



Trails of Troop 48

Doing more before breakfast than most people do all day.

April 2011

White Horse District – SNJ Council



TROOP 48 would like to recognize
RYAN MATTHEWS
for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.
Congratulations on your fine
achievement,
and best of luck to you as you head to
college next year!



UPCOMING EVENTS...

- April 15 to 17** Pequea Creek Trip
- April 25 to 28** 50 Miler Backpacking Trip
- April** Kamran N's Eagle Project
- April 29-May 1** Troop 48 Alumni Campout
- May 13 to 15** Whitewater Rafting Trip
- May** Eagle Court of Honor





C&O Canal Trip

By Mike McCormick

It was a dark and stormy night in March when Troop 48 headed South to Great Falls Park along the Maryland/Virginia Border. Except for the stormy part. Oh, and the dark part, at least after two of the Scout managed to set the church's fire alarm off (complete with a visit from the fire trucks) before we left for the trip. Good job guys, that was a first for Troop 48.

We arrived just before 10 PM and, after using our map skills, began the half mile trek to Marsden Tract Campground, our way illuminated by the glow of Washington DC just over the horizon. We made it there, set up camp, and fell asleep.

Morning brought us breakfast and quite a view of the Potomac River. We trekked back to the parking lot, packed our lunches, inflated our bike tires, and off we went down the C&O Canal Towpath: Steve, Don, Luke, Sajin, Brian, and Cameron, with Mike and Jeremy in tow (ba dum bum). I never would have thought that there was such a scenic area so close to Washington, DC, but we biked down between the wide expanses of canal and the wider expanses of the Potomac River, past rushing waterfalls, old canal locks, walls of exposed rock and boulder, and scores of swimming birds. The highlights for me on the way out were the Great Falls section of the Potomac and a fox that we spotted climbing up a steep rock face.

After eleven miles, we stopped for lunch. By this time, everyone had pulled off layers of clothing as the temperatures had reached a beautiful 60 degrees. We turned around and headed downhill for our 10 ½ mile ride back to camp. The biking wasn't too hard, and we still had plenty of sites and scenery to look at, stopping several times to check out the Lock Houses that still dot the towpath. We eventually reached the Visitor's Center, an old hotel, where some of us learned about the people who lived along the canal and others spent their time playing checkers in the gift shop. We made it back to camp in the early afternoon. We all made dinner (pasta for the adults, chicken wings for the Scouts) and did some packing up before gathering around the fire. After a while, it was time for an exciting game of manhunt, Jeremy and me versus five of the Scouts. The adults defended our honor, battling the Scouts to a tie despite being outnumbered. After snacks for everyone, we turned in for the night.



In the morning, we trekked back to the cars through the rain that had started. Everyone grabbed breakfast (some of which the raccoons had helped themselves to) before the drive North to New Jersey. Overall, the trip was a blast – we had an awesome bike ride, a great game of manhunt, and got to camp in a beautiful spot the troop had never visited before. I'm sure the troop will head back there in the future.

Many thanks to Karen Talucci and Jeremy Schiller for all the help with the trip! Also many thanks to our Institutional Representative Janet Finnigan for helping us get the fire alarm turned off while she was in Florida!

Academy of Natural Sciences Day Trip.

By: Nicholas Maurer

On Sunday March 27, 2010 we set out to the Academy of Natural Sciences, but not just to visit but to earn our mammal studies Merit badge. At 11:45 we left the shed and took the journey over the bridge and into Philly. When we arrived we parked, went inside, went into our class room, or the "DINO ROOM". Once we were settled in we began the badge. It was similar to school but a lot more fun because every once in a while they would show us a cool skull or a preserved rat, or my favorite, a stuffed hedgehog. At the end of the lesson we got our bat boxes (which was the final requirement) and got our group photo under the big T-rex. Then we were free to explore the museum of about an hour and a half. First my group and I (Skippy, William, Tim, and I) decided to go explore the wonder and the amazement of ... of ... the lunch room. Well, maybe that wasn't the highlight of the trip. We thought it would be a good place to start, considering we had just been sitting at a table with our lunches staring at us for the past two hours and we were starving. After that we went up to the butterfly room and played with the butterflies and as we were trying to leave we had a big blue butterfly try to escape but we were able to stop him. After that we went to the turning back time exhibit which showed all of the more lesser know animals that walked the earth back when dinos still roamed the earth and cavemen were just starting to learn what the heck a wheel was. After that we went up to the "outside in" exhibit which was full of turtles, fish, rocks, and other cool small animals. Even though it was geared towards kids ages 8 to 10 we still had a fun time. After that we decided to go back towards the T-rex since it was getting time to leave. Once we left we crossed the bridge and we headed home. I hope that we can go again sometime in the fall, and we can go to the Franklin institute for the day even if we don't earn a Merit badge. Over all it was a fun time and I can't wait to go again.



Upcoming trip!
Pequea Creek Campground, Pequea, PA

Friday, April 15 thru Sunday April 17, 2010

Troop 48 returns to the site of one of our most legendary trips – the Pequea Gorge.

We'll be camping out at Pequea Creek Campground (at the top of a mountain, seriously awesome), taking a hike along the Conestoga Trail, exploring Wind Cave (bring a flashlight and a bike helmet!), taking in an amazing view from House Rock, and wading in Pequea Creek.

