

Chincoteague Campout Wrap Up; By Mr. Scott:

First, I need to thank the following people. Marty for recommending the KOA, Gretchen for booking it, Owen and his parents for getting the food, Don for camping with me this weekend, Mark for driving down Friday and staying until Saturday after breakfast, and Paul for coming down Saturday night and driving back this morning. We left at 5:15 and arrived at 9 Friday evening. We checked in and picked out a great tent site under pine trees which left a nice bed of pine needles to set tents up on. We got set up, had a snack, and turned in around 10:30. We were up at 6:45 Saturday morning. I got a fire going with a post it note and pine needles to keep the mosquitos down. I got coffee going for the adults and helped Brian get sausage and scrambled eggs going for our breakfast burritos. We ate, cleaned up, and got ready to head out for our day of adventure. We decided to go to the water park first, which was located almost on the KOA campground. We left camp and walked to the camp store to get our vouchers to get us in for free. We arrived at the park at 9:55 and waited until 10 for them to open. It wasn't crowded so we pretty much had first dibs on the slides, the lazy river, or the splash zone. Most of us headed towards the slides. We all had a blast, but started to get hungry around 12:30, so we headed back to camp for lunch. We made sandwiches and had chips with apples and Gatorade. After lunch we decided to go to the beach. We walked back up to the camp store and waited for the trolley to take us to about 5 miles to Chincoteague National Park and drop us off at the beach. We grabbed a spot on the beach and headed for the water. The tide was going out and the waves were breaking about 40-50 feet out so the waves weren't great for us to goof off in, but we had fun anyway. After a bit, some boys dug in the sand looking for crabs and Brent was some what buried. We left at 3:30 and caught the trolley back, saw some wild horses, lots of cranes, and enjoyed the trolley driver telling us about the island. We returned to camp and went to the pool for about 15 minutes, then returned to the water park. We left at 4:45 and headed back to camp, got dry clothes on, and had a snack. We got dinner going, which Joseph instructed Brent on how to cook cheesesteaks subs. We ate subs, salad, and drank some Arnold Palmer. We got cleaned up and did some rank advancement. The boys decided they wanted to try and knock a tree limb that was hanging in a tree down so we could burn it. Plus, it was a hazard. They threw footballs, a Frisbee, and tried to get it with a shovel standing on a picnic table, but no luck. A few close calls where the limb moved, but didn't come down. This went on for a bit, safely of course, and after about an hour, they gave up. Close to the end of their effort, the camp staff was driving around in a golf cart during and observed this. About 10 minutes later, two guys in a front loader showed up. One guy got in the bucket and was lifted up to retrieve the limb. We had a nice fire going already made by Ben and we were able to burn that limb throughout the evening. Some guys turned in around 9. Don and I waited for Paul to show up and enjoyed the fire. Paul arrived at 10:30 and we turned in shortly after. We were up at 6:45, packed and cleaned up, had breakfast, a round of thorns and roses, and headed out at 8:30. We stopped at the RoFo in Easton and after getting through some traffic, were back at the Gatehouse at 12:15. We had the Taylor young men along and it was great having them. They said they had a blast and enjoyed our outing, so that made me very happy. All the boys had a fun packed day and many stated they have never been on a outing that was that fun before. We typically don't hit a water park, the beach, a pool, and a water park again as an activity. All in all, it was a great trip with wonderful weather all weekend. I could definitely get used to camping at a KOA as well with the great tent sites, views, and clean bathrooms. Joseph and I took some pictures and they'll be up on the website soon.