

Troop 888

NEWSLETTER

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Some Highlights From the Council Camporee at Camp Coker



On Sunday, after Chapel Service and Awards, Ian Barker and Travis Collins hold plaques for "First Place Fire Building" and "Best Campsite," just before boarding the bus for home. The troop is sitting on the steps leading up to the Camp Coker Dining Hall. Each step features a different point of The Scout Law.

First a little bragging. Troop 888 had the largest Scout turnout of all the units attending the Council Camporee, October 30 to November 1 at Camp Coker. All together, there were just under forty patrols from over twenty-five troops competing in twelve separate events. Our patrols placed 1st in Fire Building, tied for 1st in the Bowline Relay for the best time, and placed in the top three in the Spider Web event, Blindfolded Tarp Pitch, and Chariot Race. And, out of all the other troops present, Troop 888 was awarded the plaque for the Best Campsite. We set up this award-winning campsite in the



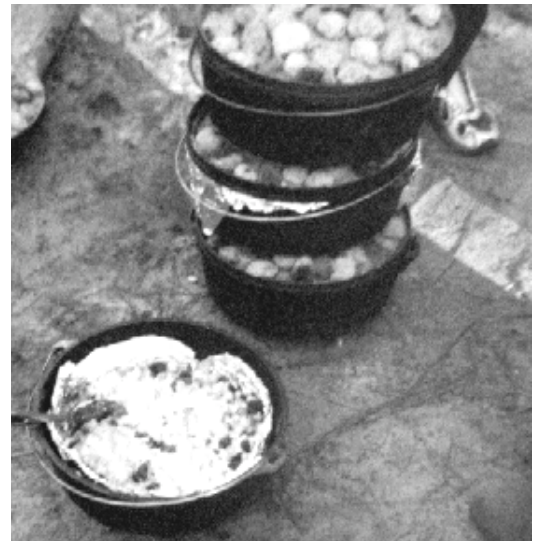
Lashing by lantern light, Will Hall, Tony Speedling, and Greg Spatholt build a tool rack for the ax yard on Friday night.

dark on Friday night, after hiking with our personal gear "the long way" from the bus to our assigned area. Mr. Lester met us there with the trailer containing patrol boxes and troop equipment. (Super parking job backing up that heavy trailer into such a tight place in the dark!) Congratulations go out to the Raccoons for their great job of completely setting up their own patrol site the quickest. Keep up the good work!

(Continued on back at "Camporee.")

Mr. Lester's Camping Trip Review

This camping trip was interesting and a lot of fun. It also started the first round for the new Cooking Merit Badge course offered by our troop. I have to say Russell Spatholt, Cory Keibler, and Dan Messich did a bang up job in preparing good food for twenty-seven hungry people. Because it was a Camporee, we were on a very tight schedule, so it was more difficult than normal. These Scouts will be serving as cooks for several more camping trips, and when all is said and done, they will be well-prepared to not only cook in the outdoors, but also to help out with all kinds of cooking at home.



"Mountain Man Breakfast" is made with bacon, onions, and potatoes, topped with a layer of eggs, and then a layer of cheese. Our Cooking Merit Badge class prepared four Dutch Ovens-full, for Saturday morning's breakfast. There were no leftovers!

This was also the first outing in almost two years that we made use of our troop trailer. After a good overhaul, I think it will be a great asset on a variety of our future camping trips.

We are still in great need for parents to help out on weekend campouts and with the troop in general. If you have any questions about donations and help with your son's troop, please feel free to contact me at 399-4799, or 399-4718.