

Little Sioux Scout Ranch



Adopt a Trail Program



What is the Adopt-a-Trail Program?

It is an all-volunteer program that gives scouts an opportunity to become actively involved in conservation and maintenance of the Little Sioux Scout Ranch scenic trail system.

Who can adopt a trail?

Any pack, troop, crew or a combination of units can adopt a trail.

What are the responsibilities?

1. Attend a two-hour training session on the basics of safety, trail construction, and trail maintenance.
2. Walk the trail as frequently as possible - once a quarter or more is a good goal.
3. Pick up litter.
4. Report problems such as trail erosion, large tree falls, damaged water bars, trail cutting, vandalism or safety concerns to the camp ranger.
5. Perform simple routine maintenance such as clean out water bars, obliterate detour trails, remove downed limbs or branches.
6. Fill out a short bi-annual report form regarding your trail maintenance activities.

Which trails can be adopted?

The Adopt-a-Trail program includes any trail on the scout ranch.

Blue & Gold	2.5 miles	Red	2.75 miles
Brown	1.5 miles	Blue	3.0 miles
Gold	1.75 miles	White	4.0 miles

North Valley Memorial Trail

Can I adopt just part of a trail?

Yes, just specify the particular section of trail that you want to adopt when you sign up. We will do our best to accommodate all requests.

How long does the adoption last?

The adoption lasts as long as you are interested in being involved. We do, however, request that you commit for at least a two year term.

How do I adopt a trail?

Send an email to ssrtrails@gmail.com or call 712-887-0105 with the following information:

- Unit number requesting to adopt a trail
- Name of the trail or trail segment you would like to adopt (please list more than 1)
- Contact person with name, email address, phone number

What happens next?

A member of the trail team will contact you with trail/section available and will send out a volunteer agreement form for your unit to fill out.

10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOUR ADOPTED TRAIL

1. *Stay on the footpath.* Walking off-trail kills vegetation and compacts soil resulting in an increase in erosion and a degradation of the natural environment. Never short-cut a switchback. Even where a trail section is muddy, wet or snowy it is better to step through it than to create a wider or second parallel trail.

2. *Minimize off-trail impact.* When you meet other hikers on a narrow path, step aside and wait until they pass, rather than continuing to walk alongside the trail. If leaving the trail is necessary choose durable surfaces such as rock, snow or sand to walk across or sit on.

3. *Obliterate any detour or short-cut trails.* Use tree limbs, rocks, or dirt to obliterate "volunteer" trails to a point out of sight of used trail sections.

4. *Pick up trash along the trail.*

5. *Remove any berm along the outside edge of trail to reestablish proper out-slope to trail tread.* Proper out-sloping will force water to run immediately off the trail rather than allow it to run down the length of trail, thus causing erosion. The dirt berm that often accumulates on the outside edge of trail can be shoveled onto center of the trail tread to fill the depression that commonly exists along the center-line of trail.

