



ALLEGANY BOYS CAMP

20700 Wagner Cutoff Rd SE, Oldtown, MD 21555
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July 2016

My Day With A Group

Friday, June 3 I arrived at camp to spend two days with a group. I wasn't sure what to expect as I thought I knew what went on at camp, but the real story of chiefs and boys, happens in the woods.

The board usually gets to eat a meal with the boys at board meeting. We tell stories, sing songs, and have a great time together. The boys are usually on their best behavior in chuck wagon. Over the last year or so the board has been encouraged to spend more time at camp and maybe even take an opportunity to see camp in the raw.

Friday morning was exciting because a bear was in a trap at David Beachy's backyard just down from camp. Camp was invited to watch a wildlife officer tranquilize and tag the bear and learn about wildlife management. The boys listened closely, asked lots of great questions, and enjoyed the unique opportunity.

In the afternoon we split kindling for cooking fires. It was amazing how long even simple projects take when the goal is working together with a good attitude. It is time to line up for showers but it is hard for boys to stay on task when someone sees a row of ants going across the ground and up a post and the search is on for the ant hole.

At the end of the day we share in pow-wow. Pow-wow is a special time to share good things that happened during the day. After pow-wow all the boys get in bed, lanterns are blown out, all is quiet, and chief calls "Hoya". The only sound is a pair of racoons fighting and a boy talking in his sleep. Chief says that "Hoya" is the best part of the day because he finally gets a break from the responsibility of eight boys and their individual issues, but morning comes and it is time to wake the boys at 6:30.

Morning chores at the campsite need completed before breakfast and I am sure we will never get working together enough to get to chuck wagon on time and I will miss coffee. Coffee is a privilege for chiefs only, so I am grateful to be considered a chief, at least for that portion of the day. But as breakfast time nears, the boys start to hustle, chores are finished in record time, and we start up trail to chuck wagon.

A new day has begun and with it come problems resulting from boys' attitudes, poor work habits, and difficulty getting along with others. Through it all, a chief or a supervisor will help boys see ways to work on their goals of better relationships.

And that is the true story of boys and chiefs in the woods. I thank God for chiefs and staff that sacrifice to serve boys and families.

Ed Martin, Board Member



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Nature Corner - Butterfly



Recently we had a parsley eating caterpillar brought to chuckwagon to observe. We identified it as an Eastern black swallow-tail. It was very fascinating to watch it eat as it went back and forth chewing on the leaf in the same manner that you and I would eat corn on the cob. We put it in a gallon jar where he rapidly ate his fill of parsley. Till morning he decided it was time to move on to the next stage of life. He hung himself from a small twig we had placed in the jar by a small silken rope he spun and then shed his outer skin leaving only a chrysalis. A chrysalis is not a cocoon. Most moth caterpillars weave or spin a cocoon while most butterfly caterpillars do as this one did and shed their skin, revealing the chrysalis underneath. The next several weeks there was not much to see with the chrysalis. As far as we could see nothing was happening. But inside there was a miracle taking place.

Two weeks later one day while we were eating lunch one of the boys exclaimed "Hey, there's a butterfly in there!" And sure enough, there was our parsley eating caterpillar, now a beautiful butterfly trying out his new wings in the jar. We observed it for a bit in the jar then took it outside and set it free where it flew away in the breeze off to its next stage of life. Butterflies are truly amazing. Some live several weeks while others live several months, migrating south for the winter. Some caterpillars, like this one, it takes several weeks to change to a butterfly, while some may take months. We had a moth cocoon in a jar for 6 months last winter until it finally hatched this spring.




Do you ever find yourself like a butterfly? Sometimes you even see change in 2 weeks. But other times it may go for months or even years and it appears as if nothing is happening. But at the same time God may still be working in ways that we cannot see. A butterfly may emerge from a cocoon overnight but the change it took to get to that point did not come suddenly. Don't give up! Be patient and let God work and wonderful things can happen.

Kevin Maust, Supervisor



Camp Kindling

... small pieces of camp news and needs

-  Welcome Kimberly Shank from McConnellsburg, PA. She is serving as a cook.
-  Farewell to Kathy Stoltzfus. We have been blessed by her many delicious meals served with a smile for the past year and a half.
-  Interested in being a mentor to a boy when he leaves camp? We are offering mentor training on September 30. Contact camp if you are interested.

Open House
August 20, 2016
Tours: 10:00-11:30
Pork BBQ Lunch
and activities to follow.
We'd love to see you there