



Pinnacle Hill Quest

Lyme, New Hampshire

Physical Difficulty: Moderate

Special Features: Natural, Vista

Walking Conditions: Trail

Duration: 2:00

Please Bring: binoculars and a field guide

To get there: *From the Lyme Green on Route 10, take Dorchester Road east. In under two miles you reach Lyme Center. Just after you pass the Church and the Lyme Academy building, turn left on Acorn Hill Road. Go about two miles to the junction with Hardscrabble Road. Continue about 100 feet further, the road turns into Highbridge Rd and look for a small parking area past the old two-rut road on the left. Park here, NOT along the shoulder of any of these roads; and please do not park in neighbors' driveways.*

Overview:

This is a special spot, beloved by its town. 240 acres of this land was conserved by the Upper Valley Land Trust, with donations from 1 in every 7 households in Lyme supporting their 2018 conservation effort. UVLT is a regional land conservancy working to protect farmland, forests, wetlands and waterways, wildlife habitats, trails and scenic areas in the Vermont and New Hampshire towns of the Upper Valley. Since 1985, UVLT has protected 530 parcels of land encompassing 54,446 acres. UVLT is a nonprofit organization and is supported primarily by contributions from local individuals and businesses. For more information visit www.uvlt.org, or call 603-643-6626.

Clues:

If you walk back down Highbridge Rd from the parking lot to the dirt road you passed on the left, follow these clues:

On this old dirt road, don't take a car. It's not safe. It's dangerous by far.

The road is rocky and may be wet. I'd say hiking boots are the best bet.

Pass between two houses on this road. Keep going, and you will not fail. Follow an old stone wall on your right. What farmer may have built this wall?

If go on the trail from the parking lot, follow these clues which start a after hiking up the trail a little ways:

Watch for a blue arrow on a tree, encouraging you to keep straight.

Reach a small clearing and you will see, a huge tree in the shape of a V.

Note a sign from the Upper Valley Land Trust, but ignore this left turn you must.

Note the many saplings left and right; the 2008 windstorm must have been quite a sight.

Ignore a small meadow on your right, and at the fork keep to the right. The two ruts bear to the right, but you step over the cable (may not be visible anymore) to your left.

Look to the left. Can you find a path through the line of trees and into the big meadow?

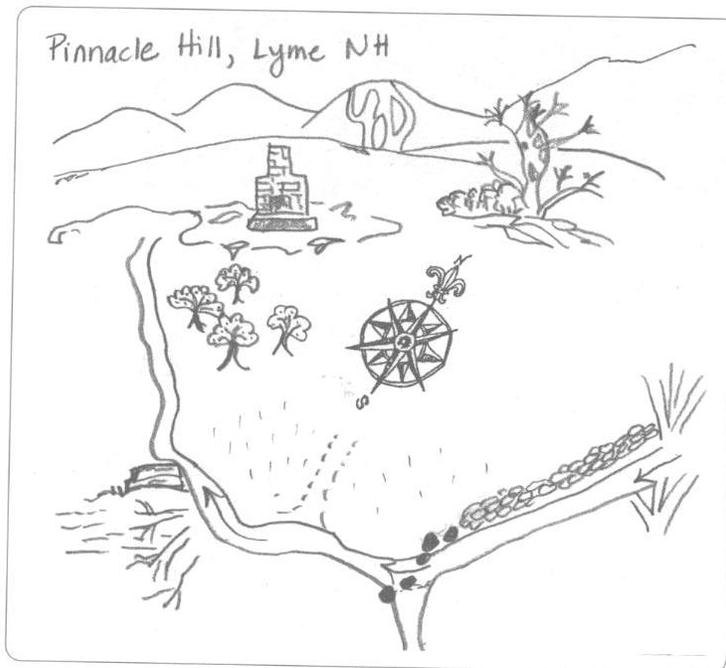
That's the way to go!

Walk uphill across the meadow.

Can you see the footsteps of other visitors?

When you reach the stone wall on the other side of the meadow you have to find a way through - search at the left end!

Keep climbing through the next meadow with the forest (or what used to be a forest!) on your left.



Wow!
Look at the views of Vermont out across the meadow.

At the far left corner of this meadow you turn left, and climb steeply uphill. Follow this trail upwards as it bends to the right.

You encounter an old apple orchard just before the summit.

Can you find any tasty apples? The deer love to eat them.

On the summit is a stone chimney - all that is left of what was once Camp Pinnacle for Boys.
Find the three chains that once held down the cabin; what were they for?

Can you see Smarts Mountain and Dartmouth Skiway to the east?
Can you see Post Pond and the Connecticut River valley to the west?

To find the box, stand at the fireplace and face Post Pond.
Turning to your left, look for a cluster of three birch trees at the edge of the clearing.

Not the first cluster of three, but the second!
Search there for the box, nestled among the trees.

On your descent, you may retrace your steps... or you can make a loop as follows.

Soon after leaving the summit, and before you return to the meadows, watch for a blue arrow marking a trail to the right.

Keep right on that trail, and then keep right again when it reaches a junction; soon you will reach the V tree.
Keep right here and follow the two-rut road back to the start.

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 160+ 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.