

# Elliot's Park



## Haunted Hike



**BY PATRICK CARMAN**

**ILLUSTRATED BY JIM MADSEN**

**Orchard Books**

An Imprint of Scholastic Inc. ♦ New York

For Reece Carman and Ken Geist,  
two people who love Elliot's Park  
as much as I do!



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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Carman, Patrick. Haunted hike / Patrick Carman. — 1st ed. p. cm. — (Elliot's park)  
Summary: On Halloween night, while Ranger Canyon leads three small Squirrel Scouts on a haunted hike, Daisy sees a ghost and Elliot and his friends help investigate.  
ISBN-13: 978-0-545-01931-6 (reinforced lib. bdg.) ISBN-10: 0-545-01931-1 (reinforced lib. bdg.) [1. Haunted places—Fiction. 2. Ghosts—Fiction. 3. Halloween—Fiction. 4. Squirrels—Fiction. 5. Scouting (Youth activity)—Fiction.] I. Title.

PZ7.C21694Hau 2008 [Fic]—dc22 2007030851

Printed in Mexico 49

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 08 09 10 11 12

Reinforced Binding for Library Use

First edition, August 2008

Art type ink and digital

Cover illustration copyright © by 2008 by James Madsen

Book design by Alison Klaphor

## CHAPTER 1

# The Rules!



**It was Halloween** in Elliot's Park, and three small Squirrel Scouts were sitting on a tree stump. They were waiting for Ranger Canyon to begin the haunted hike.

"I wonder when we get to leave," whispered Autumn. She was the smallest of the Squirrel

Scouts. Autumn was dressed as a cheerleader, with a big pom-pom in each hand.

“When it gets dark,” said Lefty. He was wearing a little black robe, tied with a belt. He was a ninja.

“I don’t like the dark!” said Daisy. She had white wings, a daisy chain necklace, and fairy dust in her tail.

“HELLO, SCOUTS!” cried Ranger Canyon. Autumn yelped and tossed her big pom-poms into the air. They got stuck in a tree.

Daisy fell off the stump and fairy dust flew everywhere. Lefty sneezed not once but three times. The fairy dust had tickled his nose.

“It’s only me,” said Ranger Canyon. He scampered up the tree trunk and found Autumn’s pom-poms. “No need to be afraid.”

All the scouts settled back into their spots on the tree stump.

“Can any of you tell me the reason for the haunted hike?” asked Ranger Canyon.

“We earn scout badges!” yelled Lefty.



All the scouts nodded. They loved earning scout badges more than just about anything.

“And how do we earn scout badges?”

Autumn raised her paw and shook one of her pom-poms really fast. It made a shaky sound.

“I know!” she said.

Ranger Canyon called on Autumn.

“Having the best costume!” Autumn said.

“Or telling a scary story at the campfire,” piped in Lefty. He jumped up and karate-chopped the tree stump. “Like ‘The Haunted Ninja!’”

Lefty rubbed his little paw. The tree stump was harder than he’d expected.

“And how else can you earn scout badges?” asked Ranger Canyon. He was looking at Daisy.

“Will the haunted hike be scary?” she asked. Daisy was shaking a little bit because she was afraid.

Before Ranger Canyon could answer, Autumn yelled out the last way to earn a scout badge.

“Finishing the haunted hike!”

“That’s right,” said Ranger Canyon. “I think you’re all going to earn at least one new badge tonight. Let’s get going!”

And so the haunted hike began. Ranger Canyon led the way. Autumn cheered them on. Lefty *chop-chop-chopped* at the falling leaves. And Daisy tried her best to be brave.

