

We are back from another successful Snuffy Hollow Camporee. I am sure we are all a little tired and of course, very wet.

Snuffy Hollow is our most challenging camporee of the year. Many troops only send their best. We send everyone. There are many important lessons to be learned from pushing yourself and your patrol to excel (more on that later.)

Our results were:

- Troop 90 placed 5th out of 17 Troops at Snuffy.
- We had the most number of patrols at the camporee (4).
- We placed 2nd by 0.5 points (out of 100) in the Campsite Inspection.
- The Fearless Phoenixes placed 2nd in the Pioneering/Catapult station.
- Our SPL placed 2nd in the Junior Leader competition and 1st runnerup in the wood carving competition.

I have attached the scoresheet to this email.

Friday, the scouts set up our campsite to Snuffy's very specific requirements. They did a fantastic job, nearly perfect. The weather until early Sunday morning was perfect - mostly cool and comfortable. An early rise, a quick breakfast and we were ready to go on time. Kudos to our SPL and ASPL for making sure we were on time for everything.

The boys competed in three field stations - catapults, first aid and compass work. Then headed out on a 5 mile hike with stations in compass, nature, fire safety and trail. After completing the trail, the boys competed in a fun station (sawing) before coming back to camp. After vespers, the boys cooked dinner over open fires. Due to impending weather, the camporee moved up the awards ceremony to the evening campfire. After the campfire, the camporee allowed units to go home early (Saturday night).

Despite the rainy forecast, we elected to stay overnight and deal with the elements. It was sad to see only 2-3 troops remain with us while all other units went home.

This camporee challenges us in so many ways. It is probably our greatest learning opportunity each year. It requires intense organization and execution - things we all need to improve on. But its the subtle lessons that allow us to move forward in the scouting program. It is lessons like:

- Dealing with disappointment when preparation and expectations don't match up with results. What went wrong? How can we do better?
- Not wearing the right clothing, knowing where it is or possibly not bringing it. Our scouts should know what they need.
- Taking the time to plan a station response before reacting. A good plan is better than speed.
- Specific to Snuffy, there is no award for finishing the trail first. You should take your time, double check your work. Our trail scores and discussion afterward indicated we rushed the trail too much.

Without a doubt, we had a very successful Snuffy. I am so very proud of the boys for competing and pushing themselves to excel. You accepted each and every challenge, and I thank you for that.

Please remember to fully and properly clean and dry the gear you have been entrusted with. We will have a drop off time later this week for returning gear. Stay tuned.

Don't forget to check for ticks. We had several already in the troop and we want you to keep checking for them in case they hitched a ride back home with your gear.

Thank you to all of the adults, troop leadership and scouts for a wonderful weekend.

Yours in Scouting!
Mr. G