



**Troop 49, The Pathfinders  
Boston  
November 11 - 13, 2011**

**Friday, November 11, 2011**

52 people left OLPH at 7:05 am heading north on the New York State Thruway for our first destination, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass. We made excellent time, arriving prior to the Hall's opening at 10:00. However, we were allowed in early to observe a very special event, Hoops for Heroes. A young man was traveling the world to shoot 1 million foul shots to raise money for military veterans.

It was the luck of Troop 49 that he was shooting his 1 millionth shot that morning and we would be there to observe it. It was a very moving and emotional experience – they would stop every 100 shots and play music or someone would speak - at one point a military guard presented the colors and the national anthem was played. I was quite proud to see our scouts at attention saluting the flag to pay tribute to those who served our country.

At the museum I learned that Michael Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and the last spot on the team went to his friend. That experience drove Jordan the rest of his career, to the point that for the NBA Championship game, he checked into the hotel under his friend's name – to remind himself not to rest on his laurels – what a great story.



At noon, we departed for Lexington and Concord, home of Minute Man National Historical Park. We begin our revolutionary tour at the Visitors Center., which offered an excellent multimedia presentation retelling the story of Paul Revere's ride from Boston to Lexington and Concord, setting the stage for our visit.

This National Park is amazing, so rich in history and places to visit, one could spend a week there, I think. (Well, I could)

From there, the group moved on to North Bridge Visitor Center & Park Headquarters. This site was a terrific experience for the scouts. We were fortunate to have a very engaging interpreter. She brought the boys (and adults/families!) to attention, marching them from stop to stop as she selected scouts and siblings to read interpretive paragraphs retelling the story of the North Bridge, and asking questions of our group to increase engagement in the story and the time period. Everyone was quite captivated, and thoroughly enjoyed the session.



At 4:00 PM, with the explosion of musket fire, and the sun reflecting through droplets of freezing rain, we completed our tour and headed for BSA Camp Sayre, 411 Unquity Rd, Milton, MA 02186 617-615-0004.

As sunset is early in the winter months, we arrived at Camp Sayre in darkness. Some adults were concerned about having to carry everything to the campsite, but realizing we had “27 pack mules” at our disposal, our scouts (and scout families) were undaunted by this minor inconvenience, and established camp without any problems. Following camp setup, the scouts fell in to their patrol cooking rituals and soon the air was filled with the rich smells of wood fires and soup.

Camp Sayre is a great place – it is the scout center for the Minuteman Council and the building has (clean) bathrooms,



showers for all genders and ages. It even has an indoor pool, which unfortunately was closed due to maintenance. Our “campmaster” helped me tremendously with our logistics for the next day, advising me on train and subway arrangements to get to our destinations in Boston on Saturday. Previously I had considered driving in, which would have been a challenge to say the least, considering we had 57 people, not to mention 8-10 cars navigating the narrow Boston streets. She was grateful to receive a Troop 49 patch as a thank you from us.

Dinners appeared to go well and we settled into our tents relatively early around 10pm. Weather was a bit chilly, reaching a low of 37 degrees, but it was nice and dry. I'll take cold weather over wet any day.

### **Saturday, November 12, 2011**

At 9:15 AM, we boarded the "T" and departed Quincy Adams station for Park Station, the heart of downtown Boston and Boston Commons. Mr. Dente broke the troop into groups of 4 or 5 for the purpose of boarding and exiting the train. The system worked well, the only thing lost was my voice from the frequent count outs we did and throughout the day, the group moved easily on and off the trains.

We arrived at Park Station about 20 minutes later, ascended the stairs, and were greeted by a sunny if brisk late fall morning in the heart of Boston. At 10:15, after coffee and hot drinks in the local restaurants, we left the Visitor Center for the 3 mile walk covering the historic Freedom Trail.

First stop, of course, was The State House. A terrific opportunity for a Troop Photo and an opportunity to get warm in the morning sunshine!



