

CANAL KIDS: EXPLORE 4!

NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT CHECKLIST

Location: The Five Combines, Feeder Canal Park, & Empire State Trail

→ RULES OF THE TRAIL ←



1. **Stay Safe:** Always stay on the designated paths and keep a safe distance from the water.



2. **Watch the Trail:** Look out for fast-moving cyclists at the trail crossings.



3. **Leave No Trace:** Do not pick living plants or disturb wildlife. Leave everything as you found it!



Station 1: The Five Combines (The Stone Water Stairs)



Riddle 1: "The Stone Steps"

"I'm made of stone and built in a line,
stepping down the water, one at a time."
What am I?"

Answer: _____

CHALLENGE:

Sketch one step of the stone water stairs.



Riddle 2: "The Missing Gates"

"Long ago I had gates made of wood, but
time took them away if it always should."
What once stood here but is gone now?"

Answer: _____

CHALLENGE:

Estimate how wide one lock chamber is.
Write your guess in feet: _____ ft



Riddle 3: "The Water's Escape Route"

"When the canal gets too full,
I help the extra water flow."
Where does the extra water go?"

Answer: _____

CHALLENGE:

Watch the water for 1 minute.
Is it moving faster or slower here?
Circle one. **FASTER / SLOWER**



Station 2: Along the Feeder Canal Towpath

Riddle 4: "The Historic Path"

"I follow the canal side by side,
used by mules and people who
guided boats with pride."
What is the name of this path?"

Answer: _____

CHALLENGE:

Why is this path called the "Towpath"?
Write your answer in your own words.

Riddle 5: "The River Bank Protectors"

"I grow along the bank so strong,
holding the soil all year long."
I help the land and wildlife too."
What am I?"

Answer: _____

CHALLENGE:

Look for wildlife along the canal.
What did you see? Write it here:



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Station 3: The Empire State Trail Crossing



Riddle 6: "The Long Ribbon"

I am a ribbon of asphalt and stone that stretches from NYC all the way to Canada's door. Wheels and sneakers travel across me, but engines are allowed no more. What am I?

- Your Answer: _____

- The Challenge:

Read the directional or historical signage at this junction. Name the official trail network that connects this path to the historic Erie Canal system.



Riddle 7: "The Trail's Secret Language"

I stand tall and narrow, painted blue and bright. I wear a colored symbol to keep you on the right track day or night. I tell you where to turn without saying a single word. What am I?

- Your Answer: _____

- The Challenge:

Find the official logo graphic on the sign. What shape is the emblem, and what two colors are used to guide travelers?



Riddle 8: "The Human-Powered Speeders"

I have two round feet but I never walk, I have a shiny bell but I never talk. I flash past you like a streak of lightning on the trail, wearing a helmet and carrying water like a pail. What am I?

- Your Answer: _____

- The Challenge:

Do a quick 2-minute tally of trail users passing by.

- How many are **WALKING**? _____
- How many are **RIDING**? _____

