

Ahoy all you land lovers. You missed a great trip on the river.

We arrived Friday night around 10:00 PM at our campsite. With a little map work and the use of a cell phone we managed to find the right location. Set up camp and bedded down around midnight. Woke up bright and early the next morning to the wonderful sound of a car alarm. Car alarm you ask? Well let me tell you. One of our scouts, well an Eagle Scout, OK it was Adam Lee, slept in his car. That's right an Eagle Scout slept in his car. Can you believe it? Sometime in the morning, I think it was around 5:30 AM. Adam's alarm went off. (I'm sure Adam will dispute the time, but hey I'm writing this.) Now Adam say's he did it on purpose to make sure we got up in time. Now who am I to dispute the word of an Eagle Scout?

Eventually everyone got up, harassed Adam, and had a typical Troop 273 breakfast of oatmeal & cereal. Lunches were made, packed, and we headed for the Raft rental place around 9:30.

We rented 5 rafts and divided the scouts up by Patrols. We had the Dragons, Vikings, Wolverines, Eagle's (3 Eagle scouts) and a large 10-person raft for the adults. Before we launched the mighty crafts we had a safety briefing and set down some rules about the water fights. (If you did not want to get wet, or you had something that you did not want to get wet, don't get in the raft. Other than that everyone and anyone was fair game.) Water cannons and guns were loaded (and tested). The command was given to launch. Let the games begin. Before we were 25 yards off shore, all was wet. Including anyone who happened to get in the crossfire. The Viking's made a patrol flag the night before in their tent and brought it with them on the raft. Every time we attacked another vessel, we would wave the flag in victory. (Steve Cox was with the Vikings, Mark Wong was with the Dragons and Debby Alarcon was with the Wolverines.) Actually all it did was provoke the other crafts to get us even wetter. The river was fairly cold, but with the temperatures in the 100's, it was a great way to stay cool.

As we floated down the river, the rafts would separate to try and get out of range from each other's weapons and maybe dry off a little. As soon as you would dry off someone else floating by or someone from shore would attack you. At one point we approached 3 large 10 person rafts strapped together. All onboard had water cannons. They even had balloon launchers. No one was dry within 50 yards of this awesome craft. At one point the scouts and adults teamed up to try and attack this beast, but were overcome by their massive firepower.

There was one mighty rapid about 1/3 of the way down the river. It was a mighty Class II rapid. All the scouts lowered there weapons, grabbed a paddle, and headed straight for it. This rapid was not going to beat us. No one was afraid (well maybe a little). We made it through the rapid and headed to shore for lunch and a victory dance. (This was so cool, can we do it again, and again, and again...) After lunch we hit the rapid 2 and 3 more times before continuing down the river.

(Side note. One of the Eagles, could it have been Adam, well yes it was, managed to commandeer the adults only water cannon, and would not give it back. Now, is that anyway for an Eagle to act? The adults eventually caught up to them and a boarding party managed to retrieve the weapon.)

The campground for this trip was in the perfect location. We were right at the raft take-out spot. Good job Renita. All we had to do was walk about ¼ mile to our camp.

At camp, some scouts took a nap, others played cards and some continued with the water fights. Dinner was Troop 273's famous Burgers and Hotdogs with Smore's for desert. Yes we built a fire even with the temperature probably in the 80,s.

We were on the water for just over 4 hours. So all scouts who attended should make note of this. You will be able to use this camping trip for one of the requirements of the "Camping" merit badge.

Again all those scouts who missed it... you missed out. It was a great trip.

Steve Cox,  
Scoutmaster