



Troop 175 Event Report

Snow Camping

When: Feb 14-15, 2004
Where: Pinecrest

Scouts

Ben M, Dane H, Ryan S, Victor H, Tim P, Matt B, John H, Patrick H, Ben D, Jeremy H, Jackson F, Adam L, and Randy B

Adults

Mr. Bossenecker, Mr. Duddy, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Spartz

Location

Pinecrest Lake is located 30 miles east of Sonoma on State Highway 108. The Lake lies in a timbered setting at an elevation of 5,600 feet.

Trip Summary

Upon arriving at the site, the scouts unloaded their gear on a tarp and almost immediately began construction of their snow caves as it would take many hours to complete them.

Dinner, ramen and teriyaki chicken, was served at about eight that night when it was dark and the scouts were eager to warm themselves after hours of digging in the snow. The adults were luckier as they were able to experience the leisure of Dutch Oven cooking. The scouts, after finishing their meal, gathered around a fire constructed in a wheelbarrow. Finally, they returned to their caves to sleep or went to tents. For many, it was a sleepless night.

The next morning, after everyone rose and the scouts relit the fire in the wheelbarrow and over a breakfast of eggs and "pancakes," they relived the previous night and how they slept. Randy, Adam, Tim, and Jeremy had shared a cave and all agreed that it had been a rough night. Apparently the cave had dripped. Ben, Matt, and Patrick had had to share a cave which was about fifteen feet long, six feet wide, and a yard high--it was more of a tunnel than a cave. Matt, unable to undress and not get hypothermia, ended up sleeping with his snow gear on, getting about a half hour of total rest as a result.

The older scouts, before going, whipped out gargantuan slingshots and loaded them with snowballs in an attempt to bean each other. Tim decided to experiment with a well-shaken and half-frozen Pepsi can. The can, so pressurized that if they dropped it, it was likely to explode, was set in place carefully and aimed at a large tree. Tim, holding the shot, pulled back, steadied, and fired! Oops! The can slipped and flew backwards, at an estimated speed of forty miles an hour, to crash into and send up a geyser of snow and smack into a tree, sending Pepsi spraying onto Jeremy who was right behind. Tim's eyes were as round as coins as he shook his head in amazement: the can had passed between his legs, missing his lower extremities by a mere few inches. Tim learned that day that "there is a God".

Then they packed up their stuff and brought it to the car, concluding with a final "leave no trace" camp sweep before getting in the vehicles and heading home, stopping only to spend a couple of hours sledding and eating lunch.

The event was fun and the memories still bring smiles to the faces of those who went.

Matt Bazzanella, Troop Historian



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The Scouts



Johno get stuck in a snow cave cave-in



The inside of a snow cave



Adam and Randy digging a snow cave



Victor, Patrick, and Johno warm themselves



Digging a another snow cave