



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Troop 477 - Trail Talk

Kingswood United Methodist Church
June 2003



JUNE SERVICE PATROL IS: WOLVERINE
JUNE PROGRAM PATROL IS: COUGAR
JUNE CAMPING PATROL IS: STINGRAY

Panther Creek Falls Backpacking Trip Reviewed!

(by Assistant Scoutmaster Del Price)

On May 10th, nine Scouts and six leaders headed out to Panther Creek Falls in North Georgia. After a short drive north of Atlanta, we all unpacked our gear and began our hike from the parking lot at Panther Creek Falls.

It was a beautiful day, and we soon learned how warm it was to be. The entire hike was along the creek, so we had beautiful sights as well as sounds. The mountain laurel was blooming everywhere to add to the overall sensory stimulus.

As the morning wore on and the trail continued, it would occasionally meander away from the creek. Just 20 feet away from the creek, and you could notice an increase in temperature. Thankfully, the majority of the trail was close to the creek, helping it stay cool. There were several beautiful areas that people had camped previously, but we were yet to get to the POT-OF-GOLD.

We stopped at a pretty place to have lunch and take a break. We probably would have thought we were at the falls, but thanks to Mr. Beaver, who had a map, we realized we weren't quite there yet.

By this time, some of the younger Scouts realized they had packed too much weight, especially the Scout with the five man tent. (He must have missed the "Tenderfoot Pete" troop meeting program.) We redistributed the weight to make it less of a strain on the young Scout.

Once we reached a dead end, we realized we had missed our turn; a steep climb about 15 feet at about a 70 degree angle. Most of us took off our packs, handed them to the person above, and did a great job of teamwork to tackle the hill.

Finally we could hear the roar of the falls. And once we reached the bottom of the falls, we discovered such a beautiful sight. A wide 80 foot cascading waterfall, with a large pool at the bottom to cool our aching feet!

We pitched our tents, and most of the Scouts hit the water. I didn't hear anyone complain about the temperature. A couple of the leaders went knee deep, but that was some of the coldest water I have ever ventured into. Finally, after about 30 minutes, I was determined to get completely submerged. (After all, I did bring my bathing suit) It was so cold, all I could do was breath in, and breath in, and breath in. It was almost impossible to exhale.

We had a very brief campfire, not much firewood around. Everyone turned in early to bed. The falls were so loud, they drowned out everyone who was snoring!! It was great!

The next morning, we fixed breakfast, broke camp and headed out. We stopped at another nice spot and had our traditional Sunday service.

There were some creeks to cross, and some steep ledges, but nothing unsafe. We stopped at an ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT Mother's Day Special, lots of good food. While we were eating, the bottom fell out of the sky. What great timing to get out early when we did.

Overall, it was a great campout, beautiful setting, and not too hard of a hike. A lot of new Scouts were present, and learned a lot about themselves as well as hiking.

Panther Creek Falls should be lots of fun for future hiking trips. We certainly had a great time!!

Ordeal Congratulations

Congratulations to Danny Gibbons, Ben Kiesel, Thomas Webber and Mr. Gibbons, upon completion of their Order of the Arrow ORDEAL May 30 - June 1 weekend at Bert Adams Scout Reservation.





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OF AMERICA**

Thank you, to the four adults and one Scout from Troop 477 who participated in placing flags at Marietta National Cemetery for Memorial Day. It was a great day for Scouting, and for honoring those who have served our country.

JULY TROOP COMMITTEE MEETING

Our next Troop Committee Meeting is scheduled for July 7th 2003 at 7:30 PM in the Scout Hut. All committee members and Scoutmasters are urged to be in attendance. Please be on time. If you can not attend please submit a written report to the Committee Chairman.

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Last updated: June 05, 2003