



## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hike – Leader Guide

Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Start Time : 10 am

Ending Time : 6:00 pm



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# HISTORY OF THE PEDRO TRAIL

By Duane DeDene & Jay S. Bottorff



The Pedro Trail at the then Detroit Area Council Boy Scouts of America's D-bar-A (D-A) Scout Ranch in Metamora, Michigan began as most things, an idea of the Michigami Chapter of the Order of the Arrow, MI-GI-SI O-PAW-GAN Lodge 162 in 1981.

First things first – Why Pedro? Pedro is the mascot burro of the BSA's Boy's Life Magazine. He came into existence at about the same time (1947) as D-A Scout Ranch.

Pedro epitomizes the loyal Scout. No matter how inept he may be or how bad he botches things up, he attacks each new challenge with a grin. That is why Pedro was selected to be the symbol for the Pedro Trail. He always does his best. It did not hurt that D-Bar-A Scout Ranch has a small contingent of burros as part of the Camps livestock and that these burros can be adopted by the troops camping there for use during overnight pack trips.

Now that the trail name was chosen, permission had to be granted by the Boy Scouts of America and Boys Life Magazine for the Michigami Chapter OA to use the name and likeness of Pedro for the trail. This was granted without a hitch so off to the races (not so much with a burro) to get the rest of the tasks in order and accomplished.

Prior to the Pedro Trail, D-A Scout Ranch was crisscrossed with many trails allowing the campers to get from point A to point B but there was no main cohesive trail. At 1400 acres plus of varied landscapes and terrains, the Ranch was the perfect place to make a super trail. So, in January Of 1981 the Michigami Chapter OA prepared and presented a proposal to the Council's Camping Director, Mr. Ken Poulson, and the Council's Camping Committee.

The Chapter proposed to build and maintain a 12 mile (later field verified to be 7 miles) long wilderness trail that would encircle the D-A Scout Ranch. The proposal highlighted the fact that it would pass through many "Beautiful but rarely seen parts" of the Ranch including forests, brush, and grassy hills.

The trail was to be a multi-purpose trail used for the fulfillment of requirements for hiking, nature, forestry, insect, and other merit badges; provide service project hours through trail maintenance; provide opportunities to participate in an overnight wilderness experience along the trail and just as important, or maybe more importantly, good old fashioned recreational hiking and the enjoyment of being in the great outdoors.

To commemorate a person's hiking of the Pedro Trail, the proposal included provisions, for there to be trail patches and medals available for purchase by the hikers at the Camp's Trading Post. Participants would have to answer a few questions about the trail prior to purchase of these items to show that they had indeed hiked the trail and making the ownership of the patch or medal a bit more special.



With the approvals obtained, the building of the trail began. The Michigami Chapter formed a committee to oversee the building, promotion, and maintenance of the trail. The neighboring Lakeshore Chapter of the OA offered to help and lighten the load. It was a tight time schedule, a short seven months to get the trail built, markers installed, flyers prepared and distributed, and trail medals and patches designed and made.

The OA Chapters scheduled several work weekends where they would brush and mark the trail. Some sections went easier than others since the Pedro Trail incorporated sections of existing trails as well as area of virgin territory. Trail markers were made from painted sheet metal pieces in the shape of an arrowhead with a yellow custom designed Pedro Trail sticker on it displaying the name of the trail and a smiling image of Pedro himself. In areas where the trail passed through the woods the markers were nailed to



First Trail Marker



trees. However, marking the trail in the field areas proved a bit more of a challenge, until arrangements were made for a donation of many utility pole guide cable anchors to be donated to the cause by Michigan Bell Telephone. These anchors were hand screwed into the ground (not an easy task in D-A's rocky ground) until secure and then topped with a metal arrowhead cap displaying the trail's marker sticker. Many man-hours were spent getting the trail in shape for opening day.



The Pedro Trail at D-A Scout Ranch officially opened for hiking in July 1981. In 1990, the OA Lodge would take this project on to make more improvements to the trail. Wood 4x4 was added to increase the viability of the trail in wide open areas. Mile and half mile markers were added as well. A new patch was designed to show off the new markers. It is still in use today.

