

WOOD BADGE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

THE GILWELL GAZETTE

SR917 Day 6

HEART OF VIRGINIA COUNCIL, BSA
WOOD BADGE SR917

October 20, 2008

THE ALL IMPORTANT SCHEDULE

- 7:00 AM Breakfast and Patrol Self-Assessment
One vehicle delivered to each patrol site
- 9:00 AM Gilwell Field Assembly
- 9:30 AM Patrol Leaders Council Meeting
Patrol Time / Clean-up & Load Vehicles
Drive vehicle to Admin. Parking Lot and
Return to patrol site
- 11:15 AM Course Assessments
- 11:45 AM Closing Luncheon
- 1:30 PM Leaving a Legacy
- 2:45 PM **Break**
- 3:00 PM Summary Session
- 3:30 PM Closing Gilwell Field Assembly
- 4:15 PM **Depart**

I'm going to work my ticket if I can !!

PROGRAM PATROL: Fox
SERVICE PATROL: Beaver

"Our children are timeless messages that we send to a generation we will never see."

Abraham Lincoln



PATROL FLAGS

Each patrol proudly unveiled their newly completed flags. Each was thoroughly inspected by our Scoutmaster, and each determined to measure up to the Perfect Gilwell Square—the gold standard of standards. Congratulations to all Patrols on their fine work!



**WOOD BADGE
CONSERVATION PROJECT**
Camp T. Brady Saunders got a face-lift today, as the SR917 Troop members conducted their service project. The power line trench was filled with many loads of stone-dust, and the dining hall stairs were replaced with much-needed new treads. Many thanks to all the Patrols for their hard work!

FOX

Today has been a great day for the Fox Patrol! We all woke up from our warm and toasty dens to a breakfast fit for a Swamp Fox! We sleep so well after filling our little bellies with a wonderful feast.

We found that one of our fellow foxes left the den early in the morning for a quick trip to the bay. While at the bay he spent some time crab fishing and was very successful. On his way back from the bay he was able to find a hen house and negotiate a number of large eggs. He presented these to our fearless cook who made four huge crab omelets. While pulling the crab meat from the fresh bay crabs, we all crowded around the stoves for warmth as it was a little chilly outside our warm dens. The smell of eggs, crab, and bacon filled the air, some other creatures smelled this and found their way to our den. We had an Owl (Felicia Ferrigno), a Bear (Al Best), and an Eagle (Norm Hip-skind) join the fox for a great breakfast, great brotherhood, and great conversation. The food was so filling not a single creature tried to cook another creature for additional nourishment.

After meeting at Gilwell Field, we proceeded to the Gilwell building for a morning of presentations and learning. After the presentations a number of the creatures in forest Brady Saunders joined together in service. We worked down by the swamp and then up on the hill providing new stairs to Gilwell. One of the best moments was basking in the sun while chewing on our

lunch after the projects were completed. We are proud to say not a single creature went to the "farm" as a result of the project. After lunch the Swamp Foxes presented their service project to the troop. The participation was more than we could have expected. We wish to thank all the patrols for their enthusiastic involvement in our presentation. We look forward to spending a night of brotherhood and relaxation in and around our dens tonight as the stars rise in the sky.

Our fearless Patrol Leader for day 5 was Gordon Mapes. Gordon Mapes is our Day 6 Patrol Leader. He is Scoutmaster of Troop 1810 in Midlothian. He has served as Den & Webelos leaders as well as ASM. His wife Susan, a speech pathologist in Chesterfield schools, has served as a Girl Scout leader. Their 13-year old son, Stuart, is a Star Scout and Patrol Leader. Their daughter Chloe is 11 and working on her bronze award. Gordon is Sr. Pastor of The Brandermill Church in Midlothian.

IT IS
GREAT
BEING A
FOX!



BEAVER

The Beavers have enjoyed another wonderful day in Gilwell. We started with a relaxing breakfast of omelets in a bag and a race to Gilwell field. Our own David Wild participated in the morning Interfaith Service leading the Lords Prayer. Scott Hooper and the rest of the Beaver Patrol enjoyed a successful Jota / Joti presentation. Sabine Allen sharpened her teeth and stepped up as patrol leader guiding us through the service project. The Beavers enjoyed chewing down trees as an appetizer before lunch. We have begun to return to a Norming Stage with our guide Ed Hines after finally tuning our Tickets. This is the Beaver Patrol signing off.

