

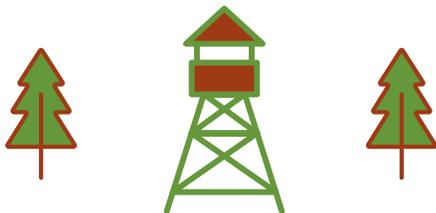
GET A LITTLE HIGHER WITH THE FIRE TOWER CHALLENGE!

Inside this brochure is a list of six Hamilton County fire towers. All but one of the fire towers are restored – the cab on the Pillsbury tower is closed. To complete the challenge and receive the full color patch, you must hike to five of the towers and visit the sixth tower at Adirondack Experience, the Museum on Blue Mountain Lake. Be sure to document the date and fill out a comment for each. Climbing to the top of each tower is not required to receive a patch. All of the hikes are moderately difficult to difficult. The easiest trail is Owls Head Mountain and the most difficult is Snowy Mountain.

When you've completed the challenge, fill out the form below and send it to:

Hamilton County Tourism
P.O. Box 57
Lake Pleasant, NY 12108

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ ZIP Code: _____
 Email: _____



FIRE TOWER CHALLENGE MAP



For more information about Hamilton County hikes, attractions, paddles, lodging, and travel, go to

www.AdirondackExperience.com

Hamilton County Tourism
 P.O. Box 57, 102 County View Drive
 Lake Pleasant, NY 12108
518-548-3076
 Info@AdirondackExperience.com



ADIRONDACK EXPERIENCE

SMALL TOWNS – BIG OUTDOORS

adirondacks, usa



FIRE TOWER CHALLENGE



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Fire Towers

BLUE MOUNTAIN TOWER

TOWER: 35 FOOT AERMOTOR LS-40

ELEVATION: 3,760 FEET

Status: Restored and open to the public

The Blue Mountain fire tower may be the best known and most visited fire tower in the Adirondacks. The tower was originally built from wood in 1911 and was replaced with the current tower by the NYS DEC in 1917. When the DEC closed the tower in 1990, it was one of the last operating fire towers in New York state. A group of local volunteers adopted and restored the tower.

Location: 1.8 miles northeast of the hamlet of Blue Mountain Lake. The trailhead is located 0.5 miles north of Adirondack Experience, the Museum on Blue Mountain Lake on Route 30, on the right side of road.

Trailhead GPS: 43.874298N, 74.431172W

Trail Description: The trail is 2.2 miles long with a 1,550 foot elevation gain. The first part of the trail meanders and is easy, while the second half gets steep and rocky toward the summit, where there are spectacular views from both the ground and the tower.

Date/Comment:

OWLS HEAD MOUNTAIN TOWER

TOWER: 35 FOOT AERMOTOR LS-40

ELEVATION: 2,748 FEET

Status: Restored and open to the public

The first structure on Owls Head was a wooden tower erected by the Commission Corps in September 1911. In 1919, it was replaced with a 35 foot standard steel Aermotor LS-40 tower. With the advent of aerial detection, this tower was closed at the end of the 1970 season, but it remains open to hikers.

Location: 4 miles southwest of Long Lake. Take Route 30 north from the village and go 0.3 miles past the bridge. Make a left on Endion Road. The trailhead is on the right on a sharp curve in the road, 1.6 miles from Route 30.

Trailhead GPS: 43.963536N, 74.452741W

Trail Description: The trail is 3.1 miles long with a 1,114 foot elevation gain. It is relatively difficult and steep past the 2-mile mark. The summit provides scenic views of the Fishing Brook Range to the southeast and the High Peaks to the north.

Date/Comment:

PILLSBURY MOUNTAIN TOWER

TOWER: 60 FOOT AERMOTOR LS-40

ELEVATION: 3,597 FEET

Status: Open to climb, cab is closed to the public

The original tower was constructed from wood by the Champlain Realty Company in 1918. By agreement, the landowner would provide an observer during periods of dry weather. It was considered a "secondary tower" by the state. The Pillsbury fire tower was changed to steel in 1924. The 60 foot Aermotor Model LS-40 tower, with a 9 foot high cab, is typical of the "heavier type" tower with an integrated staircase built by the Conservation Commission between 1917 and 1950. The Pillsbury fire tower was closed around 1985 and awaits restoration.

