

Your Tour Guide to Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania



An Activity and Coloring Book

A publication of the Schuylkill County Visitors Bureau
and developed by
"Porcupine Pat" McKinney of the Schuylkill Conservation District

Welcome to Schuylkill County!

We hope that you enjoy touring our beautiful county and also this activity booklet.

Inside, you will find fun games, trivia, facts, and pictures to color on almost every page.



You will also learn about Schuylkill County and its colorful history along the way. Remember, this is just a quick look at Schuylkill County, its attractions, and history. For even more information, consult your library, visit www.schuylkill.org or call 1.800.765.7282.



This book is brought to you by:

The Schuylkill County Visitors Bureau serves as a clearinghouse of information for tourists. The bureau is located at the Schuylkill County Visitors Center, 200 East Arch Street, Pottsville, PA 17901. For information: 570-622-7700 or 1-800-765-7282 or schuylkill.org

and



The Schuylkill Conservation District has been conserving local natural resources since 1955. The district is located within the Schuylkill County AG Center, 1206 AG Center Drive, Pottsville, PA 17901. For information: 570-622-4124 ext. 113 or porcupinepat@yahoo.com

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY'S WATER RESOURCES

The word "Schuylkill" (pronounced school-kill) means "hidden stream" in the Dutch language. This refers to the Dutch from Holland (or The Netherlands) and not the "Pennsylvania Dutch or German" which is another ethnic group that settled our area.

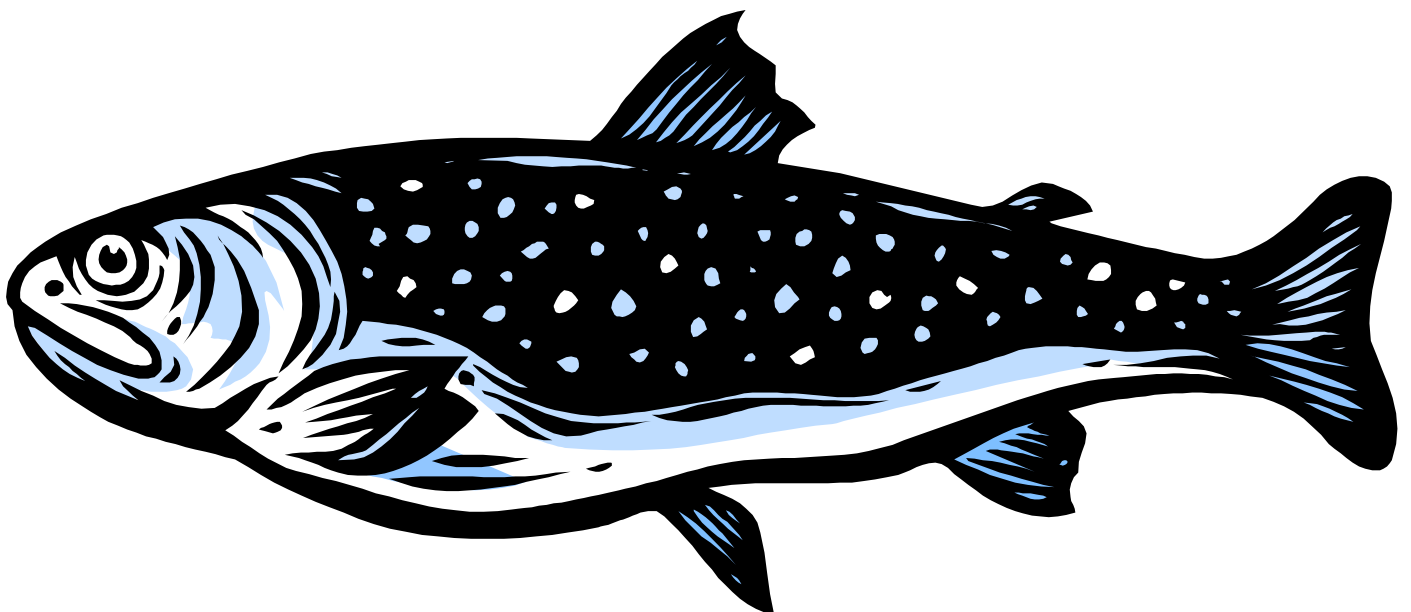
Schuylkill County serves as the headwaters for the Schuylkill River that flows from near Tamaqua through Reading all the way to Philadelphia where it meets the Delaware River. This river has seen a lot of history from when settlers first arrived to cut the big white pine trees and trap beaver hides to the coal barges that delivered the hard coal called anthracite that fueled a nation.



