Temperature Drops But The Fun Factor Stays High

Cub Scouts can #AdventureOn during the winter months…

Yes, it's cold. Yep, it's snowy. However, just like Scouts BSA, Cub Scouts can still find outdoor fun, too.

That was the theme of a recent repost of a 2010 article entitled, "Hot tips for cold-weather fun with Cub Scouts."

For *Scouting*, Mark Ray wrote:

Tim Tocket, a Scouter in Pen Argyl, Pa., always thought the BSA had a rule forbidding Cub Scouts from camping when temperatures dipped below 32 degrees. Not so. The "Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities" states that only Scouts BSA members and Venturers may participate in winter camping. But the addition of heated cabins (when you follow appropriate Youth Protection guidelines) can make winter activities with overnight stays suitable for Cub Scouts. With cabins available, a Scout who gets too wet, too cold, or too tired can head inside.

Of course, *The BSA Guide to Safe Scouting* is the definitive list of rules and guidelines for winter camping and sports. However, Ray pointed out a few general thoughts about Cub Scouts in the cold.

Tips included:

- *Give plenty of packing guidelines to parents and adult leaders and stress layering for warmth…*
- *Pack extra items of everything warm. Domino suggests bringing a stash of extra hats and mittens for Cub Scouts whose gear gets wet, lost, or forgotten…*

- *Remember hydration. Campers need plenty of fluids, even in the cold.*
- *Offer plenty of hearty food, and keep meal preparation simple.*
- *Cancel or postpone if the forecast calls for heavy snow or extremely low temperatures*

Even better, in yet another article, "Making Winter Fun for Your Cub Scouts," Ray said, keep the C-O-L-D in mind.

C*lean: Keep your insulating layers clean and fluffy. Dirt, grime and sweat can reduce the warmth of a garment.*

O*verheating: Adjust your layers of clothing to match the temperature, and stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water.*

L*oose Layers: Wear several loosely fitting layers of clothing and footgear to get maximum insulation without impeding your circulation.*

D*ry: Sweaty, damp clothing can cause your body to cool quickly. Avoid clothes that absorb moisture, and keep clothing around your neck loose to let body heat and moisture escape.*

Looking at the weather forecast for tomorrow at Camp Resolute: 34-degrees and cloudy.

Sounds like it's time to **#AdventureOn**.

The Joy of Dutch-oven Cooking

This time-honored Scout tradition need not wait until your next campout…

At our most recent Scout Troop Court of Honor, among various and sundry cookies and brownies and doughnuts, there was one, very popular, dessert.

Prepared by our Scoutmaster (and Eagle Scout), his Pineapple upside-down cake went fast.A BSA tradition, pineapple upside-down cake is cooked in another scouting staple – a Dutch oven.

Back in 2916, Tim and Christine Conners broke down the basics of Dutch-oven cooking.

“Dutch-oven cooking is as much a part of Scouting as tying knots. But learning to cook in a Dutch oven can be a bit intimidating. After all, they can be heavy and kind of messy, and the cooking style involves a little math.”

But a Scout is brave. And a Dutch oven is a really excellent tool.

“A Dutch oven is such a versatile cooking tool that when you bring one to camp, it’s like bringing the kitchen from home,” added the Conners. “It can be used to fry, sauté, bake, stew, roast, or slow-cook – any time of day and for nearly any type of meal.

“It’s not uncommon for a single recipe to involve several cooking methods using the same oven.”

And the article, entitled, “A Dutch-oven cooking primer” includes tips on getting started with a Dutch oven, additional tools, cleanup, storage, safety tips, and recipes.

Check out the story here.

Then enjoy the video recipe for pineapple upside-down cake.

How to Bake a Dutch-Oven Pineapple Upside-Down Cake

New Event Registration & Calendar Platform

Our council has begun transitioning to a new online event registration platform named Black Pug, which is used by almost half of all Boy Scout councils nationwide. The previous system, Doubleknot, was a major step forward when we adopted it nearly 16 years ago. After careful, thoughtful and detailed evaluation we believe the Black Pug platform will be an improvement, addressing multiple issues brought up by our members and volunteers and improving your experience when signing up for camps and other activities and accessing the council calendar.

The transition to Black Pug has already begun. Many of our recent events and summer camp sign-ups have been utilizing the new platform. Black Pug will soon become the new platform for the council calendar providing many of the most requested features including calendar subscription links and RSS feeds. We anticipate the full integration of Black Pug into the council website to be completed by June 1.

Individuals and units will have until July 31 to archive any data on the Doubleknot system they wish to retain and we will be sunsetting Doubleknot in Mayflower Council in early August.

We are excited to be sharing this new event registration system with you and we thank you for your patience as we make this transition. We look forward to serving you better. If you have any questions or need assistance with Black Pug please contact Lisa Olson our Black Pug subject matter expert.

A Weekend in the Woods Surrounded by Nature?

How’d you like to spend a weekend in the woods surrounded by nature, peace and quiet?

The Nobscot Campmaster Corps is a group of registered Scouters who spend the weekend at Nobscot whenever troops, Webelos dens, crews or posts are in camp. It’s like a mini-vacation!

You get to spend the weekend in the Campmaster HQ in Henderson Lodge (close to the parking lot!). The lodge is a fabulous facility set up with a welcome center for unit check-in and ever-expanding trading post. Adjacent to the office is a separate, private, living space complete with bunks, couches, bathroom, kitchenette, TV, WiFi, heat, electricity – all the comforts of home! You will need to provide your own food. Once groups check-in, you’ll be available for any assistance needed. You can even enjoy a hike around camp! Pretty simple really.

After a simple training session, you can select when you’d like to help out. Typically, it’s one to three times a year – whenever it’s convenient for you. All Campmasters must have a demonstrated ability to get along with people, to lead and act in an emergency. Certainly, knowledge about Nobscot is a decided plus!

Interested? For info contact Tom Bednarz

Cabin 18 Getting A Lift

Matt Karpacz of the Hammer Crew placing a new 4 x 6 pressure treated sill plate at Cabin 18 at Nobscot. The cabin had been jacked up and old rotted sill plates and rim joists removed.

New Windows

Peter Lanciano and Matt Karpacz of the Hammer Crew reframed openings and put in 6 new windows in Cabin 31 at Nobscot. Not shown are other loyal members of the Hammer Crew who also worked on this project.

COME JOIN THE NEW NOBSCOT TRAIL CREW

Sponsored by the Nobscot Alumni Association

April 27, 9:00AM at Nobscot Scout Reservation, Nobscot Road, Framingham/Sudbury

Open to older Scouts, Venturers and Order of the Arrow Members

Learn about trail building, trial maintenance, proper tools use, team building, time management – all while having fun Etahn alongside other Scouts and Venturers. You'll learn the AMC (Appalachian Mountain Club) techniques of trails how-to – the AMC literally wrote the book! And the Order of the Arrow Conservation techniques will also be employed.

You'll have monthly workdays alongside Nobscot Alumni Association members Patrick Maher, Chuck Hurwitz and Stroker Rogovin – all long-time Eagle Scouts, OA Vigil Members and premier outdoorsmen. Additionally, Stroker is a long-time Leader with the AMC.

What's in it for you? You'll gain tremendous outdoor skills working alongside others while giving back to Nobscot. You'll also earn your official Nobscot Trail Crew t-shirt and Trail Crew Patch and a free membership in the Nobscot Alumni Association! Work with the Trail Crew may also earn you your high school service hours. See you on April 27! Lunch will be provided.

Questions? Contact Larry Bearfield, President Nobscot Alumni Association.

Pack 100 Westborough's Overnight at Nobscot

Has your Unit visited the Nobscot Scout Reservation? Pack 100 Westborough had a successful visit recently. Enjoy their pictures and story of:

The trip that was unanimously voted "The Best Overnight the Pack has Ever Had" by its participants.

First you should know that the weather was rough, it poured cats and dogs the day before and all morning. Even with the rain the Scouts did their appointed rounds with "Scouting for Food" on the morning of the 3rd. Then the pack totaling over 80 Scouts and parents headed up to Nobscot where the camp was already set up by Cubmaster Mr. William Bramley.

As car after car pulled in, Mr. Bramley was outside directing families on where to park and helping them to the site. We had 24 people in the Henderson Cabin and another 20+ tents set up right outside.

Cubmaster Bramley led the scouts on a 2 mile hike to the top of the camp before dusk and then again after breakfast. Lion Den Leader Renee Schoch led

the Lions on their own nature walk, they had a blast.

While dinner was being prepared the scouts enjoyed a long game of kickball in the field and played until there was no more light. These scouts could teach the majors a few things about sportsmanship being that the final score was 20-19.

Cubmaster Bramley is not only just a great leader but a CHEF in all senses of the word. For dinner, he made Mac n Cheese and Hot Dogs for the younger Scouts (However the big Scouts and adults took part too, as it was awesome) He had also prepared handmade kabob skewers for the big event. We have vegetable kabobs, chicken kabobs, and sausage kabobs! There were also several vegan and vegetarian options too.

Just when you thought it could not get better, desert time came. Cubmaster Bramley with the help of the Scouts made many chocolate frosted cakes right there in the cabin. He also made an upside down pineapple cake for the adults that would rival the best bakeries in the North End. But I would be remiss if I did not mention the S'mores that were enjoyed by all.

But the food still did not stop there!

At 5:00 am, Cubmaster Bramley was up in the kitchen preparing breakfast. With the help of the oven and 2 portable stoves he brought. Mr. Bramley made the best Cub Scout breakfast that included a ton of pancakes, sausages, coffee, milk and juice. It was fantastic that the Scouts woke up to the smell of fresh hot pancakes wafting in the air. What better way to start your day than with fellow Scouts, parents and a world class camp chef. Our Cubmaster Mr. Bramley is an inspiration to our pack and could teach a few things about fine dining in the woods.

By 11:00 am the clean up was finished, everyone helped right down to the lions who had a contest to see who could get the most trash picked up. We certainly left Nobscot in a better shape than we found it.

-Written by Mark Derderian, Pack 100 Treasurer and father of a Webelo!







