

The Law of the Old Cutler Trail Hike is the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

A Scout always leaves an area cleaner than he found it.

The patch is awarded to all registered participants. The certificate, which entitles the bearer to receive the medal, will be presented to those who complete the hike.

The trail points out local history usable to towards citizenship badges and the Hiking merit badge.

In 1975, Mich Justi, a member of Troop 347 (Scoutmaster William T. Brown M.D.) worked at making Old Cutler Road a National Scout Trail as an Eagle project. With his leadership and the aid of fellow Scouts, the city and county officials agreed the road was to be a historical trail, and marked as such. The markers were placed along the trail and it was designated a National Historical Trail by the Boy Scouts of America. After weeks of digging through museums and libraries, the Eagle Scout's efforts resulted in a ten (10) page report of local history.

We cannot leave out the efforts on one, Gil Hoffman, of Old Cutler Road. In 1974, his work towards keeping the beauty of the road caused a delegation to push a bill through the legislature declaring Old Cutler Road a state historical highway. The bill prevents the road from being widened or over developed.

We start the hike at the Torch of Friendship on Biscayne Boulevard and approach the now modern Brickell Avenue. Keep in mind, at one time this was wilderness and the trail was hacked out by pioneer William Fuzzard in 1882. People think of Miami as a new city built around World War II times, the 1940's. Consider this: 53 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, Pedro Menendez established a mission in Miami. The first documented occupation by man of the Miami area was in the year 2000 B.C.

Archaeologists have found remnants left on Tree Island, 15 miles northwest of present day Miami, dating back 4000 years ago. The Tequesta Indians were Florida's earliest inhabitants along with other Indians (unknown) who lived near Sarasota as early as 8000 to 10,000 B.C.

In 1513 A.D., Ponce de Leon discovered Florida, simultaneously in Europe, Michelangelo was working on his Moses, and Balboa discovered the Pacific Ocean. Miami history is recorded as far back as the following:

1567 A Jesuit mission was founded at the mouth of the Miami River.

1813 The Creek Indian Wars brings the last major Indian migration to Florida.

1836 Florida becomes a U.S. Territory. Dade County (named after Major Francis Langhorne Dade of the Indian Wars) was established. That same year the Cape Florida Lighthouse was attacked by Indians.

1845 Florida becomes the 27th state of the United States of America.

1871 William Brickell built a trading post at the mouth of the Miami River.

1895 Henry Flagler began the extension of the Florida East Coast Railway from Palm Beach to Miami, thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Julia D. Tuttle.

1896 Miami is incorporated into Dade County.

1915 Miami Beach is incorporated into Dade County; Broward County is created. In Europe, a German submarine sinks the Luistania.

We start at the Torch of Friendship.

1. The Torch of Friendship was dedicated in October 1960; its perpetual flame symbolizes the close friendship between the City of Miami and neighboring Latin American Republics. It was rededicated as the John F. Kennedy Torch of Friendship in 1964.

2. Bayfront Park. On February 15, 1933 during a visit to Miami, Franklin D. Roosevelt was speaking at Bayfront Park. Shots rang out and when it was over Mayor Anton Cermak of Chicago was killed. The gunman, Joseph Sangara, was tried and convicted of first degree murder and put to death in the electric chair at Raiford Prison 33 days after the incident. Franklin D. Roosevelt went on to be our 32nd president.

** SAFETY FIRST **

DURING THE HIKE USE SIDEWALKS AND BICYCLE PATHS WHEN AVAILABLE

3. Four thousand years ago, on the north bank of the Miami River at the site of the DuPont Plaza Parking Lot, a Tequesta Indian village was situated. The site included a large Indian mound which was removed when Flagler's Royal Palm Hotel was built in 1896. (New bridge is dedicated to the Tequesta Indians.)

