

## Get a little higher with the FIRE TOWER CHALLENGE!

Inside this brochure is a list of seven Hamilton County fire towers. All but one of the fire towers are restored – the cab on the Pillsbury tower is closed. To complete the challenge and receive the full color patch, you must hike to seven of the towers and visit the eighth tower at Adirondack Experience, the Museum on Blue Mountain Lake (optional). Be sure to document the date and fill out a comment for each. Climbing to the top of each tower is not required to receive a patch. All of the hikes are moderately difficult to difficult. The easiest trail is Owls Head Mountain and the most difficult is Snowy Mountain.

When you've completed the challenge, fill out the form below and send it to:

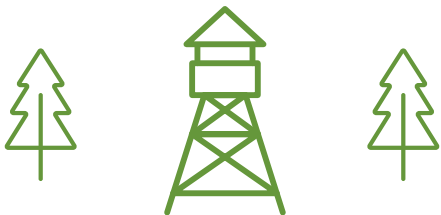
**Hamilton County Tourism**  
**P.O. Box 57**  
**Lake Pleasant, NY 12108**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

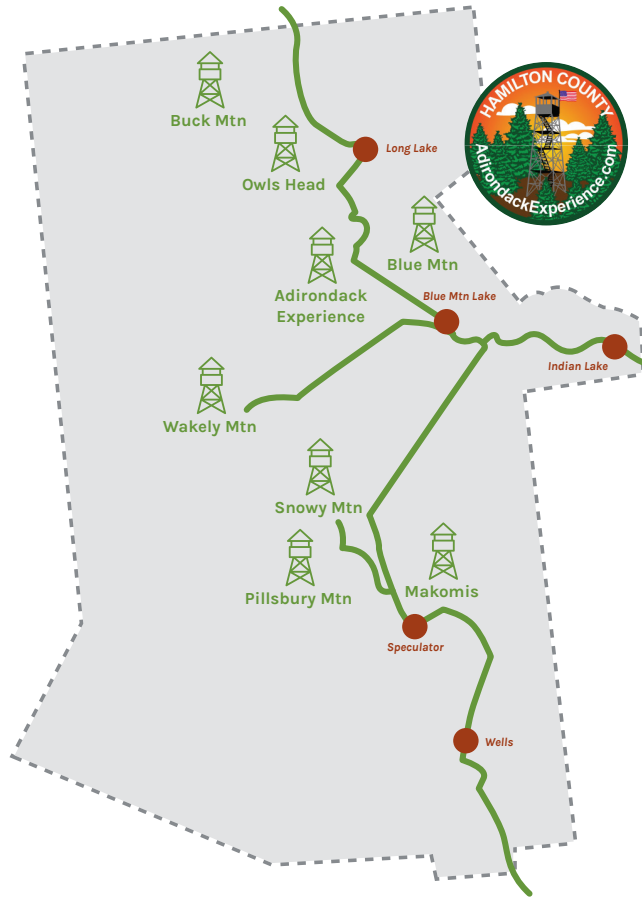


Or you can register online by scanning this code.

Your donation will go directly to local trail improvements in Hamilton County.



# FIRE TOWER CHALLENGE MAP



For more information about Hamilton County hikes, attractions, paddles, lodging, and travel, go to

[www.AdirondackExperience.com](http://www.AdirondackExperience.com)

**Hamilton County Tourism**  
 P.O. Box 57, 102 County View Drive  
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 SMALL TOWNS — BIG OUTDOORS  
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# FIRE TOWER CHALLENGE



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[www.AdirondackExperience.com](http://www.AdirondackExperience.com)

## BLUE MOUNTAIN TOWER

Model: 35' Aermotor LS-40 | Elevation: 3,760'

Status: restored and open to the public

The Blue Mountain fire tower is the best known and most visited fire tower in the Adirondacks. Originally built from wood in 1911 and replaced with the current tower by the NYS DEC in 1917. When it closed in 1990, it was one of the last operating fire towers in New York state. Local volunteers adopted and restored it.

**Location: 1.8 mi. northeast of Blue Mountain Lake**

The trailhead is 0.5 mi. north of Adirondack Experience, the Museum on Blue Mountain Lake on Route 30, on the right.

**Trailhead GPS: 43.874298N, 74.431172W**

**Trail Description: 2.2 mi. | +1,550'**

The first part of the trail meanders and is easy, the second half is steep and rocky toward the summit, where there are spectacular views from both the ground and the tower.

**Date Completed:**

## BUCK MOUNTAIN TOWER

Model: 60' Aermotor LS-40 | Elevation: 2,416'

Status: restored and open to the public courtesy of a private land lease with Cedar Heights Timber LLC

The original wooden tower was built out of timbers and replaced with a 60' steel Aermotor LS-40 tower. The material was hauled up the mountain by a dog team which included St. Lunaire, a pup who was with Admiral Byrd on his first trip to the South Pole.

**Location: 8.7 mi. northwest of Long Lake**

Take Route 30 north from the village and go 6.4 mi. past the bridge to Sabattis Circle Road, County Route 10. The trailhead is on the right approximately 2.3 mi. from NYS Route 30.

**Trailhead GPS: 44.05155N, 74.54930W**

**Trail Description: 1.2 mi. | +500'**

It is relatively easy for the first half and rapidly gains elevation at the .75 mi. mark. The approach consists of flat, low-lying terrain with bog bridges crossing over wetlands and former skid roads used for logging. The climbing section of Buck Mountain is defined by its steep, rocky terrain. The steeper portions of this section have stone steps and hand built wooden stairs to assist hikers to navigate the steepest section of the trail.

