

Wrap Up, Courtesies of Mr. Scott:

Rodney wrap up: We departed the Gatehouse around 5:20 and after fighting horrible traffic and crazy drivers on 695 we arrived at Rodney around 7:30, got checked in, and found our cabin. Nico started on getting the stove fired up first thing. We unpacked the cars and got settled in for a cold night. Don, Rick, and Nico attended a leaders meeting at 9:30. We had a two special guest this outing. Alysa and Brock Simms (Brent's mom and brother who's a Bear with Pack 719) joined us and it was great having them. The cabin was big accommodating 24, so it had 5 rooms, mostly opening to each other. The main bunk room with 11 bunks lining both sides of the room with a wood burning stove in the middle. A smaller room with a sink, bunk, and a door, which I insisted Alysa and Brock to use, the kitchen area and a room next to that with three tables and small benches. The kitchen was complete with a griddle and a nice 4 burner cooktop. The cabin was also equipped with 8 sinks, 4 large stainless steel in the kitchen, and 4 outside for hand washing. The temperature started coming up a bit and we started turning in at 10:30. We got up at 6:30 Saturday morning and started on breakfast. I got the coffee going, then made ham, cheese, and green pepper omelets with sausage on the side that Rick helped brown up for the adults. Bryan and Nathan made pancakes and sausage for the boys. We got cleaned up from breakfast and left the cabin at 8:50. We headed for the range to shoot .22's. It was still 16 degrees, but we were dressed and ready to. We arrived and there were two other Troops in line ahead of us. The range was opened from 9 – 12 and while it was quite chilly under the staging area, the boys were excited to shoot. They got their turn and a few stayed for a second round while others headed back to the cabin with Don and Rick to keep the fire going and collect some more wood. The range staff were great. They worked with the boys and were very accommodating, especially with Brock. After the 2nd round, we headed back to the cabin and hung out a bit. All the boys did a great job with shooting and I saw several bulls eye shots. We had lunch around 12 (lunchmeat wraps and chips for the adults, and ramen noodles and fruit for the boys). After clean up, we headed out at 1:30 for a hike. We stopped at the trading post briefly and then headed clear across camp to spend some time on the beach. The boys wandered down the beach a bit and when the wind picked up, we had them return, took a few pictures and headed back to camp. We got back around 3:15 and everyone gathered wood. Ben and Nico even got an outdoor fire going with some of the longer pieces of wood that wouldn't fit in the stove. We hung out until it was time for dinner. Don made chili in a crock pot just before lunch and we patiently waited for it all day. Most of the boys decided they wanted to go back near the beach to watch the sunset. The adults ate at 5:30 in peace. Don's chili was absolutely amazing, complete with corn bread and cantina chips. We all went back for second's and stuffed ourselves. Brent started cooking the Steak ems and Nathan helped warm the buns and got all the fixings ready. The other boys came back just in time for dinner. They made their cheesesteak subs and gathered around the stove to eat and warm up. They cleaned up the kitchen and started packing up some things. Several boys turned into their bunks early to rest. I was in my bunk by 8:30 staying warm and resting. We had lights out around 9. A few stayed around the fire for a bit, but everyone was pretty tired. When I woke up I found a couple boys on the floor with a mattress from a bunk in front of the stove. We got up at 6:30 this morning, packed up, had breakfast (donuts and coffee for the adults and bagels with cream cheese and fruit with OJ for the boys). The cars were packed up, we had a quick Scout's own service by Nathan, a round of thorns and roses, and began to clean the cabin. Joseph and Nico brought their wireless speakers and there was usually a good playlist going throughout the cabin all weekend. We had fun singing, a bit of dancing, and enjoying that new aspect of a camping trip. We had an inspection from camp staff at 8:30 and headed home shortly after. We got back to the Gatehouse at 10:15 and unloaded. Overall, it was a great weekend. On the way home, Nico stated he hasn't had that much fun camping in a long time. I think everyone agreed from the sounds of it and heard several state that they wanted to return there again. I took a bunch of pictures and Joseph will get those up on the Troop website soon for your viewing pleasure. Nico was our acting SPL this weekend and did a great job. It was his first experience as SPL on a camping trip, and he pulled it off nicely. Thanks to Alysa, Don, and Rick for driving, getting food, and spending their weekend with us.