How do I earn my pin?

In order to complete the requirements for Brookville Lake’s Explore Pin, you must complete the following:

1. Attend one Interpretive Program (complete one of the following)
   • Join us for a program! Pick up a monthly program schedule at one of our camp stores, property offices, or gate houses.
   • Complete a self-guided hike on Glidewell Trail. Find more information inside this brochure.
   • Pick up a photo scavenger hunt list at our property office. Once you’ve completed it, show your photos to our office staff or an interpretive naturalist.

2. Complete one hour of volunteer time (complete one of the following)
   • Please pick up litter and/or remove small fallen debris from our trails while you hike.
   • Check with an interpretive naturalist to see if they need help with a project or program.

3. Report to an interpretive naturalist either orally or in writing about how your volunteer time benefited the property and yourself

4. Hike at least 30 minutes on our trails or roads

5. Complete a site specific activity (complete one of the following)
   • Visit the Tailwater Recreation Area and read the plaque near the restroom sidewalk. You will discover the history of Brookville Dam!
   • Hike Glidewell Trail and visit the prehistoric Native American mound built by the Adena.

Fun Fact!

Brookville Lake is home to the broodstock of walleye for the state of Indiana. That’s why you’ll find a walleye on our Explore Pin! Each spring, fisheries biologists visit this property to collect both male and female walleye. They ‘milk’ the walleye and create an egg slurry that is then transported to fish hatcheries across the state. See photos of the process below!

Where can I buy my Explore pin?

You can buy your pin at either the Whitewater Memorial State Park office or at the Mounds State Recreation Area office. Pins cost $2 each.

Interpretive Naturalist
Kristie Ridgway
For questions or more information
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The mission of the Interpretive Services is to provide information and offer interpretive experiences with Indiana’s natural and cultural resources to visitors, staff and a diverse public.
Brookville Lake was created to prevent flooding downstream along the East Fork of the Whitewater River. The area south of what is now Brookville Dam, experienced several severe floods prior to the dam’s construction. These floods caused bridges to collapse, homes and businesses to be washed away, and endangered many lives.

In order to create the reservoir, it meant that the town of Fairfield at the bottom of the valley would have to be flooded. Imminent domain was used to claim the land the town of Fairfield was on, and even though families were financially compensated for their land, it’s not easy to put a price on a family home or farm.

Brookville Lake is still doing its job today. The properties surrounding the lake, including Mounds and Quakertown State Recreation areas, are owned by the federal government and managed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. These properties are managed for wildlife habitats and also provide recreation opportunities to thousands of visitors each year.

Mounds State Recreation Area derives its name from the prehistoric Native American mounds found throughout its boundaries. The name Adena was given to these prehistoric Native Americans that inhabited this area. Adena is not a name of a tribe, like Native Americans tribes such as the Miami and Shawnee. Adena refers to a period in time. The Adena culture lasted from 1,000 to 200 BC and lived in parts of present day Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia, Kentucky, New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland. We do not know what the Adena people called themselves, as they left us no written record. Archaeologists refer to them as the Adena because of one of the locations that helped them learn more about their way of life. The word Adena comes from the name of a farm in Chillicothe, Ohio. It was here that archeologists were able to identify artifacts and begin to understand their culture and lifestyle.

They Adena people were hunter/gatherers that moved with the seasons. They lived in small extended family groups and didn’t settle in any one particular area. They gardened much like we do in our own backyard, planting things like sunflowers, squash and goosefoot. They also created pottery that was generally made with crushed limestone and was plain in design or simply cord marked.

Along Glidewell trail, you will find the only Adena mound that has been professionally excavated and marked on our property. Mounds were built for a variety of reasons. Some of these earthworks were used to store important items, some were used as locations for ceremonies and celebrations, while others are burial mounds. Some were constructed as pieces to a large calendar, aligning with the sun and stars to indicate celestial events such as solstices and equinoxes.

The Glidewell mound is a burial mound, and through the process of carbon dating, is dated to 10 BC.

First recorded in 1871 as 15’ high and 60’ in diameter, you can see that it looks quite different today. The first excavations were likely pot hunters in search of artifacts. Between 1879 and 1881, the first official excavation of the mound began under the supervision of Dr. George Homsher, an archaeologist and researcher who produced published works for the Smithsonian. During this excavation, researchers found the remains of 25 human skeletons, two copper bracelets, pottery shards, a bone needle, two arrow points and flint chips.

Later, Ball State University conducted an excavation between 1991—1992. During this time, 504 pieces of historic materials were uncovered. This included items such as, fire-cracked rock, shell fragments, pottery shards, burned bone and shell beads.

To learn more about the Adena and their lifeways, keep an eye out for upcoming interpretive programs or ask an interpretive naturalist.