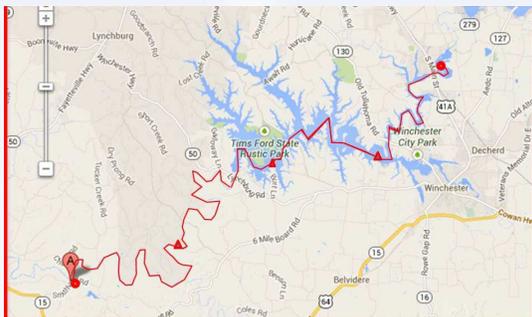


JUNE 2014

Troop & Venture Crew 368 50 Mile Canoe Trip

Our Troop and Venture Crew headed out on a 50 mile canoe adventure June 18-22, 2014. We had 11 kids and 6 adults, plus our 3 wranglers who helped replenish our food each night, and brought those “special” treats such as diet coke, ointments, and more cooking gas canisters. We spent 5 days/4 nights on the trip (2.5 days on the lake, 1.5 on Elk River).



So before we get into the fun of each day, we want to make sure we give a big shout out and thank you to our wranglers, food planner, and trip planner: **Wranglers:** Mr. Friday, Mr. Wise, & Mrs. Burleson. **Menu/Food Planner:** Mr. Jensen who also made us 2 meals worth of Hudson’s Bay Bread and did shopping & pre-cooking to make meals faster to prepare! Lastly, thank you to **Mr. Burleson** who planned the trip to ensure we met the requirements. THANK YOU to all of you!

I’ll highlight each day with pictures. For those who were unable to join us, I hope you enjoy the memories captured here!

DAY 1:

We headed out to Estill Springs Park for our first night of camping. It was a pretty hot day and evening. We enjoyed some wonderful KFC with lots of sides to fill our bellies before our adventure began the next day. We spent the evening hanging out by the waterside, skipping rocks, talking, and just trying to stay cool.



Picture 1: Elizabeth, Annabelle, & Emily, Picture 2: Mr. Burleson, Picture 3: Sunset



Day 2:

We started our day off with a wonderful breakfast of bacon, eggs, and fruit. We cleaned up, as well as picked up trash around the entire campsite and headed out in the canoes. No major issues the first day and we got to enjoy the view and nice houses along the lake. Mr. Watson enjoyed some fishing in the boat...although he didn't catch anything. We stopped for lunch and while there we could see a storm to the north with thunder and lightning. We stayed put on land for ~45 minutes and put into practice weather safety precautions. It cleared up and we set off to the 2nd day's campsite: Devil's Step Island.

This was a really neat campsite. It was clean, well laid out, and had a really cool turn of the century cemetery. There were headstones dates from late 1800's to early 1900's and there were several gravesites that had been dug up in the past. There were also some pretty neat mushrooms, and we saw deer tracks as well.

We did cleanup on the island and our wranglers brought our dinner and enjoyed wonderful beef stew. After KP we spent the rest of the evening around the campfire talking and doing skits. The kids had a lot of fun with this and played until you couldn't see anymore.





Left side, top to bottom: Josh & Mr. Watson, Talking between canoes, Josh, Dagen, & Warren around campfire, canoes

Right side, top to bottom: Ben & Mrs. Albritton; Group setting off for the day; Warren, Ben, & Josh around campfire; talking to our wranglers.

Day 2 pictures continued

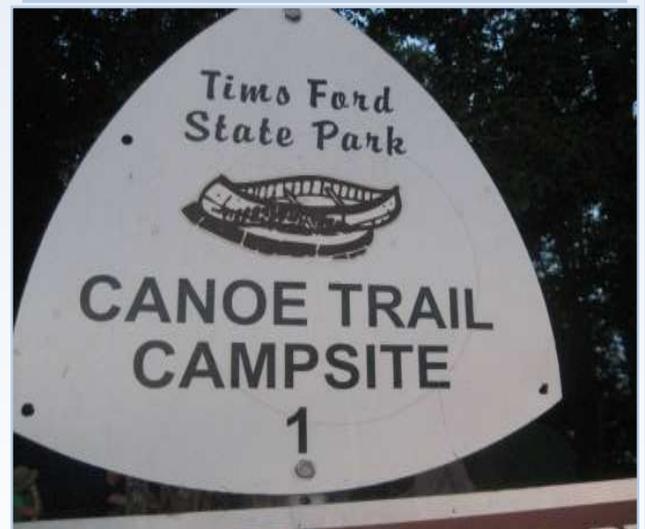


Top left: cemetery, top right: mushrooms, middle left: skits (2 suckers on a stick), middle right: Mrs. Albritton managing fire, bottom left: more skits, bottom right: Mr. Friday says "dinner's ready!"