BOBWHITE

That tall bird you are seeing amongst the Bobwhites is not an emu, it is our own valued Day 6 patrol leader, Pat Gould. Pat is married and has two sons. His youngest son is a Tenderfoot Scout with Troop 700 in Ashland, where Pat serves as Assistant Scoutmaster. His family lives alongside five dogs, a parrot, a python, a tortoise, a ferret, and innumerable fish. When not at the zoo, I mean home, Pat serves as an IT systems specialist with Dominion, where he has worked for 24 years. Pat enjoys canoeing, rock climbing, and snapping photographs.

EAGLE

The 'Talon-ted Eagles' were center stage at the Day 4 Campfire with their own version of Jimmy Buffets, 'Son of a Son of a Scouter.' They have been enjoying spreading their wings and 'Soaring Higher' together.

As reverent scouts we appreciated the Inter-Faith Worship Service, especially 'Teddy' Roosevelt's letter to a Scout Executive (published in the first US Boy Scout Handbook) explaining that boys need 'courage to stand up in the right path.'

Our Patrol Project focused on the mental, physical and spiritual aspects of scouting. The eagles shared their favorite books, outdoor adventure resources, meditations and songs. If you look overhead, you will see the Eagles in test flight patterns rehearsing as Program Patrol today and look forward to tomorrow's flag raising.

Our very competent patrol leader is **Ben Shaw**, Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 876 in Midlothian, VA. Ben originally hails from Baton rouge, LA, although he grew up near Lincoln, NE. Ben's two brothers were scouts but he decided to excel in cross country, track, wrestling and swimming instead. Now, as the father of five, ages 7, 11 (Tenderfoot), 13 (Star), 16 (Life) and 18, he sub-divides his time between his family and friends, SCOUTS, and Kingsway Community Church's youth group and Bible study. Participation in outdoor activities enables Ben to maintain personal balance in his life. Snow skiing and snow boarding, cycling, running, open water swimming and golf are his current pursuits.

The Eagle Patrol is fortunate to include Ben Shaw in our Squadron of Eagles. When asked why he devotes so much time to Scouts, he replies "It's a great chance to positively influence the future of young men."



OWL (DAY 4 REPORT)

Bio of the Day: Bill Janis comes to us as the Scoutmaster of Troop 720. Bill has a son Robert who is 13 going on 19 and a daughter Rachel who is 16 going on 39. Bill has the amazing fortune of having spiral fractured his left tibia and broke his ankle while playing “extreme” golf. When asked about his experience as the Owl Patrol leader, Bill said “of all the things I have ever done – this is one of them.”

This has been a welcome day back to Gilwell. The Parliament of Owls bonded together very well and had a nesting party. All of our gear was efficiently and quickly set up. Seems like this group has had some experience there before. Our lunch meal was quite an event. Brian had an awesome chile recipe and our visitors were suitably impressed. The only problem is that the volume of food put most of us (most especially the Patrol Scribe) to sleep.

After the afternoon lessons (aka Nap Sessions), we were outside doing some team building activities. It was very nice to be led by the various Venture scouts. We enjoyed all of them and did very well, except for the 7 wood blocks and the nails. No one paid attention to Brian – who had the key to the whole thing, we just shouted him down. The blocks were almost solved, but we surprisingly ran out of time.

Tomorrow, off to the Service Project where we learn the fine art of growing blisters.

OWL PATROL (DAY 5 REPORT)

And on the fifth day, God gave us Robert McLemore as our Patrol Leader...it was evident upon the swearing in at Gilwell Field that Robert would be a take charge Patrol Leader; he told us so! Robert is a Wolf Den Leader for Pack 710; has twin 7 year old sons and a 4 year old son. Robert loves climbing mountains but oddly enough hates heights.



His plan is to climb Mt McKinley in the next 3 years.

The Owl Patrol is swooping down toward our last day at Gilwell for SR917. Tickets written, plans laid, and friends made – we leave the nest to feed our scouting appetite.

Speaking of food, the Owl Patrol had a scare Saturday evening when the salmon was laid on the cedar plans over our campfire. Suddenly, Bears appeared; those crafty fellows feigned a question about the evening uniform required but we saw their mouths water and were saved only when our dinner guests arrived.