In 2001 a major overhaul was started by Mike Ruzsala and Victor Pitcel. The plans to design and use a GPS to plot the trail was made and a new map for the trail was created. The need to make the Pedro Trail a 10-mile hike to help prepare scouts for high adventure stays like Philmont was requested by the Council Camping Committee. The original loop was marked with yellow markers. The second loop was given the color red. The third loop was designated blue. Each marker was made of a stamped aluminum pointer with the Pedro Trail sticker logo on it. The pointer would help guide trekkers as they made their way about the trail. Segment portions were added to the patch to show which parts of the trail were completed. There is no longer a book to use throughout the trail. Although no longer operated by the Michigami Chapter OA due to mergers and changes in the Scouting operations within the State of Michigan, the trail continues to this day as a premier hiking trail within the Michigan Crossroads Council, BSA. Noquet Lodge is currently maintaining the trail today.



Fall 2015, a young Gavin Bottorff from Pack 1054 had the idea to incorporate Ordep as part of the Pedro Trail Program. Ordep is Pedro's mirror image from Boy's Life Magazine. This character had been more mischievous than Pedro. Since all three trail loops (Yellow, Blue, and Red) are marked in a counterclockwise direction, the Ordep Trail would be walked in a clockwise direction. A Pedro Trail Service Award was created to foster future projects on the trail. Anyone who or group who would like to help with the maintenance or future improvements of the Pedro Trail can now earn an award for their service.



Spring 2016, a new program, set of patches were designed by Gavin Bottorff and are sold in the Scout Shop at camp. Service hikes were performed 3 times this year. Each effort was to report problems, remark the trail and help clear trees.



2017 was a banner year for the trail, Eagle Scouts of Metro Detroit helped remark the 6-mile portion of the trail. The blue loop was remarked, and new posts were installed to help hikers find their way. Red Loop has a vast amount of overgrowth and fallen trees. Jeff Campbell, David Oakley, and Keith King lend their chainsaw skills to help remove, clear cut, or cut back the trail to a 6-foot width. The intent was to make the trail easier for emergency vehicles to make it back to the most remote sections.

In 2018, Noquet Lodge sent multiple work crews on the trail to clear all 10 miles of trail, widening it to a minimum of 6 feet in width. Chippewa Chapter donated and began the install of



a new Trail Kiosk at the beginning of the Yellow loop. Migisi Opawgan Lodge would top the service by building a 40-foot by 4-foot bridge to go over a creek located in Beaver Creek Subcamp.

October 2020, the MCC NESAs Committee constructed two new entryways in front of both the red and Blue Loops of the Trail. Mans Lumber, Steve and Kristie Donohue and Jeff Campbell provided funds toward the project.

#### Key Volunteers of the First Pedro Trail Committee

- Ken Poulson – Camping Director, Detroit Area Council, BSA
- Tim Weist – Youth, Pedro Trail Chairman
- Duane DeDene – Advisor, Michigami Chapter Order of the Arrow
- Ron Weider – Associate Advisor, Michigami Chapter Order of the Arrow
- John Campbell – Associate Advisor, Michigami Chapter Order of the Arrow
- Frank DeDene – Patch and Flyer Designer
- Michigami Chapter Order of the Arrow – youth and adult members
- Lakeshore Chapter Order of the Arrow – youth and adult members
- Ranger Staff D-A Scout Ranch

#### Lodge Service Committee

- Jay Bottorff – Youth, Lodge Chief, 1990-1991
- Greg Smith – Lodge Adviser, 1990-1991
- Ron Mazyck – Adult Committee, 1990-1994
- Harry Price – Technical Adviser for bridges, 1990-1994
- Ethan Rein – Youth, Lodge Chief, 2003
- Mike Ruzsala – Youth, Lodge Service Chairman, 2001-2004
- Victor Pitcel – Youth, 2001-2004
- Mike Rochowiak – Service Adviser, 2001 - 2012
- Jeff Campbell – Lodge Service Adviser, Served as a youth member in 1990-1994



#### Service Committee

- Gavin Bottorff – D-Bar-A Program Staff
- Jay Bottorff – D-Bar-A Program Staff
- Jeff Campbell, David Oakley, Keith King (Chainsaw crew)



