



Lower Slade Brook Quest

Hanover, New Hampshire

Physical Difficulty: Moderate

Special Features: Natural

Walking Conditions: Trail

Duration: 1:00

Season: May-Oct

Bring: Field Guide, Pencil

To get there: Follow Route 10 north of Hanover to River Rd. Turn left onto River Rd. and drive 0.6 miles. The trailhead will be on your right, just past Purling Brooks Dr. There is limited parking at the trailhead.

Overview:

The Jim and Evalyn Hornig Natural Area at Lower Slade Brook is a 36-acre woodland owned by the Hanover Conservation Council. Located near the Connecticut River, this natural area offers a quiet and easy walk with beautiful views of the brook. From Moose Mountain to its mouth at River Road on the Connecticut River, Slade Brook has banks that are undeveloped and graced by convenient hiking trails through varied forestland. The Council's conservation of this property ensures that Lower Slade Brook will always be a pristine environment for people to enjoy and where the native flora and fauna can flourish. For this Quest, take a nice, quiet hike along the brook, seeing some lovely waterfalls along the way.

Clues:

Three large rocks guard a narrow path

Winding through the trees.

Look right and watch the brook sail by

And leaves dance through the breeze.

Welcome to the Slade Brook trail!

Come and start your quest.

Look about for animals

You never know where they may rest!

Walk along the leaf-strewn path.
 Listen for the brook.
 Can you hear the rush of water?
 Go and have a look.

Soon the trail begins to widen
 And the river takes a second bend.
 Follow up the mounting path,
 But there's more before the end.

Once you've finished your steep climb,
 The trail should flatten out.
 Look down to the right at the mucky floodplain.
 See the far brook winding about?

Keep going and you'll come to mud,
 Usually wet, not dry.
 Look out for tracks of animals
 Who like you have wandered by.

Further on a decaying stump lies in the center of the path.
 Rest here and look around.
 Can you see the hidden houses,
 And hear any neighborhood sounds?

Before you continue on your way,
 Look for a woodpecker's mark,
 Where hungry birds have searched for snacks,
 And hammered at the bark.

Soon you'll reach a pretty sight,
 Where the brook ends its slow crawl,
 And plummets down over great big rocks,
 A beautiful waterfall!

If you look a little closer
 You'll find that there may be
 Several smaller rushing falls.
 How many do you see?

Don't linger at this site too long
 You'll come back for another look.
 Follow the trail and stay to the left,
 As the path turns away from the brook.

Soon you'll walk right through a tree
 That's been cut to help you pass.
 Continue on – you're getting there
 Notice there's no grass.

Uphill you go farther from the stream
 Past trees all in a line.
 The trail goes up and to right;
 Don't slip on the needles of pine.

Once again the trail flattens out.
 There are trees both short and tall.
 Do you see the vernal pools?
 Full in spring but not in fall.

A yellow sign will mark the end
 Of the conservation land.
 When you reach it, you can turn around.
 Give yourself a hand!

Retrace your steps back to the falls.
 Go down and feel the brook.
 Do you see a salamander
 Hidden in a shady nook?

Just below the falls and near the brook,
 In a grove of hemlocks divine
 Are a fallen tree and two big rocks
 And a reward for your time.

Find the mossy rock with a cubby hole
 And reach your hand inside.
 Surprise! You've found your prize at last.
 Don't forget to re-hide.

Now your quest is winding down.
 Walk back the way you first came.
 Keep your eyes out for wildlife
 Everything should look much the same.

We hope you liked the Slade Brook trail
 And enjoyed your walk.
 Come again and bring a friend,
 (But don't tell them about the rock!)

Did you see...

- A chipmunk
- A squirrel
- A bird
- A salamander
- A red eft
- A water strider
- A spider web
- An animal track
- A brightly-colored mushroom
- A gall
- A fern
- A bird nest
- Animal scat
- An acorn
- A pinecone
- A rotting stump
- A hole in the ground made by a furry friend
- A baby tree
- A tree with woodpecker holes
- A tree with a twisted trunk
- A vernal pool
- Something you had never seen before

Other sightings or comments:

This Quest was created by Sarah McPeck and Kay Torrey in 2011.

Other things to do nearby: Check out Wilson's Landing a mile south of River Road on Route 10.

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 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. Learn more at vitalcommunities.org.

Have a suggestion, question, comment, or idea for us? We'd love to hear from you. Reach us at valleyquest@vitalcommunities.org or 802-291-9100.