

White Stag Junior Leadership Training Conference - 2000



Woods & Water Session Close-out Report



White Stag June Session
Close out Report

Subject: June Session Close out

To: George DeBlois Kirk Mangold Pam Ballard Jim Carmichael

Chuck Sparks

(Members of the White Stag Committee)

David Bardos, Training Chairman

Scott Claybaugh, Council Executive

Fred Freeman, Outdoor Activities Director

cc: Tim Palmer, June Course Director; Dick Parrot, July Course Director

First I would like to thank you all for your continued support of the White Stag Program. Without your help and support this year, the new Woods and Water session would not have been possible. George DeBlois has informed me that he will publish separately the budget report for all the sessions. The following report highlights our staff development weekends and course highlights for the Woods and Water session. *I asked you to pay particular attention to the following:*

- *Camp preparation*
- *2001 recommendations for National Junior Leader Training Conference – NJLTC.*
- *Other Recommendations and Concerns*

Thank you again for allowing me the honor of being the Course Director for this year and being asked to return as Course Director in 2001. We had a great staff this year that put on an outstanding course for the participants and I look forward to next year.

Bruce Henry



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- 1. Staff Selection:** The 2000 Woods and Water's session staff was recruited from returning June and July staff members and from interviews held on October 17 by the Woods and Water staff, and December 4 and 11, 1999 in conjunction with the June and July 2000 staff. Interviews were conducted on any interested participant from the 1998 and 1999 White Stag course. Letters were sent out to all participants in late October 1999 for return in November. From the returned letters, interview times were scheduled and those times relayed to the interested participant by letter and phone calls. Experienced staff was recruited from the June and July session by personal invitation so as not to deplete any one session's experienced youth. For the Woods and Water session, 4 adults and 13 youth were selected from around the council, see attachment 1 for totals by district. The Scoutmaster, Asst. Scoutmaster, SPL and ASPL were selected prior to the interview weekends and they help to conduct interviews as members of teams.

The staff met for orientation on Sunday, January 9, 2000 at Castleton Church of Christ. This first staff meeting is to answer any and all question that new staff members and their parents have as to the commitment level expected and to the cost involved being a member of the White Stag staff. New staff members were required to pay \$62.50 in staff fees and returning staff members \$30.00 plus replacement of any lost or missing staff items. As the development went on staff purchased a scout field hat (\$34.00), a pair of zipper legged pant (\$24.00) and one or two green polo staff shirts (\$25.00 each). This made it very expensive to be on staff.

The interview process is a very valuable tool and should be offered to all prior year participants and past staff who have not served for a year or so. We have found in the last three years that the boys who are truly interested in staff will apply and those who are not will not apply. We find that the staff opportunity allows for more growth for these young men. Training does not stop at the end of last years course but continues each year he is on staff. Physical forms were collected and staff obligations signed by each member of staff.

- 2. Staff Development.** Staff development for the course was divided into five sessions for the Woods and Water session. The following is a listing of our session's staff development:

- A. February 11 - 13, 2000.** This session was held at the Powell residence in Muncie and centered on First Aid Training. Forest Craig of the Muncie Chapter of the Red Cross conducted the training. We had decided on the Sports First Aid and Adult CPR training because it taught prevention and early detection, as well as post occurrence treatment. The youth also gave their first course presentation on "SETTING THE EXAMPLE". Since this is not one youth staff has done before, all staff was on equal footing for the presentation. This session allowed the staff to grow together, to begin to



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work together and to start the process of bonding. Staves were presented to each staff member at the close of this session.

