

Fortress Rosecrans and Battle Of Stones River Civil War Trail

General Information:

This should be considered a moderate hike. It is approximately 11.7 miles. The Cost of this Hike is free and the Memories are Priceless. Enjoy!

Requirements:

- It is good to read every sign along the trail, even if there is no question asked.
- Stay on designated paths.
- Stay off of stonework, cannons and monuments.
- Remember to practice "Leave No Trace".
- Hiking Boots or sturdy shoes are recommended.
- A hiking stick may be useful for some.
- Restrooms and water fountains are at Visitors Center, at the BP Station, and in the picnic area at General Bragg Trailhead.

Park at General Bragg Trailhead off College Street in Murfreesboro, TN
Enter the Greenway to your right and head towards Redoubt Brannon (right).

.9 miles to Redoubt Brannon

Redoubt Brannon to Manson Pike Trailhead .3 miles

Historical Sign near railroad crossing located on your left

1. Fortress Rosecrans & Defense of Fortress Rosecrans

The supply depot was adjacent to what Railroads? _____ and _____

Manson Pike Trailhead to Stones River Trailhead .3 miles

When you come to a "Y" take the left trail towards Overall Street Trailhead.

Stones River Trailhead to Overall Street Trailhead with Old Fort Park .1 mile

Historical Sign near here

2. A Wildreiness of Timber Has Disappeared

Local timber was used for what 4 purposes?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Fortress Rosecrans and Battle Of Stones River Civil War Trail

d. _____

At Overall Street Trailhead exit to Parking Lot staying right on the sidewalk.

3. Fortress Rosecrans Life Under the Guns (Civil War Trail Sign)

How long did Union occupation last in Murfreesboro? _____

Staying on the sidewalk and heading right you will enter into Old Fort Park. Take the first right after crossing bridge, staying on the pavement.

4. Lunette Thomas

a. How many lunettes make up Fortress Rosecrans? _____

b. What order did Major General William S. Rosecrans give to the Army of the Cumberland?

5. Living Under the Guns

What were Union troops ordered to do to Murfreesboro if Confederates tried to raid Fortress Rosecrans? _____

Go left up the boardwalk for your next two questions.

6. New Citizen Soldiers

When did Private Hubbard Pryor enlist in the 44th Regiment of the U.S. Colored Troops?

7. I Never Saw Anything Like Them Before

How much of the earthwork walls remain of the original 14,000 feet of walls?

Come back down the boardwalk and go left, staying on the trail. When you come to a fork in the trail you will go Left staying on the trail When you get to a "T" in the trail you will go Right.

8. Toil & Mud

What structure runs perpendicular the curtain walls? _____

9. A Vast Depot

a. The largest supply depot in the war's Western Theatre supplied who?

Fortress Rosecrans and Battle Of Stones River Civil War Trail

b. What vital railroads were protected by Fortress Rosecrans, one of the many Union defenses?

10. Fields of Fire

How many Confederate troops reached Fortress Rosecrans? _____

11. Fortress Rosecrans at Parking Lot

The nearly three miles of Fortress Rosecrans earthworks enclosed what?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

After completing this question, you will turn around and go Left staying on the trail. (This is away from the golf course.) Veer Right when you get to a "Y" in the trail. Do not go Left towards the bench. When you come to the "T" in the trail you will go Right heading back to the entrance of Fortress Rosecrans and then you will go left at Overall Street Trailhead. When you come to the "Y" in the trail you will go Right staying on the trail that leads you back to where you started at General Bragg Trailhead.

Located outside the Bark Park you will find the following sign:

12. The Stones River

What four important roles has the Stones River provided its inhabitants?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

As you are approaching General Bragg Trailhead you will see a sign on the right:

"To General Bragg Headquarters"

You will take a left up the trail to the end of the trail to the next sign.

13. Battle of Stones River: 2nd Headquarters of General Bragg

How many men clashed here during the three day Battle of Stones River? _____

You will see the parking lot to the left, you will now turn around and head back to the cannonballs monument.

