

Boy Scouts of America

Troop 280



September Canoeing Trip

From September 26th to September 28th, the troop went to Tuckahoe State Park in Northeastern Maryland for camping and canoeing. There were nine scouts and five adults, and everyone gathered at Saint Bede's parking lot on Friday night at 7:00. After packing cars and such, we left at 7:45 for a three hour ride south. Unfortunately, traffic delayed us on the road and we arrived at our camp site (Youth Group #3) around 12:15, finally getting to sleep at 1:00 after setting up lanterns and unpacking.

The troop woke at 7:15 the next morning and cooked pancakes and bacon (lots of it) for breakfast. After eating at 8:30 and cleaning dishes, we left for the park's lake and got there around 10:30. The day was proving to become slowly warmer and cloudless all along. Everyone paired up and took a canoe out onto the water. This trip was intended to help complete the Canoeing merit badge, which was being held as a troop project. So, the scouts worked on demonstrating skill while also having fun with races and trying to attack other canoes.

Later on, everyone turned into a creek north of the lake. The first landscape we rowed through was shallow and narrow with populations of lily-pads and thick mud. Farther on was a forest, where the trees, both densely in and out of the water, gave areas of deep shadow and sunny openings. Though on different paces, the scouts and adults made their way through the stream, meeting in a shallow spot where all could purposely flip their canoes in order to help complete the merit badge. Afterwards, we all turned back soon and came to shore at 2:30 for lunch, which had been packed before we left. There were Pringles, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, apples, and pears.

Tom Garback-Troop Historian
September 26th-28th, 2014

Boy Scouts of America Troop 280



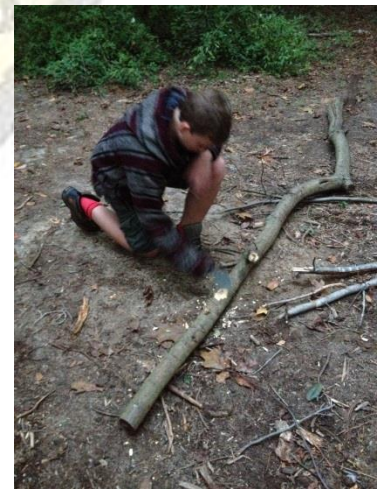
The troop went back out for more canoeing, though at each boat's pleasure. Most went back to the stream, where some explored further, while others ventured to the different outflows of the lake. There were only a few accounts of capsizing's, most done by Dan and Mr. O'Neal, so all scouts showed excellent skill whether it was their first time or not. By 5:30, almost everyone was out of the water and heading back to the campsite. Once there, with the sun setting steadily, we prepared a dinner of chicken (basted in Mountain Dew Code Red), Alfredo pasta, corn, and broccoli, which we ate around 7:15. There were grapes, candy and marshmallows to eat around a small fire that Jack made later on in the night. Jacob, Collin and I went to view the stars for a while before coming back and finding most had gone to sleep.

At 6:00 everyone woke to change into Class A's for church at 7:15. We attended the Saint Benedict/Saint Elizabeth Roman Catholic Church, where the members were all friendly and welcoming. Once back at the campsite, the troop had a breakfast of bagels and fruit. Everyone packed their gear and we left for home, arriving back at Bede's a little after noon. This was our first weekend trip of the year, and most scouts considered it above-average. We were all encouraged to make plans for another round on the canoes in our future time of scouting.



Tom Garback-Troop Historian
September 26th-28th, 2014

Boy Scouts of America Troop 280



Tom Garback-Troop Historian
September 26th-28th, 2014

Boy Scouts of America Troop 280



**Tom Garback-Troop Historian
September 26th-28th, 2014**