

Troop 888

NEWSLETTER

Sponsored by: North Strand Optimist Club

BLACK RIVER-CHICORA LOW COUNTRY FELLOWSHIP

On March 27-29, twenty-seven Troop 888 Scouts attended the Camporee, hosted by the Black River District of Coastal Carolina Council. Once again, it didn't rain while we were camping, though it sure did get hot! In between setting up a super campsite, keeping camp, and attending Camporee activities, many of our Scouts did a lot of running around playing with Scouts from other troops in a nearby open field.

Will Hall
splitting
fire
wood in
front of
the Tool
Rack in
the
Troop's
Axe
Yard.



On Saturday afternoon, Mr. Lester served as one of the official gateway and campsite inspectors. This allowed him to compare our troop with the seventeen other troops that were competing at the Camporee. He noted that when it came to setting up their camping areas, some troops are many times more involved than others in using the kind of Scout skills that campers need in the woods. He is proud to report that it's our use of Scoutcraft skills that sets us apart from most of the other troops. We did a great job! Aside from all our useful Scout-made camp gadgets, he said we also scored well in neatness and safety. We would have taken first place in the campsite inspection except that a couple of our patrols forgot to have their menu posted. This got us the second place award instead. Also, our gateway would have taken the blue ribbon if only we hadn't used a pulley for the lift gate. Though our gateway was outstanding, and the "gate" worked smoothly, the judges decided the pulley wasn't made of natural materials, and that put us in second place for that competition too. Many adult Scouters, both experienced and inexperienced, admired our individual patrol sites and the troop site as a whole. We received a lot of compliments, and we should all feel proud of a job well done!

NEW EVENTS PLANNED FOR CAMP HARDEE TRIP

In addition to an even more challenging fire-building competition, our troop meeting on April 20 will be spent preparing for the backpacking trip set for the following weekend. Duties rosters will be drawn up, and shoppers will collect food money. On Saturday morning, April 25th, before loading the bus, patrol gear will be divided up and packed in individual backpacks.

Here are the burning questions: can we build a Signal Tower for a special signaling competition at Camp Hardee on Saturday morning? And, exactly how will we combine two orienteering courses with an interpatrol paintball "war" in the woods?!!

Announcements explaining times and what to bring will be handed out at the April 20 troop meeting.

WHAT'S HAPPENED AND WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?

- On March 1, our troop set up a "Hoist the Scout Lift" for the Expo at Myrtle Square Mall, made from a 14' tripod, a pulley, and a 50' length of 1/2" manila rope.

- On March 14, twenty-six Troop 888 Scouts marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. After the parade, there was pizza and ice cream at St. Stephens followed by a fast-paced game of Stratego.

- The Scorpions won "Honor Patrol" for March and went to Ultrazone on April 10, along with members of the Patrol Leaders Council and Scouts who had 100% attendance for the month.

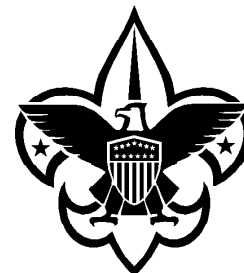
- On Saturday, April 11, eight Scouts volunteered to man a hot dog and soda booth at McLean Park during the Easter Egg Hunt. They raised \$200.00.

- Two thirds of the money for Scout Camp, \$85.00, is now due. Our troop is attending Camp Barstow June 7-13.

- Thanks to Ronnie Bell, the Pig Pickin' was a success. Scouts from our troop raised \$2,700 for their accounts.

- Troop meetings for the rest of April will be held at the Primary School, due to the Rummage Sale at St. Stephens.

- Order of the Arrow elections are scheduled for early May. Scouts who meet the camping requirements and who are First Class or higher are eligible.



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MR. LESTER'S CAMPING TRIP REVIEW

"This Camporee was my first in many years, and was fun and exciting, but I must say not as relaxing as our regular camping trips. Perhaps this was due to a combination of the activity schedule, the many gnats and mosquitoes where we were camping, and the weekend's heat wave. It is recommended, when warm-weather camping, that every Scout take bug repellent and some type of sun block. About bug spray, never spray it in or around your tents. It will ruin the waterproofing of the tent material. And guys, while on the subject, always keep your tent flaps closed, especially when the bugs are out!"

"In spite of the bugs and heat, each patrol did some good cooking. Meals ranged from eggs boiled up in a plastic bag, to pork chops, and even pizza. Ryan Holmes helped me bake a strawberry cobbler in a cardboard box oven! It turned out absolutely delicious! If you'd like to learn how we did this, just ask."



Teddy Fontana and Max Walter at their first Dish Washing Assembly Line. "How do you dip the frying pan into the rinse water?"

"All patrols did well, but I must say I was impressed with the Wolverine Patrol on their first campout. I observed their teamwork in preparing their meals, cleanup, and keeping their campsite neat throughout the trip. This patrol looks like they're going to be winners, and I'm looking forward to future campouts watching them put into action the many new camping skills they will be learning."



After a long camping trip, getting ready for the calm bus ride back home.

**Troop 888 Information Line:
272-3498**