

CHALLENGE INSTRUCTIONS

Inside is a list of five Hamilton County fire towers that open to the public. Three towers are restored, and the other two have restoration plans underway. To complete the challenge and receive the full color patch, you must climb all five mountains, document the date, and fill out a comment for each. Climbing each tower is not required in order to receive your patch.

When you've completed the challenge, fill out the form below and send it to

Hamilton County Tourism
P.O. Box 57
Lake Pleasant, NY 12108

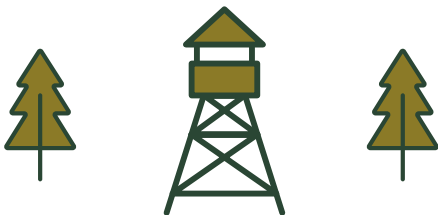
Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Email: _____



FIRE CHALLENGE MAP



For more information about Hamilton County hikes, attractions, paddles, lodging, and travel, go to

www.AdirondackExperience.com

Hamilton County Tourism
P.O. Box 57 • 102 County View Drive
Lake Pleasant, NY 12108
518-548-3076
Info@AdirondackExperience.com

Adirondacks Experience It!



Fire Tower CHALLENGE



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Fire Towers

BLUE MOUNTAIN

TOWER: 35' AERMOTOR LS40

ELEVATION: 3,759'

Status: Restored and open to the public

The Blue Mountain fire tower may be the best known and visited fire tower in the Adirondacks.

The tower was originally built from wood in 1911 and was replaced with the current tower by the NYS DEC in 1917. When the DEC closed the tower in 1990, it was one of the last operating fire towers in New York state. A group of local volunteers adopted and restored the tower.

Location: 1.8 miles northeast of the hamlet of Blue Mountain Lake. The trailhead is located 0.5 mile north of the Adirondack Museum on Route 30, on the right side of road.

Trailhead GPS: 43.8747853N, 74.4314515W

Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

Trail Description: The trail is 2 miles long, with a 1,400 foot elevation gain. The first part of the trail meanders and is easy, while the second half gets steep and rocky towards the summit. There are spectacular views from the summit, from both the ground and the tower.

Date/Comment:

OWLS HEAD MOUNTAIN

TOWER: 35' AERMOTOR LS40

ELEVATION: 2,812'

Status: Restored and open to the public

The first structure on Owls Head was a wooden tower erected by the Commission Corps in September 1911. In 1919, it was replaced with a 35' standard steel Aermotor LS40 tower. With the advent of aerial detection, this tower was closed at the end of the 1970 season.

Location: 4 miles southwest of the village of Long Lake. Take Route 30 north from the village. Travel 0.3 miles past the bridge. Make a left onto Endion Road. The trailhead is on a sharp curve on the right side of the road, 1.6 miles from Route 30.

Trailhead GPS: 43.9636468N, 74.4525103W

Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

Trail Description: The trail is approximately 3 miles long, with an 1,100 foot elevation gain. It is relatively

difficult & steep past the 2-mile mark. The summit provides scenic views of the Fishing Brook Range to the southeast and the High Peaks to the north.

Date/Comment:

PILLSBURY MOUNTAIN

TOWER: 60' AERMOTOR LS40

ELEVATION: 3,597'

Status: Open to climb, cab is closed to the public

The original tower was constructed from wood by the Champlain Realty Company in 1918. By agreement, the landowner would provide an observer during periods of dry weather. It was considered a "secondary tower" by the state. The Pillsbury fire tower was changed to steel in 1924. The 60' Aermotor Model LS-40 tower, with a 9' high cab, is typical of the "heavier type" tower with an integrated staircase built by the Conservation Commission between 1917 and 1950. The structure consists of a square steel and glass cab with a hip roof enclosing the observation platform atop a riveted and bolted frame of angular steel. The Pillsbury fire tower was closed around 1985 and awaits restoration.

Location: 9 miles northwest of Speculator. Take Route 30 north for 8.2 miles. Past Mason Lake, take a left onto the dirt road. Follow the dirt road 3.2 miles to the junction at Perkins Clearing, marked by a DEC sign. Turn right and end at Sled Harbor, 5.1 miles from Route 30, where you should park. The trailhead is a 1.2-mile hike up the road on the right from Sled Harbor.

Trailhead GPS: 43.5869583N, 74.4852919W

Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

Trail Description: Pillsbury Mountain is a moderately difficult climb to reach the summit. The 1.5-mile trail climbs almost 1,200 feet from the trailhead. Views of Lake Pleasant and Sacandaga Lake can be seen to the south, and Snowy Mountain fire tower and High Peaks to the north.

Date/Comment:

SNOWY MOUNTAIN

TOWER: 42' AERMOTOR LS40

ELEVATION: 3,897'

Status: Restored and open to the public

The first structure on Snowy was a wooden tower erected by the Forest, Fish & Game Commission in August 1909. In 1917, it was replaced with a steel 22'

Aermotor LS40 tower. In 1933, the height of the tower was increased to 42' due to high growth attained by surrounding trees in the previous 15 years. With the advent of aerial detection, this tower was closed at the end of the 1971 season. Local volunteers restored the tower in 2001.

Location: 13 miles southwest of Indian Lake. Take Route 30 south for 7 miles from Indian Lake. The trailhead is on the right side of road with parking on the left.

Trailhead GPS: 43.7013530N, 74.3347810W

Difficulty: Difficult/Very Difficult

Trail Description: The trail is 3.9 mile long with approximately 2,100 feet in elevation gain. The last 0.75 mile to the summit is extremely steep and difficult. There are great views from the top to the High Peaks in the north, and Indian Lake to the west.

Date/Comment:

WAKELY MOUNTAIN

TOWER: 70' AERMOTOR LL25

ELEVATION: 3,766'

Status: Open to public, not restored

The first structure on Wakely Mountain was a wooden tower constructed by the Conservation Commission in May 1911. In 1916, it was replaced with a 70' Aermotor LL25 tower, making it the highest tower in the Adirondacks. The tower ceased operation at the end of the 1988 season when the DEC determined that towers were no longer effective and decided to phase them out of service. A major effort is underway to save Wakely Mountain fire tower from removal.

Location: 12 miles southwest of Indian Lake. From Indian Lake, take Route 28/30 west for 2.2 miles, then make a left onto Cedar River Road (past the golf course) and follow it for 11.5 miles. There is a sign-in book at the parking lot, and the gravel road leading to the mountain offers an easy 1.9 mile warm-up. The 3 mile hike up the mountain is fairly steep and strenuous.

Trailhead GPS: 43.7309485N, 74.4726157W

Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

Trail Description: 3 miles long, moderately difficult, steep at end.

Date/Comment:

Finished with the Challenge?

Follow the instructions on the other side to get your badge!