

Occoneechee Council's First Kodiak



Over the weekends of June 6-8, and June 13-15, 2008, youth from Venturing Crews and Boy Scout Troops from all over Occoneechee Council attended Occoneechee's pilot Kodiak course.

Kodiak was a chance for them to learn and build leadership skills, in a high adventure trek setting, that they can take back with them and use in their units and for rest of their lives. During the course, staff and participants participated in rock climbing, rappelling, the C.O.P.E course

(high and low ropes) at Camp Durant, hiking the Appalachian Trail, white water rafting on the Nolichucky River in Tennessee, and caving at Worley's Cave. Amid all the fun, participants participated in short, interactive leadership sessions known as commissions. They are continually reinforced throughout the course so that they are 'internalized' by the participants.

During the 6 days they were together, the participants built and developed effective teams and encouraged each other to face their fears and overcome them. They attempted things they never thought possible and excelled at all of them. They learned and practiced effective communication skills, which were required throughout the course for all tasks, ranging from leading a Crew on the Appalachian Trail to something as simple as acquiring dinner without being able to use oral communication.

The overall feeling of the staff is that this was a tremendous success! The participants learned the leadership skills that they needed and had an incredible time while doing it. The Council has its first 15 Kodiak graduates back in the units, sharing what they learned and excited as ever. I have already had more requests for staffing the next course than we could possibly take. The next course will be December 20-22 and 27-29. The first weekend will consist of an orientation flight (yes, the participants will get to fly a plane) and some mountain biking in the Uwharrie National Forest; and the second weekend will be snow skiing in West Virginia. Of course there will be plenty of other games and activities as well. The flyer, cost and registration forms should be posted by the end of July. There will also be a weekend Kodiak X course in March, which will only be open to Kodiak graduates. Keep an eye on the Training calendar. Kodiak is the future of leadership in Venturing!

Any questions you have about this course or the winter course can be directed to Doug Branson ockodiak@windstream.net or 910-824-0071.