

# Backwoods Bulletin



Sleepy Creek Boys Camp Motto: Forming Successful Relationship Skills

**“How do you survive the winter?”  
We hear this question quite often. Here is a little  
peek into winter at camp!**



Then the cook hollers, “Go to logs cause breakfast is ready.”

After a filling breakfast of the heavy, mountain-man casserole our growling hunger is silenced. We brush teeth, then hit it again. While the cooks prepare lunch, we keep on killing our work goals. After cutting another fifteen loads of wood, lunch is ready. We set goals for lunch time, wash our half frozen hands, and head into the cozy chuck tent for some fire chicken Alfredo. Really hits the spot on a cold day like this! Then after dishes are scrubbed, we go catch a few zeds for siesta.

“Hoyaa...”

Well, that felt good to rest a bit, but now it's time to roll again. We gotta clean out the old ashes from last night and reset the stove for tonight. Someone yells, “Hey Chief, what's the low temp for tonight?”

Chief says, “Looks like 2° so gonna be a good one.”

After getting our stoves dialed, we grab our shower bags and head for showers. “Ya buddy!”

“Warm showers at that,” says another.

After a bunch of singing, screaming, and harmonica shrieking, we finish some of the most killer showers ever!

## A Peek into a Winter Day with the Trailblazers

The time is 6:30 am. “Well guys, it's time to get up!” We hear throughout the tents as Chief wakes us all up. Well, well... it's another day. Slowly, I peek out from the tangled pile of blankets. First things first. The wood stove is definitely almost burnt out, so someones gotta brave the cold to get it roaring again. Up we jump, and with the cold adrenaline, scamper to the stove and stoke the fire. Then we fold all our blankets. You can hear the sound of campers flipping their mattresses throughout the tents. After tidying our tent up and a bit of convo about the night and our “interesting” dreams, we layer up and head out into the bitter cold West Virginia morning.

“It's a crisp one,” says one feller.

“Ya, I can't feel my feet, but other than that, we're here.” says another.

Once we all gather at logs, Chief brings a little inspiration and then we have prayer to start the day. Then a guy reads the day plan off to let us know what we're getting into today.

“We'll cut twenty loads of fire wood this morning and another twenty in the afternoon.”

After the day plan, we go over the goals we set for the day to make it go smoothly. Then we quickly pick who's gonna help the cooks on their meals.

“Well, we better get rollin' to stay warm.” says Chief. “Let's go do our chores!”

Our chores consist of a variety of things. You might get to clean and refill our sooty lanterns from last night's journey up to camp, or you might get the duty of setting a pow-wow that's ready to light with one match (hopefully), or you might just get stuck with raking the trails to spiff things up. After we've got that knocked out, we meet back up at logs. The breakfast cooks head down and grab their food and start cooking while the rest of us make a tool list and head down to tool box to grab our tools. The day's tools are two boys axes, four splitting mauls, three log carriers, and three cross cuts. First thing, we grab the log carriers and haul the logs up to the x-logs, grunt style. Soon, crosscuts are singing and blanks are falling about as fast as the snow! Splitting mauls are whistlin' and the guys are hollering. All of a sudden a split piece gets yeeted right into a guy's shin.

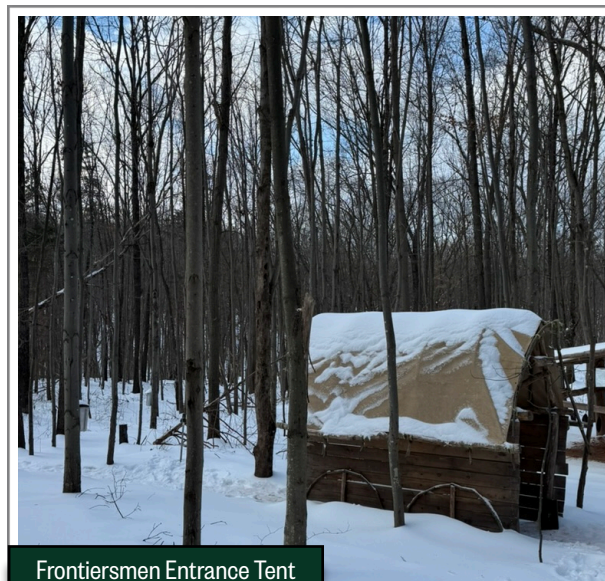
“Beeeeep!”

