



Forest Service *Helping Hands*



A Newsletter to Commend Volunteers, Interns and Retired Persons in the SCSEP

In This Issue:

- Boy Scouts of America
enjoy time at Bessey
Ranger District

Throughout the state of Nebraska, thirty-seven Troops from the Boy Scouts of America have joined together to participate in volunteer work for the Nebraska National Forest. Starting in 1965 after a fire burned Bessey Ranger District, Boy Scout Troops offered their time and effort to help restore the forest by planting a number of trees at the District.



As Troops entered the ball diamond at Bessey Ranger District, they were welcomed by this sign.

During this time, they had the opportunity to camp for a weekend on the Bessey Ranger District. Since then,

every four years the Boy Scouts of America have made it a tradition to continue with their service projects.

During the weekend the Troops spend at Bessey involves not only service projects, but also a chance for the young men to put their knowledge gained in Boy Scouts to the test. Ron Vonderohe from Grand Island, Nebraska has been in charge of this “camporee” (as the Scouts call it) for the past two years of participation. This year, he has arranged five different competitions for the Scouts as well as twelve service projects to be completed.

Arriving early evening on Friday, September 21st, the Boy Scouts were allowed time for setting up their campsites on the baseball diamond located next to the swimming pool at the

District. Each troop was also given an itinerary for the next day’s events. As seen below, the campsite was a completely different environment from Friday afternoon to Saturday morning.



Campsite before the Scouts arrived.



Campsite after the Scouts arrived.

The Ranger District was expecting this array of tents since; of course, they were planning on about 550 bodies residing on their camp area. The final count exceeded the expected 550. According to Mr.

Vanderohe, in attendance were 391 youth, 157 adults, and 22 staff members for a total of 570.

Because the number of participants was so high, the Scouts were divided into two groups – one began service projects while the other attended the competition stations. Each Troop previously had divided into single patrols, which are simply a group of Scout members consisting of six – eight individuals. These patrols allowed for smaller groups in each competition.

Beginning at 9:00 am on Saturday morning, the two groups were turned loose. The first group involved in service projects was then split by Troop numbers to attend to particular areas of Bessey. The morning projects included the following:

- Picking up limbs and twigs around the camp area;
- Clearing limbs and twigs along the road;
- Picking up trash along trails;
- Placing sawdust around trees at the camp area;
- Picking up trash and placing sawdust

around trees at the fish pond;

- Cleaning weeds and trash around the horse corral; and
- Pulling dead trees from the Nursery.



Troop #144 participates in the removal of dead trees from the Bessey Nursery.

While this group of Scouts worked on completing the seven service projects, the other group was working on their morning competitions. Mr. Vanderohe developed five stations in which each patrol needed to be present at and complete. Each competition was worth a certain number of points; and at the end of the day, these points were totaled to award Troops their winnings places.

Because the Boy Scouts focus on teamwork and safety, Mr. Vanderohe based the competitions on these two priorities. Included in the games were Orienteering, Radioactive Fuel Carry, First Aid, “Catch the

Snapper”, and “Survival First Aid”. The orienteering activity required knowledge of maps and compasses. Each patrol had to use a compass to navigate to a marked location. In order to complete this task, the Scouts needed to know how to correctly use a compass and be able to read and explain what map symbols mean.

During another activity, the radioactive fuel carry (shown below), members had to be patient and work together as a team.



Troop #239, North Platte, work together on the radioactive fuel carry competition.

Each patrol had to transport a coffee can full of water from one point to another without spilling it. This, however, is not as easy as it sounds. To carry the can of water, the group was instructed to use only a pulling and releasing method. Tied at the end of five individual ropes was one rubber band. This band had to be stretched around the can,

tightened, carried to its destination, and then released.

Patrols were scored based on their time, and a “spill-free” carry.

Along with teamwork, the Boy Scouts were forced to use their knowledge to score points in these competitions. The first aid station; for example, required each patrol to know and understand what action to take in certain scenarios dealing with administering first aid. The Scouts had the chance to discuss among themselves what steps to take in a given circumstance, then relay that information back to the Scoutmasters. Again, each patrol was scored based on their given answers.

Another knowledge – based competition was the survival first aid. According to the Scoutmaster in charge of this station, it is used as a training game of memory.



Troop #114, Grand Island, observe items at the Survival First Aid competition.

Each patrol is given one minute to observe a box of items that includes first aid and non-first aid objects. Members are not allowed to touch or talk during this minute of observance. After the first minute, they are given four minutes to discuss and write down all the first aid items located in the box – a game of memory. Points are awarded based on the number of items each patrol remembers.

The final competition to challenge Scouts was “Catch the Snapper”. Like the other four games, this one dealt with teamwork among the patrols. Members were given individual wood poles and pieces of rope. The idea is to lash the poles together making one sturdy pole. Once they are put together, a loop is placed at the end of the final product. Members then must catch a mousetrap using their pole, but they are restricted to a certain position. Once they retrieve a trap, the team must pull it back to the starting point. Each group is scored based on their time and preparedness of the lashing activity.



Troop #182, Clay Center, work together in the "Catch the Snapper" lashing event.

