

The ugle

Issue 13

November 3, 2006

2006 Fall Camporee “Battle of Bull Run” October 27-28th, 2006

by Troop Historian (Paul D)

In the past, Camporees seemed the same; orienteering, first aid, fitness, etc. This one, however, was different...in a good way. I feel sorry for those who didn't or couldn't go, because you missed out on a lot of fun. Scouts that attended were Joey, Zack, Ray, Alan, Paul, Stephen, Stephen, Jacob, JJ, Eric, Park, Zach, Jason, Jonathan, Ari, Spencer, and Kurt. ASMs who went on the campout were Mr. Davis, Mr. Bumgardner, Mr. Kiel, Mr. Ticer, and Mr. Kressel. The theme for this fall's Camporee was “The Civil War”, in which troops were either on the Union Army or the Confederate Army and competed against not just the other side, but troops on the same side as well.

On Friday afternoon, while we were at school, Mr. Davis, our honored Scoutmaster for the weekend, came up with a Plan B for Friday night. While we could have slept in the cold, windy climate on the wet, muddy ground, we camped out in the church for the night. I have to admit, it was pretty awesome. There were games such as Battleship, chess, and Jenga to play, as well as a few snacks and pre-camp activities to do. For dinner, we either ate before we came, or we brought our dinner. We decided to call it a night at 10:30pm, but we couldn't fall asleep until around 11:30pm.

Saturday was an early rise...5:30am, earlier than when we usually wake up for school. Our deadline for departure was 7:30am, and we had so much to do, yet so little time. Tasks, such as loading the cars, packing up, and eating breakfast needed to be done within 2 hours. Speaking of breakfast, we had a choice of a blueberry muffin, 2 pancakes, or a cream cheese spread bagel to eat, with Sunny D and Milk for beverages. When everything was FINALLY accomplished, we headed off to Bull Run Park, the site of our own ‘Battle of Bull Run’.

Most of us arrived at the campsite at about 8:15am. Just like we expected, the ground was muddy, with a few puddles of rain water. Soon after arriving, we got to work on setting up camp, mainly dining flaps and chuck-boxes. Since the ground was still wet, we didn't bother setting up tents until the activities were completed. Once camp was set up, we headed over to the flagpole for the opening ceremony. We were told to meet with the rest of our “army” after the flag ceremony, where we discussed our plans for the day. General Lee told us to be headstrong and to do the best we can do in the events.

From 9:30am-Noon, we did activities to prepare ourselves for the

“battle”, such as how to load a rifle (no automatic weapons back in the 1800’s), how to march correctly in certain patterns, and what women did in the war while the men fought. Lunch came around quickly, which consisted of hotdogs with chips and flavored water for a beverage. If you recall from last year’s fall camporee, two of our dining flies flew off the ground into another troop’s campsite. Well...it happened again...and for the same reason, very high winds even though they were stacked down. Luckily, no one was claimed to be hurt, plus it gave the troops a little after lunch entertainment. Activities proceeded immediately after lunch. Many in our troop found capture the flag and the minefield very competitive challenges. A few scouts, however, decided to work on the American Heritage Merit Badge for an hour or so and were awarded at the end with a completed blue card. General Lee instructed us to meet at 3:15pm to plan our strategy for the battle at 4:00pm. We couldn’t tell who won, but I guess the Confederates did, ha ha. Soon after the battle, we were told that we had to leave camp due to expected 55-60 mph gusts of wind and possible more rain during the evening and night, so we ended a short but FUN day with the closing flag ceremony.

Rather than eat dinner and do KP at camp, we packed up all our gear and the leaders drove us back to the Church where we cooked our planned dinner menu which consisted of a choice of chili or chicken soup with cornbread muffins and dinner rolls. It was a nice warm meal to give us a break from the cold weather. At 6pm, we had a reflection on the campout. Generally, it was great in the opinion of most scouts, although the leaders said that we need to work on respecting one another, a scout is courteous and kind.

Historian’s Note

Overall, this was a good campout, although we had a few unexpected events that shortened our campout. On a scale of 1 to 10, I’d give this campout a 7_. This rating is a little lower than usual because I personally didn’t enjoy the campout to its fullest, hence the Saturday night cancellation. Everyone seemed to have a good time, and the events that we did manage to get to were fun. However, I have to agree with the respect issue the leaders brought up. Hopefully, on future campouts, we’ll be more respectful.

UPCOMING CAMPOUTS:

Hemlock Overlook 1 night Campout----
November 11-12

Blackburn Cabin Campout-----
December 8-10

January Campout-----
TBD

Seven Springs Annual Ski Trip-----
February 23-25

Sign up TODAY!

The Bugle is published occasionally by Boy Scout Troop 1257, Herndon, Virginia. Submissions are welcome, and should be made to Paul D, Troop Historian.