“Chief, can we have a circle up please?”

“Let's do it guys,” says Chief.

After we've all dropped our tools and scrambled to the circle, we tune in to what needs attention. The now semi-crippled guy says through pain-clenched teeth. “Well, I suppose I could have used better choice of words.”

Back to work we go. Soon, someone yells. “Guys, this is the fifteenth load.”



Frontiersmen Entrance Tent

Guys will be guys lol! We scramble up to campsite, and the cooks start cooking supper while we finish work goals.

"Go to logs," is yelled from cook tent.

We gather the tools and beat it to logs. Looks like it's burgers and onion rings tonight. Phew! we can finally slow down. After a relaxing supper by the wood stove, we all are almost sleeping.

"Let's make a circle on wood corral," says Chief.

We evaluate our goals and discuss how supper went, and then we brush our teeth again. While the cooks clean up and wash dishes, we take tools and trash down to toolbox.

Well well, boys, day is almost over. After Chief lights our stoves, it is time for pow-wow. I promise pow-wow is the best time of the day.

Chief asks, "Are y'all's ready to go to pow- wow?" To make sure there isn't anything we need to talk about.

On the short walk to pow-wow the moon is the only light to our path. Looking back you can see the lanterns' glow and hear and smell our stoves roaring. Once we all sit down and are quiet, Chief hands the matches over to the one who set the pow-wow. When the honors are done and pow-wow is crackling, discussion begins.

"How was the day?"

"What were the highlights?"

"Anything that could be improved?"

After a nice uplifting conversation about the day, we review our day goals.

"Over all I think we did really good," says Chief. We all agree. After Chief reads the day plan for tomorrow, we decide what would be good goals for the day.

"What about give compliments?" says one guy.

"Let's do it." Chief says.

"And we should remember we're on the same team," says another.

"Bet!"

"Y'all's ready for prayer?" says Chief.

After a prayer to end the day, we all say our goodnights and head to our cozy tents. Chief tucks us all in and gives us a big bear hug. The peaceful "hooyaaaa" is called and day is done. I promise there isn't a better way to live than living securely in the wilderness of "Almost Heaven" West Virginia. **-Trailblazer Camper**



An average of one wheelbarrow load of wood was used per night in the sleep tent stoves.



Frontiersmen Campsite

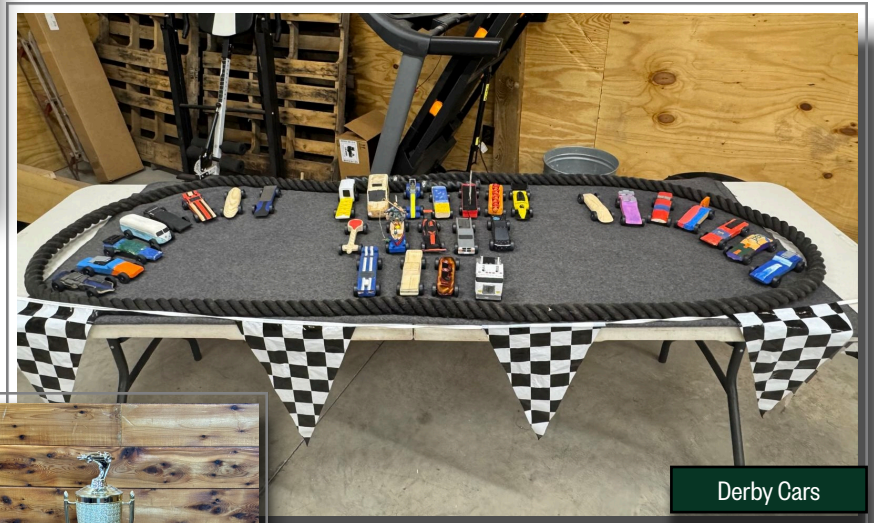
### A Day in the Life of Winter Camp

Good morning! We sleepily climb out of bed, fold our blankets, flip our mattresses, tuck in our hospital corners, and enjoy the warmth of the stove. We sweep, pack our shower bags, put on our coats and overalls, and head out to logs for devotions and day plan. After devotions, we clear snow off the trails. Then we head up to logs and wait a few minutes till table setter and the rest of our cold group goes in for an amazing breakfast. After "hoya hoyo" and prayer, we dig into a delicious meal. Soon we're outside to evaluate, collect tools, and do our usual hitting privy, brushing teeth, and doing work goals. After work goals are done, we clean up, bring up tools, and head to logs to wait for lunch. Soon we get inside to eat a delicious lunch. Then we evaluate, have siesta, and do afternoon goals. Late afternoon we take showers then go to logs for supper. After supper we evaluate chuckwagon and go to campsite to brush teeth, light stoves, and have pow-wow. At the end of the day, Chiefs tuck us in for hoyo. Goodnight! **-Frontiersmen Camper**