Fortress Rosecrans and Battle Of Stones River Civil War Trail

14. Cannoballs Monument

The cannon ball monument reads "General Bragg Headquarters what dates" _____

As you approach the greenway system again you will go left continuing on the hike along the river. After you cross the bridge that crosses the Stones River, you will have a slight incline and you will find your next sign on the left.

15. The Role of Railroads Sign

The importance of the railroad were to transport _____ and _____

Continue along the trail that says "Rough Pavement".

Located on right you will find your next sign. This is located in a great place to rest. There are several benches available.

16. Women In The Civil War Sign

Who was the first woman to hold a commission in the United States Army and was awarded the Medal of Honor for her work? _____

Continue back along the Greenway system, you will now cross under Broad Street. Continue on until you find your next stop. On the right you will find your next sign:

17. Harker's Crossing Sign

Captain Russel was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor because:

Turn back around and continue on the Greenway. When you approach a fork in the trail, continue on the black pavement ahead of you. Veer off to the left. Up on the hill you will enter the TrailHead at Thompson Station. On the right you will find your next sign.

18. Battle of Stones River: Site of Brekenridge (Civil War Trails Sign) at Thompson Station Trailhead

What were the total casualties during this three day battle? _____

Turn around, staying on sidewalk you will go right and follow the following sign:

As you come down a hill you will veer left and cross under Thompson Lane Bridge. You will continue on the stoned concrete trail, you will find your next sign on the right.

Fortress Rosecrans and Battle Of Stones River Civil War Trail

19. McFadden's Ford Sign

Here at McFaddens Ford the final action of the Battle of Stones River took place. How long did this encounter last? _____

20. McFadden Farm

How many confederate men were left dead or wounded here on January 2, 1863?

After entering the McFadden Farm you will go right until the next sign.

21. My Poor Orphans!

How many cannons did the federals have at McFadden's ford? _____

Continue around the circle. Point Of Interest – Monument on right. Continue on around until you reach the following sign. Tour Stop 6 Please proceed through parking lot until you reach your next sign on the right.

22. Battle of Stones River: McFadden Farm

Following the arrows through the parking lot you will find your next sign on the left. In the center area.

23. The Very Forest Seemed To Fall

How long was the line of cannons? _____

Continue following the roadway – on the right there is a clearing for the McFadden Cemetery.

24. McFadden Cemetery

Remembering a Scout Is Reverent, please take a moment to remember whom is laid to rest here and then proceed back to roadway.

How many are buried at McFadden Cemetery? _____

Turn around and continue back along the road. You will leave the Tour Stop 6 gates and proceed on Van Cleve Lane straight ahead. This will bring you to Old Nashville Highway/Broad Street.

Then you will take a left for a couple hundred yards. Follow along the fence to the BP Station. Here you will turn right onto Thompson Lane, crossing at the light. You will continue walking

Fortress Rosecrans and Battle Of Stones River Civil War Trail

in the grasses along the side of the road. As you approach the bridge, you will stay on the sidewalk. Then continue along in the grasses until you reach the Stones River Battlefield Park entrance. You will go right into the entrance.

At Tour Stop 2 continue down the road until you reach a sign that says Slaughter Pen Loop on the right. Continue down that on a mulched trail and then when you approach a T you will take a Left and continue to the next sign:

25. Boys, you must get out of here! You are surrounded!

What did the soldiers call this place when they saw so many stacked and wounded?

Then you will continue down the pathway to the next sign that reads:

26. Sheridan Saves The Day

What did the men cry out for? _____

Now you will go left down a gravel pathway. This will bring back to the main road. Take this back to where you entered Tour Stop 2 and continue following the road to Tour Stop 3.

