

Update: Tar River District Fall Camporee

The 2014 Tar River Fall Camporee has come to an end and, oh, what an end it has been. In the Scouting spirit, the camporee focused on games, sport and boy leadership. As such, the Senior Patrol Leaders (SPL) of each Troop in attendance ran the events, judged the events, and they did a splendid job. Overall 8 Troops, 10 Patrols, and 73 total scouts took part in the weekend's events. A special thanks goes out to the SPL's who ran this year's fall camporee, Nick Andrews, Troop 961, Alex Broomell, Troop 11, Jo Dees, Troop 76, Riley Dean, Troop

5, Jacob Sessoms, Troop 49, Greg Siler, Troop 37, Joey Williams, Troop 816, and Paxton Jordan, Troop 413.



Saturday started at 6am with a "Fetch the Scoutmaster's Coffee Relay Race." The patrols were given a single cup of "coffee" and had to race through the course well before the sun decided to rise and hand it off to the next runner. After 4 laps the cups were measured and for every $\frac{1}{4}$ of the cup you had lost along the way 2 minutes were added to your time. The race started promptly at 6 am but those who arrived later were still allowed to compete, albeit the winning patrol had already finished the race by the time the last two patrols arrived. Troop 11's Sitting Bulls Patrol took home the winning trophy as the fastest patrol.

The SPL's then led us in the morning assembly and we had a good old fashion patrol yell competition. Let's just say some troops were more spirited than others, and that "Here" doesn't quite cut it as a patrol yell. As the morning assembly came to a close the next event was underway as the patrols were in a race to put up their patrol flags. Once again Troop 11's "Sitting Bulls" was the fastest to get their flag up, and Troop 5's "The Squad Patrol" took home the trophy for the tallest flagpole.

We then moved into a knot tying ice rescue relay race and the boys were ready to compete. By now the spirit of the games was going and patrols were out to prove they have what it takes. Mind you some



patrols decided to show it in other ways and instead of rescuing a small 2 foot log they brought an 8 foot downed tree to rescue (6 times). Troop 816's "Dragons" Patrol took home the trophy for this event.

The competitions continued with a tent peg making relay race where the boys had to make tent pegs using a hand ax. You could see determination on every face there, and in some of the roped off blood circles you could even see skill. Troop 816's "Dragons" Patrol took home the trophy for finishing the fastest with 6 tent pegs that passed the SPL's inspection.



The final event of the morning was a slower pace as the patrols were tasked with pioneering a table using only lashings. The tables showed great ingenuity and skill and for some showed a willingness to learn on the spot. Troop 49's "Cherokee" Patrol took home the trophy for the fastest table and Troop 11's "Sitting Bulls" won the SPL's vote for best design.



We adjourned for lunch but this wasn't just a break, it was also the patrols cook-off event. At the end of the lunch break each patrol had to return with a prepared plate of their lunch and place it on the table they had just made. Several scoutmasters then had the pleasure of taste-testing everything from chicken teriyaki, to

turducken burgers, to a gourmet dish featuring spam. Plates were judged on presentation, taste, and of course, having dessert helped as well. Troop 49's "Cherokee" Patrol took home the Betty Crocker trophy as the best cooks having the best overall meal, Troop 11's "Sitting Bulls" Patrol won an honorable mention for their dessert and Troop 76's "Marine" Patrol won an honorable mention for their main dish.



As the Scoutmasters were judging the plates the boys were on a search and rescue first aid race. By now, most of the patrol had learned that the start time meant that we started at that time, but one patrol decided they would straggle behind. As such, the entire district was sent out to start the race as we then went over the rules for the stragglers again and sent them out 10 minutes behind the other patrols. Now normally, it's not important to air such things, but seeing as this was the same patrol that returned 15 minutes before 2nd place, it's worth noting that Troop 11's "Sitting Bulls" apparently know their first aid. They had to splint a broken leg, tend to a puncture wound of the hand, bandage head trauma and transport the "unconscious" victim back from graffiti rock the HQ on an emergency stretcher. Let me say that some of our victims were slightly more traumatized in their transport than in their



"accident."

My personal favorite was the patrol that tried to use a hammock with boys pulling tension on ropes from both sides, when this failed they commandeered a 6 foot plastic table from a nearby campsite and used the entire table as the stretcher. A scout is resourceful if nothing else right?

Once all the patrols returned with their victims we moved to the next event, fire building and cooking. The patrols were tasked with building a fire, mixing up some dough and cooking bread on a stick over the fire they just built. Once the SPL's marked the bread as fully cooked the entire patrol had to consume the bread. I can safely say I am glad I did not have to consume anything made there. Troop 49's "Cherokee" Patrol went home as the rootest-tootenest cowboy cooks there.

The final competition of the day was probably one of the most talked about as we did a canoe tug-of-war. This was a single elimination event patrol vs. patrol. Tie two canoes to each other and paddle as hard as you can, once the opponents entire canoe passes the midway point you have won the event. The entire district lined the hill next to the new Nick Boddie Aquatics Center Boathouse and cheered on as the boys gave it their all. And yes, at one point you did hear correctly as one of the patrol competitors sat in the canoe looked up and said "Now what?"



This is the first time I've ever been in a canoe." He must have been a fast learner as he did win that round. No one entered the drink, although one patrol did totally fill their canoe with water and another got so fierce they actually snapped the carabineer in half (it clearly said not for climbing but this was a tug-of-war not climbing) Troop 816's "Dragons" Patrol took home the gauntlet at the strongest patrol.

The day concluded with a campfire that the Order of the Arrow built for us and every patrol then shared a skit or a song. This was not judged but it was great to see everyone get into the spirit of scouting and share the talents from their troop. We then awarded totems for every event to the winning patrols to be placed on their patrol flag for the rest of this year. This serves as a reminder to all that this patrol has a skill they can teach and excel at and they have earned their bragging rights from that event. Every event had points assigned to it, and as such, the point totals were tallied and a bronze statue was awarded to the 2014 Tar River Best Patrol, the "Sitting Bulls" of Troop 11. As they are the first to receive the trophy, they were tasked with naming the bronze scout on top of the trophy, and without further ado, let me introduce "Quantavious Figglesstein Withsmithattheend, III". Yeah, we should have known better than to have the winning patrol name him. Campfire concluded with a Wood Badge beading ceremony for Scoutmaster Avery Moore, one big bad Boddie BEADED buffalo.



Sunday morning chapel brought the event to a close as two of our Chaplain Aides and one Cantor shared a Jewish prayer and the Chaplains Aides shared scripture and inspiration from their readings. With the conclusion of the Chapel service the event was ended and the scouts returned home, proud of their accomplishments and tired, so very, very, very tired.

The brochure has already been posted for [Tar River's Fall Camporee Nov. 13-15, 2015](#), and although you may find that it only has 5 competitive events there are more totems than there were this year, and of course, the trophy for best patrol will be back to go to its new home.



Award winners, Troop 11 "Sitting Bulls" Patrol are (left to right) Stephan Bandy, Leo Jaffe, Lucas Moore, Scott Bruschaber, Alex Broomell, Jack Broomell and Josh Sandy. Lucas is holding the traveling trophy for "Best Patrol", Stephan is holding the totem for "First Aid Search & Rescue", Scott is holding "Best Table Design" award, Jack is holding "Fastest Patrol" flag, and Josh is holding "Scoutmasters Coffee Relay Race" cup.