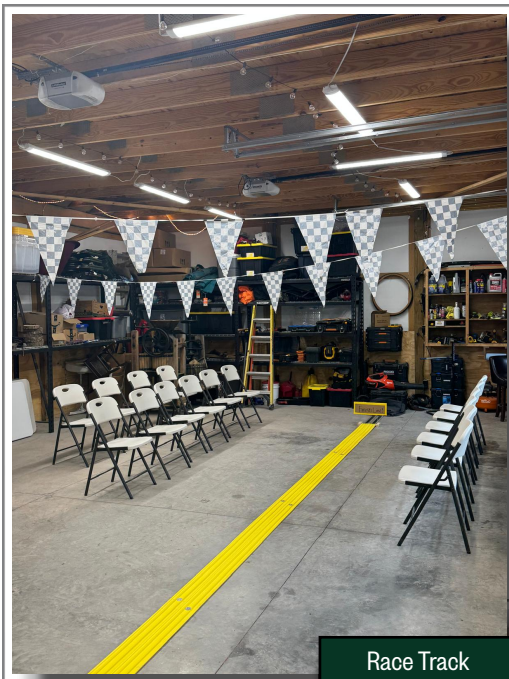


### RACE DAY!!

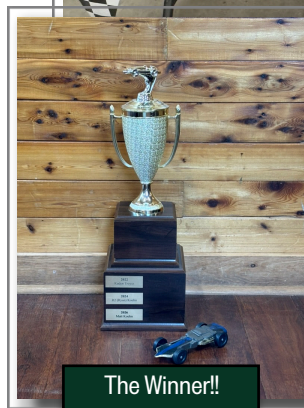
Race day started at 3:00pm in Chief Kendall's shop. There was a lot of work put into designing and carving the cars! We had a blast watching the cars race and then enjoyed burgers, fries, and milkshakes! First place was given to the fastest car out of each group, most creative out of each group, and best workmanship out of each group. The Grand prize was the fastest out of all the cars! **Good work, Guys!**



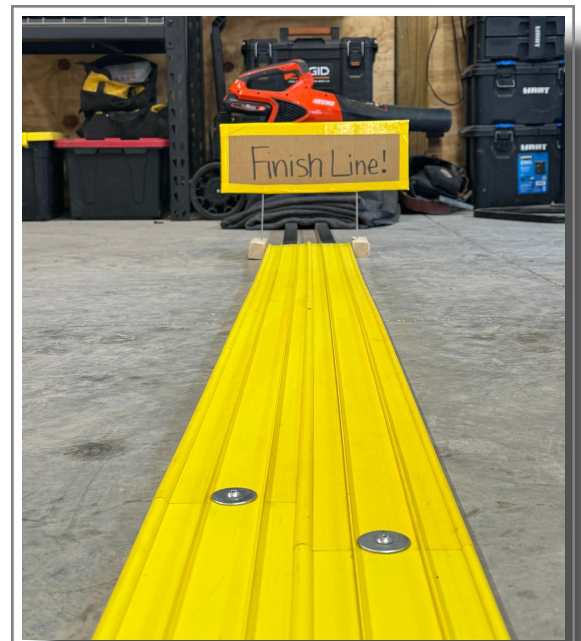
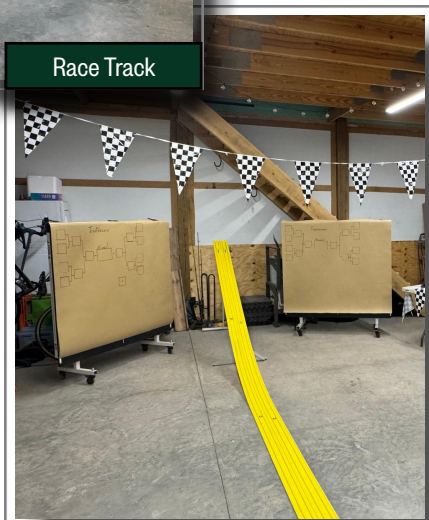
Derby Cars



