

The full cast of Halloween Haunts are running amuck in Downtown Saratoga and Troop 2566's Scoutmaster Mountain O! has gone missing. It's up to YOU to determine who among the six pairs of Scouts were the last to see her, what item you will need to rescue her, and where she can be found. Only the sharpest Scouts will decode all of the clues and successfully find Scoutmaster Mountain O! before October ends on Halloween at midnight.

To Be Prepared:

Don't go out if you feel sick or have been exposed to Covid-19

Wear a mask, and bring hand sanitizer.

Carry a daypack.

Bring a trash bag and gloves for picking up any trash you may see along the way.

Print the Detective's Notes and bring a writing implement to mark them off as you eliminate them.

You may also wish to print out The Clues.

Consider bringing the 10 Essentials plus 1. While it's highly unlikely you will need all of the Ten Essentials during a short urban hike, some of them may be useful.

- pocket knife
- first aid kit
- extra clothing
- rain gear
- water and extra water
- headlamp or flashlight
- trail food
- matches and fire starter
- sun protection (hat and sunscreen)
- map and compass

Plus 1: Go bag for female scouts

As you hike, pay careful attention to the clues and use them to eliminate the Scout Buddy pairs, essential items, and Saratoga locations until only one is left in each category.

Detective's Notes

The Scouts, in Buddy Pairs, had been picking up trash in Downtown Saratoga as part of the second 1,000,000 Pieces of Trash/Messengers of Peace Project when a call came through on the walkie talkies. Adult Leaders Nickel Bat, Freed Whirly, and Sensei Oil reported seeing

Scoutmaster Mountain O! in the sky, carried aloft by flying monkeys. Has anyone seen her since?

Scout Buddy groups :

- Senior Patrol Leader Mira and Grubmaster Lindsey
- Patrol Leader Isabella and Scribe Ashna
- Outdoor Ethics Guide Samantha and Historian Saarika
- Quartermaster Meera and Instructor Clara
- Cheermaster Anya and Assistant Patrol Leader Karen
- Chaplain's Aide Kanga and Bugler Roo

Possible locations where Scoutmaster Mountain O! may have landed:

- Memorial Arch
- Toll Gate
- Hakone Estate and Garden
- Madronia Cemetery
- Wildwood Park
- Saratoga Historical Park
-

Item that is crucial to rescue Mrs. Mountain O!:

- pocketknife
- first aid kit
- trail food
- rain gear
- sunscreen
- water bottle

The last Scouts to see Scoutmaster Mountain O! before she went missing were _____.

In order to rescue Scoutmaster Mountain O!, I needed to use the item

Scoutmaster Mountain O! is located at

The Clues

If driving to Saratoga, park in the parking area behind the corner 76 gas station and begin the hunt at the 76 Gas station.

Find the Saratoga Village Monument Clock on the corner of Big Basin Way and Saratoga Sunnyvale Road. If, on the top of the clock there is the dedication date of 2020 for the clock, eliminate Toll Gate. If there is the establishment date of 1848 for the Village, eliminate the Pocket Knife.

Walk just a little southwest on Big Basin Way, stay on the same side as the 76 Station.

Near the crosswalk is a utility box with a mural. Study the thriving life in the orchards of Saratoga depicted on the Utility box outside _ on Big Basin Way. It paints a lovely spring picture of orchards in bloom, Saratoga had over 9 million blossoming trees, with California quail, swallows, squirrels, and and a rabbit. But there are Halloween orange and black numbers in the top left corner as you face it. If those numbers are 18811 eliminate the Sunscreen. If the numbers are 14411, eliminate the Hakone Estate and Garden.

Keep walking southwest on Big Basin Way.

On the corner of 3rd and Big Basin Way there is a sign for Toll Gate. Next to the sign, if you see a Victorian two story bird house with a red roof, eliminate the Raingear. If instead, Saratoga has a Halloween decoration here of a castle shaped, white bat box with the Batman logo above the drawbridge, eliminate Outdoor Ethics Guide Samantha and Historian Saarika.

Stop just before you get to 4th Avenue.

This corner, the corner of 4th and Big Basin Way, has a cement bench. Examine the cement bench for something bronze. If it is the floral Emblem of our sister city in Muko, Japan dedicated to Saratoga in 1983, eliminate Memorial Arch. If it is a bronze acorn from “Nuts about Saratoga”, eliminate Senior Patrol Leader Mira and Grubmaster Lindsey.

