

Troop 888 NEWSLETTER

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Francis Marion National Forest, April 23-25

For the first time in almost four years, after thirty-seven camping trips, Troop 888 divided into two groups for two very different kinds of outings during the same weekend. Late Friday afternoon, the bus dropped off both our Philmont crews at the head of the Francis Marion Hiking Trail where they started their first of two practice "shakedown" trips. After backpacking the twelve and a half miles, which included setting up a campsite Friday night and another late Saturday afternoon, they met up with the rest of the troop on Sunday morning at Halfway Creek Campground.

Mr. Lester and Mr. Scott camped with the remaining eighteen Scouts who attended the Francis Marion trip, setting up their patrol sites at Halfway Creek Campground. The Scouts report they had fun at this location and all agree that a lot of good cooking took place. Both Mr. Lester and Mr. Scott happily admit that all patrols demonstrated good teamwork and Scout Spirit during cooking and cleanup times. On the other hand, perhaps due to forgetfulness, a portion of the troop did get out of hand when it came to using good sense relating to fires. Fortunately, no one got hurt. Part of our Outdoor Code is doing our best to be careful with fire. There is never an excuse for carelessness when it comes to fire safety, and there is never any excuse for ever playing with fire. It is for this reason that this issue of our newsletter includes a copy of our troop's Fire Safety Rules. All Scouts should not only always follow these rules, but should make sure their fellow Scouts always do so as well.



Cory Keibler, Avery Scott, James Bumgardner, and Hiram Ruiz join Mr. Lester around a campfire after lunch on Saturday.



Josh McDaid, Dan Messich, Dane Rebochak, Justin Davidson, and Jesse Hardee listen to a "Sam Snodgrass story."



Patrol Leader Ian Barker flips pancakes and Dane Rebochak fries bacon as Brandon Kimbrell and Hiram Ruiz, all of the Cobra Patrol, patiently look on.

Camp Coker Waterfront Camping Trip

Our annual camping trip at Camp Coker will be held on May 21-23. Once again, the troop will be divided into two groups as our Philmont crews continue their preparation for this summer's ten-day trek. The rest of the troop will have opportunities to swim, fish, row boats and paddle canoes. All Scouts will pack all personal and patrol gear in their backpacks.

Menus and duties rosters will be completed on May 10 at the Primary School. Backpacks will be packed with personal, patrol, and crew gear, including food, on May 17 when we meet back at St. Stephen's Church.

**Get Ready for Summertime Advancement and
Fun at Camp Bob Hardin: June 13-19!**