- B. March 10-12, 2000.** This staff development weekend was held at Camp Belzer with the June staff and centered on team building skills and presentations. The two sessions conducted their own staff development with June using the main room of the Gyro and Woods and Water using the basement. I feel this weekend is important for it helped the staffs of the two sessions get acquainted by sharing meals and free time together. Youth were assigned their troop positions and received their position patches.
- C. April 28 - 30, 2000.** The third staff development weekend was held at Ransburg Scout Reservation, Wilderness Point campsite. The session centered on each staff member making a formal presentation of assigned topics to the troop. These presentations were held under the trees with the staff trying various methods of doing a presentation. Saturday afternoon and early evening was spent hiking the first 10 miles of the trail. This included cross-country orienteering. Assigned key functions for the course. Karla Powell - Nature Game and Adventure Trail, Wayne Wentz - Orientation Trail, and the Outdoor cooking demonstration. Scoutmaster and SPL responsible for training Troop Guides, Assistant Scoutmaster and ASPL training of instructors, and the Logistics Coordinator training of Quartermasters. Camp service was given by setting 12 post for the Low COPE Course. We started selecting patrol campsites, ceremonial areas and staff sites. Camp water was on in the campsite.
- D. May 12-14, 2000.** The fourth staff development weekend was held at Ransburg Scout Reservation, with camping in Deer Haven campsite and activities in the Scoutmaster's Lounge. We worked on position training for each staff member. Orientation Trail positions selected and practiced. Outdoor cooking demonstration positions were selected and the menu established in preparation for next month's practice of this event. We scouted an access point to get from the Deam's Wilderness to the Hickory Ridge trail system. Many of the old access roads had been closed and privatized. We were able to cross a new land purchase and scouted a location for campsite 2. Troop numerals were presented to each staff member at the campfire on Saturday night
- E. June 3, 2000.** This session was held at Camp Kithuwanan and was mostly a shake done for the participants. The staff arrived on Friday night but we were unable to practice presentations because of a power outage. Only half of the participant attended most others were taking the SATs. Next year we need to check that calendar date. Also we should do this at Ransburg. The SPL, ASPL and troop Guides checked packs to be sure the patrol members had the proper gear and took about a two-mile hike with gear. While they were gone the TIs and Mr. Wentz prepared the canoeing area. Once the youth



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returned they launched canoes and demonstrated their canoeing abilities. Lunch was then served. After lunch the SPL and ASPL presented the Outpost hike presentation. The participants left around 3:30 P.M. and the staff left around 5:00 P.M.

F. June 16-18, 2000. The final staff development session was held at Blackwell Camp grounds in Deam's Wilderness. We had planned to canoe the Salt Creek in preparation for the session but the water was about 20 feet above normal. We decided to launch at Cutwright Boat Launch, at \$1.50 per canoe and canoe to the Adventure trail site and Campsite 4. Campsite 4 was 7 miles from the launch and with the wind and skills level of our youth they didn't quit make it there before time to return. Since I was the odd man, I used this time to go to Ransburg and check on the final arrangements for the session with Pam, Matt and Keith. After we returned to camp the staff practiced presentations, workout details on equipment and supplies for the Adventure trail and Cooking demo. The evening campfire was used to practice skits and song before the downpour washed the campfire away, literally as well as physically. Final Uniform inspections were done.

G. Pre-course Set-up. Precourse began on Thursday evening June 29, 2000. A majority of the staff arrived on site during this evening with all arriving by Friday night.

a. Thursday. With space at a minimum, the youth set up camp due west of the concrete pad only about 100 ft out with the adults just to the south of them. The camp was in amazing good shape upon our arrival. Keith, Dave, and Stimie had mowed, moved the brush pills into the woods and repaired the flagpole. Keith informed me that the power was not on in the OutPost Camp buildings but would request it on Friday morning. He then found a place for us to recharge the radios in the maintenance shed. I had brought a troop trailer with all the gear from Red Wing, went back and picked up a rack of canoes from Belzer, and returned to camp. Jim Powell brought the second rack of canoes down with them. So all equipment we needed to start the session was in camp.

b. Friday. Set up silver bullets as QM and presentation area over the concrete pad. We placed the trailer next to the restroom building so it would be easy access from the cooking area. The Logistic staff then set it up as a food storage area. We selected patrol sites, moved in the gear and set them up. At lunch we discussed the location for the activity areas. In the afternoon we gathered spares, build two additional flagpoles and started the gateway. After all preparations were finished we did a final run through of presentation. Keith dropped by just before supper to tell us the power company had came and finished the electrical hook ups around 5:00 p.m., so we were



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able to charge the radios at the OutPost campsite Hilltop. Evening staff feast held and commitment campfire.

1. Woods and Water Session. The Woods and Water Session began on Saturday, July 1 at 8:00 a.m. with the arrival of 11 participants. We had one no show patrol member. The course went well with no unsolvable problems. One participant came with a questionable knee and had to be taken off the trail Monday night. Several staff members camped in some tall grass on Sunday evening and ended up with severe case of chiggers. The usual blisters, sore feet and aching muscle due to the exertion were prevalent, but no major injuries occurred during the course. The staff did very well in helping to prevent serious injuries by applying their first aid training. One staff member, Dan Richards, used his training to help save a life at a restaurant while on vacation. Overall the course ran well and the participants had a great experience. I would like to thank Dick Parrot for handling the slide presentation at the feast.

