

# Troop 42 Scouts Have a Blast at Summer Camp 2009!

## Massawepie Scout Camps - Camp Pioneer Tupper Lake, NY

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Troop 42 at Camp Massawepie

Do you like being in the great outdoors? Do you like swimming and canoeing? How about hiking and cooking? All these exciting things and more are done while camping with Troop 42, especially at summer camp. Let me tell you more about all the fun we had at camp!

### **Cooking**

Cooking in camp is **a lot** of fun! At Camp Massawepie, Troop 42 did Patrol Cooking. Patrol Cooking is where each Patrol cooks its own meals instead of eating at the dining hall. Every patrol has a wampus box. It's basically a box filled with pots, pans, cooking utensils, soap and bleach, spices, and oil. At Massawepie, we were given wampus boxes for the week, but Troop 42 normally has their own. Camp Massawepie, like all summer camps with Patrol Cooking, provided the ingredients and cooking instructions for each meal.

Patrol Cooking is a lot of fun! The Patrol Leader of each Patrol assigns two boys to be Runners, and two boys to be Cooks. The two Runners "run" to get the food from the commissary. The two Cooks already have the instructions, so they can make preparations, such as boiling some water,



No, we didn't cook on this one!

while the Runners get the food. When the food arrives, the Cooks prepare it according to the instructions. If somebody decides to be creative, they might not follow the instructions exactly. The Patrol (that's my Patrol, and that's really its name!) did a lot of experimentation over the week, and it turned out pretty well. The Cooking Merit Badge is offered also at most summer camps, including Massawepie.

## **Outpost**

Outpost camping nights are one of summer camp's big highlights. About half of the Troop leaves base camp to go on outpost at once. There are usually two outposts so that nobody misses out. You travel to the outpost site (which was Eagle Island this year, so we canoed there), set up the tents, have a campfire, and go to bed. The campfire is the main event of the night, besides visiting the new site and enjoying nature. Scouts come up with skits, jump up onto the stage area, perform it, and wait for people to laugh at the punchline. In the morning, you pack up again, and then canoe back to base camp for a delicious breakfast.



**The View from Eagle Island**

## **Swimming**

Swimming is a big part of summer camp. Upon arrival at camp, everyone in every Troop takes a swim test. There are three levels of swimming ability: white (non-swimmer), red (beginner), and blue (swimmer). You get white if you do not complete the red or blue tests. The red test is to swim 25 feet in water above your head, turn, and swim back to where you started. The blue test is to swim 75 yards in water over your head and then 25 yards using a backstroke, then float on your back.

Swimming, boating, and some outpost nights are tied together. The swim tests are required to go on a canoe, rowboat, sailboat, or other kinds of boats. Boats, in turn, are often how you get to your outpost destination. Camp Massawepie had open swim period from 3:30 to 5:00pm each day. If you really enjoy swimming, there is an optional program run at many camps called Polar Bear Swim. It starts at about 6:45am, so you have to get up around 6:15. Most summer camps offer the Swimming Merit Badge.

## Boating

There is a lot to do at summer camp with boats. There is open boating during free period, which is riding a rowboat, sailboat, canoe, or kayak in a certain area protected by a lifeguard.



**Kayaking Fun**

Massawepie had an event called The Great Canoe Race – about six miles long, land and water. Steven Stinson and Ben Marino actually came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the whole camp. They canoed several miles and then portaged (carried) the canoe along a trail. They made it in winning time! There are many canoeing-based outpost nights, also. The Rowing, Small-Boat Sailing, and Canoeing Merit Badges are offered at many summer camps.

## Hiking

Troop 42 does at least one hike every year at summer camp. This year it was a climb up nearby Mt. Arab. Some outposts may be hiking based, although they are generally canoe based. Hiking outposts are basically the same as canoeing outposts, except instead of canoeing, you hike to your destination. There are sometimes special hikes held by the staff during free period, which can be a lot of fun. The Hiking and Backpacking Merit Badges are offered at many summer camps.



**On the Way to Eagle Island**



**Creative Tent Drying 101**

day canoe trip, traveling 15 miles by boat from Saranac Lake to Franklin Falls, and camping overnight on an island. Everybody is always happy when the trekkers return.

## **Trek**

Trek is another big part of summer camp for many older boys. It's like an extended outpost, but with more challenging activities. It is optional, and limited to scouts age 14 and up. The Scouts who participate plan the whole trek themselves, working with rangers and equipment outfitters beforehand to choose their destination and arrange to pick up necessary gear such as bear canisters, trail food, and canoes. This year, there were two treks. For the first, 5 boys and 3 adults hiked 20 miles in two days, most of it carrying full backpacks, and climbed Seymour Mountain, just one of the 46 High Peaks in the Adirondacks. They were joined on a second trip by 3 more scouts and one more Leader for a 2

## **Leadership**

During summer camp, Troop 42 had the inaugural ceremony for our Senior Patrol Leader and his team of Patrol Leaders. Chris Schretzenmayer, the former Senior Patrol Leader, inaugurated Andrew Vannucci into his new position as SPL. Andrew then inaugurated the Patrol Leader Council, his new team of helpers, into their positions. Andrew and his Patrol Leaders will be the guiding heart of Troop 42 until next year. We wish them all good luck!

## **Come Join Us!**

There is so much more to do with Troop 42 than I can put into this one article! You should come check us out at a Troop meeting. You will definitely be glad you did! Meetings are Wednesday nights from 7:15 – 9:00pm at the New Fairfield Middle School. Visit our website at <http://www.nftroop42.org/> to find out more.



**Having Fun at the Rifle Range**



**Enjoying the Swing They Built Themselves!**