Schuylkill County is also the headwaters for other waterways including: Mahanoy Creek, Pine Creek, Swatara Creek, Little Schuylkill River, Nesquehoning Creek, Lizard Creek, and Mahoning Creek.

The Brook Trout is Pennsylvania's state fish and is found in many streams in our county. This fish lives in clean, cold and fast running water.

Color the trout below. The top part should be green with bright yellow sides.



Fire...fire...fire!!

Schuylkill County has the third largest number of fire companies in the state. Only Westmoreland and Allegheny counties in western Pennsylvania have more! There are 120 companies and that means a lot of volunteers from our area make sure that Schuylkill County communities are protected from fires.



We are also known around the state for our fire training school located near Frackville. Also, be sure to take time to check out the Schuylkill Historical Fire Society at 105 South Jardin Street in Shenandoah. This museum holds antique fire fighting apparatus and equipment.

Color the fire truck, of course, fire engine red!



World famous “white” fossils of Saint Clair

Both beautiful and world famous plant fossils are found in Saint Clair right in the heart of Schuylkill County! These fossils are of the Pennsylvanian Period from about 300 million years ago and are one of the few places where you can find very detailed white ferns on black shale.

The plants died and fell into the swamp, where in a low temperature, pressure, and oxygen environment, the plant tissue was slowly replaced by pyrite (from sulphides). Then, pyrophyllite (aluminum silicate, a whitish mineral) replaced the pyrite at a later stage as the sediments piled up and the temperature and pressure became greater.



**Use this space and a white crayon to
draw your own fern fossil**

You've probably heard about the famous painting commonly called "Whistler's Mother" that is actually titled "An Arrangement in Gray and Black, No. 1: The Mother" by James McNeil Whistler. On Labor Day, September 1937, during the annual Ashland Boys Association home coming celebration, a memorial committee suggested ways to honor and memorialize Ashland mothers.

They recommended that this memorial be in the form of "Whistler's Mother." The Mothers Memorial is the only one of its kind in the country and honors all Ashland Mothers past and present.

This bronze replica of Whistler's famous painting stands calmly majestic between Chestnut and Market streets on North Hoffman Boulevard at North Hoffman Boulevard and North 3rd Street in downtown Ashland. Inscribed in the granite are the words, "A mother is the holiest thing alive," a thought from Coleridge's famous poem "The Mother" and fittingly proper for such a masterpiece.

This is the first instance in history where a famous painting has been depicted in bronze. The eight foot statue, weighing 1,260 pounds, was dedicated on September 1, 1938 by two of Ashland's oldest mothers, 91 and 88 years of age and was admired by a crowd of 2,500 persons who witnessed the ceremony.



**Use this space to draw
a picture of your
mother or step mother.**

Schuylkill County has a lot of drinking water

We all need clean drinking water in order to live. In fact, our bodies need 8-eight ounce glasses each day. Water makes up most of who we are as humans. We can survive longer without food than we can without water!

Schuylkill County is very fortunate to have a good water supply. Tamaqua, in northeastern Schuylkill, is in a part of Pennsylvania that gets over 50 inches of rain each year!

Take this time to list ten ways that you used water today. Then, think about ways that you can conserve water.

Ten ways that I used water today:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



Water can be clean or dirty and it's up to you to help make sure that it stays clean. Sometimes, Schuylkill County waters can be polluted by soil or sedimentation or polluted by acid mine drainage or AMD from past coal mining practices. Many people are working to clean our water. To find out more information, visit: dep.pa.us and click on drinking water.

