

VENTURING MAGAZINE

2013 Boy Scout National Jamboree, Crew F809 by Rick Kagawa November 2013



Jamboree is Disneyland for Boy Scouts. Describing Jamboree is like trying to describe spending a week at Disneyland, Epcot Center and Disney California Adventure. This event is overwhelming and just so much fun,

I think the word of this Jamboree was ambient. This is the term that preceded the

word shower. To translate this Jamboree speak, it means COLD showers! With the hot days, the "ambient" showers felt good. Some people said they even got use to them.

The Venturing Sub-camp Foxtrot was the highest and the farthest away from the center of Jamboree. The walk to the Summit Center that was the center of the Summit was about 20 minutes if you hiked fast. Being a downhill walk that meant in the late afternoon you had to walk uphill to get back to Foxtrot.

Speaking of Sub-camp Foxtrot, there was an amazing party nearly every night. The patch trading was endless. There were youth having fun everywhere. It was an amazing party with 2200 of our best friends.



Rain and lightning were the main shaper of schedules throughout Jamboree. It happened almost every day. You would try to avoid being out the times that you thought it would rain. If there was an event or activity you wanted to do, you needed to plan around rain. By the last two days of Jamboree, our campsite was two inches deep in mud. Youth being youth found entertainment in having a mud fight. Our Crew, F809 was all in on the mud fight and drug other Crew in.

The water activities in the man-made lakes were amazing. Paddleboards, kayaks and dragon boats were very popular. They had 8 dragon boats that had maybe 15 paddlers. The staff tried to encourage races between the boats. The water obstacle course looked like the TV show Wipeout. Scouts would "compete" against each other to see who could finish first. It looked like so much cooling fun.





Zip line courses snaked throughout the Summit. The lines were long but worth the wait.

I was lucky enough to white water rafting the very first day they opened it. The guides were talking about how lucky we were to have high water levels. There were standing waves 12 feet tall. We had a blast but our Crew went out nearly a week later and it had rained all week. The river for them was even bigger.

At the fishing center, the staff had planted 10,000 blue gill in Echo Lake. The participants got to fly fish for the fish, clean, cook, eat their fish and make fishing flies.

The Barrels were the shooting sports were located, they had pistols, sporting clays, rifles, trap and powder ball. Most people know about the events except powder ball. It is a paintball marker loaded with balls filled with powder rather than paint. They would line up 6 shooters and they would shoot at a 12 inch disk thrown in the air. It sounded like a war. When you hit the disk, a puff of powder would come out like an explosion.

There were many activities being tested for possible use in Boy Scout Camps. One of them was ATV. Big smiles were coming from the Venturing participants in ATV.

The best part of Jamboree is seeing old friends and making new ones. The most interesting part is that when you run into people you know, it is usually a surprise. Meeting new friends is always a treat. There are as many opportunities to meet people as you turn and talk to someone new.



Jamboree is magic. There are trials and tribulations. You need to take the good with the trials but, just like some of your most memorable campouts, the tribulations are what makes them unforgettable. Every Jamboree I have attended has created great remembrances for all who attend.