



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Troop 477 - Trail Talk

Kingswood United Methodist Church

May 2003



MAY SERVICE PATROL IS: STINGRAY
MAY PROGRAM PATROL IS: WOLVERINE
MAY CAMPING PATROL IS: MONGOOSE

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.

The April Cloudland Canyon Hiking and Caving trip was a big success!

(by Assistant Scoutmaster Jeremy Webber)

We departed Friday night in dubious weather conditions with threats of Tornadoes and Thunderstorms. We sat on I-75 just north of I-285 under very ominous clouds with severe lightning strikes all around us and a brief hail storm. After that, other than lots of rain and some very strange light as the sun was setting, it was an uneventful trip to Cloudland Canyon. We arrived to clear sky and bright stars. We heard that a Tornado had hit in Trenton, the next town past the park. When we checked in, we found that the close campsite that had been arranged for us earlier in the day had accidentally been given away. We were given special dispensation to drive down to the campsite and we were allowed to keep our trailers with us thanks to Ranger Mike.

Saturday morning was a cool, crisp morning with just an occasional hint of drizzle. Breakfast was prepared, lunches packed and we headed off for our 5 mile hike around the West Rim of the canyon. Equipped with maps, compasses and instructions, several scouts who needed it were able to fulfill their 5 mile hike requirement. Other than a few minor errors by the Boy Scouts leading the way, we stayed on the trail and completed it in good time. We took time to stop at the overlooks and to eat our lunch. We found the Canyon to be a spectacular sight. Photos are available on the Troop web site at:

<http://www.kingswoodumc.org/troop477/photos/Album2003>

We returned to camp by around 2 PM and relaxed. At one point, there was a game of capture the flag going on, along with the usual gathering of wood for a camp fire. Some of the younger scouts worked on scout skills, including knots. Several additional requirements were signed off for some of our younger scouts.

Dinner was early that night so that our first group of spelunkers could be ready when Pathways arrived at 6:30 PM for the first caving trip. Eight Scouts and one adult then headed off for Howards Cave. Howards Cave is just through Trenton. It turns out that the Tornado hit within 100 feet from the mouth of the cave. We saw one building damaged and lots of limbs down. Fortunately the road to the cave had already been cleared.

At about 9:45 PM, the first group of spelunkers appeared coming out of the cave... dirty, tired... but talking of the fun they had in the cave. Our lone adult was heard to say "been there.... done that.... don't plan on doing it again".....

The next challenge was getting back into the park. An electronic gate closes the park at 10 PM and we arrived back at 10:20 PM. A quick cell phone call was made back to camp and Hal Breffle drove up to the gate from the inside.... activating the gate so that it would open... and allowed us to drive through it. Back at camp, a blueberry and an apple cobbler had been made and plenty had been saved for those who went caving.... Both cobbler's were excellent.

Sunday morning at about 9 am, Pathways arrived to take the more advanced caving trip. The entrance to the cave was through waist deep 45 degree water (if you are an adult or older scout). The car trip to the cave was 25 miles.... of which the last 5 miles was on a dirt road that looked like it had been bombed. With all the rain the previous night, there were a lot of deep puddles that completely covered the road. Following that was a 30 minute hike down to the cave. Ten scouts and one Adult went on that trip.

Meanwhile, those back at camp broke camp and packed up. We then drove to the Cloudland Canyon east rim overlook. There we were treated to another spectacular view and were able to look across the canyon to the west rim where we had hiked the previous day. We then drove to our meeting place (at the safe end of the 5 mile dirt road) to wait for the spelunkers to return. The hike back out from the cave to the cars took longer than expected. The hike was all uphill and expected to take about 45 minutes. However, we had tired cavers who were not looking forward to the hike. It took longer to get changed out of the wet clothes and even longer to hike the hill back out. In spite of the exhaustion and the hike, the scouts and adult had a good time.

By about 3 PM Sunday afternoon, we were all re-united.... said our good-bye's to Pathways and head back to Atlanta via Rome. We stopped for lunch in Rome and returned to the Scout Hut shortly before 6 PM.

JUNE TROOP COMMITTEE MEETING

Our next Troop Committee Meeting is scheduled for June 2nd 2003 at 7:30 PM in the Scout Hut. All committee members and Scoutmasters are urged to be in attendance as there is a lot of important information to relate, and planning to be done. Please be on time. If you can not attend please submit a written report to the Committee Chairman, Jeff Glaze (jglaze@glazefamily.org).

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