagon Road is the Femme Osage Creek, where Daniel Boone would hunt and trap.

C. As you descend Matson Hill Road toward the town of Matson, you cross the land, sometimes called the Daniel Boone Farm, which Daniel Boone originally obtained from the Spanish. Boone surveyed 1,000 arpents of land for himself in 1799 near what is now Matson. Spain later awarded him an additional 10,000 arpents of land for bringing other American settlers to the territory. He was appointed a syndic or judge in 1800 by the Spanish Lieutenant Governor of the Louisiana Territory, Carlos Delassus, of St. Louis. This position gave Boone complete civil and military authority in the Femme Osage District.

D. Signs at the Matson Trail Head of the Katy Trail feature historical information about Daniel Boone. In addition, the Daniel Boone Judgment Tree Memorial is located just across Highway 94 from the trail head. Scouts should only cross 94 under adult supervision. In the first years he lived in Missouri, called the Upper Louisiana Territory at that time, Daniel Boone lived with his son Daniel M. Boone, who had built a house in what is now called Darst's Bottom. Daniel Boone and his sons laid out a town called Missouri-ton, which was located closer to the Missouri River than the present town of Matson. They built a horse mill and had great plans for the town, but it was washed away by the river. A Memorial describes the judgment tree under which Boone held court in those days similar to the tree he later used near his son Nathan's home.

E. The Missouri River was a more important transportation route than the roads in those days, and Daniel Boone did not like to stay put. He would often venture far up the Missouri River in a large canoe, returning in the spring with beaver pelts he had trapped in the wilderness to sell in the market at St. Louis.

F. Klondike Park is on your right and the Klondike Park boat access is on your left shortly after the point where you cross Highway 94 southwest of Matson. Stay on the Katy Trail rather than the Lewis & Clark Trail in the park.

G. The town of Augusta, which was originally called Mt. Pleasant, was first laid out in 1836 after Daniel Boone was gone. Most of the town's wineries, restaurants, and antique shops are uphill from the part of town which you can see from the trail.

H. The town of Nona, about halfway between Augusta and Dutzow, was once a stop on the Katy Railroad, but it is now little more than one storefront and a silo. These structures are close to the trail but on private property.

I. The town of Dutzow was likewise founded by German immigrants some years after Boone's death. After the initial migration of American settlers from Kentucky which Daniel Boone led, this area was largely settled by German immigrants. The town is a little off the trail to your right on Highway 94.

J. The large brick house standing near the Boone Monument belonged to David Bryan, who was the nephew of Mrs. Boone. Daniel Boone's daughter, Mrs. Flanders Callaway, also lived in a house which stood near the Teque Creek in this same general area. Many of Mrs. Boone's relatives settled in this area near what is today Marthasville, and many of them are buried in the small cemetery surrounding the Boone Monument. After his wife died in 1813, Daniel Boone moved to his daughter's home in this area to be near Mrs. Boone's grave.

*The Daniel Boone Trail was originally laid out by Donald P. Rogers, Sr., and Jennings H. Biebel, who were both Scoutmasters of Troop 49. It was hiked for the first time on December 4, 1954 by Troop 49, sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of St. Louis. It was substantially re-routed and moved to the Katy Trail in 1991 because of increased traffic on the original route.*