Day 3: Another day on the lake, but it's Friday and we are all looking forward to ice cream at the nearby marina for dessert after dinner! We run into another storm passing in the distance right after lunch and have to pull out of the water and wait it out. Tonight we are camping on Leatherwood Island. We get camp set up, do some clean up around the island (about 10 bags), and build a new fire circle out of rocks. Close to time we are to head out another storm blows up. This time we do get some strong winds, but only a few sprinkles before it moves on. We head over to the marina where we have yummy spaghetti, garlic bread, and salad. Then we all head in to eat ice cream, which we are thankful the little store stayed open a little longer to serve us. If not, we would have had some upset kids (and adults!).

That evening back at camp we played "crossed or uncrossed" until long after dark, and continued to play for the next day until everyone seemed to get the game. We also did more skits around the campfire.

See next page for more pictures from day 3.



Picture 1: Headed out for the day

Picture 2: Campsite picture Picture 3: Cleaning up the island



DAY 3 Pictures



Picture 1: Just unpacked and set up tents

Picture 2: Emily, Elizabeth, Annabelle, & Warren talking

Picture 3: Mr.



Picture 1 & 2: Playing crossed or uncrossed

Picture 3: Dagen

DAY 3 Pictures Continued:



Picture 1: Ice Cream!

Picture 2: View from our island,

Picture 3: Storm is moving in

Picture 4: Elizabeth & William starting fire,

Picture 5: We have Fire!,

Picture 6: Sunset,

Picture 7: Mrs. Albritton had the best sleeping area.

Day 4: We only have 6 miles on the lake today before we get to the dam. At the dam we picked up 5 new members to our team: The Andrews & Chua Family. We also meet our wonderful wranglers who give us a break and help carry some of our things for our 1 mile portage while we all walk.

When we step into the water we think we have found heaven! The water is so cold compared to the lake and the very hot days we've had. After lunch we set off and experience this wonderful mist that feels like a/c. The remaining six miles are taken slowly with the river current helping so we don't have to paddle nearly as hard as on the lake. We stop a few hours into it to stretch our legs and the kids enjoy catching minnows and skipping rocks. Emily and Mr. Watson try to catch some fish as well (fyi: we never did catch any fish the whole trip.)

We did have one canoe swamp today due to a large tree that had fallen in the river which only allowed a small opening to get through. We were able to collect the runaway paddle, hat, and water bottle and there were no injuries.

When we arrive to camp we find some "interesting" neighbors, whom we try to ignore for the rest of the evening while the kids enjoy playing in the cold water catching minnows and crawfish. You can see some of the kids were brave enough to create crawfish earrings, and they even cooked and ate few of the minnows.

Since there was not a great area to build a big campfire as normal, Mrs. Albritton showed the kids how to make a pan fire. We enjoyed talking while the sun went down and then hit the sack. Tomorrow is our last day!



Picture 1: CJ, Warran, Josh, and Emily during our portage walk
Picture 2: Enjoying the cold water of the river, Picture 3: Mist on the river



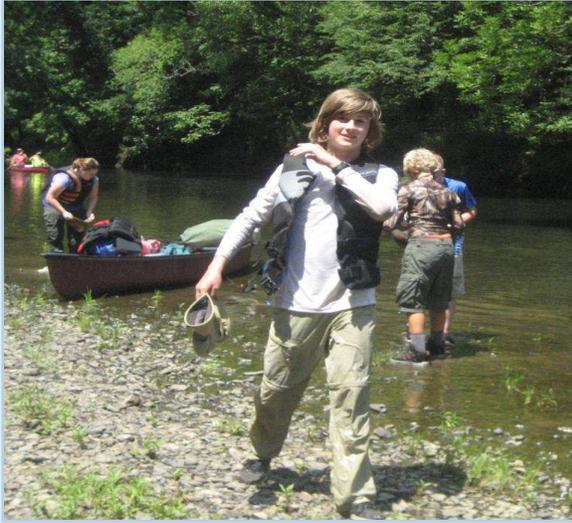
DAY 4 Pictures



Picture 1: Mr. Burleson & Ben
Picture 2: Mr. Matt, Dagen, and Emily
Picture 3: Mr. Andrews, CJ, & Jake
Picture 4: CJ, Jake, & William skipping rocks,
Picture 5: Mr. Watson showing Emily how to get the rod read
Picture 6: Now they are fishing,
Picture 7: Jim relaxing as we make our way down the river.



Day 4 pictures continued:



Picture 1: Dagen at river, Picture 2: Looking at the minnows caught in the hat, Elizabeth catching minnows, Picture 4: Relaxing at the rest stop, Picture 5: The 2 Rachel's, Picture 6: Mrs. Albritton & William, Picture 7:

Day 4 continued:



Top: Mrs. Albritton, Ben, & Dagen

Middle: Cooking minnows

Bottom: Campsite in big field

Top: Cooking dinner

Middle: Dagen, CJ, William

Bottom: Mr. Matt, Mr. Friday, Dagen

Day 4 continued:



Top: Crawfish kids caught

Middle: Elizabeth with crawfish earring

Bottom: Sitting around campfire talking

Top: Mrs. Albritton with crawfish earring

Middle: Warren with crawfish earring

Bottom: Emily & Josh

Day 4 Continued



Top: CJ with crawfish he was catching, Top Right: Mrs. Amber relaxing

Middle: Mr. Burluson, Ben, Mr. Andrews, CJ, and Jake

Bottom: Mrs. Amber, Josh, & Warren



Top: Warren, Top right: Mr. Andrews & Mr. Watson
Middle: Dagen & Jake Middle right: Matt talking to kids
Bottom: Kids around campfire



