



Pinnacle Hill Quest

Lyme, New Hampshire

Moderate

Natural, Vista

Trail

2:00

Please bring: binoculars, and a field guide

To get there: Take Route 10 north out of Lyme. Just after you pass Post Pond (on the left), turn right on Pinnacle Hill Road. After 1 mile turn Right on Cutting Hill Lane and then bear right at the fork in the road. You can park in the turn around, where Cutting Hill Lane is blocked, just past the grey cape on the left.

Overview:

The upper most portion of this land (the actual Pinnacle itself) has been conserved by the Upper Valley Land Trust. 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 over 380 parcels of land encompassing more than 34,000 acres. UVLT is a non-profit 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:

Start your hike by following the old road uphill.
Keep the meadow on your left.

Soon you will be joined by a stone wall on the right.
Think how much work it was for the farmers to build this stone wall!

As you climb the hill, the road passes between large 3-trunked oak trees.

Further along, watch for evidence of the windstorm of April 2007.

Soon after the stone wall becomes close at hand, on the right, you reach the place you will leave old Cutting Hill Lane.

On the right is a row of five large boulders and a gate with wooden posts.

Turn right, passing between the boulders.

Look to the right. Can you find the spot where Mrs. Cutting used to live in her house?

The house is gone, but if you look carefully you can find the old cellar hole.

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

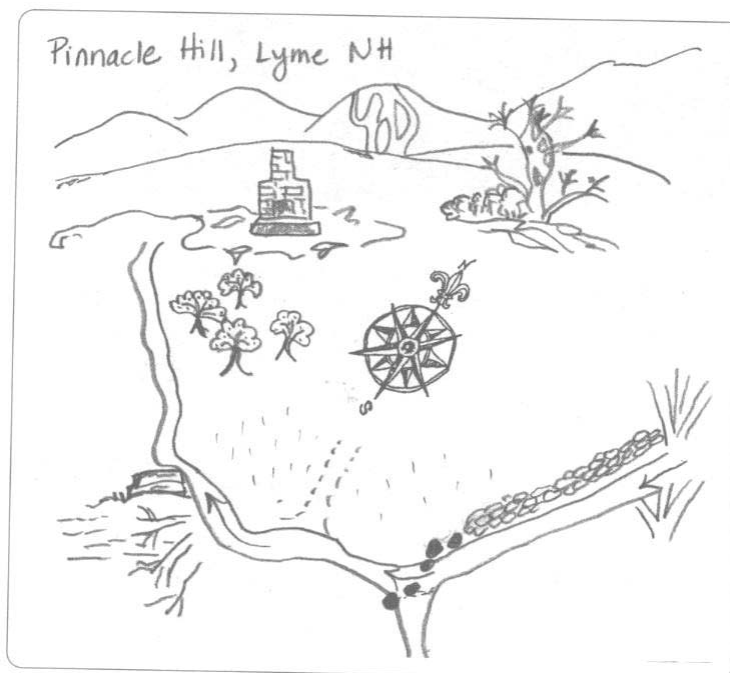
That's the way to go!

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 and 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 a hilltop house.

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 slowly to your left, look for a cluster of birch trees at the edge of the clearing.

Search there for the box,

Floating high in the air.