

Troop 510!

Greetings from the other side of the bubble! What is this "bubble" you ask? Ah. The "bubble" is that invisible thing that we close behind us once the cars are unloaded, the tent are set up, and the fires of summer camp are lit. Electronic games are gone. Sports practice, homework, and the troubles of cleaning your room...all left behind on the other side of the bubble. It is its own very special, very powerful type of magic and it turns out to be a transferrable magic from Owasippe to Camp Freeland Leslie.



Here, on our side of the bubble, the weather has turned out to be perfect. The hot, humid, days of last week have passed on to 80 degree days and cool (ish) evenings. Where it is sunny, we have brought our own shade.



Over the weekend, the first year Scouts fed us well (and completed many requirements along the way). Tacos were cooked in cast iron skillet. Chicken wings were roasted in Dutch ovens. Steak and chicken fajitas were sautéed in cast iron too. Cast iron...it's a thing in Scouting. Burn anything you want in it. Chisel it out. Add oil and you are ready to begin again. But, today. With these Scouts. Nothing was burned, secret spice mixes were used, and we all rested for the night smiling ...



In between cooking, one HAS to work up an appetite. HAS to we say. So, what with there being no electronics we have brought our own games of 9-square-in-the-air and a new rope game that requires balance, stealth and trickery to win. But, don't worry. The games are quick and the days are long. Many smiles. Much laughter. And, much fun have been had.





On Sunday night we opened camp as camp should be opened with a campfire. Songs were sung. Skits were given. Do-as-I-do participation adventures were had. Much silliness and laughter was left dancing in our heads as we went to bed under a brilliant tapestry of stars. The change this year was that instead of visiting the fire bowl with the whole camp, we of course can't. So, the councilors came to us and conducted the campfire in our site. While we awaited their arrival, it turns out Troop 510 has a song book and the scouts know how to use it!



This morning, camp is open and the official program begins. Off to New Frontiers we go. Into Engineering, Space Exploration, and Leatherwork merit badges and all the adventure. Ah the toil and the work!!



And with that, we have settled into the cycles of camp in this magical space on the other side of the bubble. We never interact with other Troops outside our own. We always have masks whenever we see councilors. We are using more soap and water than Scouts have EVER used. Hand sanitizer is everywhere. And, not magically, all the games we play are played at social distances. Like the cooking together and cleaning together in the patrol method, and the raising and lowering the flag in full uniform every day, it is just part of what we do to make this adventure all possible this year.

Stay safe on your side of the bubble. We'll be thinking of you...and wishing we could share the raspberry cobbler the Lehner brothers made for us after picking the freshest of black raspberries along the trail...

Later.

Not now.

Now we have cheese and bread to grill into sandwiches for lunch, and aquatics to get ready for this afternoon. And after that, there's games and fires and games again...

Yours in scouting,

Scott McConnell