



Trails of Troop 48

Doing more before breakfast than most people do all day.

May 2025

Pine Hill District – Garden State Council

Reaching New Heights at Allamuchy By Scout Scoutly

April 4 to 6, 2025 saw Troop 48 camp at Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation in Stanhope, NJ for the first time. Friday night, we set up camp in our spacious campsite on a peninsula of the camp's lake, serenaded by hundreds of newly awakened "spring peeper" frogs.

Saturday, the Scouts were up, ate breakfast, and headed for the other side of camp. The adventure for the morning - rock climbing on an outdoor cliff! The Scouts geared up, then took the five-minute walk to the climbing area, 65- to 75-foot-tall cliffs along the entrance road to the camp. After a brief orientation, the first Scouts bravely scaled the rock wall. Unlike indoor climbing, there were no color coordinated hand and footholds to follow, the Scouts had to find their own cracks and crevices to place their hands and feet in while scaling the wall. The first climbs were slow and careful, but the Scouts descended the cliffs with large smiles and cold hands. The routes quickly became faster and more confident, and every Scout tried the routes at least a few times, with several making it to the very top of both routes! After 2 ½ hours, the incoming rain chased us back to shelter... and to lunch.

After lunch, the Scouts drove across the road to Waterloo Village at Allamuchy State Park, a sort of "Batsto of the North". We didn't find any ghosts, but we did spot a lot of taxidermied animals and some neat buildings, plus a waterfall near the old canal.

The late afternoon saw a lot of games and a few requirements, before the Scouts worked together to build a large fire that helped dry everyone out from the damp and take the chill off of the evening. At the end of the night, it took 3 Jerry cans to put the fire out!

Allamuchy was a grand adventure, and it may have been our first time there, but I'm sure that it won't be the last!

"Be Prepared... the meaning of the motto is that a Scout must prepare himself by previous thinking out and practicing how to act on any accident or emergency so that he is never taken by surprise."

– Lord Robert Baden-Powell

Reaching New Heights at Allamuchy – April 2025



Marching Across Maryland in Five Days By Mike McCormick

On his 1976 Album, "Songs in the Key of Life?", Stevie Wonder sang, "Isn't she lovely? Isn't she wonderful?". He could have been singing about the Appalachian Trail through Maryland!

On Wednesday, April 23, the Scouts started heading west toward Pennsylvania. Two groups went south to Harper's Ferry to drop a vehicle, the third came later. They met just after dark at the Old Forge Picnic Area in Michaux State Forest, Pennsylvania. Five scouts and three adults marched off into the darkness, heading south on the Appalachian Trail. Just over two miles later, they pulled into Deer Lick Shelters, spent 875 hours trying to hang bear bags, and then went to sleep in the shelters.

Thursday was the first full day of the trip, and the hardest! It was 15 total miles, the first half to get out of Pennsylvania. The crew did a great job on the first few uphill's and ended up at Penmar Park just inside the Maryland border in good time, taking in the spectacular view from the grass! The first few miles of Maryland saw the longest and toughest climb of the trip, as the Scouts sang their new song "Backpacking" (to the tune of "Jingle Bells") for 1,000 vertical feet up to the appropriately named High Rock, the highest viewpoint on the AT in the state. The graffiti was thick, but the views were amazing. "Worth the climb," as one scout shared! A short time later, we reached the high point on the AT in Maryland, although sadly, there was no viewpoint. We came down past Raven Rock, crossed Route 491, and took a long break to refill our water from the stream, where we all met a snake. From here, it was a sharp, slow, uphill, a final road crossing at Foxville Road, a climb through grassy open fields as the sun set, and then a final drop into our campsite. Tents, dinner, and a well-deserved rest!

Day 3 turned out to be our toughest day of the trip. Everyone slept in a little bit after getting in late the night before. We were hiking by 9 am, but it was a slow start. A few hours into our day, we had only gone a few miles, although we had gotten to the top of an 8-mile ridge. We ended up at Pine Knob Shelter in time for a very late lunch. We refilled our way and checked the weather... thunderstorms due to come through in just over two hours. Checking the map, we knew there was a picnic shelter at Washington Monument State Park, three miles away. The Scouts crossed I-80 and pushed up the mountain and down the ridge at twice the speed they'd gone before lunch. We beat the storm out with time to spare - which we used to check out the monument to our first president, built in the 1820s. The view was spectacular. In the picnic shelter, we cooked and ate a leisurely dinner while waiting out the line of thunder showers (which ended up splitting and going north and south of us... great!). Once the danger passed, we readied our flashlights and rain gear for the last two miles into our camp at Dahlgren Campground. They were the fastest two miles of the day, and we crossed the historic National Road and set up our tents during a lull in the rain. Everyone was asleep before 10 pm... "hiker midnight", 14 miles for the day!

Day 4 dawned wet. We did get our tents down during a gap in the rain and set off dripping. We passed the Reno Monument (site of a Civil War Battle) and arrived 1.7 miles into our day at Rocky Run Sheter for a late breakfast and a conversation with a couple setting out on a "flip flop" hike of the Appalachian Trail. The climb out of there was the toughest one that wasn't on Day 2, but we arrived at a beautiful view at the ridge of South Mountain, a ridge we'd be on until the end of our trip the next day. The sun was out; we were making our way down the trail past

more Civil War sites when we were viciously ambushed. Not by Confederates, but by armies of gnats! We flew down the ridge for 30 or 40 minutes, swatting the air until, mercifully, we dropped down into the shade and the gnats gave up. Whew! We dropped down into Gathland State Park for a long lunch and some bug-free time. After a brief skirmish with the gnats at the water pump in the park, we strolled the final 3.7 miles to the Ed Garvey Shelter. It was dry! And light out! We squeezed into a campsite near some other Scouts and enjoyed the pleasant sunshine, a good dinner, checking out the other groups up on the mountain (four other Scout troops! Although none of them were doing 50 miles) and watching the lights in the valley wink on as darkness fell. It was early bedtime for our last night on the trail!

Day 5... last day on the trail! Stevie Wonder songs aplenty as we carried our nearly empty packs up a brief rise before dropping down 800 feet to the lowest point of the AT in Maryland. About halfway through the drop, we dropped packs and headed down for spectacular views of the Shenandoah River from Weaverton Cliffs. Then it was down, down, down, down to the C&O Canal Towpath, the flattest stretch of the Appalachian Trail anywhere. We strolled the last few miles along the old canal down this towpath, admiring the river views and trains that passed us. Before we knew it, we were climbing the steps and crossing the railroad bridge. Goodbye Maryland! Hello West Virginia! It was down to the last 0.7 miles of the Appalachian Trail, but we took our time. We checked out John Brown's firehouse, where his slave revolt ended in failure in 1859, but served as a "last straw" in starting the Civil War. We climbed the centuries old stone steps to Jefferson Rock, with a spectacular view back down into Harper's Ferry. We pushed on, meeting up with Greg's dad in the final 0.1 of a mile of trail. He led us to our side trail. Goodbye Appalachian Trail! He then led us on a brief historical tour two blocks to the front porch of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the official headquarters of the AT and our finish line! 50 miles! Yes Stevie, it was wonderful!

Mike's Minute

by Scoutmaster Mike McCormick

In Scouting, the patrol is everything. The patrol is your team that you go camping with. It's your kitchen staff to get those dinners ready. It's your adventure team to go exploring with. Most importantly, it's your family that watches out for each other and makes sure that everyone is okay. While it's great to be a member of Troop 48, Scouts are members of their patrol first and foremost.

Happy Scouting!

Appalachian Trail - April 2025



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Upcoming Events - 2025!

May 24 - Flag Placement and Retirement

May 26 - Flag Fundraiser

June 6 to 8 - Whitewater Rafting

June 11 - Nathan Eagle Court of Honor

June 18 - Spring Court of Honor

July 4 - 4th of July Parade

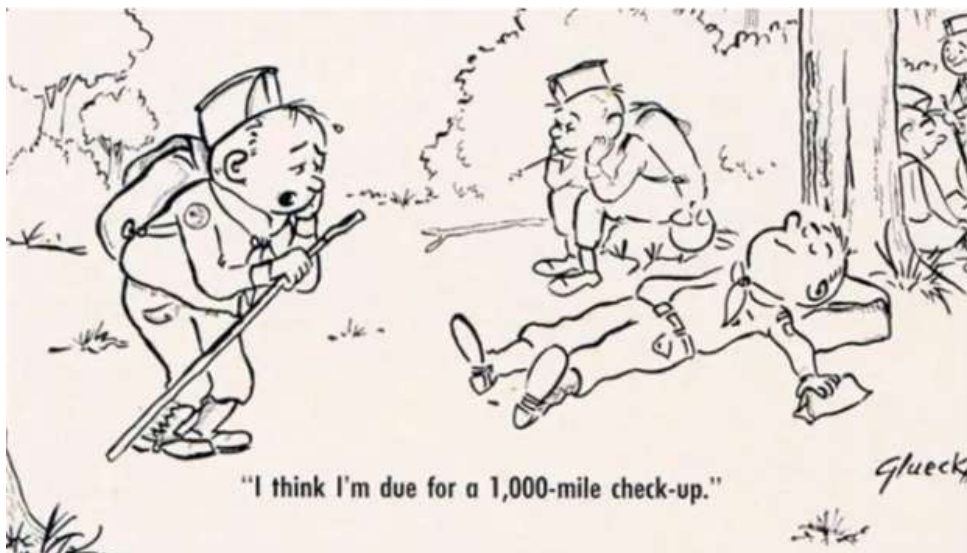
July 11 – Day trip to Philadelphia

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



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The official
Newsletter of:

Boy Scout Troop 48
Holy Communion
Lutheran Church
Berlin, NJ

May 2025

Editor: Scout Scoutly



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