Race Track

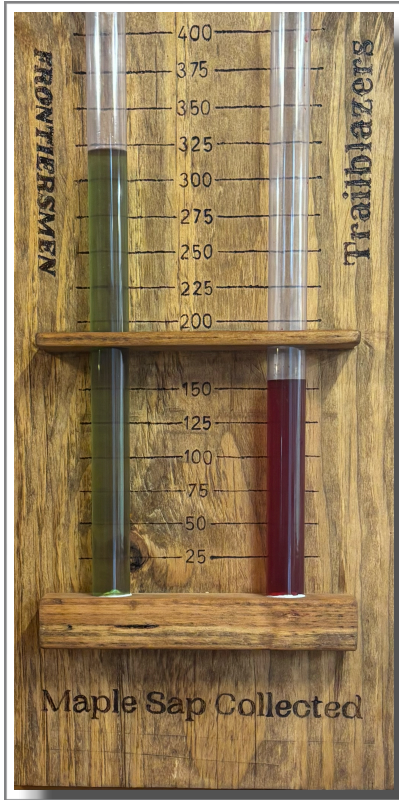


The Winner!!



### Maple Syrup!!

The Frontiersmen and Trailblazers collected 493.5 gallons of sap. We boiled it down and got six gallons of yummy maple syrup!



Collecting Sap



Boiling sap



The Finished Product

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Chapel

### SCBC Winters

Winter at Sleepy Creek can be a really interesting time for many people. We as campers live outside all our camp life and are exposed to the elements. The main winter element at camp is the cold. Last year it hit -10°F with highs in the lower to upper twenties. So I'll explain just a little tip. Dress accordingly for the weather because, if you don't dress enough, cold and sickness will take its toll on your body and others.

One of the winter activities we do here is sledding. We sled down a pretty treacherous pedestrian filled hill that is kind of steep. The groups are greatly competitive when it comes time to sled! We also collect sap for our supervisors to melt down into maple syrup for us to consume on our pancakes here. All in all camp activities in the winter are pretty chill here. -**Trailblazer Camper**

### Sledding

Sledding is a really fun sport to do during the winter when the snow is slick and dry. Pelican sleds work the best. They also go insanely fast and you sometimes end up sliding across the pond. Rain gear also works for sliding on the snow. Keep the good gear on and the layers put on right and you are good to go. Hope you enjoy sledding and wish you good luck.

-**Frontiersmen Camper**



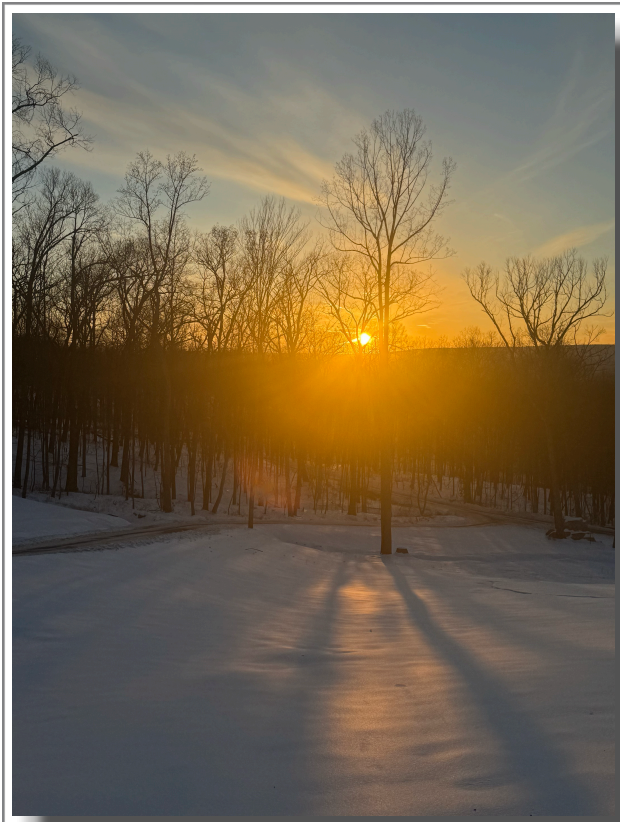
Sledding Hill





up to camp, and it starts snowing. Ugh, your kidding me, more snow? When we get to camp we brush teeth. Well, it is zero degrees and our toothpaste and tooth brushes are frozen. That is a different experience. After brushing teeth, we go get to work.

