

Turkey 2018 Breakdown, From Mr. Scott

- Turkey camp wrap up. I think the number one “bud” was to get home and take a hot shower. This was by far the muddiest outing I’ve ever been on. It was an absolute swamp by Saturday afternoon. When we arrived at Granite Hill Friday evening, Joseph and I went to the camp office to check in and were informed that we didn’t have a reservation. I knew Doug made it back in September and I explained that. After a few minutes, the lady finally found it under a cancelled tab. Apparently another Troop was supposed to camp in the group area as well but they bailed and the camp cancelled both reservations. After we straightened it out and paid, we found Berger Hill and scouted out the area. Of course it was dark and was covered with 6 inches of snow. The road into the group area wasn’t plowed, so we weren’t getting the trailer near the area we were camping. Once Joseph and I decided the area looked good, we started to set up. Dan offered to use his truck to shuttle the larger items (patrol boxes mainly) up to our camp. After 2 runs most everything was there. Dan attempted a third run but ended up getting his truck stuck in some serious mud. The boys tried to give him some pushes but it wasn’t moving. He left it there overnight thinking the ground would freeze overnight. We got set up and got a fire going. We turned in and got up around 6:30 Saturday morning. I made breakfast burritos for the adults and the boys made French toast. Bob came up early and joined us for the day. After the adults ate, Dan was able to get someone from the camp to come with a tractor to pull him out. An older guy showed up, hooked up Dan’s truck and pulled him out of the mud soup. Dan’s truck was covered in mud, but he wasn’t stuck anymore. After clean up, they made their lunches and left for the visitors center in Gettysburg. They saw some rein actors, then got shuttled down to Devils Den where they had an epic snow ball fight. They hiked up Little Round Top and had lunch, then hiked back down. John, Bob, and I had stayed behind to get things ready for the turkey cooking. We got the fryers, pots, oil, propane tanks, etc all set up, then hung out by the fire. A big thank you to Fred for bringing a car load of wood and also to Jon Marsicano for bringing some more up when he joined us mid day. As the day went on and the temps climbed, the snow was melting and turning the camp into a swamp of mud, especially around the fire pit. Mike came up to join us around 12 and it was good to have him back camping with us. After everyone returned around 1, the adults sat around the fire and enjoyed that while the boys went to play

football. Dan left to find a car wash to get all that mud off and also brought us some more fire wood. We got the turkeys going around 3 and the boys started making the sides shortly after. The turkeys only took 35 minutes to cook. John has it down to such a science now. We made a large circle around the fire and were able to eat before dark. Everything was really good. We had wonderful deep fried turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, green beans, cranberry sauce, rolls, and iced tea. Clean up took a bit afterwards, but of course there was a lot to do including getting a lot of stuff back into the trailer. Joseph did a great job keeping everyone on task and overseeing things. We had peach cobbler for dessert and most of the boys turned in early. Some were in their tents around 7 and asleep shortly after. Most turned in around 9 as it started to cool down quite a bit. The camp was basically a mud hole at this point from everyone tracking through it and the mud was deep and everywhere. Of course the mud was the number one thorn I heard this morning. Rightfully so! There were places you would step and it would almost swallow your boots. I was happy most had waterproof boots to wear as it saved our feet from being completely wrecked. Although it was colder last night, I believe everyone slept pretty well. We were up at 6:45 this morning and began the clean up process. The boys got everything shuttled down to the trailer and put away. They had breakfast, then we had a thanksgiving scout's own service by Nico. We did our round of thorns and roses, policed the area, then headed out. We were back to the Gatehouse by 10:45. Overall, we had another very successful turkey camp and as usual made the best out of the situation. It always amazes me how we adapt and overcome. Seems we do this in some form every outing. Boy Scouts are truly amazing and our group is incredible. It was also fantastic having a new scout with us for his first outing and he loved it. Welcome again Ben Sturm and his dad Paul. A huge thank you to Eric Wills for towing the trailer and a big thanks to the following adults: Don, Dan, Fred, John, Bob, Mike, Jon, and Paul for camping in the cold, muddy conditions, and for helping out. We all had a good time and we can put a wrap on another successful turkey camp. I'd also like to thank anyone who bought food or helped in any capacity for this trip. It's definitely our biggest logistical trip of the year, so a lot of planning and coordination goes into it and I think it paid off.