Day 4 continued



Top: Group canoeing down river

Middle: William, Middle right: Headed down river

Bottom: Rachel, Bottom right: Mr. Matt skipping rocks with boys

Day 5: Our last day! After we are all packed, with canoes loaded and bellies full, we spend a few minutes talking about our “thorn and roses.” Each person had an opportunity to share their favorite part of the trip thus far, and their not so favorites. It was a good opportunity to reflect on all the experiences we had and the reality is the “thorns” weren’t really all that bad.

We picked up a new canoer this morning, as Mr. Wise joined us on our last day down the river. He’s been one of the wranglers on our trip and swapped out with Mr. Burleson.

The day was uneventful (minus the small swamping of one of the boats), but still beautiful. There were trees and shallow areas along the route which allowed us to master our canoeing skills and provided a little excitement maneuvering around them. We stopped for lunch to stretch our legs and passed several kayaking & canoeing groups. We arrived at our final stop early afternoon. We were all pretty happy to see Mr. Friday and Mr. Burleson waving to us from the top.

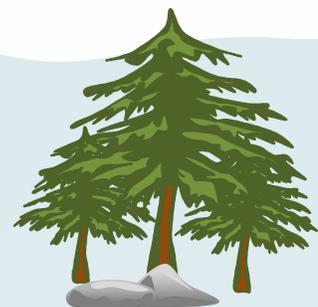
We loaded up the canoes, gear, and loaded in the cars to head to the Fayetteville Visitor Center park to enjoy some pizza before heading back to Huntsville.

It was a really great trip. The weather wasn’t bad, there were no major injuries, we didn’t swamp in the lake, everyone got along, we ate like kings, had wonderful Hudson’s Bay bread, and the kids, as well as the adults, formed stronger friendships along the way. What more could you ask for?!?

We have great adult leaders and parents who really care a lot about the boys and give lots of their time to ensure the Troop and Venture Crew have meaningful, educational experiences.



Picture 1: CJ, Warran, Josh, and Emily during our portage walk
Picture 2: Enjoying the cold water of the river, Picture 3: Mist on the river



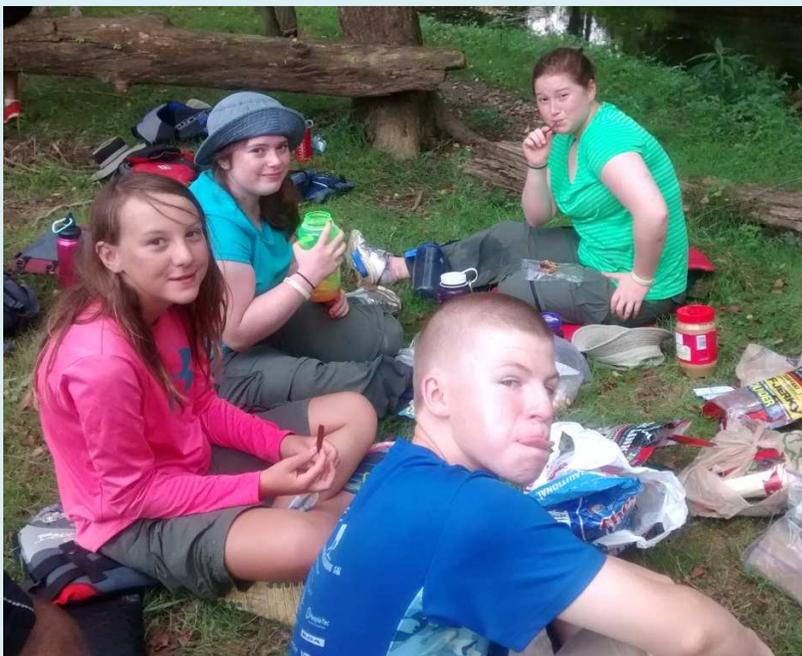
Day 5



Top: CJ & Jake, Top Right: Dagen as captain

Middle: Mr. Wise, Ben, & Emily

Bottom: Loading back up in canoes after lunch



Top: Eating lunch, Top Middle: Jake, Top Right: Amber
Middle: Ben & Mr. Wise, Middle right: Mrs. Albritton & Mr. Watson
Bottom: Josh, Rachel, Emily, & Elizabeth enjoying lunch



Top: Getting out of wet clothes & shoes, Top Right: Pizza!

Middle: Kids enjoying their pizza

Bottom:



Most of the group that went.

Back: Mr. Chua, Mr. Burleson, Dagen, Ben, Mr. Matt, Mr. Watson, Mr. Wise, Mr. Andrews

Middle: Jake, Josh, Elizabeth, William, Mrs. Albritton, Amber

Not pictured: Mrs. Burleson & Annabelle