

Camporee Weekend Has Its Own 'Merits'

CAMP PETERSON — Cold temperatures greeted the almost 200 scouts and adults. But being scouts, they were prepared. Soon enough there were campfires roaring, smoking and crackling to make the woods more comfortable.

Sixteen Boy Scout troops gathered over the weekend just south of Vanceboro for the annual Neuse Basin and Croatan Trail districts' camporee. Each troop set up camp in its own area, marking territories and identifying camp sites with banners, flags and trophies.

While some scouts arrived in the luxury of cars, vans and trucks, others living near the camp decided to hoof it. Several groups of scouts were seen early Saturday hiking to the camporee.

Sleeping quarters ranged from half-shelters to the newest in high-tech tents. Some scouts' ideas of "roughing it" were kerosene heaters, gas stoves and huge tents. As the scouts went about setting up camp, the adults swapped stories of their past experiences in the woods.

Some of those stories were as tall as the pines nearby. Troops 58 and 208 of Vanceboro served as the host troops, while other troops became acquainted with Camp Peterson. Despite the limitations (no microwaves) of cooking in the woods, the scouts ate well. A check of a few "kitchens" revealed everything from peanut butter sandwiches to sloppy joes.

But amid the fun, learning was going on. Work on merit badges, learning to build a log raft and learning about weather were just some of the courses the scouts were exposed to. Hopefully, they took home a little knowledge along with rumpled sleeping bags and clothes with the smell of smoke on them.



Frankie Buck, Jack MacKeehnie review plans



Scouts warmed up to idea of campfires



Vanceboro's Troop 58 marks entrance to its territory



Charlie Lee, Robert Nobles and Willard Crain chow down



Scout prepares meal at noon break



Weatherman Skip Waters, center, taught weather class



Two scouts clean up in outdoor 'kitchen'



Photos By Mike Voss



Chopping wood is always popular