After lunch, the two groups of Boy Scouts switched places. Those competing in the five different events were sent to participate in more service projects, and the others went to their competition stations. Throughout the afternoon, the Scouts finished the following projects for the Bessey Ranger District:

- Raking leaves, trimming hedges, and sweeping the sidewalk at the District office;
- Picking up trash and raking lawn at the Ranger’s house;
- Cleaning trash along highway 83 to the Scott Lookout Tower;
- Maintaining erosion around sign at Scott Lookout Tower; and
- Re-adjusting lantern poles at Hardwoods Campground.



Troop #88, Lexington, rake the lawn at the Ranger's house.

With so many youth participating in the service projects, the work was always finished ahead of schedule. Therefore, in order to keep the Scouts busy and out of mischief, the exchange of beads was an activity they all partook in during these breaks. Each Boy Scout, as well as the Scout Masters, brought an assortment of beads to trade with other Scout members. By stringing the beads on a long piece of leather, each Scout could observe the different varieties to choose from. Usually the more interesting and unique beads were traded for more than one common bead. As seen above, this trading of beads was a great and safe way to keep the Scouts interested and occupied throughout the day.

As the day started to wind down, Scouts prepared themselves for

three more evening competitions – lashing camp gadgets, patrol method campsite, and Dutch oven cooking. Mr. Vanderohe had selected staff members to judge each one of these events. Again, every patrol was scored based on the difficulty and uniqueness of their camp gadgets, the correct campsite setup, and the best tasting Dutch oven cooked food. Following these events, the Scouts participated in meetings and campfire activities.

With an exciting but tiresome weekend, the Scouts prepared their campsites for loading Sunday morning. According to Mr. Vanderohe, those Scouts who were ready to head home were allowed to; however, an early hike to the Scott Lookout Tower was also an option. About two-thirds of the campers usually pack up and leave for home while the other third stay for the exciting trail hike.

The Boy Scouts of America is a great group of youth to work with. Bessey Ranger District was very pleased with the completion of all service work, and was very happy to welcome

the 570 bodies to their forest. According to Don Gouldie, Bessey Ranger District Forestry Aid, the Boys Scouts would gladly be invited back to the Nebraska National Forest in four years.



Scouts & Scoutmasters exchange beads during breaks.

Listed on the following page are the winners of each competition, as well as the overall combination of events.



Helping Hands

| EVENT | FIRST PLACE | SECOND PLACE | THIRD PLACE |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lashing Camp Gadgets | Troop #36 – Kearney | Troop #189 – Spalding | Troop #265 – Sutherland |
| Patrol Method Campsite | Troop #189 – Spalding | Troop #136 – Kearney | Troop #139 – Kearney |
| Dutch Oven Cooking – Scouts | Troop #139 – Kearney | Troop #265 – Sutherland | Troop #269 – North Platte |
| Dutch Oven Cooking – Scoutmasters | Troop #36 – Kearney | Troop #94 – Fairfield | Troop #293 – North Platte |
| Radioactive Fuel Carry | Troop #182 – Clay Center | Troop #7 – Grand Island | Troop #88 – Lexington |
| Orienteering | Troop #160 – Alma | Troop #203 – Ravenna | Troop #136 – Kearney |
| “Catch the Snapper” | Troop #144 – Lexington | Troop #88 – Lexington | Troop #292 – North Platte |
| Survival First Aid | Troop #117 – Grand Island | Troop #2 – Hastings | Troop #121 – St. Paul |
| First Aid | Troop #7 – Grand Island | Troop #203 – Ravenna | Troop #139 – Kearney |
| OVERALL COMBINATION | Troop #36 – Kearney | Troop #182 – Clay Center | Troop #189 – Spalding |

**EDITOR'S
NOTE**

This newsletter was written to recognize those who put in the effort to volunteer for our National Forests. A big thank you goes out to everyone who took the time to visit with me.

**WAYS TO RECOGNIZE
VOLUNTEERS**

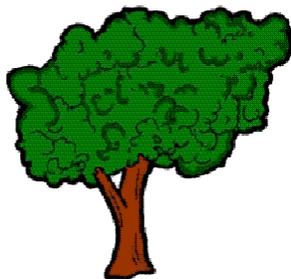
- 1. Allow creativity and innovation.*
- 2. Promote a "Volunteer-of-the-Month" program.*
- 3. Enlist to train others.*
- 4. Keep them up-to-date.*
- 5. Carefully match volunteer with job.*

**ADDITIONAL
NOTE**

If anyone has volunteers that you would like an article written about, or if you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Bridget Daniels by e-mail or phone: bmdaniels@fs.fed.us 308-432-0328

**QUOTE OF THE
MONTH**

*How can we expect our children to know and experience the joy of giving unless we teach them that the greater pleasure in life lies in the art of giving rather than receiving.
--James Cash Penny*



**RIDDLE OF THE
MONTH**

*I am both Mother and
Father.
I am seldom still
yet I never wander.
I never birth nor nurse
--Answer in next
month's newsletter*

**Answer to last month's
riddle: A SHADOW**

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