



Trails of Troop 48

Doing more before breakfast than most people do all day.

November 2017

White Horse District – Garden State Council

Goshen Pond

By Scout Scoutly

On a mid-October weekend, Troop 48 set off for the far off land of Shamong in the pine barrens, nearly twenty whole minutes from the shed. There, the PLC had planned an exciting weekend for the Troop, but also from visitors from local Cub Scout packs.

“We’ve been doing this since at least I was a kid”, said Scoutmaster Mike McCormick, “I was out here as a Webelos back in 1992. It must have been fun, I joined Troop 48!”

This year, the PLC tried to outdo themselves.

First, the Scouts worked on Wilderness Survival skills, including how to create a shelter.

They then went on a mile hike through the historic village of Atsion. Stops along the way included the Richards Mansion, the old schoolhouse, a church from the 1800s, and an old paper mill. Scouts also crossed the Mullica River on a railroad bridge, looked for slag from the bog iron days, and found some wildlife.

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Mike’s Minute

by Scoutmaster Mike McCormick

“Be prepared,” is the motto given to the Scouts by founder Baden-Powell. Last month we worked on first aid skills, some of the most important learned in Scouting.

A few years ago, a Scout was sitting at dinner with his family. His grandfather started to talk funny, and this Scout realized he was having a stroke. He let his folks know, and medical professionals rushed him to a hospital. The grandfather came out fine. The Scout’s mom said afterwards, “I didn’t even know he knew what a stroke was.”

Today, this Scout is James, our Senior Patrol Leader. He knew what to do from Scouting. You never know when something you learned in Scouts will be important!

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Alumni Corner

By Dan Bush

I obtained my Eagle Scout Award --- right -- before I turned eighteen, when Chris Farrell was Scoutmaster, after Gary Lake



resigned. Gary's number one rule was "Don't lie to Gary." The foundation of my development as a scout --- and a man --- began with being treated like an adult, provided that I was honest. This came with all of the normal adult responsibilities like being there when you said you would, doing what you agreed to, and holding yourself accountable for mistakes along the way.

Throughout the entirety of scouting, the hardest part was being the senior patrol leader. The patrol leaders and I met once a month to plan Wednesday night meetings. We secured materials, booked venues, and called scouts. (This was before group texts, we actually used a "phone tree" --- ask Mr. McCormick) By the time I aged out, I had significant planning experience and I knew how to hold myself accountable. It had never occurred to me that this kind of experience would pay off, I thought it was just a thing I did.

In college, I joined a club and quickly made my way onto its executive board, where my skills paid off. Once I graduated and made it to the workplace, surprise, more meetings and following up. Things really took off when I started working for myself. Once I was on my own, these skills that I first picked up in scouting --- never missing meetings, planning, following up, communicating, being accountable --- flourished. As it turns out, in business, people actually value trustworthiness, loyalty, helpfulness, friendliness, courtesy, kindness, obedience, cheerfulness, thrift, bravery, cleanliness, and reverence (of a kind).

Financial independence afforded me other opportunities. I got married and bought a house (though I'm still paying my student loans). I can also travel: recently, I hiked half dome in Yosemite, CA via the John Muir trail. It was the most challenging single day hike I've ever ventured to complete --- eighteen miles round trip with nearly one mile of elevation gain. It was surreal to look at the towering mountain from the base of the trail (no, imagine it's higher still) and think we're going to walk up that, like later today. Once I reached the top, I reflected briefly on my scouting experience, because that's really what it IS --- experience. What you're doing now, provided that you take it seriously, can build you as a person, make you stronger, and make you valuable to yourself and to others.

I wore my purples for the hike, the same purples I had during scouting.

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Scoutmaster
Mike McCormick

troop48berlin.org

Need to buy food? Want to support Troop 48? Why not get Shop Rite gift cards!?

Just see Kellie Walker at any meeting to get Shop Rite cards! Troop 48 gets a percentage of each card bought!

Sleeping Warm This Winter By Scout Scoutly

That most Scoutly of camping times approaches – WINTER! No mosquitos! No ticks! No other campers crazy enough to be camping outside with us! Yes, winter is THE most fun time to camp, the time that separates us from the Cub Scouts.

“But Scout,” you might say, “It’s COOOOOOLD out there!”

To which I’ll reply, “It builds character!”

HA! Just kidding! I’d tell you how to keep warm:

- **Eat.** Your body makes heat the same way that a fire does, by burning fuel. As a person (and not a fire), your fuel is food. Eat dinner and snack with your patrol! Hot chocolate is great too!
- **Bring a sleeping pad.** Or two! When you are in your sleeping bag, the cold ground pulls far more heat out of you than the cold air. A pad acts as an extra layer of insulation between you and the ground. I use two cheap foam pads under me at night.
- **Buy chemical handwarmers like “Hot Hands”.** They are cheap and sold at Target/Wal-Mart/camping supply stores. One in your pocket during the day can be switched between your gloves to keep your hands warm, but one (or ever better, two or three) in your sleeping bag at night will help keep you toasty and warm.
- **Pack blankets and/or a sleeping bag liner to go with that sleeping bag.** A cheap fleece or down blanket (available at Target/Walmart/REI/LL Bean and other places) or a sleeping bag liner (available at camping goods stores like LL Bean and REI) can be placed in your sleeping bag, keeping you warmer at night. Throwing some old comforters or other blankets under your sleeping bag (again, more layers to keep the cold ground from sucking the heat out of you) and/or on top of you acts the same way that layers do during the day. Cold? Use three or four blankets... cocoon yourself in!