As we continued along the Freedom Trail, much time was spent exploring the Granary Burying Ground on Tremont Street looking for the grave sites of such Boston luminaries as Paul Revere, John Hancock and John Adams.



By 11:30, the group was growing hungry, and consensus was quickly reached for lunch at Quincy Market adjacent to Faneuil Hall. Quincy Market offers a target rich opportunity for lunch, with about 40 vendors lining the first floor of the market. While the North End would have provided a quieter venue and perhaps better food, Quincy Market was an efficient way for us to feed 60 people in a short time and keep our tour on schedule.

At 12:15 sharp, we regrouped outside the East end of Faneuil Hall to continue our walk. The Paul Revere House, and The Old North Church were soon in our grasp. Without so much as a blink, the scouts traversed "The Big Dig", now a lovely green space, and continued to Copps Hill Burying Ground. At the USS Constitution, the group made a call based on the time remaining in the day: we would forego touring the Constitution in favor of completing the trip to Bunker Hill. At 1:30 PM, right on schedule, the troop stormed up Bunker Hill and claimed it in the name of Troop 49!

**SIC's Note:** Although our plan was to tour the Constitution & museum, I say thanks to the ASM's who suggested a change to skip it so we could do Bunker Hill and allow sufficient time to make it to Fenway Park. This was a great example of flexibility - as a Troop we either have or will visit our fair share of ships/boats on our trips, so I thought this was a great call.

To top it off, we had a great photo shoot which made the front page of the Suburban News!

At 2:00 PM, we took our leave, and began to walk the 0.6 miles downhill to the Community College Station stop on the Orange line. We transferred at North Station to the Green Line, debarking at the Kenmore stop - just a block from Fenway.

We arrived at Fenway Stadium at 3:00 PM. At 3:15 we gathered for our tour, led by an Eagle Scout from the Boston area. I told him he could "take some liberties" with all the Yankee fans in our group and he definitely did, providing us with a great tour.



At 4:45 PM we departed Fenway for the Kenmore stop, changed trains at Park Station, and returned to the Quincy Adams station in Quincy. The troop boarded our cars, and once again headed to Camp Sayre in the darkness of fall.



Again, dinner went well – some families headed back to the hotel. At the campfire, Mr. Dishian led a round of “Rose, Bud Thorn” where scouts discussed their favorite part of the day (Rose), something they did not like (Thorn) and something they would change (Bud). This was a very enjoyable part of the trip for me, hearing each scout share his feelings about the trip – what a great way to enjoy each other's company and find out what our boys are thinking. I would endorse making this a staple of future Troop 49 campfire gatherings.

### **Sunday, November 11, 2011**

Another dry night (love them!) and a bit warmer. The troop began packing early for our trip home. We had a final sweep of the grounds by 10:00. By 10:30, the last of the scouts had departed Camp Sayre with a much richer appreciation for Boston and the period surrounding the revolution.

I would like to thank everyone for attending and whatever they did to help on this trip. One reason the trip was so successful, in my opinion, was due to the planning beforehand and I would like to thank Martin Treich and Rob Dente for their assistance. Thanks to Paul Burns for drafting this trip report and Dave Dishian for his culinary delights. I told Dave I would run another trip next year if he would cook :-).

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Folkerts, Scoutmaster in Charge

### **Lessons Learned:**

- While traveling on the subway may not be as comfortable as cars, it was a terrific experience for the scouts and it kept our group together, which is a huge plus as you try to cover this much territory. Plus, in Boston, it really is the only way to travel.
- If subway transport is a possibility, produce a card that everyone can pocket which has the cell phone numbers of 3 or 4 of the outing leaders.
- Flexibility and a positive outlook are key – we changed the plan several times. For me, some of my most memorable moments on scout trips are those where we encounter obstacles or issues and overcome them. Like Mike Rowe (Dirty Jobs) said in his Jamboree speech, “Scouting forces you to deal with uncomfortable situations at times, yet it is these which allow us to grow”. (I may have paraphrased a bit).