

Troop 888 NEWSLETTER

Sponsored by: **North Strand Optimist Club**



November, 1998, Vol. 3, No. 3

Monkey Bridge Goes Up During Chicora District "Webeloree"

On November 14, at the Chicora District Webeloree, (gathering of 4th and 5th Grade Webelos Scouts), a crew from Troop 888 put up the troop's eighth Double A-Frame Monkey Bridge. The event was geared mainly towards those Scouts who hadn't yet had a hands-on experience assembling a bridge. Scouts gathered at 8:30, and the bridge was ready for a test walk by 10:00 a.m. Lending a hand were: Ian Baker, Dominick Bezmen, Geoff Britzke, Will Hall, Jason Hardee, Daniel Mesich, Sam Snodgrass, and Greg Spatholt. The following steps went into building the bridge:



Scouts lash together two 8' spars and one 6' spar to form four A-Frames.



Two A-Frames are joined together to form each side of the bridge.



The Double A-Frames are held up in the proper positions and at the right distance.



Two Hand Ropes and one Foot Rope are tied on and anchored at either end.



Spanner Ropes are added to the Hand Ropes and Foot Ropes.



The Monkey Bridge is tested and adjustments are made as necessary.



Scouts supervise Webelos interested in crossing the bridge. The bridge was able to support a 270 pound adult! Lashing and knot-tying savvy are important in any large pioneering project, but teamwork is the key. A 14' Double Ladder Tower is scheduled for Feb.

Mr. Lester's Camping Trip Review

On November 21-22, the troop tried its first outing at Lake Waccamaw State Park, between Whiteville and Wilmington. It turned out to be an outstanding camping trip. There was plenty of room in the woods to roam, run, and play. On Saturday night, it only dipped to 36 degrees, so it made for a good campfire and sing-along. Our cooking merit badge class progressed well with baked ham, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, and green beans for dinner, and French toast with sausage for breakfast on Sunday morning.

Lake Waccamaw State Park looks like a good spot for a cold-weather, backpacking trip. The ride there is not too long, and there are some really pretty locations spread over a distance for patrols to carry in their gear and set up their own sites. Each campsite has a built in fire area, and there's also plenty of wood around for warm fires on a cold-weather trip. Some words about fires: Never leave a fire unattended. Never build a fire bigger than you need. Avoid piling anything on a fire that is smaller than what you already have burning. And, never, ever play with fire! See you on Monday!