



Sequoyah Council, BSA
 PO Box 3010
 Johnson City, TN 37602

Sequoyah Council Boy Scouts of America

The Historic Tweetsie Trail Program



The Tweetsie Trail is a hiking and biking trail linking Johnson City and Elizabethton using a historic 10 mile stretch of the abandoned ET&WNC Rail Line.



History of the Tweetsie Trail

The original ET&WNC Railroad was a broad gauge railroad of 5 feet (60 inches) as specified by the State of Tennessee. Work was begun in Johnson City by the railroad's president Eliiah Simerly in 1868. By 1870, with some funding from the State of Tennessee, rails had been laid 5 miles east towards Elizabethton and 15 miles of roadbed had been graded. By 1872 little more progress had been made on track construction, and the railroad had defaulted on loan payments to the State and was sold.



In 1875 Ario Pardee and a group of Pennsylvania industrialists bought the iron ore mine at Cranberry, NC as the Cranberry Iron & Coal Company and subsequently acquired the ET&WNC RR as a means of transporting the smelted ore and timber products to larger railroads in Johnson City.

In April 1881, work on a narrow gauge (3 ft.) railroad began and by August of the same year it opened to the public with one train daily back and forth between Johnson City and Hampton. In July 1882 the line opened all the way to Cranberry, NC, a distance of 34 track miles from Johnson City, TN. Tennessee's first major narrow gauge railroad, the ET&WNC, was now completed and served the mountain com-

munities and its industries faithfully until its last run in October 1950. The little railroad's nickname, Tweetsie, came from the shrill sound of the whistles of its 10 wheel locomotives, a name given to it by the people who saw - and heard it - it daily from their mountain homes.



Fort Watauga



Tipton -Haynes Historic Site



Camping is available upon request.

For more information call 423-952-6961

Sequoyah Council Historic Tweetsie Trail Program

Sequoyah Council is offering a special Tweetsie Trail Historic Award for Scouts and Scouters who complete the following:

- 1) Hike from Alabama Street to Sycamore Shoals section (5.8 Miles) in either direction.
- 2) Participate in an Historical Program at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park or Tipton Haynes Historic Site
- 3) Complete the walking tour of Fort Watauga.
- 4) Complete the Tweetsie Trail Historic Quiz
- 5) Complete the Tweetsie Trail Historic Award order form and send with payment to:

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Scan for program information

sequoyahcouncil.org/events/tweetsie-trail