

Summer Camp 2012 @ Forest Camp Activity Centre

Yet again another joint Summer Camp between 1st Thurstaston and 4th Moreton, this year travelling to 'Forest Camp Activity Centre, Sandiway, Cheshire. Every year at summer camp we try to achieve something we have never done before and this year it was inviting Beavers to come and sleep over, under canvas of course!

The week started at 10.30am on departure day for Explorers and Leaders as we finished packing the trailer and left for camp at 11am. On arrival at camp we erected the two party tents, 6 Cubs tents, 3 Explorer tents and 8 Leader tents as well as our food stores tent! 1pm came and some leaders left to pick up the Cubs and Scouts from our HQ and they arrived back at camp at 3pm where the scouts set up their 5 tents and the Cubs got taken on a guided tour of the site and took it all in from the Low ropes assault course to the Lake, camp fire circle and the archery arena not forgetting the swamps and play area!

On Sunday the Cubs did a short 4km hike in the morning and in the afternoon visited Beeston Castle where we watched a Norman re-enactment and also made a dash for the minibuses as the heavens opened and down camp rain the size of golf balls and the obvious side show of thunder and lightning! The Scouts took the day to do a 16km hike from Queen Charlotte Wood (the famous site where West Wirral Cubs go every year!) back to our site, thankfully arriving just before the heavens opened! Lucky or what?

We woke up to a much nicer day on Monday and took the Cubs raft building in the morning which they all enjoyed, they took a big part in building the rafts by learning how to tie a clove hitch and helped the leaders to lash it all together and they worked as we took them out onto the lake for 30 mins to take part in a variety of races and challenges! The Cubs rafts worked much better than the Explorers who's just sunk! While the Cubs where doing this the Scouts were learning all about the stoves, gas lights and gas that we use on camp and how to connect it all safely and in the afternoon everyone cooked their dinner backwoods style on open fires! However our activities for that day didn't stop there as we had a evening session of climbing where Scouts Explorers and Cubs scaled new heights on the onsite climbing wall!

On Tuesday we had our Olympics day, Beavers arrived onsite at 10 ish am and we split everyone up into teams. The teams comprised of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers and they competed in a variety of races and challenges in the morning more traditional sports like quick cricket and a cross bow challenge then in the afternoon more relay style races and water challenges! The day ended with our Beach party BBQ and Campfire Led by Alan Bennett our ADC Cubs as well as the sketches run by Alan and Brian!

Wednesday, a very sad day for all as the Beavers and Cubs packed up to go home! They spent the whole morning packing and cleaning out their tents before dropping

them then we prepared their packed lunch before going to Blakemere to watch the falconry display then we had a private bird handling session! Lastly it was a quick visit to the Ice Cream and Sweet shops before going back to camp for the Awards and Closing Ceremony! The Scouts did Raft Building in the morning and completed a pioneering project in the afternoon – a massive low rope bridge!

On Thursday the Scouts and Explorers went to Manley Mere and got very wet and muddy but had a fantastic time, that good they wanted us to leave them there! However we managed to tear them away with the thought of Corned Beef Hash back at Camp! But it was a great excuse to get them to have a shower!

The penultimate day came and we all made off for Jodrell Bank for a look around their displays and a science show with lots of Bangs and fire as well of oohhs and aawwws! We then arrived back at camp where the scouts had 'chill' time and the Explorers got their turn at raft 'Building' ... the least successful attempt at raft building I have ever seen... it basically turned into a swimming session! However they did have the best time ever!

So Super Saturday, the last morning at camp where we strike camp ... get everything down... and go home! It took us all morning (especially with the early wakeup call... thanks scouts!) but we got there happily and got home in time for an afternoon nap!

I know everyone that camp had an amazing time ... you could tell by the smiles... and even the weather got convinced to join in the latter half of the week! So... so long farewell to the Summer Camp for 2012 and Hello Summer Camp 2013!

However please don't forget all the hard work and effort that goes in to preparing Summer Camps so don't forget in September to go and thank all your leaders for taking the time (most took time off work) to take you on your summer camp!

Awards:

Scouts:

Carrick (1st Thur) and Rob (4th Mor) – Campers Camper

Cubs:

4th Moreton:

Cheeriest Cub – Liam

Losing the Most on Camp – Mason

Biggest Smile – Ethan

1st Thurstaston:

Best Behaviour – Kyle

Cubs of the Camp – John and Ben Q

Many thanks to all who came and helped either on the camp or behind the scenes, and see you all next year!

Also a massive thank you to Alan Parr whose Group Games Night this year raised a massive £600 and a whole £300 of that has been pumped into equipment and it bought 2 NEW tents that enabled us to go on this camp! So I hope this highlights the importance of these fundraisers, as without them Subs would go up and we wouldn't have the equipment to go away with! So thank you all once again for your continued support!

Matty Jones

1st Thurstaston Scout Group - CSL