# HIKING RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. REGISTERED SCOUTS & LEADERS. BRING MEDICALS (BSA A&B) and show at check in! All youth participants must be BSA registered. We ask that only the Unit leader check in their group. Registration for this event can be done at this link:

(Insert Registration Link HERE)

2. PREREGISTRATION. Please preregister. This will really help the event run smoothly. Your unit will also be able to get on the trail faster. Once your unit is checked in, you can proceed to the start of the trail you are hiking. Check in table will be setup in the parking lot outside the Thomas Trainor Museum. DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION WILL BE 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

3. RESALE ITEMS AND SPECIAL PATCHES. There will be a table setup near the Check In table to sell D-Bar-A and Pedro Trail items. There will be special items to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and will only be sold at this event. In the case we run out of patches, our committee will reorder to needs and be sure to send them to the scout leader. Special Trail medals will be sold as a first come first serve item. Once they are gone, they will not be re-ordered.

4. UNIT SIZE. Units Can choose to hike in Dens, Patrols and Units. Please be considerate on the trail. If a unit is moving faster on the trail, please give them the right of way by walking on the right side of the trail.

5. BE ON TIME. We ask that everyone shows up at camp on time to check in your unit. The first groups will be able to get on the trail by 10:15 am. If you are planning to hike 10 miles, please plan for 6-7 hours of steady walking.

6. LENGTH OF EACH HIKE: below is a good estimate on how long it will take to hike each loop of the Pedro Trail including the Jerry White Interpretive Trail.

- a. Yellow Loop: 6 miles – 4 hours
- b. Blue Loop: 2.6 miles – 2 hours
- c. Red Loop: 1.4 miles – 1 hour
- d. Yellow, Blue & Red Loops – 5-7 hours
- e. Jerry White Trail – 0.6 miles – 1 hour

7. UNIT LEADERS ARE RESPONSIBLE for the general well-being of the youth in their charge, including proper clothing and supervision. Please pay particular attention to warm & dry clothing, proper footwear, and most importantly, plan for the weather. This event will run rain or shine. Please refer to this website for more detail on preparing for the hike.

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/hiking/>

8. CODE OF CONDUCT. Scout Law applies. Leaders, please prepare your scouts before your unit arrives at camp.

9. SERVICE OPPORTUNITY. If a unit finds something wrong on the trail, please take a picture and mark on the trail map the rough area of the problem. Please try to fix it. Larger groups can attempt to move debris on the trail. If your unit wants to earn the Pedro Trail Service Award, please plan to bring your own tools. ScoutBSA units, Scout Leaders may bring the following items: Manuel Weed whip, loppers, bow saws (hand or full sized), cordless Sawzall with tree cutting bit (Be sure batteries are fully charged). The Guide to Safe Scouting should also be used if you are unsure the age limits to the use of tools while at a scouting event.

10. MAXIMUM TIME. The maximum time to complete the 10-mile trail is 7 hours. If your unit is running behind, please contact the event staff at 313.633.5810. After that period, units will be required to retire from the trail and return to their vehicles. We would like every unit off the trail by 6:00 pm.

11. MEALS and BREAKS ON THE TRAIL. Units can choose to have lunch or take breaks anytime on the trail. Leave No Trace always applies while at D-Bar-A Scout Ranch. If you pack it in, please pack it out. There are no trash cans available on the trail.

12. ADVANCEMENT. Units should consider using this day as an advancement opportunity for their scouts. Each loop of the Pedro Trail was designed for both Cub Scouting and ScoutsBSA advancements in mind. Here is a breakdown of each loop and the suggested unit type for advancement.

- a. Red Loop – Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, Arrow of Light & ScoutsBSA
- b. Blue Loop – Bear, Webelos, Arrow of Light & ScoutsBSA
- c. Yellow Loop – ScoutsBSA
- d. Jerry White Loop – Lions, Tigers, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, Arrow of Light, ScoutsBSA & Special Needs Scouts.

A ScoutsBSA unit can choose to hike all 10 miles of the Pedro Trail at this event. Please plan to arrive at 10:00 am the day of the event to check in. It is especially important that you start as soon as possible in order to complete the hike in a timely manner.

