

# Campbellville Scouts win first place in mock rescue mission at survival camp

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**

*The Champion*

Winter survival camp takes on a whole new meaning when there's nearly two feet of snow on the ground and it continues to come down all weekend.

But 11 members of the First Campbellville Boy Scouts and their three leaders weren't complaining.

Last month, the group of 11 to 13-year-olds travelled to the 40th annual winter survival camp in Owen Sound. Their bags were slightly heavier when they returned, because nestled inside was a trophy.

Out of 29 participating teams — including teams from the United States — the First Campbellville Scouts finished in first place for a 4-km rescue mission.

Receiving the trophy was definitely the most memorable part of the weekend, said Don McClelland, one of the Scouts' leaders. "I had tears in my eyes. To see how the kids worked hard and won — it hits you," he said.

The rescue mission was the climax of the weekend. Four boys pulled a sleigh carrying one "victim," while one boy pushed the sleigh from behind. Pretending the boy in the sleigh was injured and needed to get to safety quickly was the object of the mission. As the boys made the trek, they had various tasks to complete, including first aid, a hill climb, orienteering, ice crossing, fire lighting and knot tying.

"The victim has a 'broken leg' and they have to find the problem, splinter and bandage it, and put him on the sleigh," Mr. McClelland said. "They have to go through bushes and trails, and across a frozen creek. They have to be constantly asking the victim how he is, and making him comfortable."

Last year the Campbellville Scouts had the best time out of all the groups, but they didn't receive a good score for the tasks, Mr. McClelland said.

"This year, we went more for quality. And they pulled it off. We worked as a team, went after it, and got it," said Mr. McClelland, who has been a Scout leader for the past nine years. "I've known lots of these kids since they were five, six and seven."

Josh Burr, 12, was one of the rescue mission team members. He said the hardest part was climbing the large hills.

"You have to stop and make sure the victim's okay, and climb up the hill," Josh said. "You're trudging up the hill, it's slippery and wet, and you have to make sure the victim doesn't slide out of the sled."

It isn't hard for Josh to pick the moment that sticks out most in his mind.

"We were running to the closing ceremonies, and we heard our names for first place for the rescue mission. That was the highlight."

Mr. McClelland estimated that it snowed another foot in addition to the already two feet of snow on the ground, adding to the weekend's challenges.

"The hardest part was setting up camp. They had to dig the snow out to about one inch," he said, adding that putting the tent pegs into frozen ground wasn't easy.

Andy McClelland, 12, said preparation was a key element to having an enjoyable weekend. Getting cold at night wasn't anything he had to worry about. "My friend and I had a lot of stuff. We had three mattresses underneath us and a sleeping bag and scouting blanket," he said.




The winning team poses for a shot.

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