(T) True or (F) False

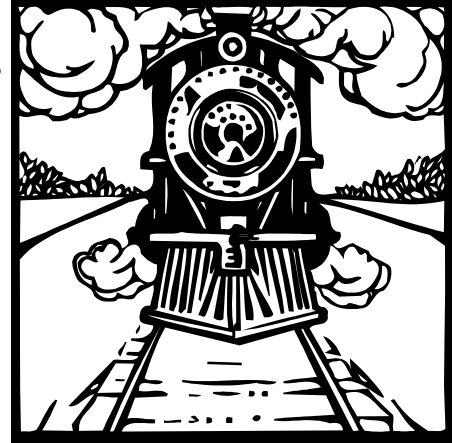
1. Water is the only thing on the planet that can be liquid, solid or gas. T or F
2. There are three types of water: fresh, salty and muddy. T or F
3. Freshwater supplies are limited during a period of drought. T or F
4. One way to conserve water is to turn the water on and off when you brush your teeth. T or F
5. Wetlands, like swamps or marshes, help to clean water. T or F

1. True. Of course, water can be a liquid, or ice or vapor.
2. False. Freshwater and saltwater are the two main types. Either water type can get muddy.
3. True. A drought is a period of dryness and we should make a special effort to conserve.
4. True. By turning water on and off, you can save a good amount of water.
5. True. Wetlands plants, like cattails, can help to clean water of acid mine drainage and sewage.

CHOO CHOO CHOOOOOOOOO!!

Saint Clair had the busiest railroad yard in the world because of all the coal that was taken out of the mines and hauled by coal cars to help win World War Two. Ask your grandparents if they know about railroads and whether they rode them.

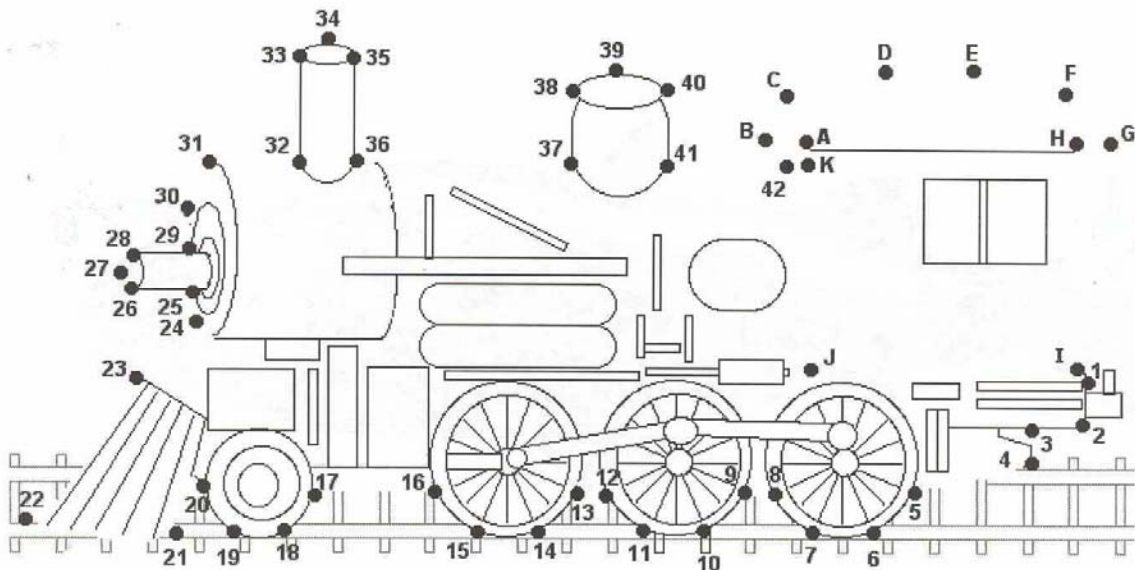
If you walk around a number of Schuylkill County communities, chances are you will find a history of railroading. Visit Tamaqua's Train Station that's right in the heart of town. The recently renovated station is a beautiful site to see and was to have been demolished some years ago. Thankfully, concerned citizens worked together to save the station.

