

VENTURING MAGAZINE

My Great Experience on Powder Horn

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Katie is a sophomore in high school, and is treasurer of Crew 313 in Macedon NY. This her experience and reflections on Seneca Waterways Council's Powder Horn course. Held September 10-14th 2015.

For me Powder Horn was a great experience. I got to try a bunch of new things and activities, even things I was unsure of and never heard of before. I learned a bunch of useful things to bring back to my High Adventure Crew.

While we were there we learned about how to take care of some emergencies (wilderness First Aid & civil air patrol), but we also got to do a lot of fun activities. For example there was tomahawk throwing, shooting all sorts of guns from pistols to black powder rifles. With the guns, I am pretty sure there was any gun possible (revolvers, semi-auto pistols, lever action rifles, M1 Garand, M1 carbine, AR-15, a Pennsylvania long rifle, and a Brown Bess musket), which was awesome. Personally I had never shot a gun, but to see the variety that was out there and learn about each type was really cool.



Then you got to do a bunch of different aquatic activities in the water with the waterfront activities there was anything you could think of. There was kayaks, sail boats, paddle boats and paddle boards, which I was pretty good at. Several of us did paddle board yoga. Along with that you could go out on a motor boat to just ride or you could have gone tubing. Both were fun. There was a trampoline on water, even though it could have been more bouncy it was just awesome to jump off of.

With this Powder Horn course it just wasn't kids doing it there were also a bunch of adults just having fun with everything thing there, it was like they were kids again too. And even if you weren't big into to guns or water there were other activities you could do. Different people came in with remote control helicopters and some people did civil war reenactment.

Saturday night there was a session where you learned how to cook different things. From foil dinners to deep fried Oreos... and we got to taste all of it. After we finished learning how to cook we had an iron chef competition where each group got a bunch of random ingredients and you have to make your dinner and dessert from what you had. That was really fun because the ideas different people had were amazing. There was everything from a Sheppard's pie to Mac n Cheese, and everything tasted delicious.



With that I had fun making what is now call the Powder Horn Walk Away Sundae aka. PHWAS. This was where you have a cone and you put marshmallows in the base. Then on top is bananas and over that you can put peanut butter, chocolate chips practically anything you want on top. You then wrap it in tin foil, stick it in some coals and let it cook. In my opinion they were delicious, but that's probably because I made them.

In the end, the whole event was awesome. I benefited & learned a lot even though I wasn't even there the whole time (dang school thing). I missed a bunch of cool activities, but I will bring everything I learned and experienced back to my venture crew. It will make my crew more awesome.



Postscript

As part of the program Crossman donated 10 pellet rifles that were given away during the last dinner of the course. The course director came to the awards night for Crew 313 and brought a bit of a surprise. See all the adults won the pellet rifles, so he went back to Crossman and got 4 more donated! One for each of the youth participants... I wish I had taken... well Katie (article author) and Josh (also from her crew) were literally jumping for joy and high – fiving each other when they were presented their rifles. They were so proud, before the end of the night everyone was out back shooting at popcans... even more amazing they were running a range and found goggles for every one.



Mr Faulkman, Joshua Parker (Crew President) & Katie Barnes (Crew Treasurer)

A special thanks to Crossman for donating 15 rifles, to Eric Falkman who spearheaded and directed the course, and all the staff who made it happen. All of it made an impression!

Article provided by: Katie of Crew 313 in Macedon NY