Ask any kid who was at Pequea last time, they all have dozens of stories to tell about this trip. This is a trip not to be missed.

In addition to the usual gear, Scouts should bring a light backpack (school bag is fine), sturdy footwear, and at least two liters of water (that's three to four of the little bottles of water sold in stores).

Scouts who need the hiking requirements for 2nd Class should remember to bring a first aid kit and, if they own one, a compass.

Cost: \$25

Please arrive at "the shed" at 5:30 PM, we plan to leave by 6:15 PM. Eat dinner before you come!

The permission slip for this trip can be found at the end of this newsletter!



EASY TROOP 48 FUNDRAISER!

Wish you could do more to support Troop 48 but never seem to find the time? Well now you can *and* take care of your errands at the same time when you use **Shop Rite** gift certificates purchased through Troop 48! These gift certificates come in handy denominations of \$25 and \$50 and are sold by Deb Sperleng during each troop meeting. With every card you purchase the troop makes money!

Upcoming trip!
50 Mile Spring Backpacking Trip
Monday, April 25 thru Thursday April 28, 2011

The Scouts drag Mike McCormick and Tom Ferrari out of their warm homes for a four day, three night 50 Mile Backpacking adventure on the Batona Trail in New Jersey's Pine Barrens. Along the way, Scouts will camp at Buttonwood, Lower Forge, and Brendan Byrne State Forest campgrounds, will complete ten hours will earn the coveted 50 Mile Foot/Afloat Patch. This is also excellent training for those Scouts interested in going to the Grand Tetons in 2012.

If you are interested in attending this trip, make sure that Danny S. or Mike McCormick know and that you are approved by Wednesday, April 13th. We'll be handing out packing lists ahead of time, and will have a shakedown meeting before hand to go through everyone's packs and make sure they are prepared.

Cost: \$25

Please arrive at "the shed" at 5:30 AM, we plan to leave no later than 6:00 AM (we need to hit the trail as early as possible). Please eat breakfast before you come!

The permission slip for this trip can be found at the end of this newsletter!

Upcoming Trip
Troop 48 Summer Trip!

July 30 to August 5, 2011

Alleghany Mountains of Pennsylvania

It's almost that time of year again, that magical week of the summer where Troop 48 heads off to some far corner of the country for a week of camping, adventure, and fun! This year, we'll be heading to the Alleghany Mountains of Western Pennsylvania from July 30 to August 5.

This year, Troop 48 is offering not just one, but two awesome programs to choose from during our summer trip – a backpacking trek and a series of day trip adventures from our base camp at Ohiopyle State Park in Ohiopyle, PA (reservations pending).

The backpacking crew will be backpacking for four or five days along the beautiful Laurel Highlands Trail that runs along the crest of the Alleghany Mountains. The backpacking crew will plot out which section of trail we are hiking before we leave this summer, then head out there to tackle the challenge. This will be great practice for those planning on attending next summer's high adventure trip to the Grand Tetons.

The base camp crew will be heading out of camp for a new adventure each day. What sort of adventures? Well, that's up to you, the Scouts. Use the internet (with your parent's permission) or the local library to find out what there is to do in and around Ohiopyle, PA and bring your ideas to the leader's meeting on Wednesday, April 20 to be discussed and voted on by all the Scouts. Last summer we went bouldering at Thunder Hole, night kayaked in Bar Harbor, hiked/climbed to the top of majestic Cadillac Mountain, swam in Echo Lake, and mountain biked along the rocky trails of Maine... what will we be doing this summer?

Once we figure out what the activities are for the trip, we'll have a price for the trip. It will likely be close to last year's price of \$250 per Scout, a bargain for a whole week.

PERMISSION SLIP – Backpacking



When?: Monday, April 25 – Thursday, April 28, 2011.
Please meet at “the shed” at **6 AM** on Monday!

Where?: Batona Trail, The Pine Barrens, NJ

Cost?: \$25 - Please make checks payable to “Troop 48” – If you paid for Backpacking back in December, you are already paid up for this trip.

50 miler, here we come.

Please eat breakfast before you come Monday!

SCOUT: _____ has permission to attend the troop activity/trip and has permission to engage in all activities, except as noted below. I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the adult leader in charge to treat, hospitalize, and secure proper anesthesia and/or order injection or surgery for my son/ward.

RESTRICTIONS: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

If your son is required to take medication or has any other special needs, please list the details below:

I am paying by ___ cash ___ check ___ Scout account

Initials of Scout if paying by Scout account: _____

PERMISSION SLIP – Pequea



When?: Friday, April 15 – Sunday, April 17, 2011.
Please meet at “the shed” at 5:30 PM, we will be aiming to leave by 6:15!

Where?: Pequea Creek Campground, Pequea, PA

Cost?: \$25 - Please make checks payable to “Troop 48”

Come prepared for hiking (water bottle, a backpack, and boots/sturdy shoes), caving (a bike helmet and a flashlight), and a ton of fun

Please eat dinner before you come Friday!

SCOUT: _____ has permission to attend the troop activity/trip and has permission to engage in all activities, except as noted below. I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the adult leader in charge to treat, hospitalize, and secure proper anesthesia and/or order injection or surgery for my son/ward.

RESTRICTIONS: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

If your son is required to take medication or has any other special needs, please list the details below:

I am paying by ___ cash ___ check ___ Scout account
Initials of Scout if paying by Scout account: _____