4. Fitzpatrick Plantation. Two stone buildings were built on the grounds by William English in the 1840s after he had purchased the plantation. Federal troops used these buildings during the Third Seminole War and were named Fort Dallas. In the 1920's, one was moved to another park farther up the river where it now stands as a recreational facility and the other, Julia Tuttle's house, was destroyed in the 1920's.

5. In this vicinity the **Spanish Jesuit Mission** was established through the efforts of one, Pedro Menendez deAviles in 1567 and another Mission in 1743.

6. The Miami River Circle is located along the southern bank of the Miami River estuary where the river flows into Biscayne Bay. The Miami River Circle site was discovered in September 1998.

The site was located at the location of the former Brickell Trading Post. Recently, it was a 1950s era six story apartment building that was demolished for the foundation of two multi-story apartment towers.

The Miami River Circle contains patterns of 24 main basin holes and multiple smaller holes that have been scooped out of the oolitic limestone bedrock. The basins are approximately 2 feet deep and up to 5 feet long. Together these holes comprise a large circle about 38 feet in diameter. There are also various unique features at this site. There is an intended marking of the cardinal points. A series of holes forms an east-west line with a carving of a human-like eye at the Circle's eastern point that might have some association with the equinox and solstice. Other directions were indicated with distinctive cuts or rocks set in the holes.

Today it is estimated that the Circle is at least 1,800 to 2,000 years old. Animal bones, shells, and additional charcoal samples were used for the dating test. It is widely believed that the Miami River Circle was built by indigenous native Americans of the Tequesta (pronounced Te-kes-ta) tribe who previously dominated southeast Florida.

7. Brickell Park and Mausoleum. William and Mary Brickell and their family moved to Miami in 1870 and opened an Indian Trading Post on the river. They once owned all the land between the river and Coconut Grove. The Brickell's gave the park to the City of Miami in the 1920s. William Brickell was buried in the mausoleum but was later moved to Woodlawn Park.

Dr. Jackson's medical office is now the Dade Heritage Trust at SW corner of SE 12 Ter and Biscayne Bay Dr.

8. Site of a Spanish American War battery erected to guard the entrance to Biscayne Bay during the Spanish American War.

9. Alice Wainwright Park was named after the lawyer and conservationist in 1974. It contains interesting tropical foliage and is an example of the "Coral Rock" bluffs forming the high ground running along the coast line of the area. Near this park was located "The Devil's Punchbowl", a fresh water spring used by pirates and wrecker ships. It is the site of the early Lewis settlement. (*Restrooms available*)

10. Villa Serena. This was the home of William Jennings Bryan. A three-time Democratic presidential candidate and famous orator, he held a Sunday school class in Bayfront Park that had 16,000 participants. (*Not open to the public*)

Many famous stars have made Miami their home. Madonna and Sly Stallone have both owned homes on this street.

11. Miami Museum of Science and Planetarium began as the Junior Museum in an old house off Biscayne Boulevard and 26th Street. The first building at the present location opened in 1960.

12. Viscaya. Once the estate of James Deering, investor of the harvesting machine, now a historical landmark and local attraction. It was built between 1912 – 1916 and is listed on the national register of historic places.

13. Coral Rock Bluffs. Known today as Silver Bluff, it is a rocky cliff of oolitic limestone. The bluffs were formed by wave action thousands of years ago when the sea level stood several feet higher than at present.

14. Dinner Key. World War I installation which was the nation's first naval air station. Later to become Pan American Airways (PanAm) seaplane base for flight to Cuba and the Caribbean area. The Miami City Hall is located on the property.

15. Dinner Key Auditorium. Two days before Christmas in 1962, the prisoners from the Bay of Pigs Invasion began arriving by air at Homestead Air Force Base and were reunited with their families at Dinner Key Auditorium.

