



# Trails of Troop 48

*Doing more before breakfast than most people do all day.*

March 2025

Pine Hill District – Garden State Council

## Troop 48 Braves Crystal Lake (aka Sand Pond)

By Scout Scoutly

February 21 to 23, Troop 48 set out for the mountains of North Jersey at Camp No-Be-Bo-Sco in Blairstown, NJ. After sliding on the ice to the Ho-Ho-Kus cabin, we moved the gear in, set up some festive holiday lighting, and played games Friday night

Saturday, the Scouts worked on their fire making skills. They tried three different ways - with steel wool and batteries, with ferrous rods, and with a big lens. Several Scouts got the first two ways to work! Scouts also worked on requirements and merit badges. They could also be found exploring Sand Pond and the little creeks around the cabin...

The evening brought some friendly competition with a patrol cooking contest. While all the dishes were impressive, it was the **chicken mango curry with naan bread** that claimed victory—congrats to Panther/Bull Moose!

The fun didn't stop there. Two simultaneous and intense games of *Risk* raged on into the night, accompanied by *Weird NJ* facts between the groans of defeat and cheers of world domination. Fortunately, we can report there were no confirmed Jason Voorhees sightings—though Mr. Murphy was very tempted to don his hockey mask!

Sunday, we packed up and cleaned out the cabin, then drove back to Berlin. It was a great weekend!



## A beginner's backpacking adventure: but that doesn't mean it was easy

By Scout Scoutly

March 14 to 16, Troop 48 headed back up to the mountains! in Blairstown, NJ. Friday, we camped at Resica Falls Scout Reservation, stopping only to admire the falls at night on our way in. It was a little child that night, in the mid 30s.

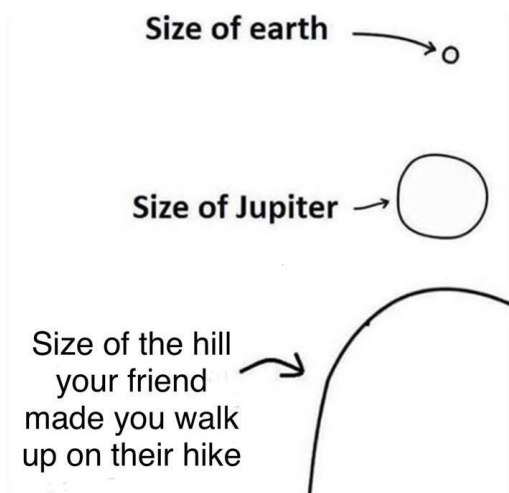
Saturday, we woke up early, packed up, and drove back to the waterfall. A geocache and some photos later, we headed to the Appalachian Trail parking across the Delaware in New Jersey. The road our planned route was closed, so we went to the parking along the interstate highway instead - we'd need to walk 3 ½ miles up to the campsite instead of 1 ½ (much steeper) miles that had been planned. After some searching for parking, we ended up at the trailhead. We had a "shake down" in the parking lot, putting extra gear back into the cars to try to get the packs as light as possible.

We started up the mountain and around a 1200 foot climb over 3 ½ miles... that's a lot of up! The Scouts carried all of their gear with them, we wouldn't see the vehicles again until Sunday! It was supposed to get sunnier and warmer that day. It got warmer, but never sunnier as the clouds hung in all day.

We made the climb in only 2 hours and 45 minutes (wow!) and set up camp. After some resting and lunch, it was time to run around and explore the top of the mountain. Jonathan and Gryphin then set up an old fashioned Scout directions course using sticks and rocks to guide the way. We followed that for a mile wearing our MUCH LIGHTER packs with just our dinner stuff. We set up next to Sunfish Pond to cook, a lake at the top of a mountain! You would hardly believe that we were in New Jersey.

We had some mist and drizzle blow through our cooking area, but it warmed up and dried up again after we hiked the mile back to camp. We put our food and smelly gear in the bear box for the night... no bears for us this weekend! There was a game of manhunt and admiring the lights way down in the valley and then almost everyone went to bed early after a day of hard work! The last few were chased in when the mist and fog rolled back in around 9 PM (except for Josh and his dad, who bravely slept aside all night).

Sunday, we woke up inside of a cloud! We packed up, got our stuff from the bear boxes, and had some breakfast. The 3 ½ miles downhill were MUCH easier than the miles uphill! After loading our stuff back in the cars, we headed for a treat - Hot Dog Johnny's! Great trip!



