

January 24th-27th Klondike

The Alaskan-Luau themed Klondike was a weekend jam-packed with activities, snow, and cold weather. Divided into two separate patrols, Phoenix and Pegasus, the campers of Troop 777 had lots of fun.

Upon arrival, we loaded our sleds with patrol boxes and lugged our gear to our campsite, Chittenden. For those of you who may not know, Chittenden is on the opposite side of Camp Butler. After two runs, all of our supplies had been transported to the campsite, where we had to hastily set up our tents. In true 777 fashion, we arrived at the flag pole to discover that the other troops were waiting on us to start the sled race. When the whistle blew, we took off down a path lit by glow sticks, crammed full of sleds and scouts. Before any of us could reach the first bend, our sleds were running into and getting tangled up with small scouts from other troops. Huffing and puffing, both patrols made it over the last hill and across the finish line. Both patrols ranked in the top five, with Pegasus taking 3rd, and Phoenix taking 5th. Back at camp, we both enjoyed an evening snack of cracker barrel. For the first night of events, neither patrol was looking to shabby.

The next morning, we awoke to Mr. York serenading us with “Frito Bandito”. Due to the freezing temperatures, we had a slow start and no body was thrilled to have to crawl out of their sleeping bag. Once we got around to it though, breakfast was in the pan and you could smell sausage and eggs throughout camp. With our bellies full, we cleaned our dishes and headed over towards the flag pole for flag raising and our first event. The first event was gear inspection, and thanks to our pre-planning, both the Phoenix and Pegasus patrol did exceptionally well and received top marks. Next we set out to accomplish the next task, the events. There were a total of eight events to be completed. They consisted of Volcano Erupts (fire building), Rescue on the Beach, Tiki Doctor is In, Beach blind, Coconut Broomball, Pineapple Bowling, Sand Dune Biathlon, and Treasure Island. Each of the events took a different skill set, but they all had one thing in common that you needed teamwork. The fire building required you to not only light a fire, but boil water as well. The Phoenix patrol set the record with getting a rolling boil in only six minutes. Rescue on the Beach was a stretcher related activity in which four members of your patrol must carry an “injured” patrol member around the Butler pool with out letting him touch the ground. Four rescue knots were also needed to be tied to receive full credit, but none the less, both patrols did an excellent job. The third event asked you to administer first aid to an unconscious victim. Beach blind was the next event, which was undoubtedly the hardest. This required the patrol leader to instruct his patrol on how to set up a tent blindfolded. Typically, it took each patrol 30 min. to complete this event. Coconut broom ball was the sixth event, which involved hitting a coconut with a broom through a double figure-eight. The Pegasus Patrol claimed that Phoenix patrol couldn’t beat their high score of 26sec. per member. Well, Phoenix gave it a shot and ended up with an average of 23sec. per member. The seventh event, Pineapple Bowling was another event where one must bowl a coconut at 7 pineapples. This one too had some friendly competition in it. Originally, Phoenix set the record of pineapples knocked over at a 1.8 average per member. Pegasus came along and smashed that record and set it at 3.6 per member! The final event was Treasure Island, a compass navigation course. After

the long day of events, both patrols returned to cook lunch. Phoenix made walking tacos, and Pegasus made grilled ham and cheese along with tomato soup.

It was promised that spam would be included in the Klondike, and so it was. At 3:45, there was a spam cook-off. The Pegasus patrol entered "Spam in a blanket", and cooked it in a Dutch oven. The Phoenix patrol cooked up a disgusting looking but tasty, "Green Eggs and Spam". Each patrol entered a haiku as well. About an hour later, dinner was served. The hosting troop ordered and roasted three pigs. Dinner consisted of pulled pork sandwiches, salad, green beans, hot chocolate, and pudding. It was very tasty and it filled us up.

Lastly, was the awards. Our preparation at the meetings had paid off, and each patrol did well. The Phoenix Patrol took first place in the Volcano Erupt (fire building) station, and their "Green Eggs and Spam" received the Best Scout only Spam Dish! The Pegasus Patrol did even better. They took first in both the sled inspection, and the Pineapple Bowling, landing them in 3rd overall. The third place winner also received a bottle of Blind Betty hot sauce which now rests in the spice box. Both patrol's haikus received honorable mentions as well. The Phoenix's written by Derek Foster and Forrest Norman, and the Pegasus's written by L.J. Durfee and Grant Norman.

Overall, both patrols performed excellently and worked together with efficiency. The campout was loads of fun, and our hard work at the meetings paid off. Congratulations to both patrols and a shout out to the scouts who braved the weather and came out this past weekend

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