As you continue walking you will notice a sign on your left that reads "Native Plant Restoration Area"...

why do you think this is there? _____

As you approach Tour Stop 3 you will go right along a trail that leads you to cannons. You will proceed past the first sign and stop at the second sign that reads

27. Waiting Anxiously for Tomorrow's Fate

Through the cold dark silence of night, what was the last song many in blue and gray would ever hear? _____

You will then turn around and stop at the sign you previously passed.

28. Parsons' Batteries Heavily Engaged

How long did this encounter last? _____

Fortress Rosecrans and Battle Of Stones River Civil War Trail

You will then continue back to the main road and paved trail. Then you will continue right towards the Visitor Center. Paved trail will turn into a gravel trail. You will pass two cannons then you will stop at the next sign.

29. The Federals Final Rally - Turns the Tide

How many Union soldiers made up the "endless wall of blue" that the Confederates found waiting for them after they charged out of the cedars? _____

Battlefield Tour Stop 4 is located on your left. It is located near the cannons, wagons and parking spots. Please proceed there with caution.

30. Stand Fast! The Pioneer Brigade

The Army of the Cumberland River that handled the pick, shovel, and axe work for the building of roads and bridges were known as a brigade of _____?

Remember to stay off the cannons, etc. Staying on marked trails, proceed on to the Visitors Center. You will see your next sign before the Visitors Center next to the sidewalk.

31. Why Fight Here?

What were two keys to ultimate victory for an army to move and fight successfully in the states west of the Appalachians? _____

After leaving the Visitors Center, you will proceed on the sidewalk heading towards the main road, Old Nashville Highway. You will see another sign...

32. Battle of Stones River: Visitor Center

Continuing along the sidewalk you will see another sign on the left before you cross the road into the Cemetery. Push button for crosswalk activation.

33. Their Longest, Coldest New Year's Eve

How many Union Soldiers spent New Year's Eve 1862 along Nashville Pike? _____

Enter the cemetery but please remember that a scout is Reverent and stay on the mulched trails. As you enter the circle in the center of the cemetery where the big flagpole is you will veer to the right to a sign on the right.

34. Artillery Protects the Supply Line

How many cannon (Parrot Rifles & Napoleons) were used? _____

Fortress Rosecrans and Battle Of Stones River Civil War Trail

You will now turn around and go left down the road that leads you out of the cemetery. Before leaving the cemetery you will stop at a sign on the left.

35. The "Precious Dust"

When did the Stones River National Cemetery open? _____

Remembering to stay off the cemetery wall you will turn left outside of the cemetery. Walk along the cemetery wall until you reach your next stop. On the left you will find Tour Stop 5, please enter staying on the sidewalk. You will stop at the first sign you see on the right.

36. Anchoring the Union Line

When did Hazen's Brigade "Hell's Half-Acre" take place? _____

Proceed on until you reach the next sign on the right.

37. Remembering Sacrifices in Stone

a. What is the oldest intact Civil War monument in the nation? _____

b. When was it built? _____

As you leave this Tour Stop you will turn left and continue on the sidewalk. Proceeding left towards the overhead bridge. Staying near the rails but off of them.

POI - this is part of the Trail of Tears Original Route

As you get to the overpass of Thompson Lane, you will be able to enter the Murfreesboro Greenway System onto Spur Trail. It is at the Murfreesboro City Limits sign.

You will see Prentice Alsup Heating and Air on the left and you will continue on the paved sidewalk. You will see that greenway trail veers off into the woods on the left.

As you enter the College Street Trailhead, you will take a left and carefully cross the railroad tracks into General Bragg Trailhead. Here you should find your vehicle. They have restrooms, picnic pavilion, picnic tables, water fountains, etc. available so feel free time to relax before heading off to your new destination.

As you finish this trail, please remember to pick up the initial sign where you began the hike

38. Bragg's Headquarters (Civil War Trail Sign) at General Bragg Trailhead

Fortress Rosecrans and Battle Of Stones River Civil War Trail

General John C. Breckinridge wanted people to tell his beliefs of this attack. What were they?

Thank you for taking my hike. I hope you enjoyed it and learned some history!