

Below are the highlights from the High Adventure Trek at Camp Massawepie.

Seven of the senior Boy Scouts (age 13.5 and up) of Troop 698 had a fantastic trip to Camp Massawepie in the Adirondack Mountain region of New York State in early July 2011. We had two adults also attend plus a Guide from the camp. The driving to the Adirondacks was longer than we hoped, but everybody took it in stride. This was a challenging week physically for everyone as we traveled quite a bit carrying everything we needed to survive.

2011 Trek Highlights:

1. Evening hike of 3 miles Sunday night followed by a free fireworks display across the pond where we camped (it was almost July 4th!). This first site was at the edge of the Scout Reservation.
2. 12-mile hike with ~50 lb packs on Monday. IMO this was the toughest challenge of the week, and everyone did well. This brought us into the State Wilderness Area on Cranberry Lake.
3. Catching and eating our own fish at our first camp site on Cranberry Lake. Tristan was the champion fisherman (as usual).
4. An inquisitive green humming bird fluttering among us on the river bank, landed on our fishing poles and even on some hats. Wish we had had a camera ready.
5. Power-paddling about 8 miles on Thursday (to make up for lost travel day Wednesday due to 25+ MPH winds). Another good challenge. At the lunch break we sunned ourselves like lizards on a giant rock next to Joe-Indian Island.
6. Hiking into town Thursday night for Bacon-Cheeseburgers!!! (Freeze-dried meals just don't have the same flavor). We got some strange looks from the local folks (hmm, wonder why?).
7. IMO the Top Highlight of the week was our pre-dawn hike up Cat Mountain early Friday morning. Jumped stone-to-stone across streams in the dark, saw Beavers who dammed up their own pond part way up the mountain, watched the sun rise over the mountains, ate some improvised blueberry muffins from our excellent trek-guide Eric. Well worth getting up at 4:00 am.
8. After 5 miles hiking Friday morning, we power-paddled about 9 miles later that day to our pick-up point. On the way we grilled our own fresh-water mussels with BBQ sauce. This was Bobby and Todd's idea, and at first I thought it was crazy. They weren't that bad (had a bit of a gritty after-taste but the rest of the trail food was already eaten!)

9. Back at base camp Friday, we took actual hot showers! Then played some awesome Frisbee and football toss-around, and built a campfire of epic proportions. Embers were shooting 20+ feet in the air! (but we had a hose nearby just in case).

I think we all learned some trail-skills from one another. Surprisingly, the old dudes did OK keeping up with the young pups. Let's be thinking about next years' Trek!