The Jerry White Trail is a handicap accessible trail for all scouts. It features 3 interpretive pavilions, paved trail, and easy access to all of its program features.

13. BATHROOMS AND WATER: Units can find water and latrines at any cabin and tent site along the trail. The water comes from a well hydrant, be sure to run the water until it is clear before refilling your water bottles. Please ask “permission to enter to use your bathrooms” if there is a unit camping at that site. A Scout is COURTEOUS. A sure way to know is if you see other scouts or leaders outside or vehicles in the parking lot.

14. RESALE ITEMS. Each paid participant will receive a special 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pedro Trail patch similar to the one on the front cover of this guide. Everyone is also welcomed to purchase additional items at our resale table located near the registration tables. Items available will be the Official Pedro Trail or Ordep Trail patch, Trail Loop rockers to go around the patch for each loop they hiked, a hiking staff medallion, Official Pedro Trail medal, horseshoe, and service pins to go on the drape of the Pedro Trail Medal.



40th Anniversary Patch and Medal

A special Pedro Trail 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary medal will be sold the day of the event with limited quantities. See examples of each item sold at camp and during this event.



PEDRO TRAIL MEDAL AND PINS  
Can be earned by anyone who has hiked any portion of the trail. The horseshoe pins are placed on the ribbon color of the same loop hiked.



PEDRO TRAIL HIKING STAFF MEDALLION



PEDRO TRAIL LOOP ROCKERS



PEDRO TRAIL PATCH



ORDEP TRAIL PATCH



PEDRO TRAIL SERVICE AWARD

## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY HIKE SCHEDULE

10:00 am : Registration Begins.

10:00 am – 12 pm : Trading Post Hours.

12:00 pm : Check-In Ends.

6:00 pm : Events Ends.

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*This one-day hike will show you some of the most beautiful areas of D-Bar-A Scout Ranch. While hiking 10 miles of the Pedro Trail you will experience, agricultural farming, wetlands, thick forest, open back roads, lakes, streams, lakes, swamps, wildlife native to Michigan and the highest point in camp reaching 900 feet above sea level. The trail offers some challenging as well, but most of all you will have fun walking and enjoying the nature at camp. So do not forget to take only pictures and leave only memories. This will ensure that the scouts that walk the trail behind you will also be able to enjoy the magic of D-Bar-A Scout Ranch!*

