

Whitewater Rafting Trip

(continued from previous page) slope of the hill across from our campsite, playing cards, or just "free-timing" and hanging out. When it was time to get ready, we assembled up at the office, received our first orientation and got our life vests, paddles, and helmets. It was then time to board the "USA Raft" bus for the ride up the river and more orientation.



Dividing into four rafting crews, we carried our rafts down to the river. Once at the river, each crew was on their own.

Crew 1: Tony Speedling, Chris Jordan, Russell Spatholt, Travis Collins, Brandon Sipes, Theodore Fontana, Mr. Spatholt, Crew 2: Justin Davidson, Geoff Britzke, Dominick Bezmen, Daniel Mesich, Matt Silverberg, Mrs. Spatholt, Crew 3: Cory Keibler, James Bumgardner, Timothy Green, Max Walter, Kurt Lester, Mr. Green, Crew 4: Michael O'Neil, Tripp Collins, Jeff Silverberg, Will Hall, Steven Sloope, Greg Spatholt, Jeff Bialecki, Daniel Sloope.



It took a little over two hours to complete the 8 mile raft ride down the river. Back at camp, barbecue was the main course for dinner, and cobbler was served before bedding down early on a rainy Saturday night. At 6:00 a.m., Sunday morning, we were packing up personal gear and breaking camp, getting ready for the long bus ride back. The rafting was a fun experience, and the trip was a success.

Troop 888 Information Line: 272-3498

Ongoing Merit Badge Classes

In the interest of keeping classes small, and satisfying the needs for particular merit badges, throughout the year, during the "Skills Instruction" part of our troop meetings, we want to offer ongoing courses for the following: Safety, Communications, Personal Management, Family Life, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, and Citizenship in the World. Our new Advancement Chairperson, Rosemary Bezmen, is in the process of finalizing parent sign ups as counselors for these seven Eagle-required merit badges.



Other Troop News

Senior Patrol Leader Daniel Sloope will meet with Mr. Lester and Mr. Green, on August 24 to prepare for the **Annual Troop Program Planning Conference** to be held on August 31 with the entire Patrol Leaders' Council.

Our next **camping trip** will be at Huntington Beach State Park on **September 19-20**. This is slotted as a surfcasting/free-time overnighter, including swimming if the weather permits.

A **Philmont** orientation meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 21, for all Scouts going to Philmont this coming July, and their parents.

Our first formal **Court of Honor** is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 5. This will be a special dinner meeting for all troop families, with troop displays and entertainment. One highlight will be a troop-wide advancement ceremony honoring the progress of each Scout.