**“Teach Scouts not  
how to get a living,  
but how to live.”**

~ Lord Robert Baden-Powell,  
Founder of Scouting



## On The Appalachian Trail



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## Hotdog Johnny's

By Nathan

On the ride back from our Backpacking trip, we stopped at Hotdog Johnny's. As soon as we started to drive there, I could taste the deliciousness already.

As soon as I walked in, I was in heaven. The smell was amazing. You could watch the birch beer being poured from a barrel, the fries being fried. It was just awesome. Mr. Murphy got a Hotdog (duh), fries, and a birch beer - the same thing I had!

The hotdogs were warm, the fries were crunchy, and the birch beer was bubbly. I thought it wouldn't be too crowded, but I was very wrong. It was packed! Everyone enjoyed their meal, and we cannot wait to go back!



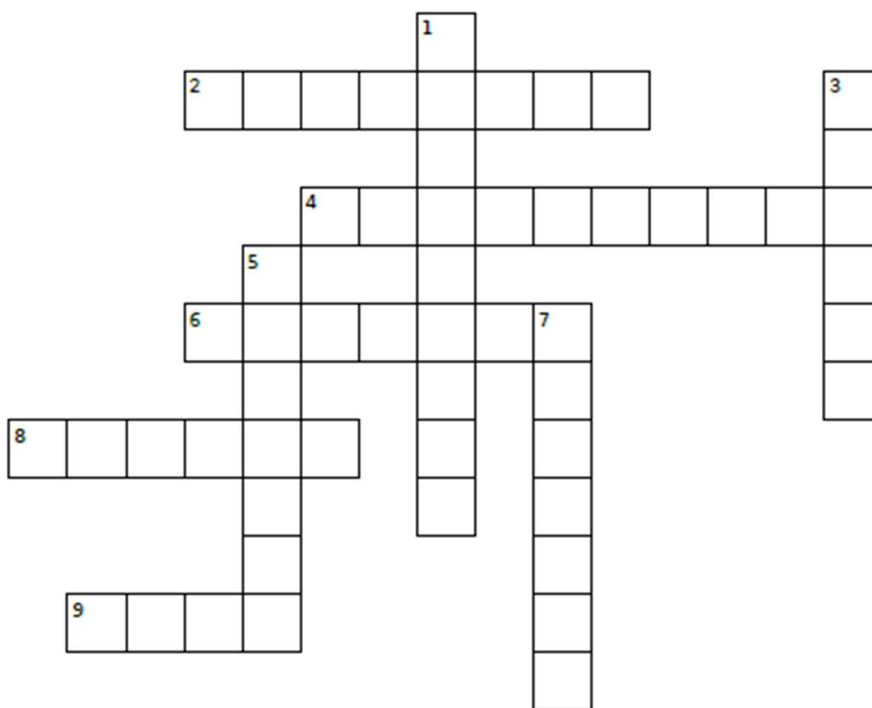
**Next trip: Friday to Sunday April 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>– Allamuchy Campout Trip!**

We'll be heading to Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation. Activities include tent camping, hiking, rock climbing.

**ADULT'S NEEDED FOR TRIP** – See Paul Pascu or Mike McCormick

## **Troop 48 Triva Crossword**

First scout to turn in a correctly completed crossword earns 5 pts for their patrol in the patrol contest!



**Down:**

1. newest patrol name
3. Greg's chant
5. rescue knot
7. backpacking pond

**Across:**

2. Mike and Mr. Murphy like to
4. No-Be-Bo-Sco is in what town?
6. what's Johnny famous for
8. troop color
9. rank before eagle

### **Upcoming Events - 2025!**

April 4 to 6 Allamuchy Campout  
April 23 to 27 Appalachian Trail 50 Miler  
May 16 to 18 Wading River Canoe  
Campout  
May 24 Flag Placement and Retirement  
May 26 Flag Fundraiser  
June 6 to 8 Whitewater Rafting  
July 4 - 4th of July Parade  
July 18 to 20 - Strausburg Railroad  
Campout  
August 9 to 15 - Vermont Summer Trip  
September 26 to 28 - MS City-to-Shore  
October 10 to 12 - Goshen Pond  
Campout

### **Mike's Minute**

by Scoutmaster Mike McCormick

Inventor Thomas Edison famously failed over 1,000 times to figure out what filament would work for an electric lightbulb. When asked about this failure, Edison said, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."

Scouting is the same way. Whether its remembering what to pack, missing a requirement, or trying to get something done before it rains, we find a lot of ways that won't work around here. But that's how we find the ones that do. And the ways that don't work make the best stories anyway.

## **Trails of Troop 48**

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