

Boy Scouts of America
Troop 280



Valley Forge Day Hike

On Saturday, December 13, the troop went on a day hike to the Valley Forge National Historical Park. Before I go into the report, I'd like to share some brief information about Valley Forge and its significance in our American history.

During the times of the Revolutionary War, George Washington's military used Valley Forge as an encampment for practicing skills and waiting out a brutal winter from December 19th, 1777 to June 19, 1778. At the time, the results of the war were unforeseeable, and suspense hung over all in those six months that Washington stayed at Valley Forge. Lessons and training learned there helped America win the war, though disease, famine and the cold killed many soldiers in silent battles. Valley Forge is a place of death, strength, and honor. For more information on this wonderful and close-by historical park, visit <http://www.nps.gov/vafo/index.htm>

So the troop met on Saturday morning at Bede's around 8 o'clock. We packed the little we had to bring into cars, gathered the 8 scouts and 5 adults that attended, and started the hour's drive to the Valley Forge National Historical Park. We stopped at Wawa for some people's lunches (others packed), so we actually got to our destination at 9:30. The first thing we did was go to the visitor center for browsing and pamphlets on the Historical Trail, which was a semi-orienteeing course we would follow for the entire day. The store had an abundant selection

Tom Garback-Troop Historian
December 13th, 2014

Boy Scouts of America Troop 280

of literature on history, and various souvenirs. We started on our trail following the pamphlets and their directions soon after leaving the visitor center. The weather was cold, quite simply, but no one seemed to mind it at all. There was enough sun to remain content, and a small breeze kept everyone at attention.



We passed huts for soldiers, canons, many stone memorials, the National Memorial Arch, statues, General's Estates, Washington's Headquarters, a train station, and even an obelisk. The tour was massively informational and entertaining. Many enjoyed the history and monuments available to see and explore.



Tom Garback-Troop Historian
December 13th, 2014

Boy Scouts of America Troop 280



**Tom Garback-Troop Historian
December 13th, 2014**

Boy Scouts of America Troop 280



**Tom Garback-Troop Historian
December 13th, 2014**

Boy Scouts of America

Troop 280

In between those sights, before visiting Washington's Headquarters, we spent half an hour at 12:15 eating lunch on the edge of private residences and General Knox's Quarters. We rested on a path going up a hill near some large trees.

It was 4:30 by the time we finished our hike, and the distance was a total of about ten miles. As the darkness came, it almost seemed to grow warmer. Everyone was greatly tired and hungry from the day. Valley Forge held beautiful landscapes on the farmland, woodlands, and hills.

The troop took a trip to Shady Maple Smorgasbord at 5:30, and the meal was terrific and plentiful, if not too plentiful. The drive home took a little over an hour, and by 9:00 we were back at Bede's. But we were not finished yet. The scouts and adults took down the nativity set that was put together for the parish on Thursday night. Within a half an hour, the service was complete, and everyone went off to home in anticipation for the soon coming holidays. Hopefully, Valley Forge was a remarkable journey through history and a reminder of what was suffered for our freedom in the Days of George Washington and the Revolutionary War.

Tom Garback-Troop Historian
December 13th, 2014