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Next trip: Friday to Sunday, November 17-19 – Goshen Pond Trip! We'll be heading up to Allaire, on the northern end of the pine barrens, to camp. Saturday, we'll be exploring the largest battle ever fought in New Jersey – Monmouth from the Revolutionary War.

This trip costs \$25 per Scout, with a \$10 early bird discount for those paying by Wednesday, November 8th!

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Back from our hike, it was time for the really adventurous stuff, starting with the obstacle course. The course included balance beams, hurtles, a pit of spiders, and a tunnel to crawl out of. Good times were had by all navigating through it.

For the last big adventure, the Scouts had constructed a 25 foot long monkey bridge for everyone to cross. They had lashed it together themselves, and then hauled it up to be freestanding. With the help of hundreds of feet of old climbing rope (thanks Mr. Teti!), a really solid bridge was constructed, and Scouts spent over an hour climbing up and across it. The night was wrapped up with a campfire, where Scouts and smores and pickle soda.



... cold weather camping continued from page 3...

- **Don't wear a lot of layers to bed.** Your sleeping bag is not a heater (even with hand warmers in it), it needs your body heat to warm it up. You should wear a fresh, dry t-shirt to bed with either lightweight shorts or one layer of lightweight long pants (flannel pajama bottoms if you have them, gym pants or jogging pants if you don't) and count on the layers of blankets to keep you warm. If your cold, add blankets over and under you, not clothes!
- **Keep your face OUT of your sleeping bag.** Moisture from your breath will make you much colder in the long run. Wear a stocking hat or even a ski mask on your head to keep that part of your body warm. If you have the extra blankets, pull them over your head to make a pocket of warm air for your face.

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- **Put articles for your base layer of clothing in your sleeping bag with you.** Your underwear, long underwear, and t-shirt for the next morning should be kept in your bag with you. This will make them much warmer in the morning than if they are sitting out all night. For those that wear contacts, keep the case in your bag with you so that they don't freeze your eyeballs when you go to put them in the morning. Your eyes will thank you. Still have room in your sleeping bag? Stuff more clothes in there! The less air space there is to heat up in your bag, the easier it is to warm it up (and keep it warm).
- **Finally, share a tent with other people.** A tent with two, three, or more people in it is always going to be warmer than a tent with just you in it. Consider using a separate tent for your gear so that you can fit more people in your tent.

The troop always takes extra blankets with us, and patrols often have hot chocolate, but nothing will keep you as warm as coming prepared!

Scout Meme-of-the-Month



“The real way to get happiness is by giving happiness to other people.”

~ Lord Robert Baden-Powell, Founder of Scouting

Upcoming Events - 2017-2018!

November – Scouting for Food

Saturday, November 4 – Hoagie Sale – Berlin, NJ

Friday to Sunday, November 17th to 19th – Monmouth Battlefield. Camping – Allaire

Thursday, November 23 – Thanksgiving Support Our Troops Event – Battleship New Jersey – Camden, NJ
(if held, have not had any info released about it)

Friday to Sunday, December 8th to 10th – Palisades/Camp Alpine

Wednesday, December 13 - Court of Honor and Troop 48's 53rd Birthday!

Sunday, January 7 - Troop 48 Ski/Snowboarding/Tubing Trip - Jack Frost Mountain, White Haven, PA!

Friday to Sunday, January 26th to 28th – White Horse Klondike Derby

Friday to Sunday, February 16th to 18th – No-Be-Bo-Sco Cabin Camping

Wednesday, February 28 - Climbing Night @ Elite Climbing

Friday to Sunday, March 23rd to 25th – Poconos/Crystal Cave Trip *

Friday to Sunday, April 6 to 8 - Beginner Backpacking Trip - Mullica River Trail - Atsion to Batsto, NJ *

Friday to Sunday, April 27th to 29th – White Horse District Camp-er-ee - rifle shooting, archery, etc!

Friday to Sunday, May 4th – 6th – Valley Forge Bike Trip

Saturday, May 26 - Memorial Day Flag Placement @ Berlin Cemetery.

Saturday, June 2 - World War II Reenactment Day Trip – Reading, PA

Wednesday, June 6 - Annual Planning Meeting

Friday to Sunday, June 8th to 10th – Canoeing – Wading River – Camping Bodine Field. *

Friday to Sunday, July 13th to 15th – Sea Isle City Fishing/Crabbing trip. *

Saturday to Friday, August 4 to 10 - Summer Trip - Acadia National Park in Maine! *

Friday to Sunday, mid-September TBA – Beach Jam - Wildwood, NJ.

Friday to Sunday, September 28 to 30 - MS 150 Campout.