



Boy Scouts of America: Troop 280

Religious Retreat

The troop's October trip was to the 2015 Religious Retreat of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia-Catholic Committee on Scouting (the first we've gone to in at least five years). This was held at the Ockinickon Scout Reservation, which we are all familiar with as it is the main location for our summer camp trips. For info on the Committee, go to:

www.phillycatholicscouting.org

Fifteen scouts and adults met at Bede's around 7:30 in the afternoon on Friday to leave. It was dark, rainy, and a little cold. By the next hour, we arrived at OSR. The rain had mostly stopped. Our campsite was Ottawa, which is behind the New Parade Field. Later that night, there was cracker barrel (snacks and discussion on plans) in the dining hall. There were pretzels and such to eat, along with the soda fountain. By 10:30, everyone was in bed.

We woke after a chilly night at 7:30 to clouds and Class A's (for flag raising).



Breakfast showed a few groups joining for just the day, as only a handful of troops were sleeping over for the program. Breakfast sandwiches were the main course. Our program began afterwards. The basic system involved groups circulating through various stations of discussion and projects.

Tom Garback-Troop Historian
October 2nd-4th, 2015



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This work counted towards religious metals. Everyone who attended could earn the Blessed Be the Merciful patch. There was also the opportunity to gain a patch on Saint Isaac Jogues, taught by Mr. O'Neill. A lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs was held slightly after noon. Then everyone had free time. There was rock-climbing, BB Gun Shooting, Arts and Crafts, and games. The Trading Post was open, too. Many scouts in our troop bought and flew a kite. Everyone tried everything available. Later on, we planned a skit for that night's campfire.



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There was a mass at the chapel in the woods. I helped in lecturing. Dinner followed with a hearty feast of chicken and potatoes. The campfire was next. Our troop put on

the funniest (and most controversial) skit of the night, I think. It was a take on the GOP Debate, with everyone playing various political figures, the main ones being Joe Long as Donald Trump and Chris Prazych as Chris Christie. Fortunately, the boos were overpowered by laughs and applause. Next was adoration at the chapel. The night was finished with snacks in the dining hall. After that, the troop made a very large campfire in our site, listening to music and talking.



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A fulfilling pancake breakfast fed everyone on Sunday morning. Our troop cleaned the dining hall, packed up, and left by quarter after ten. We were back to Bede's a little before eleven. The horrifying weather scheduled for the weekend held off, and everyone enjoyed themselves. There was a nice blend of religion, fun activity, and camping that even the most and least religious people could appreciate. That seems to achieve both the goal of the religious retreat and the October weekend trip.



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