

Troop 236 Newsletter

Schooley's Mtn. NJ

By: Ryan Stone

October 2006

Casperson

August 26, 2006

Casperson... an annual, traditional canoeing and kayaking trip for Troop 236. Every year we have a blast. This year was just as great. And we also got a special treat from Joe Tepfenhart! For dinner, he brought Philmont food! (If you went to Philmont, you know what I'm talking about.) It was O.K.

Well, as kayaking and canoeing went, it was fun. Everyone got to go out in both a canoe and kayak. A lot of the scouts had loads of fun playing on the island out from where our campsite was. All day scouts were out, but, unfortunately, some scouts got wet.

Then at night, we got to have a short little treat. The town over were having a fireworks show. So we were definitely able to hear it and were able to see a little bit of the fantastic light show. By the way, the weather was O.K. It was sunny, but kind of cold. All together though, it was a good trip.

Long Valley Camporee

September 22-24, 2006

At Teetertown, New Jersey, Troop 236 returned for the Annual Long Valley Camporee! We kicked it off again with our amazing and fun Monkey Bridge, which seems to be an annual tradition now. Even though it poured on Saturday morning, everyone had a blast!

This year, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Chris Rec; Patrol Leader of the Eagles Patrol, Brendan Stokes; and Former Senior Patrol Leader Dave Huson, taught the young Webelos 1 and 2 about fire building. Although some of the Webelos didn't look intrigued, some appeared to have loads of fun! After the teaching of all the Webelos, came the best part of the camping trip (in Troop 236's opinion) the chili cook-off!!!

It's always Troop 236's goal to make the hottest and spiciest chili ever! And guess what, we did! One bite and you could even see the toughest of scouts and leaders' face go beet red. Amazing! Don't worry; they made plenty enough cold beverages to wash out the spiciness. But, for those more mild people, we did make (and might I add the most delicious) mild chili. They also made camping style corn bread. But, unlucky for Troop 236, we didn't do so hot on the cobbler. But, all in all, Troop 236 had another great year at the Long Valley Camporee in Teetertown, NJ.

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Voorhees

September 29-30, 2006

Even though I wasn't there, I was able to obtain information about the trip from Brendan Stokes....thanks.

The weather was somewhat cold, but in general, the weather was good. But towards the Court of Honor ceremony, it got rainy. But they did make a good fire. And we also retired an American Flag because of its bad condition.

A lot of scouts got rank advancements, merit badges and patches from summer camp. Oh, Brian Dickson did it again....he got the Black Frog award. He got it for spraying shaving cream (from the skit 'Smooth and Creamy') all over most of the tents. He made smiles on them and was forced to wash it off by Mike Wilder (our S.P.L. of the trip). Also, the next morning, he took out his stakes from his tent and the wind picked it up and it flew to another troop's camping site and hit some other scouts.

In the end, I believe everyone had a great time!

Valley Forge

October 19-21, 2006

One simple word about Valley Forge... freezing! It was ice cold. But, even though there was harsh weather, the younger scouts were very cooperative. I personally applaud Joe Tepfenhart (the SPL of the trip) for such a good job in leadership.

A step down from Joe was Joe Stone who was PL. Then after him came me, Ryan Stone who was APL along with Connor Hatcher. And the best cooks I have ever seen John Carkitto and Kurt Stenger. John brought the food, but they both cooked it. It was a delicious dinner of spaghetti and meatballs, salad, and Texas toast. Good job scouts!

Anyways, Valley Forge was an hour and a half from St. Marks. But the camp was about half-

hour from Valley Forge.

When we arrived at the Welcome Center/ gift shop, we went upstairs and went into an old chapel. In the chapel, we watched a history movie on Valley Forge. It was about George Washington and his troops camping in the winter.

After seeing the movie, we saw reproductions of the old cabins George Washington and his troops slept in during their hideaway in the winter. There was also a green flag outside of the cabin. It was green with a red square in the middle of it. At the top, it said "P.M. st. R.I." Then it had a picture of a soldier with a spear on the left jabbing at a lion in a net on the left. Under that, in a scroll, it said "Domari Nolo" which Mr. Gelsing and I believed said "No Defeat".

After the flag, we went over to some re-enactors who were surrounded by U.S. Army Cadets. The re-enactors talked about how George Washington's troops lived and worked. Then they began talking about the guns called black powder muskets that the continental army used. Musket balls were 18th century bullets.

Once the re-enactors finished... it was time to begin our hike! And hey! What a great way to start, by walking through 4,000ft. of tall grass, pricker bushes, and milkweed. We went on all levels of ground: up mountains, through grass, around rivers etc... The whole trip was 9 miles and it took us about 5 hours to complete. After about the 3-4 mile, the scouts began to get tired. I quote Mr. Maguire, who quoted George Washington when I say, "I was proud of my young men and leaders for showing 'patience and fidelity'." But, in the end, once we got back, I speak for everyone when I say... good job troop!