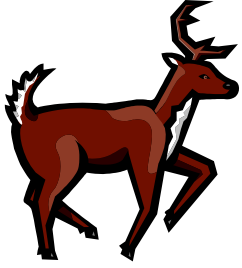


Schuylkill County is very important for railroad history. The rail line along the Little Schuylkill River from Tamaqua to Port Clinton was the second one developed in the whole country back in the late 1820's. There is a site near Landingville that shows the base of the very first rail tunnel in the country!

A number of old rail lines are slated to become trails. As an example, the old Pennsylvania Railroad line has been bought by the Schuylkill River Greenway Association and will become the John Bartram Trail for hikers, people who fish, birders and more!

Connect the dots and check out this locomotive!





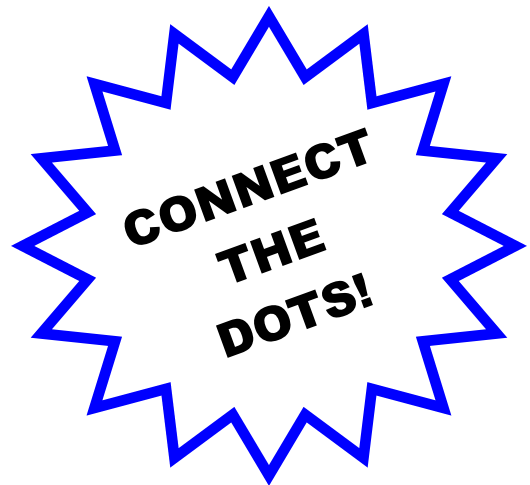
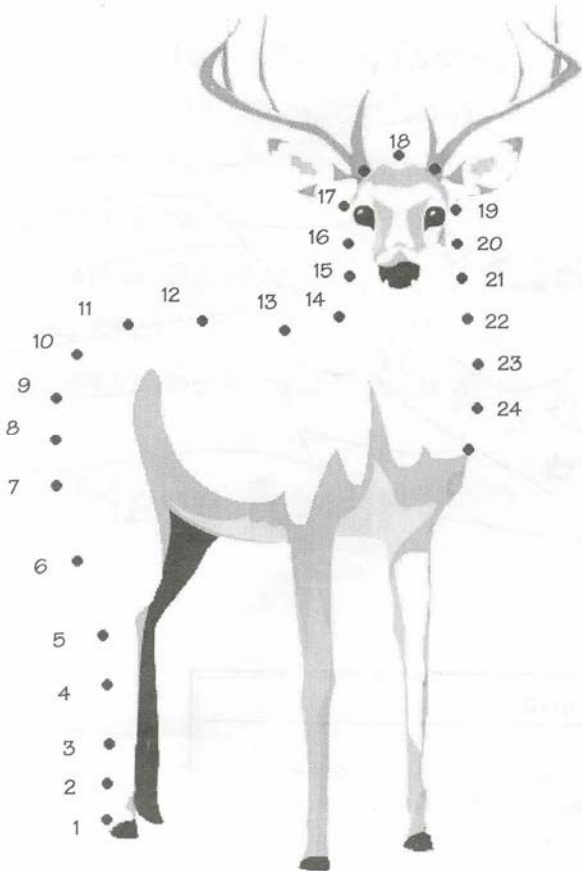
Hunting in Schuylkill County

Deer hunting is very popular in Schuylkill County. Tens of thousands of acres of state game lands and forest land provide a lot of wildlife habitat for the hunter. A lot of woodland that you see as you drive around the county is state game lands which are managed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. This agency enforces wildlife laws and manages the land to benefit deer and other wildlife. For more information visit: www.pgc.state.pa.us

Which of these critters are hunted here in Schuylkill County?

- A) bear
- B) turkey
- C) squirrel
- D) bison
- E) elk
- F) grouse
- G) duck
- H) dove
- I) raccoon

Answers: A, B, C, F, G, H, I



A visit to a homeland of Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head...