Make a right turn on 4th and go down the hill to Wildwood Park. Cross the bridge into the park.

In the playground of Wildwood Park, if the blue and red climbing structure is in the shape of a Half Dome, eliminate Patrol Leader Isabella and Scribe Ashna. If it is in the shape of a Pyramid, eliminate Wildwood Park.

At the back of the grassy field at Wildwood Park are several trees with dedication plaques. Look for the plaque dedication remembering John Scott Khale. If the animal on the plaque has a butterfly on it, eliminate Cheerleader Anya and Assistant Patrol Leader Karen. If the plaque has a honey bee around blossoms, eliminate Madronia Cemetery.

Exit Wildwood Park and cross the street to the far sidewalk. Walk uphill toward Big Basin Way.

At the corner of 4th and Big Basin way, there is a white stucco building with a red tile roof, the former Water Company. This building has murals on two of its walls. One is on 4th Avenue, and one is on the back of the building. On the mural at the back of the building as you walk up the hill, is the tallest plant a Sunflower or a Banana tree with bananas hanging down? If it is a Sunflower like the sunflower on the 4th Avenue side, eliminate History Park. If it is a Banana tree, eliminate the First Aid Kit.

Cross the street at Big Basin Way to continue up 4th Avenue. Pass La Fondu and continue walking uphill. At the end of the street is a pedestrian staircase. Go up this staircase to Oak Street. Turn right and continue uphill on Oak Street.

At the front of Saratoga School, near the flagpole, there is a sign that says, "Saratoga School". If the thing next to the sign is a picture of their mascot, Sea Turtles, eliminate the Water Bottle. If instead it is a metal school bell, eliminate Chaplain's Aid Kanga and Bugler Roo.

Continue walking up Oak Street to Madronia Cemetery.

There is a Bronze plaque at the opening of Madronia Cemetery that talks about its history and the families of those within, who pioneered Saratoga. If Madronia Cemetery is Saratoga's oldest institution, eliminate Outdoor Ethics Guide Samantha and Historian Saarika. If it is the second oldest, behind the Warner Hutton House at the Civic Center, eliminate Rain Gear.

In Madronia Cemetery on the Madrona Avenue West loop, at the middle of the loop road near the entrance, there is a grave marker on a rock covered with ivy. It is in the shape of a green blob monster, or a green gum drop. Read the headstone carefully. As odd as it sounds, was Edwin Sidney William's nickname "Tim"? If it was, eliminate the Pocket Knife. If instead, Edwin Sidney William's nickname was "Sunshine", eliminate the Water Bottle.

Exit the Cemetery and walk downhill on Oak Street all the way to Los Gatos-Saratoga Road. Turn right and walk to the Saratoga Historical Park.

At History Park, go to the Blacksmith's house. Count the number of letters in Mr. Mc Williams' first name as you recite the Scout Law points: *Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, Reverent*. If you stop at Courteous, eliminate Madronia Cemetery. If you stop at Kind, eliminate History Park.

The Saratoga-Los Gatos road is so straight because it used to be a railroad line for the Peninsular Interurban, powered by electricity. The Interurban could take Saratogans to Stanford, Los Gatos, and San Jose for a few cents. There is a shelter for

people to wait in the shade for the Interurban in History Park. It is the last of its kind. What is the name over the shelter. If it is Congress Springs, eliminate Hakone Estate and Garden. If it is Nippon Mura, eliminate Sunscreen.

Walk Northwest toward the Memorial Arch in Historic Saratoga Village.

On the “Count Your Blessings Bench” in Historic Saratoga Village, who is wearing glasses? If it is Willys, eliminate Patrol Leader Isabella and Scribe Ashna. If it is Betty, eliminate Quartermaster Meera and Instructor Clara.

In Historic Saratoga Village, touch each of the bronze plaques on the Italian Stone Pine tree ring as you recite the Scout Oath: *On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.* If there are more bronze plaques than words, eliminate Wildwood Park. If there are more words in the Scout Oath than bronze plaques, eliminate the Toll Gate.

On the Memorial Arch itself, be sure to read the white sign. The dedication is beautiful. On the Arch is a bronze plaque which has years of establishment. If the Tannery was established before the Grist Mill, eliminate Cheerleader Anya and Assistant Patrol Leader Karen. If the Grist Mill was established before the Tannery, eliminate the First Aid Kit.