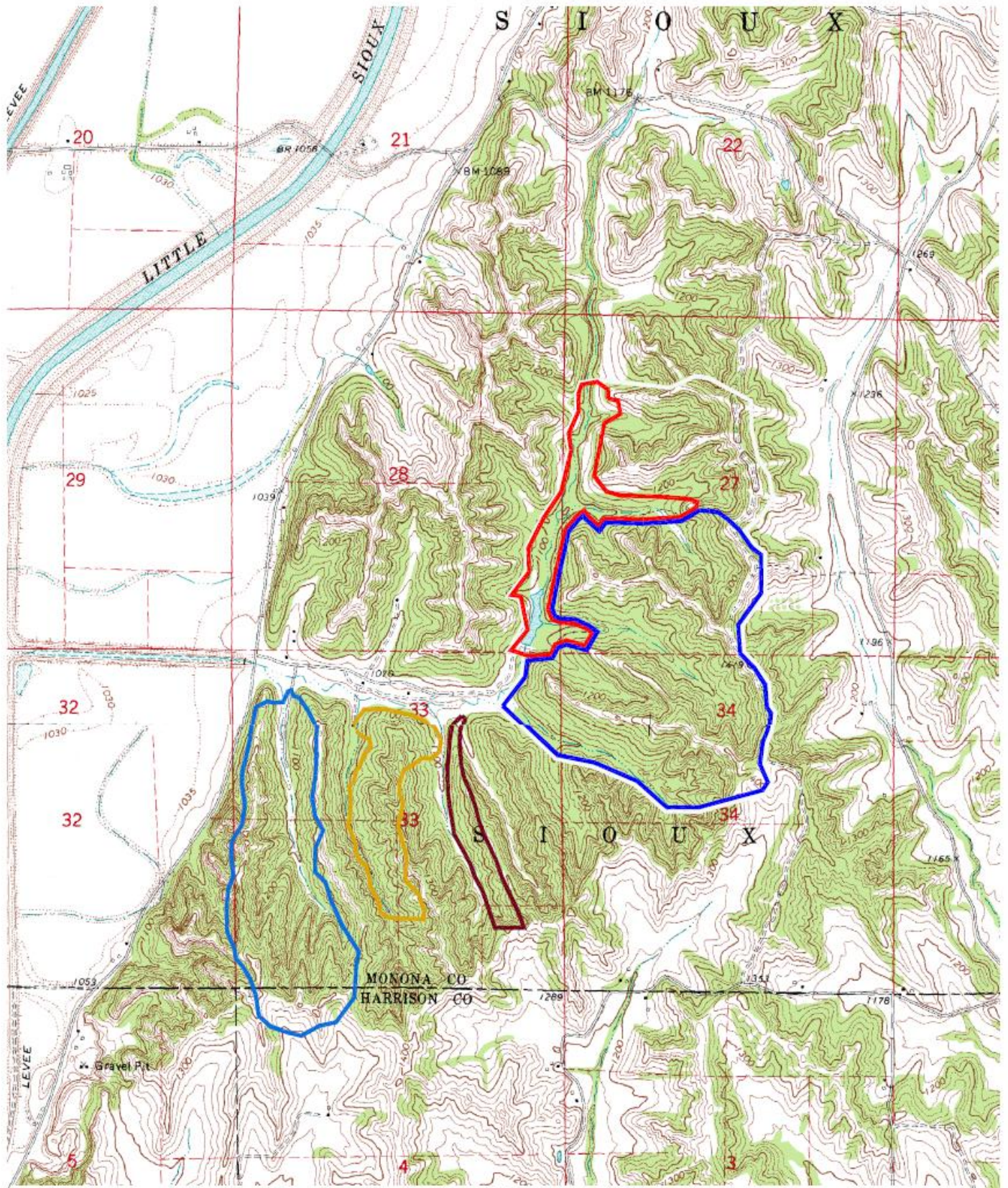
6. *Remove downed limbs and branches from trail.* Find a place off the trail where the debris might be used to slow erosion.

7. *Remove loose rocks greater than fist size from trail tread .* These must be cast to the downhill side of the trail below the level of the trail tread - not stacked to create a berm on the outside edge of the trail.

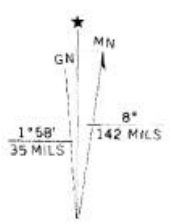
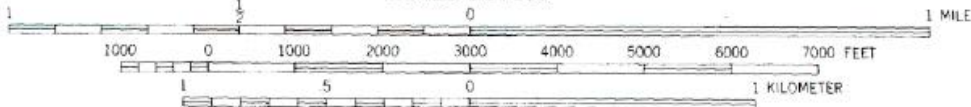
8. *Cut limbs in a way that is aesthetically pleasing, safe and reduces disease infestation of trees.* Where vegetation has grown across the trail and must be trimmed, cut tree or brush limbs at the junction to the next larger limb or at the trunk.

9. *Clean out dirt and debris from water-bars, culverts and drainage dips.* Swift kicks with the heel of your hiking boot along the uphill side of a water-bar are usually enough to clear it. Dirt cleared from the upgrade side of the water-bar can be used to backfill the downgrade behind the water bar. Pack dirt in place by stomping.

10. *Record and report any unsafe or poor trail conditions.*



SCALE 1:24,000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL