



# Trails of Troop 48

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

**September 2013**

**White Horse District – Garden State Council**

## Shenandoah Base Camp

By Kevin “Reese” G.

This past summer trip was to Shenandoah Valley; there was a group of backpackers, (when isn't there), and the rest of the scouts that weren't part of that group, were the base campers. Base Camp does a bunch of day trips/ activities in the local area. The first day, the base camp group went along Skyline Drive to see the views of mountains; they were simply beautiful and it made you feel peaceful. The next day was caving. The awkward part was the entrance of the cave was in the middle of a meadow. It was about an hour and a half to a two hour activity. After the caving, the group went to a local park. Day three consisted of rock climbing; to get to the rock climbing destination, the base campers had to hike for 30-45 minutes. The rock that the scouts were climbing, (really repelling), was 60 feet high. An eight mile hike was the game plan for the next day. It was four miles up and four miles down a big and ambiguous mountain. The last day of activities was a day of tubing. In this activity, all scouts were there; the base campers and the backpackers. The distance of the tubing was 3-5 miles down the river. It was a long and wet day. Before we left Virginia, the troop visited an historical town, Harpers Ferry, for 2 hours free to explore. These were the actions of Base Camp in the Shenandoah Valley Summer Trip 2013.

### **WANTED:**

*Scouts to write for Trails of Troop 48.*

- *Trip Reports*
- *Scout Skills Articles*
- *Jokes*
- *Puzzles*
- *And more!*

*Talk to Mike McCormick*

### **UPCOMING EVENTS...**

<b>Sep 18</b>	<b>Elections!</b>
<b>Sep 21</b>	<b>Bar Meeting</b>
<b>Sep 25</b>	<b>Trip Planning for Year</b>
<b>Sep 27 - 29</b>	<b>MS 150 Trip!</b>
<b>Oct 4</b>	<b>Yard Sale Pre-sort</b>
<b>Oct 5</b>	<b>Yard Sale!</b>

## Eagle Court of Honor

By Scout Scoutly

Troop 48 would like to congratulate Sean “Jiff” Gillespie, Karanveer “K.P.” Pannu, and Danny Smith on achieving Scouting’s highest honor – Eagle Scout. Their Court of Honor was held in May at the Berlin VFW. Troop 48 would like to wish these boys the best of luck in their future endeavors!

# Shenandoah Backpacking Trip

By Tim S.

This summer, the troop took a trip down to Virginia to visit Shenandoah National Park. While most of the younger boys stayed behind at base camp, the older boys formed a backpacking crew and headed off to the famed Appalachian Trail for four days of views and hiking. The trip mostly consisted of climbing up mountains to see spectacular views. We were greeted by many different kinds of wildlife on our trek including the baby rattlesnake that Don stepped over, a few deer who were surprisingly unafraid of us, and bears that loved to get close to us. While I sadly didn't see any bears, they got very close to Mike and Tom and another group of boys.

We began our hike outside of the park hiking in. Within a few miles, we reached the signs that told us that we were now in the National Park. For the first and second nights we made camp at the shelters spread along the AT. Our third day was the hardest one with an insane climb first thing in the morning. Somehow we made it to the top of that mountain and we were greeted by the disappointing gray views of being inside a cloud. That night, we made camp off of the trail and not in a shelter. We quickly learned how spoiled we were by being used to bear bag poles instead of throwing them over a tree branch. However with the fourth day dawning, we continued our journey and eventually ended up at a visitor's center where we took a well deserved break after completing yet another 50 miler.



*Luke pauses by a famous white blaze of the Appalachian Trail.*



*Base camp hangs out in Harper's Ferry,*



*Food and fun at the Troop BBQ in July*

## ***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 Sperling during each troop meeting.

With every card you purchase the troop makes money!

# Jambo 2013

by Nicholas M.

This summer I had the opportunity to experience the Super Bowl of scouting. I went to the Jambo at scouting's newest home, the Summit in West Virginia. It was a 10 day party. I got to skateboard, BMX, zip line, rock climb, and paddle board just to name a few. One the first day after completing our 10 hour drive out to West Virginia we got to our sub camp and began to set up. After that we ate dinner and got settled in for the week. The next morning we saw the opening show and got to try out some of the activities. This continued though out the week. On the second to last day we saw the closing show where Three Doors Down performed and Mike Rowe gave an amazing speech. On the final full day our troop had our day of service where we went to the local high school and re-mulched most of the property and washed the windows. After that we relaxed , patch traded (which is a huge thing ) , and enjoyed the remaining moments of the Jambo. The next morning we got up packed up and made the trek home. Overall it was an amazing experience that I would recommend to any scout. Imagine our usual summer trip and add about 40,000 other scouts and you can start to imagine the size and scale of this amazing trip. I will remember this trip for the rest of my life and cant wait for the next one, although I will be too old to go as a scout next time, I do plan on working there as staff.

## PEACEFUL PEQUEA

By Magnus P.

Pequea, a beautiful place to be camping, hiking, and being there. It was a very nice place to be. The neighborhood in the wooded area was nice and full of vegetation. It was by a river and the people who lived there were nice. Barely any trash laying around. The troop and I went on a long hiking trip. I was one of their leaders for a little while. We had to cross a small stream. Which I always love to cross them. It was very peaceful and quiet. The only thing I heard where the voices of some kids, their footsteps, and some cars that passed by us. On the hike we started going uphill. It was tiring, but we all managed to get up to the top of the hill without any complaints. On the way to the top we came across a cave. It was nature's air conditioning. Very, VERY cool air flowed out of it, Cooling all us hikers down. It was like a small slanted slit in the mountain. It actually was a small slit in the mountain. We kept on hiking up and the sights where true beauty. But then we got to the top and wow... just wow. We were at the top and at the cliff of the mountain and the view over

Continued on page 4!