Solution on following page

SOLUTION (No Peeking)

Scoutmaster Mountain O! had worked her way up to Madronia Cemetery picking up trash with Adult Leader Nickel Bat. They had stopped to talk to some of the Spirits and Ghosts who enjoyed the yearly Scouts participation in the Memorial Day services held at Madronia Cemetery to honor the men and women who served in the armed forces. Suddenly, winged monkeys filled the sky and swept Scoutmaster Mountain O! aloft.

Scoutmaster Mountain O! was the person in the pair with the walkie talkie, so Adult Leader Nickel Bat took off at a run after the flying monkey. Scoutmaster Mountain O! was not seen by Adult Leaders Sensei Oil and Freed Whirly on the corner of 6th and Big Basin as they were both picking up trash, but Adult Leader Nickel Bat told them and Freed Whirly used his walkie talkie to radio the group.

- Cheermaster Anya and Assistant Patrol Leader Karen had just trapped some Cornish Pixies in the Victorian Birdhouse with their rain gear and hadn't seen the Scoutmaster.
- Outdoor Ethics Guide Samantha and Historian Saarika were at the bronze acorn. They overheard some Witches talking. The three witches, standing with bubbling mini cauldrons at the corner, waiting to cross the street were cackling about transforming a man who had knocked over their brooms. They crossed the street twice and entered La Fondu with their cauldrons (presumably holding sauces not on the menu). Samantha and Saarika looked at each other. There were the brooms AND there also was an extra bronze acorn. Samantha and Saarika knew from the Nuts about Saratoga Hunt that there was only one acorn on that corner. After a discussion, they poured their water from their extra water bottles on both acorns. One of the acorns turned back into a man, who thanked them and walked quickly away. Why did they use their water? When asked they said, "Acorns grow with water and water

seemed to work against the Wicked Witch in the Wizard of Oz". Unfortunately, they hadn't seen the Scoutmaster.

- Chaplain's Aid Kanga and Bugler Roo had met an Ogre who wanted them for dinner later, so he tied them to the Saratoga Village Monument Clock before heading to the Barber (he needed his eyebrows trimmed). Kanga and Roo were freeing themselves from the rope with their pocket knives and did not see the Scoutmaster. They did, however, report the Ogre to the Sheriff driving down the street and also used the walkie talkies to radio the Adult Leaders.
- Senior Patrol Leader Mira and Grubmaster Lindsey were at Wildwood Park giving first aid to a Manticore who had a splinter in her paw. They did not see the Scoutmaster.
- Patrol Leader Isabella and Scribe Ashna were in History Park where they met Frankentine's monster and his bride. They were looking in the windows of the Blacksmiths house hoping he was home. Some of Mr. Monster's neck bolts were tight and uncomfortable. Ashna used her sunscreen to loosen the neck joints while Isabella used her sunscreen as hair gel on Mrs. Monster's hair, which had fallen over and was getting in her eyes. They did not see the Scoutmaster.
- Quartermaster Meera and Instructor Clara were by the Italian Stone Pine Tree Ring picking up trash when they looked up to see a flying monkey put Scoutmaster Mountain O! down next to Memorial Arch at the same moment as an Ogre, running from a police officer, bumped into the Scoutmaster, sending her backward into the Arch opening. The Ogre tripped and the police officer took him away in his squad car, but the Scoutmaster had vanished! Meera and Clara talked it over and determined that the Arch was a portal. To test out their theory Clara and Mira took some trail mix from their daypacks and threw some into the opening. It too disappeared! Within seconds, Scoutmaster Mountain O! walked back through Memorial Arch into Saratoga Village, holding trail mix in her hand. "Thanks Scouts! I knew which way to walk when I saw the trail mix come in. Hey, get on the radio and tell

everyone I'm just fine" she said as she deposited the trail mix into her trash bag. "Think we collected 1,000,000 pieces of trash today?"

Shorter answer:

The last Scouts to see Scoutmaster Mountain O! before she went missing were **Quartermaster Meera and Instructor Clara**

In order to rescue Scoutmaster Mountain O!, I needed to use the **trail mix**.

Scoutmaster Mountain O! is located at **Memorial Arch**.