Below is a synopsis of special things that happened on the trail. A copy of the daily schedule is attached.

1. **Saturday:** The participants arrived. Fairly uneventful, day went according to schedule.
2. **Sunday:** First flag raising was a bit late while waiting for one of the patrols and staff trying to figure out what was the best way to come in. The cooking demo had a few rough spots. It takes a cast iron Dutch oven full of oil longer than 15 min. to heat to make donuts. We were scheduled to leave camp at 4:00 p.m. but didn't get everyone out until 4:45p.m. We had a few youth that wanted to take more than 25% of body weight and argued long and hard for this. The first day on the trail was a grueling 9 miles and took 4.5 hours. This put us in campsite around 9:30 p.m., which was about dark time. We had sent two staff ahead to scout out campsites. The mistake was not sending a radio with them. They took a wrong turn and ended back at the trailhead we used to enter the forest. They arrive a campsite one around 11:00 p.m. and I had a few more gray hairs. We also discovered that the patrol members only brought 1 liter of water each in an effort to reduce weight. We were three miles from the nearest trailhead and 1.5 from the nearest stream. The cell phones were used to arrange a water drop the next morning at a trailhead.



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3. **Monday:** Breakfast cleanup would have to wait for campsite 2. Our auxiliary staff found a place to have a flag raising. Afterwards the patrols had the Map and Compass instruction. Up till this time the TG and TI led the patrols. Now the Patrol lead was given the map and he was in charge of guide the patrol to its next destination. While the patrol had their instruction, the auxiliary staff and I head for the water pickup to bring water to a presentation site so the youth could rehydrate. This presentation was not part of the syllabus but was done by a HNF staff member on "How to Identify Animal by Their Bones". It was an interesting presentation. Today's hike was supposed to be 8 miles but we cut that in half by transporting the youth from one trailhead to another. This length of 4 miles allowed us to keep on schedule as well as the staff and participants were not as tired. We end up pumping water at this location because most of the youth still only had one-liter carrying capacity. At the trailhead they drank most of the 30 gallons of water. That evening when the Logistics team came in for supper they brought 2 liter bottles for each youth as well as three 5 gal jugs. We did this to make sure each youth had at least 3 liters carrying capacity. Michael left with the Logistics Team.
4. **Tuesday:** Today things went pretty much according to schedule except the temp was in the low 90s and the valley we were in had a lot of limestone face and no breeze. We used most of the three liters before lunch. This was one of the sites we didn't have time to check before session. It turned out to be over grown with scrub brush so we travel 5.5 miles instead of 4. That evening will doing presentations it rained and this was the only time we had to use the plastic flys and staves. Had to send Karla Powell and John Powell to Immediate Care for Johns chiggers. They had started to bleed.
5. **Wednesday:** Short trip to the launch point A. Area looks good. Unfortunately it took them 3 hour to make it a mile and a half down stream because of logjams. Didn't make it to site 4
6. **Thursday:** transported group to Pines Launch ramp across cause way to reduce the distance down from the 10 to 12 miles they would have had to canoe to get to site 5 to around 3. We could only transport half of the group at a time. This took nearly 2 hours because of the distance and roads. This put us way behind schedule, so the staff at each end gave presentations to utilize the time and to get back on schedule. These adjustments didn't leave much time for playing in the water. The participants after doing the adventure trail had minor problem of not being able to find the trail to lead to the top of the ridge. They had to reconnoiter for about fifteen-minute to find it. They head off and the staff brought



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back the canoes and headed to camp around 3:30. Still 2 hour behind. The patrol made it back to Ransburg covering 9 miles in less than 3.5 hours. This put them in around 7:00 p. m. They fixed supper and went to bed!

7. **Friday:** Patrols arrived at camp around 8:00p.m. After setting up their tents and stowing gear we had flag raising with Frivolous Friday. The rest of the day went according to schedule.
8. **Saturday:** Clean up and packing was a breeze. Michael was given his last presentation so he had all seen all of the 11 skills. Troop backpacked to main for closing and the patrol members left around 11:00. The staff returned to WP finished packing and was out by 3:30 p.m.