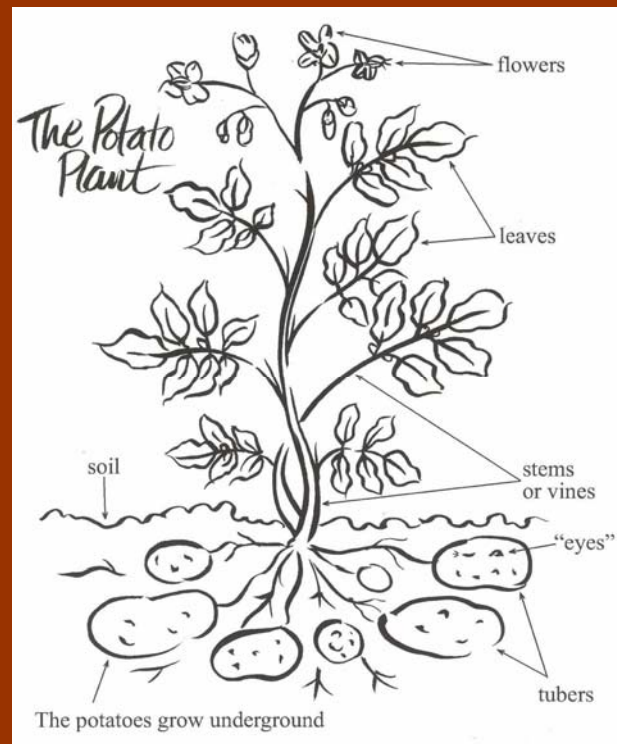


We grow a lot of potatoes here in Schuylkill County! Chances are you've eaten some product of a potato that was grown from our farm fields. We even have a state of the art technology project in which methane gas given off from a landfill will be piped into a potato dehydration plant to dry potato flakes for you to make instant potatoes!

As you can see by the picture below, potatoes grow underground and take careful farming. Like all farm crops, potatoes need sun, soil, and water to thrive.

Here are some other farm crops grown in Schuylkill County:

- Wheat
- Corn
- Rye
- Oats
- Soybeans
- Apples
- Peaches
- Green beans and lots of other veggies
- Plums
- Pears
- Alfalfa
- Which of these did you see while touring?



List seven ways that you enjoy potatoes:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____



Answers: potato chips, French fries, hash browns, bleanies (potato pancakes), mashed potatoes, baked potatoes, Tater Tots and extra credit: potato candy!

Christmas trees are another farm crop here in Schuylkill County. We are number one in all of Pennsylvania for producing the most number of Christmas trees. Drive along Rt. 895 east and west of Rt. 61 to see all the tree farms.

You're touring coal country!

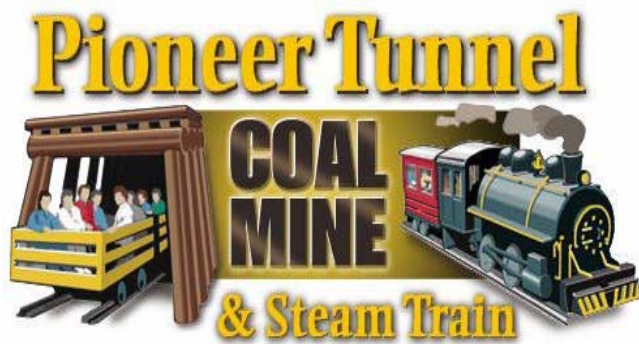


Anthracite coal is very dense and shiny and has a high carbon content and burns with a clean flame. It's also called "hard coal." Schuylkill County grew to be the third most populous county in Pennsylvania after Philadelphia and Allegheny (Pittsburgh) counties due to all the emigrants arriving to mine coal.