Summit views of Little Tupper Lake, the Whitney Wilderness, Blue Mountain, Owls Head, Mud Pond Mountain, Rock Pond Mountain, Coney and Goodman Mountains to the north and distant views of the High Peaks including Mt. Marcy.

**Date Completed:**

## MAKOMIS TOWER

Model: 40' Aermotor LL-25 | Elevation: N/A

Status: restored and open to the public

Originally built in 1911 near the town of North Hudson in Essex County, it was one of the first steel towers built in the Adirondacks. It is easily accessible as it does not require a hike to reach.

**Location:**

Located in the heart of Speculator, right near the entrance to the Sacandaga Pathway, on Route 30 just before entering Speculator from the south, opposite the shore of Lake Pleasant.

**Date Completed:**

## OWLS HEAD MOUNTAIN TOWER

Model: 35' Aermotor LS-40 | Elevation: 2,748'

Status: restored and open to the public

The original wooden tower was erected by the Commission Corps in 1911. In 1919, it was replaced with a 35' steel Aermotor LS-40 tower. The tower was closed in 1970, but remains open to hikers.

**Location: 4 mi. southwest of Long Lake**

Take Route 30 north from the village and go 0.3 mi. past the bridge. Make a left on Endion Rd. The trailhead is on the right on a sharp curve in the road, 1.6 mi. from Route 30.

**Trailhead GPS: 43.963536N, 74.452741W**

**Trail Description: 3.1 mi. | +1,114'**

Relatively difficult and steep in the last mile. Views of the Fishing Brook Range to the southeast and the High Peaks to the north.

**Date Completed:**

## PILLSBURY MOUNTAIN TOWER

Model: 60' Aermotor LS-40 | Elevation: 3,597'

Status: open to climb, cab is closed to the public

The original wood tower was constructed by the Champlain Realty Company in 1918. The landowner would provide an observer during periods of dry weather. It was considered a "secondary tower" by the state. In 1924 it was changed to a steel 60' Aermotor Model LS-40 tower, with a 9 foot high cab, typical of the "heavier type" tower with an integrated staircase built by the Conservation Commission between 1917 and 1950. The tower was closed around 1985 and awaits restoration.

**Location:**

9 mi. northwest of Speculator. Take Route 30 north for 8.2 mi. Past Mason Lake, take a left on the dirt road and follow it 3.2 mi. to the junction at Perkins Clearing. Turn right and end at Sled Harbor, 5.1 mi. from Route 30, where you should park. The trailhead is a 1.2-mi. hike up the road on the left.

**Trailhead GPS: 43.588271N, 74.485946W**

**Trail Description: 1.6 mi. | +1,480'**

It requires a moderately difficult climb to reach the summit. Views of Lake Pleasant and Sacandaga Lake can be seen to the south, and the Snowy Mountain fire tower and High Peaks are to the north.

**Date Completed:**

## SNOWY MOUNTAIN TOWER

Model: 42' Aermotor LS-40 | Elevation: 3,899'

Status: restored and open to the public

The first wooden tower was erected by the Forest, Fish & Game Commission in August 1909 and in 1917 it was replaced

with a steel 22' Aermotor LS-40 tower. In 1933, the height of the tower was increased to 42' to make it taller than the surrounding trees. It was closed in 1971 until local volunteers restored it in 2001.

**Location: 13 mi. southwest of Indian Lake**

Take Route 30 south for 7 mi. from Indian Lake. The trailhead is on the right side of road with parking on the left.

**Trailhead GPS: 43.7013530N, 74.3347810W**

**Trail Description: 3.4 mi. | +2,100'**

The last 0.75 mi. to the summit is extremely steep. Snowy has a great view that includes the High Peaks to the north and Indian Lake to the east.

**Date Completed:**

## WAKELY MOUNTAIN TOWER

Model: 70' Aermotor LL-25 | Elevation: 3,744'

Status: restored and open to the public

The original wooden tower was constructed by the Conservation Commission in May 1911. In 1916, it was replaced with a 70' Aermotor LL-25 tower, making it the tallest tower in the Adirondacks. It closed in 1988 until it was restored and reopened to the public in 2018.

**Location: 12 mi. southwest of Indian Lake**

From Indian Lake, take Route 28/30 west for 2.2 mi., then make a left onto Cedar River Road (past the golf course) and follow it for 11.5 mi.

**Trailhead GPS: 43.7309485N, 74.4726157W**

**Trail Description: 3 mi. | +1,600'**

The gravel road leading to the mountain offers an easy 1.9 mi. warm-up before the trail steepens.

**Date Completed:**

## ADIRONDACK EXPERIENCE MUSEUM

Model: 22' Aermotor LS-40 | Elevation: N/A

Status: Restored, visitors must pay an entrance fee

Originally erected on Whiteface Mountain in 1919, this was the second fire tower in the Adirondacks. It was dismantled in 1972, given to the museum in 1973. Those who climb the tower will see most of the museum's campus, Blue Mountain, and Blue Mountain Lake. This tower is optional but encouraged and you receive an Adirondack Experience sticker.

**Location:**

Take Route 30 for about a mi. from the intersection of Route 28 and 30 in Blue Mountain Lake, the parking lot is on the left.

**Parking Lot GPS: 43.869490N, 74.432094W**

**Trail Description:**

From the entrance to the museum campus, turn right and take the ramp or stairs up to the base of the tower, which is outside the Work in the Woods logging building.

**Date Completed:**