9. Staff Recommendations. The following recommendations are made for the 2001 staff selections. I recommend that we overstaff by about two boys per troop just in case staff members drops out during the training process which happened this year. This didn't cause a big problem since we had planned for four patrols and ended with two. Add two more adults (at least one over 21years of age) to the Logistic team to cover having youth in camp, while Logistics is on the road doing resupply.

- **Adults.** I recommend that Karla Powell continue as the Assistant Course Director and be appointed Scoutmaster of the first troop. Recommend that Wayne Wentte return as a Scoutmaster if a second troop is formed or as the ASM of the first troop, so that he can learn the course from that position. This would allow him to bring the course to his new Council. I would like to use Paul Neville as a trainer for two Staff Development weekends doing the Leave No Trace training, even though he has not been to Wood Badge.
- **Youth.** I highly recommend that all youth staff members be afforded an opportunity to return to staff.

I recommend Matt Murawski as the SPL for the first troop. If a second troop is formed I recommend John Powell as the SPL.

The following individuals should be considered for the position of ASPL,

Jeff Kenefake

Dan Richards

James Deery

Dan Proctor



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NJLTC recommendation. I recommend that the following youth be offered an opportunity to attend NJLTC at Philmont,

Jeff Kenefake

Dan Richards

James Deery

Dan Proctor

1. Concerns and Recommendations

- a. White Stag Oversight Committee.** I would like to thank George DeBlois from the committee for his assistance on Sunday morning during registration, during Thursday's overnight, assisting with the ceremonial aspects of the session and running the trading post at closing. This help and assistance should continue in the future. I would also like to thank Chuck Sparks for all his help in preparation of all the handout material. The main problem I see in this situation is the problem with communicating registration activities to everyone that needs it when on the critical first two days of the course he is not there to answer question you might have. Another problem is when you are to hand out material or equipment when you are not sure who has what.
- b. Use of Ransburg.** I feel that Ransburg Scout reservation is the ideal location for holding this training. And with more planning the impact of this session on Summer Camp can be reduced to almost nil. The Wilderness Point camp site is one of the nicest camping areas at Ransburg. It affords us easy access to the Hoosier National forest, Deam's Wilderness and Lake Monroe so varied activities can be made part of this session. A few suggestions to make the session run smoother in order of importance:
1. Work with Keith to map out additional sites for patrols and staff. Possibly letting some strategically place brush grow to break up the openness of the campsite.
 2. More new picnic tables. (The course of 4 patrols requires 12-14 tables). We currently have about 7 usable tables.
 3. Revamp the restroom facility with a second door to the back stool.



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4. Obtain a propane boiler so a temporary shower facility can be erected.
5. Place a shelter over the concrete pad
6. Restore power to the campsite.

a. Changes to the session:

1. Staff come in on Wednesday evening for precourse.
2. Staff hike entire trail before session.
3. Staff have canoe training weekend before course.
4. The amount of time spent in transit needs to be shorten to 4 -5 miles.
5. Increase free time for patrol members.

- a. Upgrading Training Equipment.** We need to look at upgrading some of our training equipment and supplies. We should consider the purchase of silver bullets to support our training needs. We currently barrow silver bullets from Troops to be able to conduct the course. We need to purchase 5-7 more backpacking stoves and 1 - 3 more water purifiers to support the four patrols and staff requirements if we move to increase to 4 patrols. As well as trees and hoses for the propane tanks. We should not have to borrow these things from units. Radio communications is essential to a successful course. We used 6 training radios this year for close range communication. Long-range communication had to be done with personal cell phones. At one point we were 22 miles from the Logistic base and the hand held radios only cover 2 miles. Also, a portable weather radio needs to be available during weeklong courses to keep current on severe weather for safety reasons.

- b. District Involvement.** We need to continue to diversify the staff to try to include youth and adults from all districts in the Council. This year most of the staff was from the Indianapolis or the Muncie area. Hopefully we can recruit past participants from different areas.



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- c. **Budget changes:** Add money for gasoline (\$150.00), this session 1100 miles was put on my truck, I am not sure how many miles were put on Karla's or Wayne's vehicle. Add money to cover First Aid training (14 *\$15.00).

Again, thank you for this opportunity to serve the youth of our Council. Each year upon leaving this camp I am rejuvenated with the spirit of Scouting and my faith in the youth's ability to run a program if given the chance.

Bruce G. henry
Course Director
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Attachment -- Breakdown of Participants by District

Del-Mi	1
Golden Eagle	2
Houkoda	1
Northstar	1
Tsungani	1
Hoosier Trail Council	5