

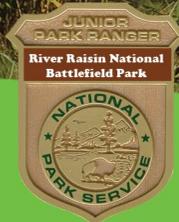
THE RIVER RAISIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK INVITES YOU TO

# JOIN MAJOR MUSKRAT

as he guides you on a fun and engaging walk in the historic steps of the Kentucky Militia.

## WELCOME TO THE TRAIL.

This Active Trails program was made possible in part by a grant from the National Park Foundation through the generous support of the Coca-Cola Foundation.



Provided in part by the generous contributions by :

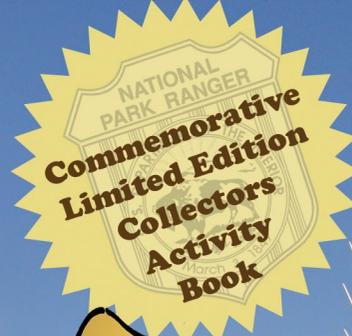


# River Raisin National Battlefield Park



# BLAZE

## THE RIVER RAISIN HERITAGE TRAIL



from America's newest National Battlefield Park to the Wm. C. Sterling State Park on Lake Erie.

[www.riverraisinbattlefield.org](http://www.riverraisinbattlefield.org)

# CONGRATULATIONS RECRUIT!

You have joined the brave few who have gone before you in the highly sought after positions in the Muskrat Militia at River Raisin National Battlefield Park. I am your commanding Muskrat, that's **Major Muskrat to you!** I know these battlegrounds better than any rat because my forefathers grew up here and witnessed the fearsome Battles of the River Raisin with their own eyes...



It's important for you to know a little about your Commanding Muskrat before you trust me with your life. First, a little about my family. Although the Beaver family was king during the early years of the Michigan Territory, many other family furs were important to the trade as well including of course, the Muskrat, otter, fisher, martin, monk, ermine, fox, raccoon and bear families. As the story goes, before the battles of the River Raisin, Muskrats roamed the lush marshlands, swamps, and coastal freshwater lakes, ponds and slow-moving streams near the battlefield. We grew to be as much as 11 inches tall, 25 inches long and 4 pounds. In my humble opinion, we were much better looking than the Beaver family. Primarily we enjoyed eating the abundance of aquatic...(that's water in muskrat lingo), plants and building beautiful homes in banks similar to those of the beaver but more modest in size.

Because of our superior dense grayish brown coat, which is mostly waterproof and very soft, we became popular furs for Indians and the French settlers. While traps and hunters were certainly a risk, our nocturnal (desire to roam at night) traits helped. It was not until after the Battles of the River Raisin that our lives were more seriously at stake. As we drill later today, you will learn about the battles and how they changed our lives as Muskrats, and **your life...** That's right, life would be very different today if things had turned out differently in the war. Enough about me for now... I will tell you more later, but first...

**...IT IS TIME TO DRILL!  
ARE YOU READY?**

# FELLOW MUSKRATS... THE TIME HAS COME!

You have chosen the Honorable pursuit of protecting your fellow Americans and families. We now face a great and mighty enemy who desires to take your freedom from you. President James Madison and the United States Congress have found that grave violations of our freedoms have been committed and clear threats to our young nation's security exists.

As the Commander and Chief of the United States Military, President Madison is calling on you to defend your newly found freedom and stop Great Britain from:

1. Forcing your fellow Americans, in some cases even your friends and relatives to work on British ships. President Madison called this "Impressment."
2. Blocking United States Ships from trading and sailing on the open oceans.
3. Stopping and searching United States ships without any justification.
4. British leadership orders to create blockades and stop open and natural trading with France and French Allies called Orders-in-Council that impacted stopped us from trading with our French friends.
5. British support of the Indian tribes on the western frontier that were impeding westward expansion of the United States and threatening the lives of frontier settlers.



The enemy has advanced into the Michigan Territory and taken over Frenchtown on the River Raisin. General Winchester is mustering troops to stop them and retake the Michigan Territory. It will be a long and hard march, but if we do not move now they will soon be bring the war here to us. I have donned the uniform of the Kentucky Militia and have wrote for you the neccesities of being a soldier... (by the way... there SHOULD be snow on the ground).. but hey, it's October! Work with me!

**LET US MOVE OUT WITHOUT DELAY.**



The challenge before us now will not be easy, but must be achieved. We have a great distance to travel to free our nation from the occupation of the British and to ward of the Indians. Let us begin the March! We will leave Georgetown, Kentucky at first dawn and proceed to Detroit to free the Michigan Territory from British and Indian occupation.