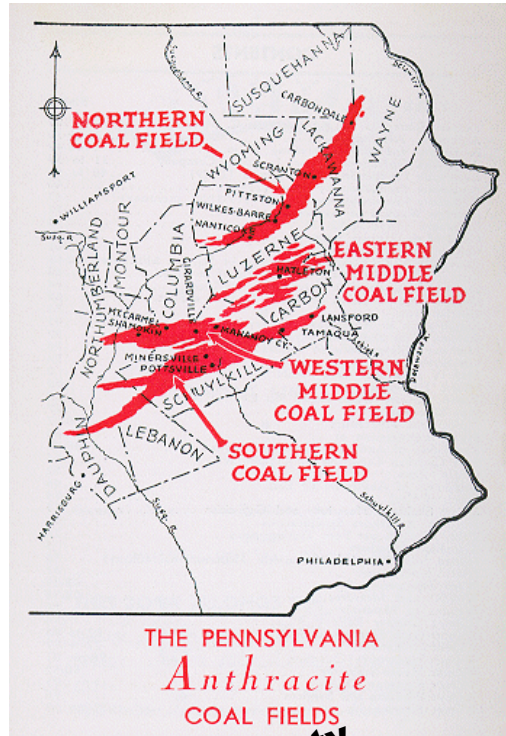
In the early 1900's, Shenandoah was the most densely populated one square mile of land in the United States due to all the people that lived there to mine coal. Anthracite fueled a nation but it's use declined after World War Two because many people switched to oil to heat their homes.

If you drive between Mahanoy City and Shenandoah on Rt. 54, you will see the old St. Nicholas Breaker that sorted coal for many years.

**While in Schuylkill county
be sure to visit:**



For more information:
www.pioneertunnel.com
Located in Ashland, PA



**Schuylkill County
has a lot of coal as
you can see by the
above map!**

Take a black crayon to draw a piece of anthracite coal. Then take blue, green, and yellow crayons and color your chunk of coal to make it look like "peacock coal" that can sometimes be found in the coal region.

Try the "coal candy" from
Mootz's Candies on
South Centre Street in
Pottsville!

Schuylkill County Word Search

N S L E K A L T S U C O L N H L
 R R I L H J I N L A **H I K I N G**
 U A A B D N E K E E W H S I R I
 O C R M L S N I A R T T S H N L
 J C T E O U J O H N O H A R A T
 O I N S T L M U E R T W A V E J
 S S A N U H L S Y I K I I G A I
 L S I E S R C Y A S M N Q Z G P
 L A H R C G U I M U R E Z U L I
 I L C E A N T H R A C I T E E E
 K C A B R S L A C D G T S U S R
 L S L M O C L R O O A U I O O O
 Y Y A A R S E T L C E R I O A G
 U R P H A T A F O I H S N R N I
 H R P C N S Y M P H O N Y O E E
 C E A I T H G I N E S I U R C S
 S J W C S A A S U R T E C H E R

Find these words:

ANTHRACITE
 HAWKS
 MOLLY MAGUIRES
 ANTIQUE
 HIKING
 MURALS
 APPALACHIAN TRAIL
 HISTORY
 PIEROGIES
 BLUMS AUCTION
 IRISH WEEKEND
 SCHUYLKILL SOJOURN
 CHAMBER ENSEMBLE
 JAZZ
 SYMPHONY
 CONRAD RICHTER
 JERRYS CLASSIC CARS
 TRAINS
 CRUISE NIGHT
 JOHN OHARA
 TUSCARORA
 EAGLES
 LOCUST LAKE
 WINTER CARNIVAL
 GOLF

MATCHING

Draw a line from the attraction on the left to the location/place name on the right.

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
 Yuengling Brewery
 Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine
 Big Diamond Raceway
 Rausch Creek Motor Sports Park
 Schuylkill County Fairgrounds

Minersville
 Tremont
 Drehersville
 Summit Station
 Pottsville
 Ashland

Answers: Hawk Mountain Sanctuary-Drehersville, Yuengling Brewery-Pottsville, Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine-Ashland, Big Diamond Raceway-Minersville, Rausch Creek Motor Sports Park-Tremont, Schuylkill County Fairgrounds-Summit Station

Schuylkill County is tree-mendous!

Here are some great facts about trees:

- Nearly 60% of Pennsylvania is forested.
- This means 17 million acres are in trees!
- Pennsylvania ranks first in the world for hardwood production. These include oak, cherry, hickory, and maple trees.
- Schuylkill County is 71% forested. Our county has 498,560 acres of land and forests cover 351,800 acres!



