

Troop 505 2010-2011

July - Summer Camp Ransburg, IN

After surviving the Sunday night down downpour we had a beautiful week. 44 scouts and adult had a great week of swimming, canoeing, hiking, archery and shotgun shooting. A good time was had by all with a great pizza/birthday party. The troop earned 144 merit badges, won the Cooking contest for the second year in a row and had the best archer in camp. Way to go MattF on the Golden Arrow!

July - High Adventure - Boundary Waters - MN

Saw loads of bald eagles, battled 15-knot head winds and white caps, had beautiful sunny day and experienced the Great Outdoors. Paddled in the morning, fish and nap in the afternoon. Perfect, if only someone would carry the canoe for us on the portages! Realized the State Bird of Minnesota isn't the Loon after all, it's the mosquito.

July- August - National Scout Jamboree - Ft. A.P. Hill, VA

We started out the trip with a visit to Washington D.C; Washington Monument, WWII Memorial the Intl Spy Museum and even had a private tour of the FBI Academy at Quantico. Beat that!

Ten of our scouts and one leader joined 45,000 scouts in celebrating 100 years of Scouting in America at the National Scout Jamboree. We meet scouts from Florida to Alaska and everywhere in between and even a few from such far flung places as Saudi Arabia. From shotguns to scuba, geocaching to robotics and back to the Mysterium Compass we had a BLAST! We topped it off with a stadium show were Mike Roe (Dirty Jobs and Eagle Scouts) taught us "A Scout is Clean, but not afraid to get dirty."

Mike's in Defense of Dirt

- 1). I believe that God created dirt - not cleaning products
- 2). I believe honest work looks an awful lot like dirt
- 3). I believe that without dirt we don't eat
- 4). I believe that it's absolutely, postively essential to play in the mud

August - Crew 505 Des Moines Air Force Base - Des Moines, IA

Not even being flooded out of our campsite could put a damper on this trip. Fully armed F16s, up close and personal, a full tour of the base, a trip out onto the runway and 3 hours in the Air Force flight simulators capped a great day. We followed that up with a movie that we are still trying to figure out (or as the adults called it a 2 hour nap). And finished up with a fun day at the Iowa State Fair.

September - Hike, Bike and Fish - Rock Cut State Park - Loves Park, IL

A lot of biking, some good hiking with the help of the geocaching trail and a little fishing with just enough time to catch a nap on a boulder. A great campfire by the lake, capped a camp out at one of the most beautiful campsites we have ever had. The only groans of the night; artichokes 2 for a buck at Dominic's and the sound of the water pump, can everyone say "creeeeeek?!?"

October - Historical Merit Badges - Kettle Moraine State Park - Eagle, WI

Tracking Historic Merit badge, cooking competition, geocaching and marshmallow launchers, what more can you want from a campout? Mr. Claeys made a pretty good deer. Hey, adult leaders need, these marshmallow launchers are for the new scouts

October - Ranch-O-Ree- TFC Scout Ranch - Rochelle, IL

Rain, rain, rain; work on some signaling. Rain, rain, rain: set a new record in the district scout skills competition. Rain, rain, rain; win the silver skillet with two great meals. Rain, rain, rain; carve some gnarly jack-o-lanterns.

November - Rock Climbing / Thanksgiving Feast - Weldon Spring State Park - Clinton, IL

A beautiful crisp morning on the lake, nine silos, and a full day of climbing, six turkeys, 30 pounds of potatoes and all the fixings leading to pie. What more could you want other than our friends at Troop 501 join us for a great weekend?

December - Survival Campout! - Grand Junction, MI

What started out as a snowstorm and a brutal drive ended up as a near perfect winter campout. The shelters went up quickly and there was plenty of time to enjoy the snow! After a steak dinner a good night's sleep was had by all. We even beat the next storm home!

January - Ski Trip Cascade MOUNTAIN - Portage, WS

Ski...Ski... and more skiing and snowboarding. A good but cold time was had by all. Two nights in the cabins at camp Freeland Leslie topped things; but who left the two scoutmaster and a scout to freeze?

February - Klondike Derby - Camp Big Timber- Elgin, IL

A night of campfire, food, fellowship and games; followed by a day of games teaching Webelos new skills. The logs were no match for the two-men saw as we had a day of fun and learning in the snow.

February - Big Deal - St. Louis, Springfield and Collinsville, IL

We made it all the way to the top of the St. Louis Arch, what a view of the river and the city! Not quite as high as the climbing at Cahokia Mounds, Collinsville, IL but a lot of fun. Who knew Indian mounds could be so interesting? We finished up with Abraham Lincoln Museum in Springfield for one great trip.

March - EAA - Museum - Oshkosh, WI

Just when we thought we were done with snow, back we go into snow belt of Wisconsin. Some rustic cabins and a snowfall made for a good weekend of camping. The EAA Museum had plenty of aircraft and history to keep us all involved.

March - New Scout Camp-In - Knox Church - Naperville, IL

Twenty Five new scouts all working with older scouts learning how to use all of the troop camping equipment, completing some advancement and having some fun. Who said putting up a tent in the dark is not fun? Now if only we could get some sleep.

April - Advancement Campout - Starved Rock State Park - Utica, IL

Axes were sharpened, wood was cut, fires were started and first aid was learned. Much advancement was completed not to mention a compass and geocaching course that tested your metal. There was a great campfire and Order of the Arrow call out.

May - Indianapolis Time Trials - Indianapolis Motor Speedway

What's not to like, fast cars and good food, maybe a little too much rain? The track was awesome, seats right at the finish line and Mr. Wilson's tailgating was wonderful. We should do it again, when cows fly? We found out that does not work so well.

June - Webelos Overnighter - Greene Valley Naperville, IL

135 Webelos came through the site that played with propane stoves, fire and melting rope. 13 went away happy and one learned to keep clear of his neighbors when fusing rope. Lots of great teaching by the new scouts to the Webelos. Older scouts seemed to do more "directing" time! The Troop Presented very well and district said they got loads of good comments about our site. Tents not straight though, so the rope comes out again next year!