16. Women's Club of Coconut Grove. Began as the Housekeepers' Club in 1891, and was the first organized women's club in the Miami area. It met in the Sunday School building currently located at Plymouth Congregational Church. The first clubhouse was built in 1897 and the present building in 1920. It is listed on the national register of historic places. In 1923, they sponsored the first Girl Scout troop in Dade County under the leadership of Mildred Crawford. Troop 1 called themselves “The Alligators.”

17. Peacock Inn. When Charles Peacock and son, Alfred, began building Peacock Inn on this site in 1884, there were no other hotels between Key West and Lake Worth. The hotel was called Bay View House at first and this area was called Jack's Bight before it was called Coconut Grove.

18. Home of Jack Peacock. House of early homesteader and sheriff “Jolly” Jack Peacock. He encouraged his brother, Charles, and sister-in-law,

Isabella, to come to South Florida. They built the first hotel in today's Peacock Park in 1884. The house has been razed and the Coconut Grove Chamber of Commerce is located on this site.

19. The Barnacle. Once the home of Commodore Ralph Middleton Munroe who built it in 1891. It is now a State of Florida Historic Park and is listed on the national register of historic places. Munroe's passion was designing yachts, and he drew plans for 56 sailboats.

20. Ransom School. In 1896, Paul C. Ransom first brought students from an eastern preparatory school in the Adirondacks to this site, which he named Pine Knot Camp for a winter term of study and outdoor life. In 1903, it became Adirondack-Florida School with the fall and spring terms in the Adirondacks and the winter term in Coconut Grove. Closed in 1942 because of the War, it reopened in 1947. In 1949, the Trustees located the school here permanently and name it Ransom for the founder. It is now Ransom-Everglades School.

21. Plymouth Congregational Church. The original church was built by the Housekeepers' Club on land donated by Ralph Munroe at Grand Avenue and Virginia Street and was known as Union Chapel. The present church was built in 1916-1917. The little white Sunday School built in 1887 was rented to the school board in 1889. It was later moved to Plymouth Congregational Church.

On the south side of Main Highway is Temple Bet Ovadia Chabad. It originally was Bryan Memorial Methodist Church which was built between 1925-1928. William Jennings Bryan sold land to raise funds for the church and served on the building committee.

22. Kampong. The estate of David Fairchild, a famous horticulturist who introduced many exotic plants into the United States and once headed the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Kampong is a Malay word for a village, or a cluster of dwellings for an extended family. Fairchild's wife, Marian, was the daughter of Alexander Graham Bell.

23. Just south of Cocoplum Circle on Old Cutler Road was the site of Wilson A. Larkins' general store. He came to Miami in January 1987 with his wife and family on Flagler's railroad and built a home and barn that housed cows, horses, and mules ¾ mile south of here and west of the trail. The store contained a post office, and a telephone station. After the railroad to Homestead down US 1 was completed, Mr. Larkins used his wagons to haul rocks that were crushed and was known as Larkins Road which was later renamed to Sunset Drive. He purchased land near the railroad and moved his business there. The Town of South Miami incorporated in 1926.

24. Matheson Hammock Park. The word “Hammock” comes from the Spanish hamaca, meaning island. It refers to a stand of subtropical hardwood trees growing where a slight rise in the underlying rock provides good drainage. The Matheson family gave the hammock to Dade County in the 1930s. Young men from the Civil Conservation Corps built the park. *(Restrooms available)*

25. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is the largest tropical botanic garden in the continental United States. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden serves the three functions of education, scientific research, and display. As part of its educational function, the plant species are recorded with their variety and correct scientific name.

26. Maud Black's House. Home of Sarah Elizabeth (Maud) Black who was born in Miami in 1879. Her first husband, Charles Seibold, built this house in 1891. It was famous for its “sausage tree” planted by Mrs. Seibold in 1907 from a seedling grown by David Fairchild from seeds sent from Egypt.

27. Saint Thomas Episcopal Parish. The parish is made up of the church and the parish school. St. Thomas has been the sponsor of Pack and Troop 336 for over 60 years.

