

Indian Lore 2010

By Lee Spotted Pony Billingsley

Any large event is made up of many small events & those small events together make the spirit of the larger one. So it was with 2010 Indian Lore Camp Master at Silver Trails Scout Res. on Sep 17-19. From a distance, it looks like any other Indian Lore. We met at the fire, had the sessions, games, & mini-powwow as we usually do. But put all the little events together & you get the spirit of Indian Lore 2010.

- The scout who found a hawk feather & was told how cool that was.
- The scout who found a turkey feather & gifted it to me.
- Bill, who let me shoot his hand-made bow, a beautiful piece of gear.
- The scout who came to the dining hall for treatment of a nasty red rash on his hand, then learned sumac juice washes off easily.
- Bill & Larry who demonstrated dance styles for us.
- The scouts who mobbed the snack bar at cracker barrel time.
- The scouts who became polite & patient when reminded the custom is 'Elders First' at Indian Lore.
- 10 names were given in ceremony & a record 13 names requested.
- The scouts who offered teeny bits of tobacco when asking for a name. (I figure they valued their tobacco so much they didn't want to give it all away).
- Then there was the scout who offered 'Tabasco' for his name.
- And the scout who gave away his only tobacco tie just to say 'thank you' for the weekend.
- Scoutmaster Tim, who let us know how things went with our Mesick troop:

A little rain over night, heavier about 5AM, followed by Cherokee music for wake up at 7(Saturday). Oatmeal for breakfast then out to the flag poles to raise the flag for the day. What's that noise in the distance? Thunder you say? How about that flash over to the west behind the trees? Lightning, eh? Abruptly abbreviate the flag ceremony, adjourn to the mess hall, change plans, re-group. Time to be flexible.

It rained most of the morning – but no more lightning. The Merit Badge groups stayed in the mess hall and did crafts (medicine bags and bead necklaces) in the morning. The "gamers" (second and third year, and more experienced scouts) went out in the woods, cut saplings and /or branches and / or tree trunks to make game sticks to use on Sunday morning - yes, many of them got thoroughly soaked. Some had appropriate outer wear (rain jackets, pants and / or ponchos), some simply took shelter in the latrine. Time to be flexible.

The weather cleared up after lunch (sandwiches and pasta salad – and Caleb made us some Mac&Cheese) long enough to do the herb search and some games for the Merit Badge, but more rain chased us all back under cover later in the afternoon and evening.

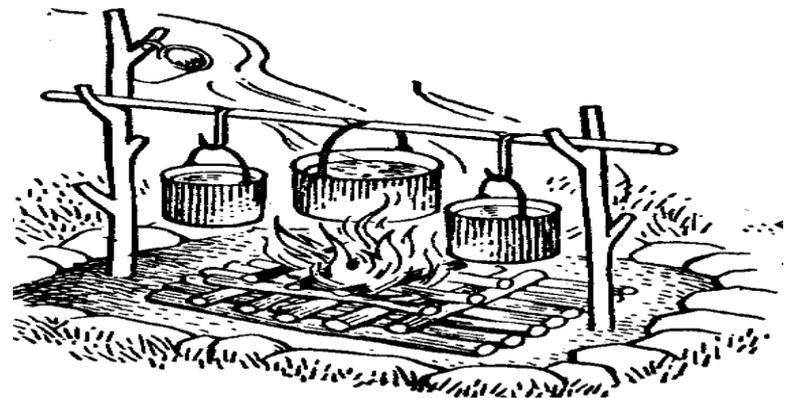
Dinner was chicken casserole. After dinner the powwow. with Indian regalia, drumming, dancing, singing, was next, lots of noise and activity. We had to do it inside the mess hall rather than out in the pavilion because of the weather, but perhaps that actually intensified the experience. A scout cracker barrel snack finished off the evening about 10:30PM.

Back to camp for lights out... oh, crud, some tents and sleeping bags are wet. This is what happens when we don't tie our rain fly on well, or when we leave the ground cloth sticking out from under the tent, or when we pitch our tent in a ditch. Lesson learned? I hope. Time to be flexible!

I think, judging by what their tent and ground cloth looked like Sunday morning, Justin and Jake simply slept wet. Caleb and Cody moved in with Dan C and Ian (it is a big tent). Dan S, Justin & Ian actually spent most of the night out at the spirit fire I think. No complaints from Storm, Rigz, or Donivan so I trust they were dry.

Sunday morning we woke to Carlos Nakai on the flute. Game time!! But first, breakfast, flag ceremony, break camp. Then with their hand-made rackets (some quite large, heavy and dangerous looking), ball and goals, it is time for "little brother of war". Very few rules (but apparently more rules for us Scouts than the Cherokee used). (1) Using the racket, carry or throw the ball through your opponent's goal. (2) Stop your opponent from doing the same. And now, added in a nod to lawyers, today's price of medical care and the Scout Law, (3) Try not to hurt anybody!! I believe the game ended in a tie.

- Indeed it was a tie, Pumas 1, Sasquatches 1.
- The advanced game spectators who became quiet when one of the players was injured.
- The advanced game spectators who cheered when he got up & back in the game.
- The scout who looked at his sleeve patch when asked what troop he was with.
- Everyone who held this event together by helping with the fire, food, games, crafts, registration, paperwork, ceremony, drum, dancing, & music. Our thanks to all, a huge WADO. We may not have been around when you were working but we know you did well because of the results –
- Excited scouts having a good time learning.
- A special WADO to Night Wind for not burning my powwow joke book after all. ****
- Our car did not want to leave. It failed to start, weak battery. We got a jump from Ranger Jerry who thought we were finally gone. (chuckle!)



Thanks to all, & we hope to see you again next year:

DODADAGOHVI – "Til we meet again" *Lee Spotted Pony,*

Anne Night Wind,

Campmasters