

2014-2015 Troop 505

July – Summer Camp - Ransburg, IN

We were well represented by the 29 scouts and 10 adults attending summer camp when we were awarded a Certificate of Excellence at the closing campfire. All the boys were productive as shown by earning of 119 merit badges with 17 partials. Another milestone was reached when all participants returned safely from a Friday night/Saturday morning hike around the reservation.

July – High Adventure - Boundary Waters – Northern MN

Four crews enjoyed the spectacular, pristine Boundary Waters. The scouts practiced Leave No Trace outdoor principles to help ensure the beauty and integrity of the fragile environment. They also endured sparrow-sized mosquitoes, rain and derecho winds of 70 mph that felled ancient trees, which made portaging between lakes even more challenging. Spectacular scenery and outstanding fishing, we hope to repeat this experience soon.

August – Air Fest – Romeoville, IL

Tug-a-war with a corporate jet, welding, flight simulators, robotics, model rockets, and RC airplanes, what more can I say, but; Funky Circus Band with hundreds of glow sticks and beach balls, followed by spectacular fireworks.

September – Warren Dunes State Park – Bridgeman, MI

Sun food and sand; the sand blew hard but we climbed every dune.

October – Feast of the Hunters Moon–West Lafayette IN

Food, fires, wood smoke, knives, explosions, root beer jugglers with flaming batons, and cannons! What's not to like? Did we mention food?

November – Lincoln Trail/ Thanksgiving Feast–New Salem State Park, Petersburg, IL.

Hiking the historic district of Springfield makes for a hungry Troop! Deep Fried Thanksgiving Turkeys with all the fixin's hit the spot. We ate like Kings!

December – Survival Campout! – Grand Junction, MI

Welcome to the frozen tundra of Camp Chobak, Michigan in December. Grab a tarp and design your shelter and redesign it and design it again. Minimalist camping.

Cooking and eating over open fires. Thinking of snow. Making great memories.

January – Klondike Derby – Von Oven - Naperville, IL

Chopping trees with axes, Mr. Bukowski's gourmet lunch, all-you-can-drink hot chocolate... and Cub Scouts, mushing their sleds over to learn scouty things like egg cooking, ladder lashing and knife safety. Just enough snow + sun + 7 scouts = a chill Klondike!

January – Ski Trip Cascade Mountain – Portage, WI

Awesome snow, weather, snowboarding and skiing – if you please, now if Mr. Schmidt could just find his keys!

February - Tobogganing Campout- Pokagon State Park, Angola, IN

Great weather, great cabins, great snow and a fantastic toboggan run.

What can we say but -Weeeeeeeee!

March – New Scout Camp-in – Woodridge United Methodist Church – Woodridge, IL

Ten new scouts all working with older scouts learning how to use the troop camping equipment, completing advancement and having fun.

Who said putting up a tent in the dark is not fun?

Now if we can get the letters off the scouts and on the patrol flag.

March – EAA Museum – Oshkosh WI

EAA Museum was great fun with many cool airplanes. We felt like real pilots after the flight simulators. Then we got to hangar around all night.

April - Advancement Campout - BSA Adventure Camp – Rochelle, IL

We started out with a spot of rain but before long knots were being tied, fires built, knife and ax learned followed by bit of first aid.

We ended with a hike down to the lake where we found a pirate ship. YO-HO, Now that's Scouting, matey!!

May - Indy 500 Time Trials - Camp Belzer - Indianapolis, IN

The roar of the engines, the Indy cars were faster than ever. When they went around the track they sounded like thunder. Wait, that wasn't the cars!

June – Webelos Overnight – Camp Thunderbird (Green Valley) – Naperville, IL

Three for three on rainy campouts, but no unhappy looking cub scouts. Who could be unhappy when you get to cook and start a fire! Great help from the boys, including several new scouts.

In the troop only a few months and already teaching the cub scouts. Topped off with a campfire run by 505 with a nicely done flag ceremony.

June – OA Spring Fellowship – Camp Freeland Leslie – Oxford, WI

Five new Ordeals, one new Brotherhood and a few of us old guys, braved heavy rain and cold weather to get the camp ready for summer.

The rain broke in time for the shiny new sashes to stay dry. Although we did find out that one of the 3 Ws in OA stands for wood chips.

This is my 7th and last troop t-shirt. I hope you have enjoyed my words.

Happy camping.

Mr. Birch