*See you on the Pedro Trail!*

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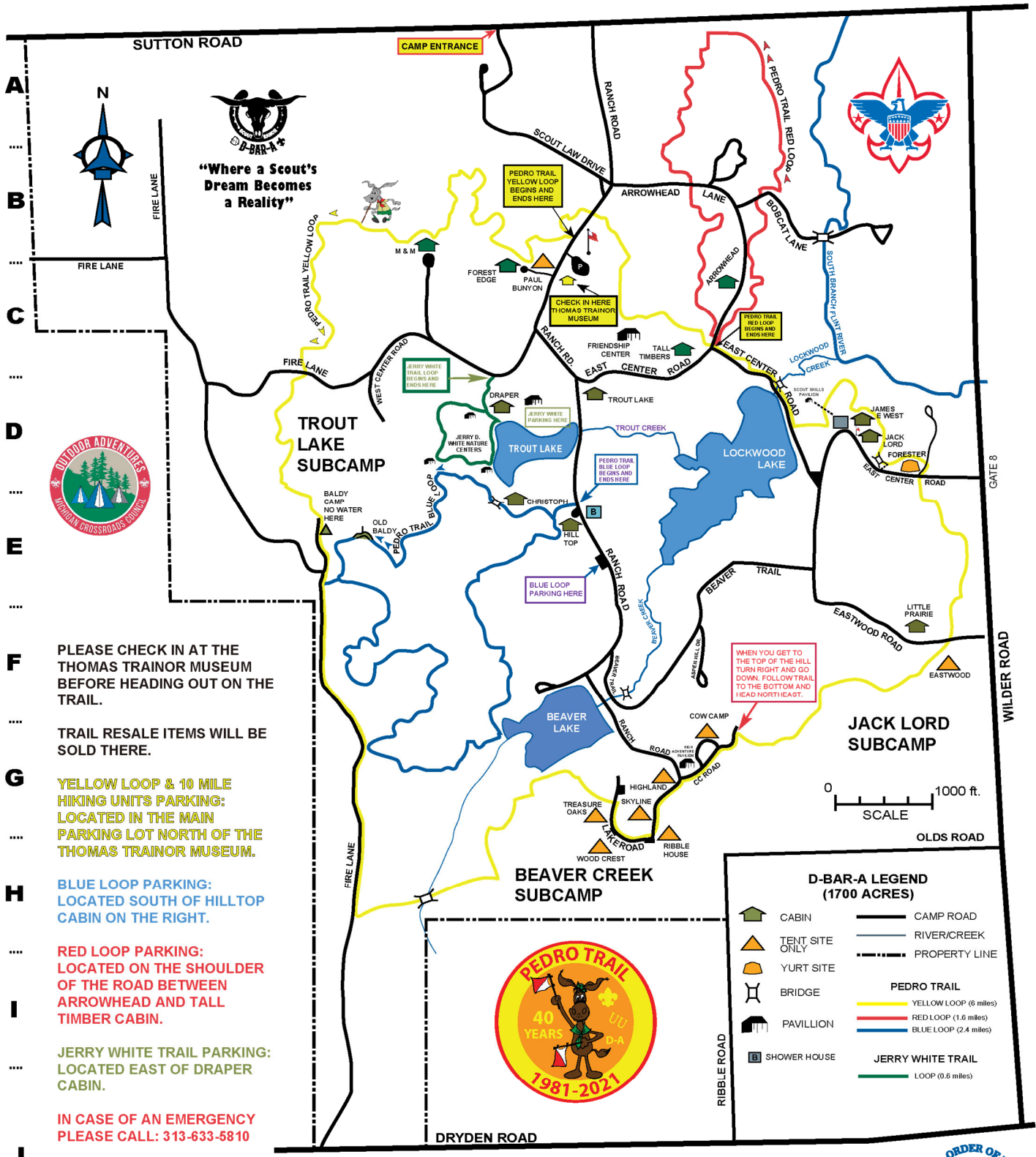


# EVENT MAP

## PEDRO TRAIL D-BAR-A SCOUT RANCH

MICHIGAN CROSSROADS COUNCIL, B.S.A.  
 14258 MICHIGAN ST., EAGLE, MI 48822  
 PHONE: (517) 940-4210  
 WWW.MICHIGANSCOUTING.ORG

880 EAST SUTTON ROAD, METAMORA, MICHIGAN 48455 (810) 245-2250



**PLEASE CHECK IN AT THE THOMAS TRAINOR MUSEUM BEFORE HEADING OUT ON THE TRAIL.**

**TRAIL RESALE ITEMS WILL BE SOLD THERE.**

**YELLOW LOOP & 10 MILE HIKING UNITS PARKING: LOCATED IN THE MAIN PARKING LOT NORTH OF THE THOMAS TRAINOR MUSEUM.**

**BLUE LOOP PARKING: LOCATED SOUTH OF HILLTOP CABIN ON THE RIGHT.**

**RED LOOP PARKING: LOCATED ON THE SHOULDER OF THE ROAD BETWEEN ARROWHEAD AND TALL TIMBER CABIN.**

**JERRY WHITE TRAIL PARKING: LOCATED EAST OF DRAPER CABIN.**

**IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY PLEASE CALL: 313-633-5810**

D-BAR-A LEGEND (1700 ACRES)	
	CABIN
	TENT ONLY
	YURT SITE
	BRIDGE
	PAVILLION
	SHOWER HOUSE
	CAMP ROAD
	RIVER/CREEK
	PROPERTY LINE
PEDRO TRAIL	
	YELLOW LOOP (6 miles)
	RED LOOP (1.6 miles)
	BLUE LOOP (2.4 miles)
JERRY WHITE TRAIL	
	LOOP (0.6 miles)



PREPARED BY  
 JAY'S BOTTORFF  
 JUNE 2021