

3rd Cork Scouts – Camp Report 2004

Clonbur, Co. Galway 17th – 31st of July

Camp 2004 took the 3rd Cork back to Petersburg OEC, Clonbur in Co. Galway.

This has been a one of the troops favourite campsites of recent times and has been the scene of excellent camps in 1994 and 2000.

Ever before the troop had gone to Perros Guirec in August last year all the leadership team and Court of Honour knew where our next camp would be held.

We set about working on this year's camp way back in September 2003, the posters; camp savings and selling of the camp to the scouts began in October. In the run up to Clonbur 2004 every thing was in place to have another special camp. I hope you by reading this report you will get a feel for how much of a success and how special it really was.

Our group consisted of 24 scouts and 5 leaders. Add the visit of 3 St. Patrick's ventures in the first week and this gave us an excellent number. We brought 4 patrols, by dropping one patrol from the usual we strengthen up all the patrols with a great mix of experience and first time campers. In total we had 7 first time campers.

We hired a bus from Walsh's coaches from Co. Mayo, they gave us a better price than all other Cork companies and it was also very convenient to us them while going on tour to Galway on the Wednesday of each week.

After photographs we left St. Patrick's Church at 10.30 am. Our gear had been packed the night before on a Truck provided by one of our parents Michael Kelleher. By doing this we were able to save a lot of money.

On arrival at the site we pitched tents and set up camp. We booked into the Orchard campsite. This was a little more expensive than other sites in the centre but with a 10-foot surrounding wall, onsite toilets and playing area it added great scope to our programme.

Clonbur town

Again this year we found the town and its people to be very friendly. Although small, Clonbur is a mile away from our campsite and again proved to be the perfect distance for planned trips to the shop in the evenings. This year we were lucky enough to have 2 cars with us so it made food shopping a lot easier.

Food and Shopping

We did most of shopping in the nearest large town of Ballinrobe. We had bought almost all of our non-perishable food in a trip to Musgraves before the camp. Most days all we had to buy was meats, bread and milk for the day. This saved us a lot of money and aided the leaders to run a more precise programme, menu and eased the pain of doing accounts.

We cooked a lot of dinners with the aid of a gas run barbecue. In the second week an alter fire was erected and used to cook veg. and potatoes. This year the food was of an excellent quality. It was an aim of ours to have great camp dinners. I am happy to report that the camp dinners were again excellent this year with dishes of pork chops, chicken breasts, chicken curry, beef burgers and spaghetti bolognaise.

Activities and programme

In total we took part in 7 half days activities, this combined with the 2 tours, Courts of Honour day, parents day, sports day, Base day and hike day made up our incredibly busy programme. The activities in Petersburg are excellent. Some of the best on offer from any outdoor education centre in Ireland. River gorging and caving were the most enjoyed with many of the scouting going on these twice. The abseiling took place in a fallen old cave and was 70 to 80 feet drop into the ground. The canoeing took us on an expedition out around the Lough Mask.

In the evenings our inter- patrol sports kicked into effect with the football and volleyball being played on site. Sports day took place in the local GAA pitch. There were many other inter-patrol activities such as treasure hunt, Map making, Aerial building, pier building and patrol hike. These all took place in the area and

mountains around Clonbur. On the 2nd Tuesday the troop put up a 40 foot pioneering structure. This was well enjoyed by all and had many of the other campers on site admiring our gateway.

The inter-patrol campcraft inspections were very comprehensive this year. There was at least one inspection a day on site, these inspections cover scout skills, hygiene and teamwork. I believe because of the above, there is no coincidence that we went on to finish 12 points off winning the All-Ireland Campcraft and 4th in the overall NPC.

Survivor bases were also back. These are a series of patrol tasks that can involve mind challenges or physical events.

Half-ways through the camp we had a visit from a Scouting Ireland inspector for camp certs. He was very pleased with our camp and made the comment that we were top class on Camping cert form.

Tours

On the Wednesdays of both weeks we went into Galway City. In there we went bowling and swimming as a troop before all the lads headed to the sports shops and the usual McDonnell's. In the afternoons we took the bus out to Salt hill and enjoyed the amusements and Fun fairs there. The court of honour also had there day in Salt hill the scouts went to Finney beach in the Joyce country hills.

On the middle Sunday about 75% of Parents arrived on site for parent's day. Thanks to all of them for their compliments.

3rd Cork scout – the Class of 2004

In my report I must comment on the highlight of the camp. Yet again the performance and attitude of our scouts was fantastic. The atmosphere and energy from the first day gave us a great platform to very much enjoy the challenge of being a great scout troop. In my 7 years running camps the attitude and behaviour of the 3rd Cork scouts has always been the best quality of our group. Again this year they did themselves proud.

You might have noticed that in this report I have not mention anything about the weather. Well it wasn't great. It rained for most of the first week and we never really got a very sunny day but it wasn't an issue as there was too much to do. The weather and venue doesn't really make a 3rd Cork camp, it's the people on it. There are many people I would like to thank for all the help and support that is needed to take 24 children away to a field and create a village of tents and make a great place to be. Thanks to Walsh's Coaches and of course the staff and instructors of Petersburg. Thanks to Michael Kelleher for making transportation our gear run incredibly smooth. Thanks to all the parents. Thanks to Kevin, Alan and Ivan our older lads who hopefully will move up, not on. Job well done to the leadership team for the best organised and best run camp I have ever been part of. Again thanks to all our scouts for their great behaviour.

Yours in Scouting

Graham Hayes
Scout leader