Welcome to Mount Vernon!

To complete this scavenger hunt, visit the locations listed below and fill in the blanks for each question. Location numbers in parentheses (＃) correspond to those on the map in this guide. You may find clues to the answers on signs around the estate or in the Mount Vernon Scout Leader’s Guide. Mount Vernon staff may also be able to help you.

BOWLING GREEN (＃5)

This large lawn is called a bowling green. Along the curving paths on either side of the bowling green are a variety of trees. Some of them have small black and white signs on them. As you walk down the path, look for those signs to learn the names of the trees.

Name one type of tree that lines the paths on the sides of the bowling green.

UPPER GARDEN (＃7)

Washington designed the upper garden to be both beautiful and useful. Flowers planted around the edge of the beds made the garden look attractive, while the vegetables and fruit grown in the middle of the beds provided food for the Washingtons and their guests.

In one of the beds in the upper garden, Washington had the boxwood trimmed into the shape of a fleur-de-lis to honor America’s friendship with this country.

GREENHOUSE SLAVE QUARTERS: WOMEN’S BUNK ROOM (＃11)

We believe that up to 20 enslaved women and children lived in this room. On the other end of the building there is a similar room where enslaved men probably lived.

Name one enslaved woman who may have lived here and her job.

GREENHOUSE SLAVE QUARTERS: SHOEMAKER’S SHOP (＃12)

In this workshop, enslaved shoemakers made shoes for other enslaved workers. One of those shoemakers was William Lee, who was George Washington’s personal servant before becoming a shoemaker.

Although the main purpose of the shoemaker’s shop was to make shoes for the enslaved workers, the enslaved craftsmen who worked here also made
BLACKSMITH SHOP (#15)

The blacksmith’s shop was one of the most important workshops on the estate. Many of the items made and repaired by enslaved blacksmiths Nat and George, were needed for Mount Vernon’s farming activities. Two metal tools that the blacksmiths used are the ____________ & ____________.

MANSION EXTERIOR (#24)

The Mansion did not always look like this—originally it was a smaller dwelling. During the 45 years that George Washington lived here, he expanded the house and eventually it became the size it is today.

The Mansion appears to be made of stone, but it is actually constructed of wood. The method of creating this look is called rustication. In this process, ____________ is applied to wet paint.

SPINNING HOUSE (#18)

This building housed the equipment and tools needed to make fabric. Enslaved workers used a spinning wheel to turn fibers into thread, and then a weaver turned the thread into cloth on a loom.

Fleece from ____________ raised at Mount Vernon was used to make wool products, including clothing for the enslaved workers.

MANSION (#24)

George Washington personally designed several additions to the original Mansion. One of the last was the cupola on the roof, which is topped by a weathervane. What animal is found on the Mansion’s weathervane?

KITCHEN (#25)

Mount Vernon's kitchen was a busy place. The enslaved cooks began preparing the day’s meals before the sun came up.

At what time were the Washingtons served breakfast each morning?

LOWER GARDEN (#34)

Before grocery stores existed, most homes had gardens that supplied vegetables, fruits, and herbs. Martha Washington oversaw the planting and harvesting of the food grown here.

Due to its location near the space in the Mansion where food was preserved and cooked, this area is also called the ____________ garden.

STOREHOUSE (#26)

This building was locked most of the time because the tools and supplies stored inside were very valuable. From here, blankets, tools, nails, leather, thread, and gunpowder were distributed to those who needed them.

All transactions were registered in a ledger, so George Washington could track the use of his goods. How many items were stored here at the time of George Washington’s death?

SMOKEHOUSE (#28)

Without refrigeration, storing meat for long periods of time was difficult in the 18th century. Pork, beef, and fish could be preserved by salting and/or smoking. If meat had to be stored for a long period of time, it was sometimes packed in barrels filled with ____________.
Slave Memorial & Cemetery (#39)

Many of the enslaved men, women, and children who lived and worked at Mount Vernon are probably buried in this cemetery. The Slave Memorial was built to honor the lives of Mount Vernon’s enslaved community.

What three words are written on the steps of the slave memorial?

The Wharf (#40)

At the wharf, Washington shipped out goods produced at Mount Vernon and received items he ordered from faraway places such as London, England.

Mount Vernon’s wharf is located on the __________ River.

The Washingtons’ Tomb (#38)

When George Washington died, a friend described him as “First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.” George and Martha Washington were laid to rest in these two stone sarcophagi. He is on the right and she is on the left.

What creature is carved into the top of George Washington’s sarcophagus?

16-Sided Barn (#42)

Wheat was George Washington’s main cash crop. Very fine flour, made from the wheat produced at Mount Vernon, was sold in this country and in Europe. Washington designed a special 16-sided barn where _______ trotted on wheat to separate the grain from the non-edible part of the plant. The grain was then taken to the gristmill to be ground into flour.

Forest Trail (#44), Creatures in the Forest

Both domestic and wild animals roamed the woods around Mount Vernon when George Washington lived here. What was the name of the Newfoundland dog who went hunting with the enslaved workers?

Coach House (#30) & Stable (#31)

In the 18th century, roads were rarely paved and vehicles were pulled by horses, making for a very bumpy ride. In the coach house and the stable, you can see examples of the type of transportation that Washington used.

Name one kind of vehicle that George Washington owned and used.

Slave Cabin (#43)

Most of the enslaved workers at Mount Vernon were field laborers. They planted, grew, and harvested Washington’s crops on his farms. Many of them lived in cabins similar to this one. On which farm did Silla and her children live?

Pioneer Farm (#41)

The Pioneer Farm site represents what life was like on one of the farms where Washington’s crops were grown. During George Washington’s lifetime, Mount Vernon was made up of how many farms?

THE WHARF (#40)

At the wharf, Washington shipped out goods produced at Mount Vernon and received items he ordered from faraway places such as London, England.

Mount Vernon’s wharf is located on the __________ River.
Congratulations!

You have completed the Scout Scavenger Hunt on the Mount Vernon Historic Trail! Mount Vernon Historic Trail Patch and George Washington Pioneer Farmer patch are available for purchase in the shops.