

# VENTURING MAGAZINE

## My Experience at the Western Region VOA's SCOUTvivor

July 2016

I had a wonderful time at the Western Region Venturing Officer's Association's event, SCOUTvivor. It took place at Cutter Creek Scout Reservation which was probably one of the most beautiful camps I have ever been to. We were surrounded by redwood trees and these giant, yellow slugs (believe it or not, they were adorable). It rained almost the entire weekend- after Friday night most of us ditched the umbrellas. We chose to walk around in a state of perpetual wetness. This event was a great opportunity to meet fellow Venturers from different Areas and Councils. It had a lot of freedom and chances to really get to know new people.



Speaking of new people, for the Ice Breakers we started with a giant game of Apples to Apples. I've never played with so many people (at least twenty). We gave up after a round or two- there were too many cards to choose a winner. We moved on to playing a scout appropriate version of never-have-I-ever. It involved a lot of laughing, a lot of running, and a lot of falling off of chairs. We spent the rest of the night socializing and setting up our camps.

Saturday morning was started off by being separated into tribes. It was really cool how they redistributed the participants into new crews so you were really forced to interact with new people instead of being with people from your Council the entire time. Every tribe was identified by a different color bandana (mine was Cinderella blue). We got to chat with our tribe members for a little while and then were turned loose to go play on the COPE course, ATV's, and shooting.



The COPE course was super cool but I only went on the Giant's Ladder. As the name implies, it was a ladder that was fit for a giant. It was two ropes suspended between two trees with logs as the rungs about five feet apart. The object of it was to get to the top. We went up with a partner. Mine was a very nice boy from San Diego. Although he tried quite hard to assist me, I was only able to make it to the first rung. He made it to the second. Although I didn't participate in the ATVing and shooting, I heard it was superb.

After an excellent lunch, we began the SCOUTvivor games. They were a bunch of mini competitions. One was a race where participants had to balance an egg on a spoon in their mouth to get a puzzle. They returned to their tribes with the puzzle and the first team to solve it won. Another was a race to untie a series of knots in a string (it was harder than it looked).

In the midst of the games, we enjoyed four STEM presentations- one was about Google, one was about solar eclipses, one was about SOFIA- the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy, and one was about game theory. They were all quite fascinating and after every presentation I found myself wanting a career in that field.

Finally, there was a white-out dance to cap off the event. I wondered how smart it was for everyone to be wearing while it was EXTREMELY muddy outside but everything turned out well. There was a black light so we all glowed while we danced to the songs that the DJ played. It was great until the speakers stopped working. It was still great after that, but just without music. Everyone chilled out and chatted until we went to bed.

All in all, it was a wonderful weekend and if I could go back, I would. I look forward to how next year's event will top this one.

Shared by Eme Long of Crew 77, Ore-Ida Council.