



## Gile Mountain Hawk & Haiku Quest

### Norwich, Vermont

Physical Difficulty: Difficult

Special Features: Natural Vista

Duration: 1:00

Bring: Field Guide, Binoculars

**To get there:** Take Interstate 91 to Exit 13. This is the Hanover/Norwich exit. Go west towards Norwich. Pass Dan and Whit's store and continue for approximately ½ mile. Take a left onto Turnpike Road. In 2.6 miles, the paved road turns to dirt. In 5.3 miles you will see a sign for the Gile Mountain Trail and Parking.



### Super Quest 2019: Gateway to Summer Fun

This quest is one of 25 featured in this year's Super Quest challenge to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vital Communities. For the rest of your adventure: [vitalcommunities.org/superquest](http://vitalcommunities.org/superquest)

Now that you're here...

Check out Dan & Whit's on Main St. in Norwich for a snack or ice cream! The Montshire Museum of Science offers many interactive indoor and outside exhibits suitable for all ages. For information: <https://www.montshire.org/visit/admission>

**Clues:**

Wood sign names this place  
And the trail meanders right:  
Proceed, eyes open.

Tiny turkey tails  
Like little fuzzy brown ears  
Mark stump on the left.

See tree tops snipped off,  
White birches doubled over:  
Signs of ice and wind.

Trail turns to the right—  
Not a conifer in sight—  
At two blazes blue.

Stop at tiny bridge:  
Sensitive fern spore cases,  
Each spore a new life.

Turn up hill. Look up  
For a three-crotched tree and see  
Where a hawk might be.<sup>1</sup>

Wires marching south.  
Kestrel perch on them waiting  
For the grasshoppers.

Steeper. Trees again.  
Hawks migrate above these trees—  
Come in fall and see!

Uphill. The thermals  
Lift off the land in columns.  
The hawks rise with them.

Look: ice storm central.  
Sheared trees and blown down branches—  
The storm left its tracks.

An empty shelter

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<sup>1</sup> Hawks can't weave nests but can lay sticks down. They need a sturdy place like a 3-crotched tree.

Waits for you rain, sleet or snow.  
Thank you, volunteers!

Climb up the tower  
For seven stories of view,  
Migrating hawks, too.

Last clue for you!  
Take 25 steps North at standard pace, just away from tower's base  
Find a huge and old, old maple tree,  
Trunks count one half and three.  
At its base lies a syrup can sans lid.  
Your treasure inside.  
Be sure to place it back, well hid.

Created by Steven Glazer and Ginger Wallis in 2000.

### **Did you know?**

The Gile Mountain Formation is the site where schist and quartz are combined. Read more about the formation, where to look for it, and what it looks like: [geologyuppervalley.com/p/gile-mountain.html](http://geologyuppervalley.com/p/gile-mountain.html)

**Please be a good steward of the land: leave it better than you found it and pack out any trash you find.**



Valley Quest is a collection of 100+ treasure hunts that share and teach the natural gems and cultural heritage of the Upper Valley with children, families, adults, and visitors. It is a program of Vital Communities, a regional nonprofit working to engage citizens, organizations, and communities in creating solutions to our region's challenges.