

Kittatinny Trip Report - - February 10-12, 2012

The troop met at OLPH between 6:15am for a 6:15 departure Friday night. After taking roll call, scouts climbed into their respective vehicles to heading off at 6:40. Pretty impressive start considering we had about 40 scouts and 10 Dads traveling that night.

In an hour's time we arrived at the scout camp parking lot. After registering at the ranger station we split up into two groups. Scouts staying in Welch Cabin led by our new Eagle ASM's, Will N. and Adam D., along with Mr. Bonnini journeyed on their half mile hike to Welch Cabin. Mr. Dente and I and other Dads led the remaining scouts to Johnson Lodge. Scouts chose bunks and organized their gear.

The other scouts and dads went back and forth from the cabin to the trailer for troopgear. Gratefully, Mr. Dugas held the responsibility in bringing up the troop trailer. Thank you Mr. Dugas.

The temperature was dropping and Matt R. got a fire going and the cabin warmed up immediately. Ahh at last - - time to unwind. Some scouts played games others rested in their bunks and relaxed. The older scouts were working on requirements with our younger scouts.

Mr. Brastad and Mr. Mishra, our newer scout dads stayed inside the cabin getting acclimated while Mr. Given, Leymister and I set up our tents and got situated. Around 10:30pm Mr. Burns and Padaric arrived with the trailer that Mr. Fern let us borrow. The trailer was packed with the "trebuchet" that Mr. Burns and Fern graciously took a short ride to Boston and back the same day. What a road trip! The trailer held 160 pounds of cabbage and 3 or 4 cases of melons donated by Mr. Melone.

Before settling in for the night, Mr. Brastad and I took a walk to Welch Cabin to check in on our senior scouts and Mr. Bonnini. As in most trips, our scouts were playing one of their favorite games "Catch Phrase". The other scouts played a traditional game of "Risk".

As usual, Mr. Bonnini had everything under control and we said good night.

Once we got back to the other cabin, everyone was just getting to sleep. I settled in my tent outside, preparing for a cold winter's night....28-30 degrees.

On Saturday morning most of us were up and starting breakfast. We got a light dusting of snow but not nearly enough for sledding....bummer!

Mr. Leymeister brought up and cooked breakfast for the adults. Canadian bacon, eggs, and cheese on an English muffin. Very tasty and very easy clean up! Brandon and Donal cooked for their patrol led by Carlo. Matt and Chris L. cooked for their patrol led by Lucas. Matt B. and Connor G. cooked for their patrol led by Patrick. Everyone was fed well!

After clean up, all the scouts young and older gathered under the pavilion. We broke into groups to put together catapult kits that Mr. Leymeister had made. The morning was sunny and not too cold. That inspired some scouts to a few games of football throughout the day.

Once the catapults were completed, scouts began by launching small fruit, donated by Mr. Brastad. Finally, it was time to assemble the trebuchet. You could not get the smile off of Mr. Burns' face as he and other adults and scouts put together this gigantic contraption. The first shot fired was with watermelon that traveled about 70 feet. The second shot fired a cantaloupe about 100 feet in the air!

With all the activity we worked up an appetite for lunch, scouts made sandwiches and hot dogs. The adults were treated with Mr. Given's famous chili! Guess what was next? Yep! More launching of fruit and vegetation leaving a melon flying a record of 150 feet! With all the adrenaline left we gathered for a very competitive game of two hand touch football. The adults were all in agreement that it took at least two days before our aching muscles subsided.

Some of the older scouts went and explored the campgrounds and hiked around the lake. Other scouts kept busy with requirements, enjoying catapulting, and football.

P.J, Andrew and James and a few others helped me split wood and the younger scouts made an assembly line to pile the wood back into the cabin to replace what we had already used.

Time for dinner.....the older scouts went off to their cabin to cook, eat and play more games and relax. Jim Givens made chicken fajitas for the adults. Another fine treat! The other scouts had pasta, meatballs, and cheese burgers. Unfortunately, Paul and Padaric had to leave before dinner and head home.

After clean up, some scouts went outside for a game of manhunt. I introduced some of the new dads to an old family traditional card game called "31". Around 10:30pm we were all starting to get real tired.

I went to check on scouts at Welch cabin. Everyone was chillin out, playing games and relaxing. So I headed back to Johnson lodge and found everyone getting ready for lights out.

Now it was time for me to retire and prepare myself for a night out in the cold. The wind was pretty strong and the temperature dropped down to 17 degrees.

Upon waking up Sunday morning, we prepared a quick and easy breakfast and began to pack and clean up. We cleaned rather quickly and the trailer was getting packed up. Around 9:30pm, scouts from the other cabin met up with us at Johnson Lodge. We all gathered at the top of the field and did a final sweep, pick up any melons, fruits and or vegetables left from the trebuchet.

Rangers made their final inspections on both cabins and were very pleased with the way we cleaned up and replaced the firewood. We then gathered at the pavilion for a few final words from scouts and adults. We made sure that everyone was assigned a ride and left for home.

I would like to personally thank all the scout leaders and adults who helped in anyway, large or small, to make this trip a success! Working together ends in good results.

I'm also very proud of the senior class scouts who showed their leadership skills. They proved to be responsible enough to be on their own.

I'd also like to welcome our new scouts for their first trip, Kedar and Alex. I think they both are a good fit to our troop!

And finally.....to all the scouts, you all did a great job by "staying safe and having fun".

Yours in scouting,

SIC, Dave Dishian, ASM