

Boy Scouts of America

Troop 280



March Fort Mifflin Trip/Stauffer Eagle Project

Thank you to Jake for giving me an outline of the trip! This report could not be created without his hard work and efforts in helping me to publish this! Any mistakes made on part of the accuracy of the camping trip are my own and not Jake's.

This past Saturday-Sunday, 21st-22nd, weekend of March was the troop's second trip to Fort Mifflin, a historical location from its periods in the Revolutionary War and Civil War. You can learn more about the history of Fort Mifflin at <http://www.fortmifflin.us/the-history/>. However, the alternate purpose of this trip was to complete Danny Stauffer's Eagle Scout Project. The goal was to construct and set up birdhouses around Fort Mifflin's grounds. Great idea, Danny!

Arriving at Bede's around 7 in the morning, the troop packed their gear into the cars. The next hour and a half was spent figuring out how to transport the wood needed for the project to Fort Mifflin. In that time, the scouts and adults also shared a quick breakfast of coffee and doughnuts. Once that task was finished, everyone departed and arrived at the fort an hour later. The weather was muddy and slushy, with many snowballs to throw. Everyone worked on moving the wood and supplies to Mifflin's armory shed and setting up a workstation until 10:00. From this point, the project moved full speed ahead. Danny taught scouts how to build the birdhouses, and instructed the adults how to cut the wood for construction. At noon, there was a lunch of hoagies, peanut butter and jelly, assorted chips, and cookies in Mifflin's hospital building. The mission continued to around 1:30 with placing the houses on posts.

Tom Garback-Troop Historian
From the Notes of Jacob Leinenbach-ASPL
March 21st-22nd, 2015

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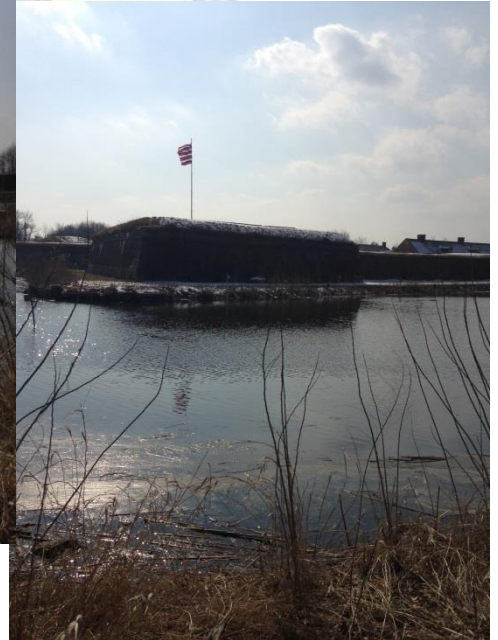
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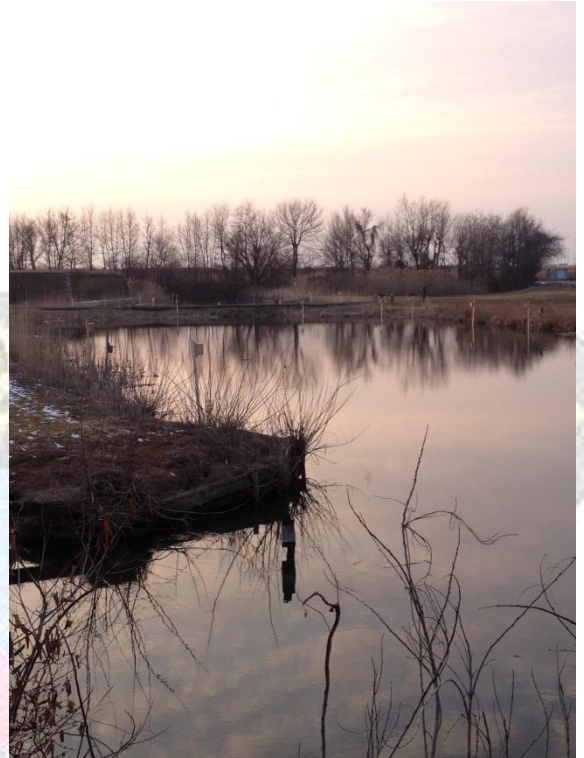
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I will now take a moment to pay a debt: Jacob's wishes are to share the following passage from his notes. He has requested for me to share this. The words are his. The *wording*, to be more specific, is his. Beware, I suppose:

"After everyone was done with the birdhouses, Danny took most of the troop out to the moat to start installing the birdhouses while I took a Dunkin Donuts box and gathered sawdust and other wood scraps to be used for a fire later. Dan said to me 'Is that cedar? That smells good. Smell it.' So, I leaned over to smell it and Dan banged the bottom of the box as hard as he could so all of the sawdust went flying into my mouth, nose, and eyes. I was covered in sawdust and couldn't open my eyes. Dan poured water over my face multiple times to help clear out the sawdust, and after flushing out my eyes about three times I could open my eyes and see again. Needless to say, he was fired on the spot by me and will no longer be serving our troop as scoutmaster. For the rest of the day he acted as my personal servant."

Do not trust the credibility of this as it was written by Jacob. That's all I will say on the matter. Your welcome, Jake.

For the next two hours, the troop installed the birdhouses in the moat. For a while afterwards, people put supplies away and took group pictures. Until early evening, dinner was prepared by some while others explored the fort. Black bean chili and chicken was cooked and eaten in the picnic area. Dishes were washed and the troop proceeded to evening ventures.

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This is from Jacob as well; this should be helpful to all scouts in camping skills: “Wayne [the fort’s groundskeeper] showed scouts an old scout trick of how to build a fire: pile sticks in the fireplace, pour kerosene over the sticks, and light.” Thank you Wayne.



All were asleep by one in the morning.

The troop woke and packed at 7 the next morning. Bagels were had for breakfast and the troop left Fort Mifflin around 8:30. An hour's time brought the arrival at Bede's for 9:30 mass. All departed afterwards. The trip was a huge accomplishment and loads of fun for all in Troop 280's return to Fort Mifflin and, more importantly, to a return to camping trips, as the winter has been long and cold, pausing the year's progress in its snowfall.

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