

Camp Tahuaya

November 16-19, 2007

By Tom McClure

On Friday, all got into camp safely and apparently had a restful night. I joined the crew Saturday morning after the Scouts and leaders waited patiently to get going on canoeing. But, they made up quickly for lost time and got in some good skill work on the water. A nutritious lunch and short respite and then we all rotated through three stations: a) black powder muzzleloader rifles and .22s; b) archery; and c) a wrap up on canoeing. By the end of the day, all had completed a sizable chunk of the requirements of canoeing merit badge and, more importantly, had fun and developed self-confidence maneuvering those canoes around the water. We also learned safe gun handling, range etiquette and safety and how to improve our shot with those rifles and the more tricky (for me) bows and arrows. My personal favorite were those fabulous and historic muzzleloaders with their loud bang, puff of smoke and Civil War (and before) era technology.

Thanks to Mr. Kleinsasser for coaching all of us on archery and for leading and organizing the adults from Capital Area Council's Shooting Sports group without whom we would never have been able to put on such an event! Thank you for your dedication to Scouting!

After a busy day on the water and shooting those imaginary turkeys (or perhaps some vegetarian target of your choice), we headed back to camp for dinner. Despite a bit of a late start on getting dinner going, all did well putting together a great dinner. When it came to fulfilling the Scoutmaster Challenge for this campout, the Scouts all out did themselves with some very creative cooking. The competition was fierce and the patrols were in a tight pack to the end, but the Penguin Patrol edged out the rest with their turkey cutlets, mash potatoes and some vegetable (I'm thinking they were green beans). Great job to all!

The evening closed with a campfire of good skits and songs that were very entertaining. We got to sleep in little (til 7:30 p.m.) Sunday. After breakfast, we did a brief service project for the camp. We had a Sunday worship service led by the Campout's Chaplain's Aide, James Clark (thank you, James, for stepping up) and then headed out for Gatti Town in Round Rock. After a busy day Saturday, it was nice to have a little slower pace this morning and enjoy some fellowship with friends.

Personally, I was impressed with how the patrols really worked very well together at this campout. You all showed a lot of teamwork within your patrols. It was good to see all the Scouts (and adults) pulling together so that we could get a lot accomplished and have fun!