### The Kentuckians Journey to Frenchtown:

|                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| 1) Georgetown, KY -Newport, OH =  | 280 mi  |
| 2) Newport, OH -Cincinnati, OH =  | 242 mi  |
| 3) Cincinnati, OH -Piqua, OH =    | 80 mi   |
| 4) Piqua, OH -Fort Wayne, IN =    | 120 mi  |
| 5) Fort Wayne, IN -Defiance, OH = | 47 mi   |
| 6) Defiance, OH -Maumee, OH =     | 50 mi   |
| 7) Maumee, OH -Frenchtown =       | + 25 mi |
| <hr/>                             |         |

Answer the following questions to help you with the next Drill:

1. Add up the total number of miles the Kentucky Militia traveled starting at Georgetown, Kentucky to Frenchtown in the Michigan Territory and record your answer: \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Do you think you could walk as far as the Kentucky Militia did?  
\_\_\_\_\_



**ACTIVITIES FOR 6 YEAR-OLD  
MILITIA MEMBERS AND BELOW:**

Walk  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile wearing a pedometer (a device that will count your steps) and timing how long it takes you. Answer the questions below:

How long did it take you to walk  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile? \_\_\_\_\_

How many steps did it take to walk  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think it would have been easy to walk from Kentucky to the Michigan Territory? \_\_\_\_\_

Try picking up a 30 pound backpack, and if you can, try walking with it. How do you think this will impact your how quickly you can walk? \_\_\_\_\_



**ACTIVITIES FOR 7-8 YEAR-OLD  
MILITIA MEMBERS:**

Walk  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile wearing a pedometer and timing how long it takes you. Answer the questions below:

How long did it take you to walk  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile? \_\_\_\_\_

How many steps did it take to walk  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile? \_\_\_\_\_

How long would it take you to walk from Kentucky to Frenchtown in the Michigan Territory? \_\_\_\_\_  
(hint, The time it took you to walk  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile  $\times 2 =$  \_\_\_\_\_ minutes  $\times$  the number of miles you are going = \_\_\_\_\_ minutes to walk from Kentucky to Frenchtown.)

How many steps would it take you to walk from Kentucky to Frenchtown in the Michigan Territory? \_\_\_\_\_

(hint, The number of steps you took to walk  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile  $\times 2 =$  \_\_\_\_\_  $\times$  the number of miles you are going = \_\_\_\_\_ steps it would take to walk from Kentucky to Frenchtown.)

Check out a 30 pound knapsack from the Visitor Center and replica firearm. Put the knapsack on and walk 25 yards with it and the firearm and then answer the questions below:

Do you think carrying your equipment would affect how quickly or long you could march?

## ACTIVITIES FOR 9–11 YEAR-OLD MILITIA MEMBERS:

Walk 1 mile wearing a pedometer and timing how long it takes you. Answer the questions below:

How long would it take you to walk from Kentucky to Frenchtown in the Michigan Territory? \_\_\_\_\_

How many steps would it take you to walk from Kentucky to Frenchtown in the Michigan Territory? \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the chart below:

|                                | Distance in Miles | How many steps would you make? | How Long would it take you walk? | Round to the nearest Day and hour? |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Georgetown, KY to Newport, OH  |                   |                                |                                  |                                    |
| Newport, OH to Cincinnati, OH  |                   |                                |                                  |                                    |
| Cincinnati, OH to Piqua, OH    |                   |                                |                                  |                                    |
| Piqua, OH – Fort Wayne, IN     |                   |                                |                                  |                                    |
| Fort Wayne, IN to Defiance, OH |                   |                                |                                  |                                    |
| Defiance, OH to Maumee, OH     |                   |                                |                                  |                                    |
| Maumee, OH to Frenchtown, MI   |                   |                                |                                  |                                    |
| Total: (add up each column)    |                   |                                |                                  |                                    |

## ACTIVITIES FOR 12 AND UP MILITIA MEMBERS:

Walk 3 miles wearing a pedometer and timing how long it takes you. Answer the questions below:

How long would it take you to walk from Kentucky to Frenchtown in the Michigan Territory? \_\_\_\_\_

How many steps would it take you to walk from Kentucky to Frenchtown in the Michigan Territory? \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the chart below:

|                                | Distance in Miles | How many steps would you make? | How Long would it take you walk? | Round to the nearest Day and hour? |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Georgetown, KY to Newport, OH  |                   |                                |                                  |                                    |
| Newport, OH to Cincinnati, OH  |                   |                                |                                  |                                    |
| Cincinnati, OH to Piqua, OH    |                   |                                |                                  |                                    |
| Piqua, OH – Fort Wayne, IN     |                   |                                |                                  |                                    |
| Fort Wayne, IN to Defiance, OH |                   |                                |                                  |                                    |
| Defiance, OH to Maumee, OH     |                   |                                |                                  |                                    |
| Maumee, OH to Frenchtown, MI   |                   |                                |                                  |                                    |
| Total: (add each column)       |                   |                                |                                  |                                    |

## BONUS QUESTION FOR 9 AND UP

Put on a 30 pound backpack and take a replica firearm to simulate the amount of weight you would have to carry on a march during the war of 1812. Time yourself walking 100 yards with the pack and firearm. And answer the questions below:

1. How long would it take you to walk one mile?
2. How long would it take you to walk from Georgetown, KY to Frenchtown, MI?
3. How would walking in deep snow change the length of time it would take you to get to your destination?

**Hint:** One mile includes equals approximately 1,760 yards.

