

## Rodney 2019 Wrap-up Courtesies of Mr. Dan:

Folks,  
A great Scouting weekend was had by all!

Friday evening we departed the Gatehouse and rush hour traffic routed us through the tunnel. The trip took longer than expected, but overall, not too bad. I realized that Rodney was the first camp I attended as an adult leader, so I actually remembered it in the daylight on Saturday. The road into the camp was rough, and had some really sandy/muddy sections but I did NOT get stuck with my truck, nor did Bob with his new Accord.

Friday night was not too cold, but we started up a fire anyway, and let it burn a little. We had 8 boys, and they loved the cabin camping. The cabin was equipped with enough double bunks to sleep 14, and it had a nicely furnished kitchen with 3 sinks, a gas grill and stove top, of the Viking commercial type. Unfortunately, there was no exhaust fan, so you have to open the windows, AND deal with the smoke alarm.

Saturday morning the boys were up and made breakfast (pancakes, eggs, juice, whipped cream, syrup, etc). Chef Gourmet Bob made bacon, eggs, fresh fried potatoes, and a toasted bagel, to enjoy w/ our French pressed Starbucks coffee. We were the FIRST troop to the shooting range, which was about a 10 min hike to. We have some excellent shooters. I believe we finished four rounds of shooting, (10 shots per round, then rotate the next 10 shooters in), and as the other troops began to populate the range, the time between shooting rounds took longer. The range was only open from [0900-1200](#).

Back to camp we went to chill a bit, explore the area, then lunch. The boys had a big pot 'o Ramen noodles and grilled cheese, and chips, cookies, etc. Lunch for Bob and I was light (good for me) comprising of almond butter, fruit bar, and yogurt (we do have to watch our figures....HA). After lunch, the boys knuckled down with Ben N. instructing a group for their Fireman's Chip. The instruction took a while, then outside to practice their newly learned skills. Trace C, Jack, Ben S, and Nico all now have earned their Fireman's Chip. It took some time to get some of the fires going with all the damp materials. Bob and I tag teamed hiking the area while the boys trained, and others enjoyed exploring the camp and waterfront. Many were at the waterfront to enjoy and photograph a lovely sunset.

Dinner for the boys...steak & cheese subs, mac and cheese, and leftover lunch food. Chef Bob prepared a lovely grilled steak and mushrooms, and spicy potato dish. Cleanup.....well....it got done, but not quickly or without some chaos. The training of new boys and new leaders is always a learning experience, but one that improves with repetition. Some boys are eager to jump in and help, while others.....not so much, but they are learning to be a team.

We had a good fire in the stove for Sat nite, and many boys were quite warm, but the cabin cooled down by morning. Outside temp when we got up was about 25 degrees. Our sign out inspection was for 0830, so we were up at 0630. The boys got awakened this morning by the pleasant ringing of titanium utensils against an aluminum pan. It's amazing how quickly the boys move with the right "encouragement." We did start the cleanup the nite before, but all had to be ready for inspection by 0830. Cleaning up the stoves/grill is always fun.

After they cleaned up, Ben N. let an interfaith service. Nico is our Chaplain's Assistant, but Ben offered to do the service as one of his merit badge requirements. He did well.

We learned some lessons concerning the checking the patrol box for specific supplies BEFORE it gets loaded, but we endured. All had a great time, and "loved" cabin camping. Of course, after the Turkey Camp "Mud" experience, you can understand why.

A big thanks to Mr. Bob, and all the parents that got their boys to the Gatehouse on time. We are doing better with gear prep, although we had a few gentlemen that should have had a winter coat at the range. Remember, camping often is a lot of stationary time, which is when you get cold. In Winter, winter coats, hats, gloves, boots, etc. Sweatshirts, no gloves, no hats, etc....makes for cold miserable campers. It's ALWAYS a better idea to have too much gear, than not enough for our weekend outings, when it comes to clothes.

YIS,  
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Asst Scoutmaster