

Camp Strake 2004 - Logs

Status #1

Also known as "Don't worry Mom, it was only a small snake..."

The boys have successfully completed their first full day at Strake. During that time they have discovered it is hot, humid and occasionally rainy--perfect conditions for the long walks between merit badge classes. They now have incentive to make those walks a little faster; since they were late to the flag ceremony, they get to eat last. Tonight's event will celebrate years of yore a la Paul Bunyan pine tree cutting or possibly black powder shooting or tomahawk throwing. The boys did choose to decline the alligator hunt. I guess the small copperhead they found and killed under a tent was enough in the reptile dept. for one day! Among the knowledge gained so far has been the importance of a) mosquito netting (mandatory, unless you want to look like a pin cushion), b) changing into dry clothes and shoes as needed (mandatory, unless you want chafing and blisters on your first day) and c) having a breeze on the water if you want to be picked up anytime soon from your small sailing boat man overboard drill. Not to worry though, Fletcher is an accomplished water treader and got to come in (eventually) on a motor boat.

Barbara
Troop 957 Secretary

Status #2

Also known as--"It sure is a long walk to the showers..."

Weather and merit badge classes continue apace. Chris called me after lunch to report they were getting pounded. Weather Underground, when I could finally get it to come up, showed that the worst had passed. Activities tonight include a troop swim at 9:30pm. Tomorrow night there will be a watermelon seed spitting contest, while Thursday will be the troop climb/rappelling event. There have been the expected few minor cases of homesickness and overheating, but everyone is fine now. Much worse as far as the boys are concerned was today's latrine duty, as well as the loss of water pressure right in the middle of their showers. That half a mile to alternate showers sure seems a lot longer when you are fully soaped...

The leaders have hooked up with a troop from Alpine that routinely goes to BTSR, so they say they are getting lots of good info.

More tomorrow.

Status #2A

The boys are a little tired this morning. They were treated to the same lightening show we got down here. With the continuing rain, they are fine but definitely damp. Unfortunately the rain is expected to continue through tomorrow.

Barbara
Troop 957 Secretary

Status #3

This one will be short since I could barely hear over the screaming from the watermelon seed spitting contest. The next major event will be a chess tournament and boomerang throwing. Weather is a lot better, in spite of predictions. Clothes (and boys) are starting to dry out. The mosquitos however continue to be a force to be reckoned with. They are definitely Texas sized and won't take no for an answer no matter how much repellent you slather on. The homesickness appears to have abated. The Scoutmaster also reports that the boys discovered today that bravery can take many forms. Several of them took the high road and did the right thing when they needed to. Ask your sons for details.

Barbara
Troop 957 Secretary

Status #4

Well, we thought the rain had stopped...

It rained again today until lunch. Most of the boys expect to complete all their requirements in the merit badge classes. All of them are looking forward to sleeping in their own (dry) beds. Those parents who have drawn the short straw for post-camp laundry will need to have plenty of industrial strength detergent and stain remover on hand. The plan is still to be back at the church Saturday between 11:00 and 11:30.

Barbara
Troop 957 Secretary

Status #5

No rain since Thursday - noon other than a few small sprinkles. The climbing wall was open on Thursday night and several Scouts did that while others swam or canoed. None took advantage of the 5-mile Second Class Hike that was offered (I wasn't surprised). Plan for a smelly, wet batch of clothes when your Scout gets home. If it got wet on Monday, it has probably STAYED wet all week. Hopefully there are enough plastic trash bags to get it all home.

We'll know later tonight whether or not we defended or honor with the Scoutmaster Cookoff.

The Scouts are VERY tired and will probably sleep a LONG time when given the option. With the forecast of more rain tonight there is a chance they may not get much sleep tonight either. Lets hope it skips us. Be aware that emotions are high and could spill over with almost any provocation.

Still plan to be at CLCC just after 11:00am. Doug Williford will be the leader in charge coming home.

Strake has had a large number of ticks this year and several of us have found them crawling on us. So far as we know, no one has been bitten by a tick.

Finally, thanks for sharing your Scouts with us this week. Its always a blast to see how they interact and grow at these outings.

Next stop....Buffalo Trails.

See ya around the campfire.

Chris