

# Boy Scouts of America

## Troop 280



### October Worthington State Forest Trip

For this month's trip, our focus of location was Worthington State Forest, located within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in Warren County, New Jersey. It runs along the Kittatinny Ridge near Columbia. Also in this forest is nearly ten miles of the Appalachian Trail.

Six adults and five scouts attended and we all met at 6:30 in the morning on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup>. From Bede's, we left at ten of seven as the sun rose. Only about an hour later we stopped at Wawa to get breakfast, lunch for later, and snacks. At half past nine, we came to the parking lot of some trails in the Kittatinny Ridge. Specifically, the trails we took included the Appalachian, Douglas, and Garvey Springs. At this time it was starting to drizzle outside. As the rain faded away, all of us took our day packs and started up the steep trail. With the season of autumn around us, the ground was layered with red, orange, and yellow leaves that were not yet fully crunchy. Many leaves were still falling, and tons remained in the trees. The moist and slightly chilled air was filled with gnats, and the ground was stern but not moist or hard. The wind rose with the sun as the temperature seemed to switch between hot and cold as our heart rates and body heats fluctuated with alternating breaks and varying slopes.

By eleven, the weather was beautiful. Sun rays shined through the trees to dazzle the ground and air into a dazed heaven. Our tiredness did not help the sense that there was an inexistence of time in the crisp morning up the mountain. Fifteen minutes brought us a flatter area that, though still going up, was now almost a summit below summits. The mountain-side view could be reached by crossing an area of large

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rocks and trees from where the troop took a break and saw that there were several other groups hiking around us.

Continuing onward through numerous turns of direction and changes in slope, we found Sunfish Pond, a 44 acre glacial lake, at noon. We hiked around it and soon became slightly lost in an area near the Garvey Springs Trail. Further was the Appalachian Trail, where we were then on the mountain peaks, hiking across the ridge. New Jersey was spread around us like a map and the clouds were larger and lower (though only seemingly because of our elevation). At 1:15, we stopped in an opening by the edge of a mountain for lunch, which was bought by most and packed by the rest. Forty-five minutes later we turned back on the trail we had gone. As the heat of the day dissolved into a colder shadow of the day behind us, we made it back to the parking lot at 3:45. All of us suffered down the steepness of the land, which is actually harder on your legs than going up. When you travel upward, it is more tiring, but coming down is a pain because your body is being dragged by gravity and it is very difficult to keep your footing. At many times, it would seem easy to simply lay off the brakes and let yourself tumble down. After we had finished, our total distance was around six miles.

We came to our campground next, which was a secluded rectangle surrounded by trees and the road to get there. Around 5:15, Jacob, Dominick and I started dinner while Jake and Jack worked on the fire. The meal was of elbow pasta in red sauce with onions, peppers, and ground beef with an addition of toasted Italian bread. It was greatly enjoyed by all.

At quarter of seven, the troop was around the camp fire and eating s'mores, candy, and an apple-peach cobbler prepared by Mr.

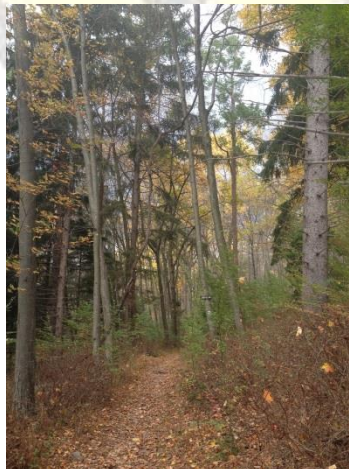
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Dodel with the help from other adults. Between nine and ten, everyone went to bed. Most slept on tarps, while some in backpacking tents.

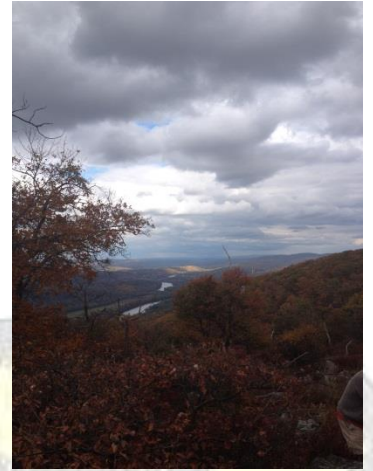
The next day at 7:00 AM, all woke and packed up camp by 8:30. There were leftover snacks to eat during the time. A half hour later, we stopped at the one and only Hot Dog Johnny's as tradition goes. There were hot hot dogs (obviously), French fries, Birch Beer, and ice cream. For 10:30 mass, we attended Saint Ann's, which was a beautiful church. At almost one, we were back at Bede's where we unpacked and dispersed to our separate ways. Though the attendance was very small, the trip was a hearty return to the Appalachians, and a perfect camping weekend for the autumnal season.



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