Location: 9 miles northwest of Speculator. Take Route 30 north for 8.2 miles. Past Mason Lake, take a left on the dirt road and follow it 3.2 miles to the junction at Perkins Clearing. Turn right and end at Sled Harbor, 5.1 miles from Route 30, where you should park. The trailhead is a 1.2-mile hike up the road on the left from Sled Harbor.

Trailhead GPS: 43.588271N, 74.485946W

Trail Description: The trail is 1.6 miles long with a 1,480 foot elevation gain. Pillsbury Mountain requires a moderately difficult climb to reach the summit. Views of Lake Pleasant and Sacandaga Lake can be seen to the south, and the Snowy Mountain fire tower and High Peaks are to the north.

Date/Comment:

SNOWY MOUNTAIN TOWER

TOWER: 42 FOOT AERMOTOR LS-40

ELEVATION: 3,899 FEET

Status: Restored and open to the public

The first structure on Snowy was a wooden tower erected by the Forest, Fish & Game Commission in August 1909. In 1917, it was replaced with a steel 22 foot Aermotor LS-40 tower. In 1933, the height of the tower was increased to 42 feet to make it taller than the surrounding trees. With the advent of aerial detection, this tower was closed at the end of the 1971 season. Local volunteers restored the tower in 2001.

Location: 13 miles southwest of Indian Lake. Take Route 30 south for 7 miles from Indian Lake. The trailhead is on the right side of road with parking on the left.

Trailhead GPS: 43.7013530N, 74.3347810W

Trail Description: The trail is 3.4 miles long with a 2,100 foot elevation gain. The last 0.75 miles to the summit is extremely steep. Snowy has a great view that includes the High Peaks to the north and Indian Lake to the west.

Date/Comment:

WAKELY MOUNTAIN TOWER

TOWER: 70 FOOT AERMOTOR LL-25

ELEVATION: 3,744 FEET

Status: Restored and open to the public

The first structure on Wakely Mountain was a wooden tower constructed by the Conservation Commission in May 1911. In 1916, it was replaced with a 70 foot Aermotor LL-25 tower, making it the tallest tower in the Adirondacks. The tower ceased operation at the end of the 1988 season when the DEC determined that towers were no longer effective and decided to phase them out of service. The Wakely fire tower has been restored and was reopened to the public in 2018.

Location: 12 miles southwest of Indian Lake. From Indian Lake, take Route 28/30 west for 2.2 miles, then make a left onto Cedar River Road (past the golf course) and follow it for 11.5 miles.

Trailhead GPS: 43.7309485N, 74.4726157W

Trail Description: The trail is 3 miles long with a 1,600 foot elevation gain. The gravel road leading to the mountain offers an easy 1.9 mile warm-up before the trail steepens.

Date/Comment:

ADIRONDACK EXPERIENCE MUSEUM

TOWER: 22 FOOT AERMOTOR LS-40

Status: Restored, visitors must pay an entrance fee

Originally erected on Whiteface Mountain in 1919, the fire tower at Adirondack Experience, the Museum on Blue Mountain Lake was the second fire tower in the Adirondacks. The tower was dismantled in 1972, given to the museum in 1973, and re-erected in 1974. Today, those who climb the tower will see most of the museum's campus, Blue Mountain, and part of Blue Mountain Lake. To complete the challenge, this tower is optional but encouraged. You will receive an Adirondack Experience sticker for completing this tower.

Location: From the intersection of Route 28 and 30 in Blue Mountain Lake, take Route 30 for about a mile. The museum's parking lot is on the left.

Parking lot GPS: 43.869490N, 74.432094W

Trail Description: From the entrance to the museum campus, turn right and take the ramp or stairs up to the base of the tower, which is outside the Work in the Woods logging building.

Date/Comment: