

Troop 824 News

A Publication of Boy Scout Troop 824

October 2003

Jamaican Pioneering, Pacao 2003

Hey Mon, Pacao 2003 is history.

It was wet. It was cold. The activities were hard. But three Scouts from Troop 824 persevered and earned the Pioneering Merit Badge. Many others were very close and should be able to easily complete the partial (hopefully at a troop meeting if we find a counselor willing to attend).



Event evaluation

Pros: When we have a difficult outing, it sometimes is a big enough negative experience to make a first year Scout think about quitting. It looks like this year, however, we have a good group of leaders. The patrols stuck together. They shared two rain flies with each other and the LC. We didn't have older Scouts ignoring the younger ones, and the younger ones didn't wander away from their patrol. A tip of the hat to Greg Lehn especially. As it became more and more miserable, he did silly things like start a group singing, or when guys complained of being cold, he showed them how to keep warm by doing jumping jacks together (keep moving, don't sit around and complain, that won't get you warm). Also, Peter mentioned during one of the "Fall In" talks that this was NOT a standard Pacao event. It was unusually cold and wet, and the events were hard. This is not the way Pacao usually is and urged that the newer guys not become discouraged by this.

Cons: Several Scouts must have thought that this was just another summer camp, 'cause they didn't bring any

warm clothes or rain gear. The Scout motto is Be Prepared. I'd bet they'll remember now.



Also, more Scouts would probably have earned the merit badge if they'd done more pre-work before the event. We mentioned several times that you should read the requirements, learn the knots, and bring your rope samples.



Finally (and Scoutmaster might have more comments), we need to take better care of our equipment. Especially the Eureka tents. Several of those that were sent home to be dried contained lots of trash, grass, mud, and even batteries, pencils, and wet muddy socks. Proper procedure is to remove ALL trash and personal items and get it as clean inside as possible under the conditions. Each of these tents cost several hundred dollars to replace,



Shiloh Hikes in Less than 2 Weeks

By Mr. Epestine

Foreword: It's a bit long, but it will be worth your time to read the following article.

Troop 824 will be heading down to the Shiloh National Military Park in Tennessee on November 6th, hiking on the 7th and 8th, and returning to St. Louis on the 9th. Total cost is expected to be about \$100 per person. (Gas money is extra, for those riding with someone else.) Funds can be used from a Scout's Long Term Camping Account.

For those of you new to the troop or those who have not been to Shiloh before, we included a complete description in the September issue (look on the web site if you can't find your copy, www.troop824-gslac.org).

As I write this, it's just a couple of weeks from our departure date. Diane will continue to accept sign-ups and money for those who've found an opportunity suddenly. Currently we're expecting around 50 folks to attend. That number might change up or down by a couple, but I think we've worked out rides for everyone. We might have some trouble transporting some Troop equipment (coolers and supply tubs). Let us know if you have room in your vehicle for a big cooler or Rubbermaid tub. We could use the help.

If you're going to Shiloh (adults or Scouts), we urge you to attend a short meeting after next Monday's Troop meeting (November 2nd). We'll have some final comments and instructions. Maps and such. And we can answer any questions you might still have.

How Do I Earn the Hiking Patches at Shiloh?

These hikes work a lot like a merit badge. To earn the patch for any hike, you must obtain a "credential card" and hiking instructions. We will have these for you, or if you wish to see a preview, go to the Shiloh Military Trails web site at the following address (URL):

www.shilohmilitarytrails.org/

Each hike has a slightly different "flavor" to it, and each has some READING you MUST complete before you hike (we have enough copies of this material, but we might have to share between groups). This is to prepare you for what you are going to see on your hike and hopefully give you a greater appreciation of the historical significance of this NATIONAL PARK we're going to be visiting.

As you hike along your particular trail (your group will be provided with maps and instructions), you will attempt to answer questions included in your hiking instructions.

so we need to do as much as we can to protect them. That's all I have. I've included a few pictures. If anyone has more (especially of the catapult, I missed that one), let me know or contact Ryan Kinmartin, troop historian. Also, it'd be real nice if a Scout could write up an article about Pacao for the newsletter.

These answers go on each individual Credential Card. You can do this as a GROUP effort, but EVERYONE SHOULD PARTICIPATE. Don't goof off and wait until you're back at the cabin to get the answers from your buddy. You must help when you're in the field, as the alternative



would not be fair to the others in your group, and certainly is not Scout-like.

We've found it useful to have at least two Scouts in each group fill in the answers while on the hike, so if one set of answers gets lost or damaged, we had a backup. Also, you might just take a piece of paper and pencil and write down the answers there on the trail, then transfer these to the credential card when you return to the cabin. This helps the person trying to read the card as it's hard to write neatly on the trail.

Each evening we'll gather these credential cards and all the materials and when we're finished, we'll turn them in to the Shiloh Military Trails organization and order your patches for distribution at a Court of Honor.

The Shiloh patches are not official Scout awards, but would fall into the category of an Event Award. Adults and siblings (11 yrs old, minimum) can also participate and earn the patches. If younger, they can still participate, but won't be able to receive an award. When you've hiked all six of the required hikes (requirements are on the Shiloh Military Trails web site), you earn what is known as the Veteran Hiker Award which is a much larger patch and a very nice certificate. This is very impressive and looks nice laid out at your Eagle Court of Honor.

Mrs. Eppestine has a display board with these patches and some pictures and information about Shiloh. You've probably seen this.

If you would like to see a bit more about Shiloh and the battle that was fought there, there are many web sites devoted to the civil war in the internet. We've already mentioned the following two:

www.nps.gov/shil/index.htm is the official web site of the Shiloh National Military Park. There are links, maps, travel guides, history, and a whole bunch of other stuff here.

www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/pickwick/ is the web site for the place we're staying. The cabins at Pickwick Landing State Park.

Then, here are a few more that I've seen around the web. If you have any to share, let us know and we'll get them published.

www.pbs.org/civilwar/ is the PBS web site for the excellent Ken Burns documentary about the Civil War. If enough are interested in watching *some* of this, I could be persuaded to bring it on the Shiloh trip and we could designate a cabin for watching on one of their TVs.

www.civilwaralbum.com/index.html is very interesting. Get ready to hear some MI DI music play when you open this site. Down low and to the left on the opening page, is a box with links to "Photo Albums" for various Civil War battle sites. Shiloh is among them. When you



click on that, you'll be able to take a virtual tour of Shiloh, including some panoramic pictures. Very nice. This gives you a very good idea of the places we'll be hiking. You could easily print out the map of your hike(s) and then just take this virtual photo tour and actually be able to see about what it's going to look like along your hike.

www.pickwicklake.net/index.html gets you to a general tourism site for the area around Shiloh and Pickwick Landing. If you click on Dining (upper left corner), then

Southern Style Restaurant

- Home
- Scout's Trail
- Country Square
- BA Camp
- Home
- TV's Best B-G
- B.A. B's Restaurant
- Downs Indian Buffet
- Circle 37
- Chuck Wagon
- Robin Catering
- Country Clubhouse
- Blue 273
- Galyan's Restaurant
- Old Co. Place
- Downs Hall
- Home Restaurant
- Homey Lanes
- The Fish Shack
- Downs Landfill
- Williams Cafe
- Home
- Home Restaurant
- Downs Place
- Downs B.A. B-G
- Home Division
- Old Millstone Cafe
- Home
- Downs Cafe



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look for the Southern Style Restaurant in the resulting list, you will see pictures of the place we plan to dine out in the evenings. If you went to Shiloh two years ago, you might remember this place.

What to Bring

Now that we know more about the Shiloh hikes, and the area we're going to be staying for a few days, you might want to hear a few tips about what to bring and a strategy for hiking.

Equipment for the Cabin

You'll need your personal stuff of course, like a couple changes of clothes, your Class A uniform, toiletries, books, magazines, pen/pencil... what you won't need is a cup and utensils and some of the stuff you normally bring camping... since we're not sleeping in tents. The cabins have two bedrooms each with two double beds in each bedroom. Plus, there's a hide-a-bed or at least a couch out in the living area and a few extra blankets and pillows. You might want to bring your sleeping bag just in case you want to crash on the floor near the TV or wood stove. The cabins are heated and air conditioned, have microwaves and refrigerators... a full kitchen. Full bath with towels and TP etc. (I'd bring a spare towel, if your cabin is full, you might run out).

Adults will have first choice for the beds and the whole family can be in a bedroom if you so choose. However, we've found that Scouts usually want to be with their

buddies and wind up sleeping out in the living room if their cabin has too many adults in it. If you're so inclined, and if you'd rather sleep on a cot or pad, bring that too.

Equipment for Hiking

For the hiking, you older Scouts already know what to do. Younger Scouts need to know to bring a canteen with WATER, sturdy boots or good walking shoes, a light jacket for the early morning chill, a hat, and although we'll have the troop first aid kit, you should have a small one for your personal use. Emphasis will be on supplies for blisters, scrapes, cuts, & scratches. I hear Band-Aid brand blister aid is the best, followed by good old Duct Tape and moleskin. Some lip balm and maybe a small bit of Vaseline to lubricate between toes is appropriate.

Socks. Yeah, socks. Bring at least one extra pair for each hike, and don't wear your dirty ones the next day. The socks you wear should NOT be cotton. You can buy some special hiking or walking socks at a sporting goods store like Sports Authority. These go a long way in preventing blisters. Here's a tip, Galyan's (in west county mall) gives a discount if you show your BSA membership card.

Any time you feel a "hot spot" on your foot while hiking, that's when a blister is about to form. STOP and treat it THEN. Apply duck tape or whatever blister remedy you have. Put on those clean socks, and put your others outside your day pack or wherever to dry as you continue.

Don't be sloppy with your laces. Get 'em snug so your feet don't slip. Blisters are caused by FRICTION.

You might want to bring a small day pack or fanny pack to carry things like your spare socks, a pencil and a small notebook, a compass if you're on hikes 4, 5, or 7, a camera, gum or mints, your first aid stuff, some money to spend at the visitor center if you want (they have a nice bookstore), and perhaps some rain gear. We're not going on a Philmont style trek. This is just a little walk in the park, BUT, there isn't much in the way of shelter in the park. No latrines except at the visitor's center. No water fountains or soda machines along the way. Just monuments, trees, cannons, and signs.

You shouldn't need to burden yourself with too much stuff, and the lighter you travel, the easier it will be on you. We will have support vehicles checking on each group periodically, and each group might have a radio to contact the support car if it's in range. The support car can bring you extra water if you run out. It can hold your jacket if you'd like to get rid of it. Things like that. You can NOT ride in the support car to take a break.

See you Monday, November 2nd at the special Shiloh meeting after Troop meeting!