"What time is it?" someone asks. If they don't get an answer right away, they will do the classic thing and make your heart really jump. If we want to make it to lunch, we better hurry. We have to be on logs in twenty minutes.



### A Camp Day

The time is 6:20, and Chief is stomping around in his tent. Oh shoot, must be time to get up. He comes around at 6:30 to get us up, and after violently shaking us and saying "time to get up," he goes to the other tents. We flip our mattresses, fold our blankets, get our shower bags packed, and warm up by the stove for the last time before heading out.

As you walk around by tents you hear a couple guys say, "Morning bro, how was your night?"

"Pretty good. A little chilly but I'm here now so."

After everyone is out on logs, Chief goes and checks tents to make sure they're clean, then we have devotions and do chores. After chores are done, we come back to logs.

"What time is it?" someone asks.

"Time to get going."

We make our way to chuckwagon logs in a single file line and sit down. Someone is like "I'll take first out of logs."

"I'll take second."

"Third."

After table setter goes in and we set goals, we can go out of logs for a couple minutes. When the chief calls us in, we go down to chuckwagon and go sit down. The chief calls "hoya hoyo" and we yell it back and are quiet. Then he asks one of us to pray, and after prayer, Chief serves out food, and drink server serves out drinks. After everything is served out, we go over our goals and Chief says "let's enjoy." When we are done eating, we pass in and get the table cleaned up and have a bit of time to write and do stuff. Then the chief who called us in, calls "hoya hoyo," and we tune in. He asks each group how their day was and if they have anything to bring to chuckwagon. Then we sing out of our camp song books which usually raises our attitudes.

After chuckwagon we evaluate our goals and see if there are any problems to take care of. We head back

After work goals, we wash hands and go to logs for lunch. Table setter gets to go into the warm chuckwagon and leave us in the freezing outdoors. We have a normal chuckwagon, and after lunch, we have a thirty minute siesta. Then Chief wakes us up, and we set our stoves for night and get to work. We go sledding for a bit then. Twenty-one mph on a sled is fast and hurts when you wreck. Then we go to logs, have chuckwagon, take showers, go to camp, brush teeth, and go to top logs. Chief lights stoves and we go to pow-wow and talk about the day. Then we go to bed, and Chief tucks us in. Then he calls hoyo, and we all are quiet. Goodnight, boys.

**-Trailblazer Camper**

## Progress Report...



- Our education goal for this session was astronomy. We enjoyed looking at the stars and planets on different nights with our new telescope!
- We Frontiersmen just took a Roadtrip in which we visited the Ohio Air and Space, The Ark and Ohio Wilderness Boys Camp.
- We Frontiersmen had a goal of keeping their wood tent full this winter.
- The house for our new Family Worker has been completed and they have moved in. Thank you for coming and joining us!
- We Trailblazers have been starting to build a new cook tent. Keep up the good work!

- We Trailblazers have been planning a hiking trip for April. We are very excited for it!



## Welcome...

- Chief Trevor from Clarksdale, MS. Thank you for joining our Maintenance Team!
- Chief Kenyon from Bloomfield, IA. Thank you for coming to Chief our Frontiersmen Group!
- Miss Katelyn from Ballico, CA. Thank you for coming to cook us some delicious meals!
- Chief Dennis and Miss Lois from Shippensburg, PA. Thank you for coming to be houseparents for our off-duty Chiefs and Maintenance!
- Chief Jedd and Miss Hannah from Grifton, NC. Thank you for joining us as a second Family Worker!

## Goodbye...

- Goodbye Chief Bill, thank you for all your hard work keeping everything running here!
- Goodbye Chief Jake, thank you for all that you did chiefting and supervising the Frontiersmen. You were a solid rock for them to lean on!
- Goodbye Chief Alex, thank you for chiefting the Frontiersmen. Your efforts have benefitted many here at camp!
- Goodbye Miss Nertle, thank you for all the good meals you cooked us!
- Goodbye Chief Lee's, thank you for being our houseparents. You really made a house into a home for the Chiefs to come home to.