Our spirits are lifted each time we gather by our campfire but we feel our hours together as a patrol shorten. We will sorely miss the puns, turns of phrase, and time spent laughing together but will always have the memories of these times and the hard work we have shared during SR917.

BUFFALO

Sincerest apologies from the Gilwell Gazette editor. The flash drive containing the article you submitted could not be read. We will attempt to add this information as an appendix to the Day 6 Gazette once the data is accessed.

BEAR

The Bear Patrol awoke Day 5 to a chilly but Bear-able weather. Our day started with breakfast with Chuck Smith, Dan Cousino, and Carol Pilgrim. We enjoyed a traditional breakfast of hot eggs and sausage and topped off with Bearclaws. At Gilwell Field, Dan Denmark began his tour as Patrol Leader. Dan is an Assistant Scout Leader for Troop 523 in Mechanicsville. He is a Virginia native and lives in Mechanicsville. Dan has been married for 14 years to his wife Debbie. Dan has 2 sons, Daniel age 13, who is a Star Scout and Christian age 11, who is First Class. Dan gets to drive the Big Brown Truck for UPS. His hobbies are Scouting, metal detecting and wood working. The Bears started off the patrol presentations. All the patrols did a great job on their presentations. Working together with the other patrols, on the conservation project made it all Bear-able. Well, our visions are written and our tickets are in. The Bears are preparing for departure tomorrow to begin working our tickets. The bears are so excited about working their tickets, they have decided to forgo hibernation this year. They look forward to seeing all of their fellow troop members at many beading ceremonies.

THE LEAP'N LOPES

Leonard Holden has 14 years of scouting experience. He has served as Cubmaster of Pack 100 and currently serves as scoutmaster, Troop 100, Gillfield Baptist Church is the sponsoring organization of the Pack and Troop. Leonard prides himself as a REFORMER of youth. He believes that “teaching is an honorable profession.” We must continue to teach our youth in these turbulent times. Professionally, Leonard is an Instructor of Basic Officer Leader Course with the United Army Quartermaster School and Center (USAQMC), Fort Lee, VA. During this Wood Badge course, he has served as Chaplain Aide for the Antelope Patrol. Remember his bass voice at the Worship Service on Day 5!

The Antelopes have enjoyed sweet successes with the standing ovation at Campfire for the great performance and winning at all activities on Day 4..... We are a truly great team.

About BSA Family Award...we are so glad that you all found the presentation on the BSA Family Award program so informational. Word of thought, never put a teacher or a New Yorker at the front end of a 15-minute presentation!! Lol Word of advice...if you ever do, put up the two-minute warning after the FIRST two minutes of the presentation. Anyway, some parting words, “If you don’t spend time with your family, your family will find someone else to spend time with.” Get those parents involved and have fun!

From Kelly: the only female in the Antelope Patrol... “You might be a Wood Badger if... you find yourself sleeping out in the woods with five men.”





INTERFAITH WORSHIP SERVICE
 The Chaplain's Aides did a great job organizing the Day 5 worship service.

CONSERVATION PROJECT
 The recommended work clothing and accessories for a typical Wood Badge Conservation Project

PATROL PROJECTS

Congratulations to all the Patrols for your fine Patrol Project Presentations. It was obvious a lot of team-work and effort went into the final product.



COURSE PHOTOGRAHS

All photographs from Wood Badge SR 917 are available on the web. Feel free to upload your own if you wish. The photos can be found at www.photobucket.com.
 The User ID is: WBSR917
 The Password is: Gilwell08

YOU MIGHT BE A WOOD BADGER...

Take-off from Jeff Foxworthy's "You might be a Redneck":

If your baby's first words were, "Back to Gilwell" . . .

You Might Be A Wood Badger

If you don't understand why tuxedos don't come with neckerchiefs and knee socks . . .

You Might Be A Wood Badger!

If you can't remember which hand to shake with in the office on Monday morning...

You Might Be A Wood Badger

If you are convinced the center of the universe is Gilwell Park, England . . .

You Might Be A Wood Badger!

If people don't recognize you when you're not in uniform...

You Might Be A Wood Badger!

If you've ever heard the phrase, "Trust me, it's only an hour a week!" . . .

You Might Be A Wood Badger!