

## Mr. Lester's Camping Trip Review

*The Camp Hardee trip was most outstanding. Though I arrived late in the afternoon, we still had time for quite a few games of paintball. Everyone had a good time playing in the woods, and I sure can tell you that the paintballs sting when they hit you.*

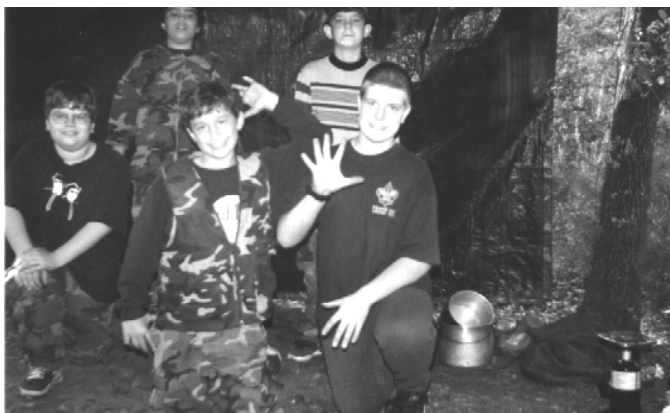
*This camping trip, each patrol did a really good job of keeping their campsites clean and paying attention to detail. I liked the way the patrol dining flies were set up, using the trees in your areas to your best advantage.*



Raccoon Patrol - Standing: Devin Shirkey, Steven Sloope, Greg Spatholt, Will Hall, Michael Raymo, Kneeling: Tripp Collins

*On another note, I would like to see some work put into your menus and preparing better meals on these backpacking trips. This goes for all patrols. As always my help is available. All you have to do is ask. A new cook kit, I recently ordered through Campmor, will be field-tested during May's trip to Camp Coker. The kit is smaller, will be easier to pack, easier to use, and easier to clean. If this cook kit works out, each patrol will get one in the near future.*

*A high point for me during April's campout, was when I took part in a special, fireside Board of Review, which was a the final step in the advancement of several in our troop who attended this overnighter. I look forward to seeing more of you during these Board of Reviews on camping trips to come.*



Panther Patrol - Standing: Dominick Bezmen, Josh McDaid, Kneeling: Justin Davidson, Geoff Britzke, Daniel Messich

## Summer Camp Information

by Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Jeff Bialecki  
As school is approaching its end, we can now start thinking about summer camp. Summer camp is a time to do a little R&R and earn some merit badges. So let's get ready for it. We're going to Camp Barstow, on Lake Murray from Sunday, June 7, to Saturday, June 13. If you haven't got your money in yet, you need to get it in soon. The cost is \$125.00. I think that's a good price for having fun and getting away for a week. Mr. Smith and Mr. Green are the two adults going this year. All us Scouts, and also you parents reading this newsletter should be proud of these two adults for putting up with all us kids during the week at camp.

Thinking about what merit badges to do, I suggest you do what I do, cram in as many as possible. There will be a lot to pick from—some that will be required for your higher ranks, some that will be in subjects you like, and some that will just be easy. We will all be given a chance to choose before we leave.

If you didn't get a B.S.A. Camp Physical in the last two years, you will need one. Free physicals will be given during troop meetings right before camp starts. Also, we will be given a list of what to pack, what to wear, what to bring, and information about when and where to meet.

Let's get ready for a great time!

## More Troop News

• Congratulations to **Dominick Bezmen, Michael Raymo, and Jeffrey Silverberg** for advancing to the rank of Second Class, and to **Geoff Britzke, Justin Davidson, Jason Hardee, and Will Hall** for advancing to the rank of First Class!

• Though the **paint ball** activity was designed as a test of each team's orienteering skills, and an opportunity to develop strategies in an unusual game setting, it has been decided that if there are to be future paint ball activities, they will only take place in an organized arena which can offer complete protection for the body. The Patrol Leader's Council will be looking into the possibilities.

• Mr. Lester will be offering a class on gun safety and **Rifle Shooting Merit Badge** during June, after Camp Barstow.

• **Frankie Starace**, a member of the Twins in Dixie Youth Baseball, pitched a no-hitter during a game on Monday, April 27th.



Ryan Holmes and Tony Speedling at the Cross Cut Saw Competition, March 28, Joint District Camporee, (Photo by Jason Hardee)