

INDIAN LORE FOR THE YOUTH:

September 16-18, 2011

By Lee Uwoyeni Billingsley

Anne & I arrived 2:30 p.m. Friday, at Silver Trails. The first troop to show up was delayed because their hauling vehicle lost its brakes on the way in. They had to switch to another trailer vehicle & limp the brakeless one to a repair shop. Still they got there first.

Troop 42 Scout Leader Dan called around 8:30 pm. His truck hauling our troop trailer broke down about 2 hours from camp. The other vehicles in the convoy could not haul the trailer so they all hung out at a gas station until the tow truck arrived, moved the most important gear into the remaining vehicles, rolled into camp around 1 am, & stumbled into a cabin for the night rather than set up tents in the dark.

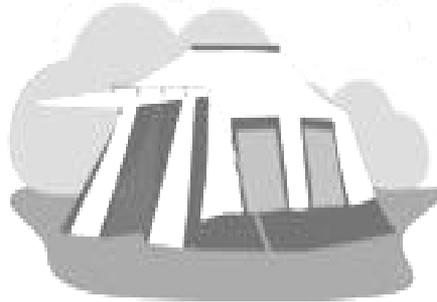
Troop 42 missed opening ceremonies around the fire Friday night. Turns out many other scouts did as well, having band or sports obligations at school, so I went over the opening ceremonies again Saturday afternoon with the naming ceremonies. Saturday morning Troop 42 set up tents & cooking gear & were okay for the rest of the weekend. Dan got his truck & trailer back in the afternoon after replacing a clogged fuel filter.

The weather could not have been better, sunny mild days with cool damp nights.

Total attendance was 35 Badgers, 7 Gamers (there were more players than that on the field, but we didn't bother checking id's), 18 adult staff (there were more than that I think, but we did not bother checking id's) & we had 10 paid adults for either the badge or the game.

Also as usual, Anne & I did not know until we got to camp who exactly would be there to help, but everyone stepped up to cover it all with the result that the event ran smoothly. Anne & I gave the staff patches as our way of saying 'thank you' for the work they all do to make this event run as well as it does.

Mr. Mac & Dave handled archery, Sydnie & Ian worked the games while Jack drove up from Indiana with the drum to teach about it. Anne, Kim & Dena did crafts with the scouts & Rob cooked for us, (his first time at this event). Justin acted as Fire Keeper, which meant he handled everything while I got to supervise. Adam was everywhere at one time or another. Thanks to all.

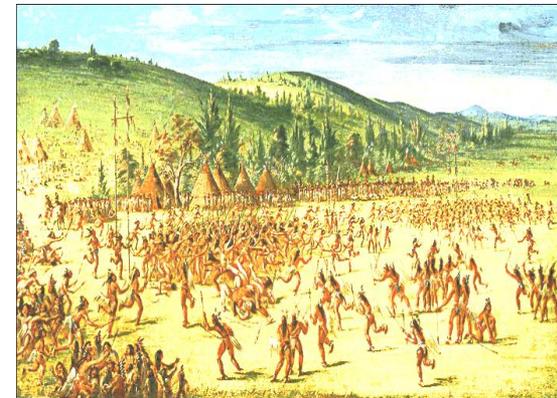


Anne & I tweaked the schedule to allow for a 1-hour camp-wide language session early, then held 1-hour sessions thru the day instead of 1-1/2 hours, then we put in a camp-wide 3rd craft session later in the afternoon. We even cut back the herb search to an hour, & no one seemed to notice, but the scouts spent the same amount of time at the badge by the end of the day. The language session was meant for the staff as well as scouts, & scouts were encouraged to use as much Cherokee as possible thru the day. I heard a lot of *ha-de, ni-wi Tsalagi* (no, speak Cherokee).

The damp night air affected our drum. It went flat, so we had to stop playing at the mini-powwow about 9:30, unusually early. We normally stay out until 11 when we have to make the scouts go to their tents. But this night was different, & by 9:30 everyone felt as if they had been dancing until much later. So we packed up the drum & went to bed.

Sunday is the day the second-year scouts play their game, something like lacrosse only with few rules if any. They make all their game gear in the woods then play in two teams Sunday morning. This time I think we had a record number of broken racquets, & a

record amount of duct tape used to repair them. The Blue team won 5-4 over Green. Or was it a 4-4 tie? Someone else had it down as 5-3 in favor of Blue, & one spectator scored the game 8-2. We lost track since we all could not tell if that ball went thru the hoop for a goal or not. Does it count if the racquet goes thru the hoop with the ball? Sure. Sometimes. We think. It was all great fun to watch though, & there were no major injuries.



Troop 42 stayed late after lunch & helped the host Troop 178 with camp cleanup. This was greatly appreciated as we all got to leave around 2:30 instead of the usual 4 pm at the earliest.

We look forward to Indian Lore every year. We spend the weekend running the program & running one step ahead of the scouts. We all learn something, whether staff or scout or leader, & have many good memories to relive until next year. Having fun, learning, not worrying about how the event is run - does it get any better than that?

HA-DE (*hah-day*) "no" !

Lee Uwoyeni Billingsley and

Anne Night Wind Billingsley

