

Troop 888 NEWSLETTER

Sponsored by: **North Strand Optimist Club**



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May's Camping Trip to Sugarloaf Mountain

Twenty-seven Scouts boarded the bus directly after school on Friday May 15, for a two-nighter at the Sugarloaf Mountain Recreation Area. We settled for this new, highly-recommended campground, because the lake at Camp Coker was still drained for repairs to the damn. Our very large campsite contained two big shelters with tables and cooking areas, giving each patrol lots of room to set up kitchens. This setting made for a big change from the camp-on-the-ground patrol sites of April's backpacking trip. Our site was right on a lake, and quite a few Scouts went fishing after they set up their tents on Friday evening. Though the



Michael Raymo looks over the lake from outside his tent on Saturday morning.



Travis Collins fishing alongside Cobie Szigety and Will Hall.

fishing wasn't so hot, the weather sure was, and fortunately for us, the park ranger gave us special permission to use the lake to cool off. Many Scouts spent much of Saturday, both after breakfast and after lunch, playing in the water. Other highlights of the trip were attempts at launching water balloons using a two-person water balloon slinger, a game of Water Balloon Volley Ball Saturday afternoon, and a hike up Sugarloaf Mountain Saturday night.



From left to right starting from the back: Will Hall, Timothy Green, Dominick Bezmen, Tripp Collins, Michael Raymo, Daniel Sloope, Michael O'Neill, Jesse Hardee, Kurt Lester, Greg Spatholt. Next "row": Joseph Ghandour, Cobie Szigety, Cory Keibler, Steven Sloope, Travis Collins, Tristian Addington, Josh McDaid, Jeff Bialecki (face under water), Matt Silverberg, Brandon Sipes, Teddy Fontana. Very front: Geoff Britzke, Justin Davidson.

Mr. Lester's Camping Trip Review

The May camping trip was designed to be a pleasure trip where everyone could have free time to do what they wanted. I think we all had a lot of fun, but as usual, there are

lessons to learn. After your meals, first finish the work, like washing, cleaning, and putting away your stuff, before taking any free time. This goes for everyone in the patrol, not just the cleanup crew. Also, a Scout is always careful with fire! This is part of the Outdoor Code. (When we get back into winter camping, we will be making "firebugs" to aid in faster wet-weather fire starting.)

On a different note, as soon as it cools a little, I will begin instruction for the Rifle Shooting Merit Badge. We will also be continuing the Archery Merit Badge for those who need it.

Back to camping, I'm sure Mr. Bezmen and Mr. Green will join me in inviting any adult, willing to share quality time in the woods with their boy, to come with us on one or more of our future trips. If you would like to go camping and help, please give me a call at 399-4799. We had a real good time on May's overnighter and you are welcome to be a part of this fun!