Help Forester Frank decode these tree clues:

1. Acorns are my fruit and I serve as food for many wildlife. A
2. My bark looks like burnt cornflakes and my wood makes furniture. H R
3. A "Weeping" tree. E I L
4. My bark helps you to identify me. G
5. I am the most common tree in Pennsylvania. D L

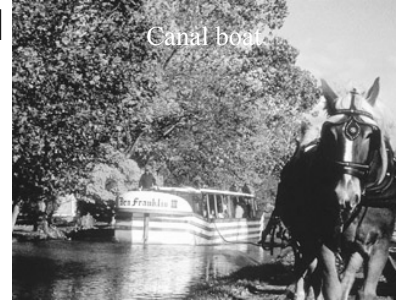
WORD BANK: Weeping Willow, Cherry, Oak, Red Maple, Dogwood

Try this at home: Get a leaf and turn it up so that the veins face up. Place a piece of blank white paper on top of it. Rub a crayon on top of it to make a "leaf rubbing" of your leaf.

For more information on trees visit: www.dcnr.state.pa.us



Schuylkill County is jam-packed full of history as you can see by the list below. Check off the historical markers that you spot as you drive around our county.



CHECKLIST OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY HISTORICAL MARKERS

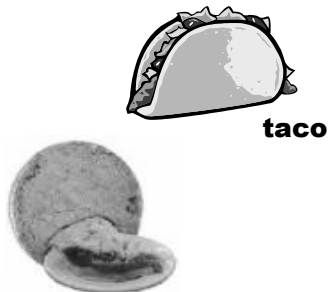
Topic	Location
___ Fort Lebanon.....	Auburn—east on Route 895
___ Mary Harris “Mother Jones”.....	Coaldale—along Route 209
___ Birth of Cable Television.....	Mahanoy City—1501 E. Center Street (Rt. 54)
___ Valley Furnace.....	New Philadelphia—east on Route 209
___ Conrad Richter.....	Pine Grove—11 Maple Street
___ Tulpehocken Path.....	Pine Grove—north on Route 125
___ Union Canal.....	Pine Grove—south on Route 443
___ Firth Dock.....	Port Carbon—Route 209 outside of Pottsville
___ Schuylkill Canal.....	Port Carbon—corner of Pike and Pine streets
___ Burd Patterson.....	Pottsville—803 Mahantongo Street
___ John O’Hara.....	Pottsville—606 Mahantongo Street
___ Pottsville Maroons.....	Pottsville—301 North Centre Street
___ Schuylkill County.....	Pottsville—corner of Laurel Blvd. & North 2 nd
___ John Siney.....	Saint Clair—Along Route 61 north of Pottsville
___ 1902 Anthracite Coal Strike.....	Shenandoah—corner of Centre & Union streets
___ St. Michael’s Ukrainian Church.....	Shenandoah—corner of Chestnut and Oak streets
___ The Dorsey Brothers.....	Shenandoah—5 N. Main Street
___ Tulpehocken Path.....	Valley View—Route 25 in front of Tri-Valley High
___ Fort Franklin.....	West Penn Township— Route 309 south of Snyders



We know how to eat in Schuylkill County!

Of course, we have pizza, tacos, and Chinese food. But, have you ever heard of halupkies or ham and dandelion greens! Schuylkill County is home to many people of different ethnic origins from German and Irish to Italian and Ukrainian. We celebrate our diversity through our churches, music, art, and especially foods! Here is a sampling of our foods and even a recipe to try at home with help from an adult.

Circle the type of food that you enjoyed eating while visiting:



Shoo-fly pie



The friendly staff of Kowalonek's Kielbasy Shop on Main Street in Shenandoah are pleased to offer Hrudka Harry's Kielbasa Soup recipe. For more information: 570.462.1263 or kielbasy.net

Try this at home!

"Hrudka Harry's" Kielbasa Soup recipe:

1. Cook kielbasa and cut in pieces.
2. Keep juice for soup.
3. Add carrots, celery, onions, potatoes, and cut up cabbage. Everything is cut up.
4. Add parsley.
5. Add one can of vegetarian vegetable soup when soup is done.
6. Enjoy!

Log your trip! Use a crayon to circle the places in Schuylkill County you visited.

Map of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania



Use this space to draw or write a memory from your visit to Schuylkill County.