

Scouts @ Bear Lake Aquatics Camp

Reported by Clark Brown, 2nd Counselor, Deacons Quorum

Our ward's scout troop 905, went to Bear Lake Aquatics Base as our week-long campout in early July. We had a *great* time. Well, we *mostly* had a great time. The things that were not fun were the mosquitoes and other creatures there to bite, sting and wake us. The dining hall food wasn't bad at all. Indeed, one could go as far as to call it yummy.



We woke up each morning, layered on the sun screen, and headed over to the dining hall for breakfast. Then we would have a flag ceremony, where we raised the United States, Utah, and once the Idaho flags. After that, we headed to the first three-hour merit badge class. Once done, we would go to the dining hall a second time for lunch. Then off again to another three-hour merit badge class. And then, you guessed it: dinner. Afterward, we went to have some troop time, sometimes going to the lake waterfront. Then went to bed. That is how each day went.

Special things each day: Monday, we had an opening campfire. We had a good time watching skits and singing songs. Then we had the amazing experience to watch the burning and retiring of an old flag. Tuesday, Daniel Crockett was sick and had to miss the merit badge classes, but got better.

Wednesday, we had an Honor Trail. The trail was made up of staff acting as different people who have lived certain parts of the Scout Law. A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. I enjoyed it and felt the spirit like the other members of my troop. Nino Sabey, Nicholas Stewart, Daniel Crockett, Grant Valentine (had to leave for his sister's wedding), Harrison Waddoups (left early to fish), Jackson Jarvis (grandson of the Bates, came with us for fun), John McHenry and Orland Bateman were all there. Thursday our troop went on the canoe outpost. Basically, we went canoeing three miles that evening on the lake to another campsite. There, we slept under the stars with no tents. Our stuff came in a truck that drove to the campsite. Friday, we had to leave early.



As a whole, we earned somewhere around fifty-two merit badges. We all got to earn the Aviation merit badge, which included flying in a four-seater plane. It was great. Most of us got to fly steeply down, plunging into something like zero gravity. The other merit badges were photography (see photos of sign at entrance and an evening view of the lake), small boat sailing, rowing, canoeing, environmental science, leatherworking, orienteering, and Indian Lore. We had a great time. And we might go again next year.