Jamboree – 45,000 Boy Scouts!!!



The Pannu family working hard at Jamboree, where they manned the World Sikh Council booth.

"Peaceful Pequea" continued from page 3

the river was beautiful. I said "It's just like what you'd see in a brochure." That's how awesome the view was. Breathtaking. We had our lunch on the rock. We had PB&J. But we had it on bagels. I thought that was interesting. It also tasted nice. So after we had our lunch and before we went back down we had our picture taken with our parents or an older scout. On our way down we did not skip the cave. Why would we? It's nature's air conditioning and it's a cave. What do us boy scouts do? GO IN THE CAVE OBVIOUSLY. The entrance was what I said before: A small slit in the mountain. We go inside, and we feel, rocks and cold, moist, air. We all had the older scouts for a guide. We couldn't go everywhere in the cave, but we went to a lot of places in the cave. Still, we had fun! We were in the cave for at least 1 hour and 30 minutes. On the way back to camp we went back through the lovely neighborhood. And back to our campsite. It was clearly one of the best camping trip I've ever been on.



*Tricky rock climb for Sajin at Pequea.*

Gary meets Abe at June's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Alumni Trip. We canoed 8 miles on the Wading River.

## Camp Roosevelt

By Skippy

Boy scouts of all ages can attend camp for one week in the summer during the summer program. Like most Boy Scout camps you can earn a wide variety of merit badges, however, we do more than just that. We have other activities after dinner, siesta, and lunch. After lunch on occasion we have tomahawk and knife throwing. Siesta is where every thing that happens there is open shot (22 caliber rifles). We also have open boat of your choice sail boat, row boat, paddle boats, canoe, or kayak. All throughout the week each merit badge area has challenges such as the nifty knotter, leaf off, or mystery animal. You may start a quest for the golden rock or perhaps the evil rock hidden within camp. However if your not interested in good and evil, there is always the purple cinderblock. If you have any questions about these, talk to Skippy. There is also troop swim, king of the white thing, and the ice berg. You don't need to bring your troop either. There is a provisional program were all scouts that want to go solo meet at camp to form a temporary troop for the week. You can also sign up for the quad program. There is a various range of merit badges from Space EX to leather working, and it is your choice. Roosevelt works on a period system but still gives you time through the day to relax. Not every period needs to have a class even though you should. If you have any questions ask Skippy. If you don't know Skippy ask anyone in Troop 48. They will tell you who I am.



*Austin, Stephen, Luke, and Ben in front of Carpenter's Hall as Troop 48 toured Old City, Philadelphia.*



Troop 48's Newest Eagles – Dan, Jiff, and KP.



Epic water gun battle during Anything Goes Night.



Luke, KP, & Don on Fishing Merit Badge Day.



Nick at his Eagle Project- June.



## Blast from the Past: Troop 48 Summer Trip – Fort Ticonderoga – 1969 by Gary Lake

The 69 summer trip was supposed to be to a Lake George campground - the one we always stayed at - the name will come to me later. You will see a bus in some of the pictures - we traveled in that for a year or two. Anyway since the leaders never really came out and told us - the best I can gather the campground was never booked or something so there was a mad dash to

figure out where the troop could stay. Somehow we ended up staying on the grounds at Fort Ticonderoga. It was a great trip because we would sneak into the fort at night and scare ourselves to death.

There was a bagpipe player that would occupy the fort during the day and play for the people visiting. One night either he or someone else put him up to going out in the field - which you can see in some of the pictures, below us toward lake champlain - to play the bagpipe and try to scare us. Well we didn't scare very easy so as I remember three of us started running to catch him not seeing the cow fence made of wire. I can't remember if it was me or one of the others but someone hit that fence waist high and flipped over the fence into a nice cowpie. Didn't stop us though - we still ran through the field and cowpies but to no avail - he eluded us. But great memories though. The next day in the fort the bagpipe player never fessed up - but he was smiling a lot.

# PERMISSION SLIP – MS 150



**When?:** Friday to Sunday, September 27 to 29

Please meet at “the shed” at 5:30 PM, we will be leaving by 6:30! We’ll return Sunday in the early afternoon.

**Where?:** Rest Stops – Pleasant Mills, NJ and Egg Harbor Township, NJ. Camping at Estell Manor County Park.

**Cost?:** \$10 for trip. The Scouts may also want to bring some spending money for the boardwalk (\$10 - \$20 suggested) to play some pinball, grab an ice cream, or challenge their Scoutsmaster at Skee-ball.

After a fantastic showing at last year’s MS 150, the MS society welcomes us wholeheartedly back to assist at two rest stops. We’ll camp out Friday night at Estell Manor. Saturday and Sunday mornings will be spent handing out food and water to bikers in this charity event. If time allows, Saturday afternoon will be spent exploring the abandoned WWI munitions factory in the county park. Saturday evening will be spent at the thank you spaghetti dinner for riders and volunteers, then splitting into patrols to hit the boardwalk for a few hours. Fun!

**All Scouts are encouraged not to miss this trip, people are counting on us!**

---

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:

---

---