



Scout Bob Harvey climbs a tree, lumberjack style, which is one of the many skills scouts learned at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

Camping, backpacking, hiking high on scouts' priority list

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

Boy Scouts in Troop 389 have just returned from a trip to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. They held their Court of Honor in May. A canoeing and camping trip is scheduled for June. In July they will be off to Lost Lake Camp.

The calendar is "business as usual" for the boys who meet with Scoutmaster Paul Harvey in Nardin Park United Methodist Church.

The 30-member troop welcomes other boys aged 11-18 to join them for their Tuesday meetings at 7:30 p.m., or call Harold Munn, the troop committee chairman, at 477-9698, to be filled in on the year-round activities of camping, backpacking and hiking.

A must on every summer's agenda is the trip to Lost Lake Scout Reservation near Clare. The outdoor experience allows the scouts to work on

their skill and merit badge requirements under the best of leadership and instruction.

It is also the time that introduces many of them to motoboating, forestry, nature, pioneering, wilderness survival, cooking, environmental science and other facets of the outdoors.

THE TROOP WAS invited to Mackinac Island Scout Service Camp last summer—an honor because only 12 troops are selected to attend from throughout the state. For a week the scouts serve as the governor's honor guard and as official guides in Fort Mackinac.

The camp is unique in that it is the only state-operated scout camp in the country, and is one of the few service camps in operation.

The prime objective of the camp is to provide the opportunity to perform duties of a patriotic and civic nature at the same time.

While being a part of the governor's official family, the scouts took part in special civic events, conducted reveille and retreat ceremonies at 15 historic flag locations, guided visitors through Fort Mackinac, supplied messenger service and helped with conservation projects.

During off hours, they rode horseback, bicycled and swam in the Grand Hotel pool.

SENIOR SCOUTS, those over 14 years, can choose to participate in some high adventure experiences.

One example of this was a 12-day backpacking and camping expedition at Philmont Scout Ranch, located near Cimarron, N.M.

David Crall, Dan Flesher, Bob Harvey, Jeff Klueger, Richard Kouzoujian, Alan Osterdale, Kevin Perry, Wayne Perry and Brian Putnam were led by Harvey in a hike that covered 75 miles through rugged mountain wilderness.

Highlights of the trip included climbing Mt. Baldy, burro packing, rock climbing, panning for gold, then meeting scouts and leaders from other countries around a campfire.

The last night on the trail found the boys up at 2 a.m. hiking to the top of the Tooth of Time, to watch the sunrise.

EACH MONTH a weekend campout, rain or shine, summer and winter, is planned at a nearby recreation area.

The scouts have hiked the Potawmomi Trail in the Pimlico Recreation Area and the Wilderness Trail in Holly Recreation Area.

All camping skills learned on the

trail are reinforced by participating in the spring and fall Camporees, which bring scouts together from throughout the Ottawa District.

Troop 389 also provides an opportunity for the boys to swim at nearby high school pools.

In the area of service projects, the troop collects clothing for Good Turn Day, collects newspapers for Goodwill Industries, and is involved in the Huron River Clean-Up, where scouts

once pulled a car out of a creek. On one Farmington clean-up day, the troop removed 40 bags of trash from city streets and roads.

In the area of finances, the boys help supplement their yearly budget with paper drives, fertilizer and plastic garbage bag sales.

Nardin Park, the scouts' sponsoring church, is located on Eleven Mile west of Middlebelt.

Scouts hit highs and lows in the Smokies

One of the most adventuresome expeditions Boy Scouts in Troop 389 have ever taken on was a four-day backpacking trip last March through the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina.

After months of preparation and anticipation, the experience turned out a mixture of high excitement and some downright misery. All plans clicked along as expected and on schedule, except the weather.

The first day they hiked all day in the rain, pitched tents in the rain, and prepared dinner in the rain. Then the temperatures dropped and the rain turned to snow.

The boys woke up in wet, icy and snow-covered tents. One scout said the scene reminded him of Washington at Valley Forge.

WITH BACKPACKING gear in order that morning, the scouts faced a 10-mile trek down a snow-covered, steep slope to the Appalachian Trail.

As cold as it was, the snow nevertheless provided a very special kind of beauty in the mountains. But then fog set in and blocked out many of the spectacular scenes.

At this point, many of the scouts wondered why they had to go south to get away from Michigan's weather, which wasn't that bad, then.

But, as is the case in the Great Smoky Mountains, the weather changed overnight and the next day the boys were hiking in their shirt sleeves.

Even so, peace and tranquility didn't settled in until almost the last night of the trip, along a stream deep in the woods, five miles from the nearest road.

SCOUTMASTER Paul Harvey is sure that all of his scouts follow all proper procedures for back-country camping, and is confident they will be responsible hikers and campers, come what may, for the rest of their lives.

"It is through experiences like these," he says, "learning and taking on responsibilities as well as having fun, that boys grow into knowledgeable men."

"The friendships they develop on backpacking trips will last a lifetime. They will look back on these experiences as some of the best times of their lives."

The best parts of the trip for the scouts were climbing Clingman's Dome to an elevation of more than 6,000 feet, hiking to see Ramsey Cascade, and touring Cade's Cove. The cove is a small community of mountain people, secluded from the rest of the world still in horse and buggy days.

ALL OF THE scouts share in all of the responsibilities for the trip, in preparation and planning, as well as firebuilding, collecting water, cooking and cleaning up.

But, as is the case in the Great Smoky Mountains, the weather changed overnight and the next day the boys were hiking in their shirt sleeves. Apparently the scouts have forgotten their discomfort during that trip, and are remembering only the good times. Harvey says they are all ready to go back again.



At their campsite in Great Smoky Mountains National Park are Kevin Perry, (at left) Bob Harvey, Jeff Klueger, Dave Crall, Rick Kouzoujian and Steve Johns.



Around a campfire on their last day on the trail, scouts ponder the joys and frustrations of their trip along a steep descent in the Smokies. From left are Bob Harvey, Jeff Klueger, Dave Crall and Kevin Perry.



Backpacking through the snow in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, there were some good times and some bad times.