

Cubs go camping

Camp diary

By June Abbott

THORNHILL — "A great time was had by all" seems to be the consensus about a recent jaunt to Camp Obasateeka, near Barrie, which was taken by 36 Cubs from 7th Thornhill Mysa and Rann packs.

The boys set off from Royal Orchard School on a Monday morning, accompanied by Akela Paul Ritchi, and leaders Ken Holmes, Chuck Nicholson, Tom Walters, Richard Walter, Tom Glaesser and Larry Zaplytnew, with extra muscle provided by six Service Scouts.

Highlights of the week-long stay were campfires every night, and a varied menu of meals cooked on Coleman stoves by leaders and Scouts.

Akela Paul Ritchi expressed surprise and pleasure at the number of parents who drove all the way to the camp to take part in parents' night.

He was also delighted at the way the two packs mingled and became "one happy bunch" during the week.

He hinted, with a twinkle in his eye, that for him one of the most enjoyable parts of the camp was rousing the boys out of their beds every morning at 7:30.

Two of the boys kept diaries during the week, the following is an account of the expedition in their own words.

MONDAY

We said good-bye to our parents, then we got on the bus and left. While we were travelling, we talked and told jokes. When we got there, we got our equipment out of the bus and waited for our Akela to find the ranger. We couldn't find the ranger, so we hiked to our campsite and laid our equipment down. Then we unloaded the cars and played with balls.

Then we got changed and went swimming. We had to go through a test to see who was allowed into the deep end. Then we

came back to our campsite and had lunch, which was hot dogs, chips and pop.

After lunch we made a flag pole and went on a hike. While on our hike, we were climbing cliffs with ropes. When we came home to our camp, we went swimming again.

After that, we came back to camp and built a fire and had supper which was roast beef, carrots, peas and potatoes. In the campfire, we had skits, songs and cheers. Then we had our snack of Koolaid and cookies.

Then we went to sleep.

Craig Gibson aged 11

TUESDAY

Akela came around yelling "get up you lazy bums," so everybody got up.

Then we had inspection and breakfast. We had cereal, bread and jam and bacon. Then we pulled the flags (broke open the flags), and everybody saluted.

Then we were split into two groups, one to learn how to use a knife and axe, and the other group would learn how to use a compass.

Then we had lunch of cheeseburgers and chips. After lunch, we had free time.

Then we had a game of soccer, the score was 3-2.

Then we came home to camp and went swimming. After swimming, we worked on arts and crafts. Later we had supper of ham, potatoes, carrots, milk and bread.

After supper we went on a hike. It was lots of fun. Then we came back and had inspection. After inspection we got hosed down and washed. Later we started a fire . . . we had a couple of skits and songs. And then we went to bed.

Craig Gibson

WEDNESDAY

In the morning we had our breakfast and after breakfast we had some free time and worked with compasses and axes.

Later we played field hockey and went swimming. After we came back and had free time . . . we had a game of capture the flag. Later that, half the pack went swimming, then we had free time. We had supper and inspection, then we waited for the parents to come and visit us.

swimming. After we came back and had free time . . . we had lunch.

After washing dishes and inspection, we played capture the flag. Later, we had arts and crafts and went swimming. When we got back from swimming we had dinner and some free time and played football. When we got back, we had to wash up for the night.

After that we got ready for the campfire. Later we had our campfire and a snack and went to bed.

Jeff Thomson, aged 10

THURSDAY

On Thursday morning our tent was up first and sat down at the breakfast table. All the tents were up before Akela. While eating breakfast, a plane flew over very low. It made a couple of passes and Akela got his number and reported him for dangerous flying.

We went on a hike after that to see which six could find the most natural objects. When we came back, we wrote it down. Later we went swimming and came back and did arts and crafts. Then

we had lunch. Later we had a game of capture the flag. After that, half the pack went swimming, then we had free time. We had supper and inspection, then we waited for the parents to come and visit us.

When the parents got there, we lit our campfire and sang songs, had cheers and skits. Then we had our snack and went to sleep.

Craig Gibson

FRIDAY

In the morning, Akela came around bashing and rattling the tent to get us up.

After breakfast, we tied up two of the six Scouts and soaked them as punishment for missing k.p. duty.

Then we had a game of capture the flag. Later in the day, we went swimming and had lunch. Then we cleaned up the site and Akela gave out the prizes for the best six. I was a member of the group that won. The prize was an Olympic-style gold medal.

Craig Gibson



Service Scout J.R. Kidston instructs campers on safe, efficient ways to use a knife. (Left to right): Steve Legge improves his skill, while Kostaki Stamatakos, Robert Jackson and Lance Ross await their turns. The

Cubs are from 7th Thornhill Mysa and Rann packs, and recently they spent a week learning, playing — and helping keep hot dog manufacturers in business — at Camp Obasateeka near Barrie. (Photo by Ritchi)

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