

Boy Scouts enjoy wilderness adventure

Twelve Boy Scouts from Troop 35 at Southside United Methodist Church in San Marco traveled to Northern Tier, the Boy Scouts of America High Adventure Base near Ely, Minnesota on June 20 for an eight-day long-distance canoe trip in the Canadian wilderness of the Quetico Provincial Park in Ontario.

“During the trip, the Scouts carried all of their own gear, became skilled in conducting portages from lake to lake, found appropriate campsites, and helped with research work to ensure the continued health of the lakes in Canada and the US Boundary Waters,” said Jon Singleton, one of the adult leaders on the trip.

The Quetico consists of over one million pristine acres with more than 600 lakes, and is breathtakingly gorgeous, according to Singleton.

“There was so much scenic beauty, and we got to camp on several islands, which was fun! We saw lots of loons, too, and they’re kind of weird birds,” said Brandon Singleton. “Showering in a waterfall was my favorite part!”

The BSA high adventure programs are open to Scouts who are 14 years or older, and who have achieved at least 1st Class rank. The other adult leaders on the trip included Wade Lindsey, Chris McGee, and Glenn Green.



Scouts Will McLaurine, Brandon Singleton, Josh Milon, Riley McGee, Alex Anderson, Dylan Tedder, James Dell’Alba, Christian Floyd, Cecil Diciara, Colton Champion, Grayson Eng, Cory Vaughn



Scouts are “gunwale up” while preparing to test the water clarity in Lake Louisa. Front boat: Cecil Diciara, Cory Vaughn, James Dell’Alba; rear boat: Dylan Tedder, Will McLaurine, Brandon Singleton



Scouts at the end of a portage at Louisa Falls: Brandon Singleton, Dylan Tedder, Will McLaurine, Cory Vaughn, James Dell’Alba, Cecil Diciara

Grant funds continuation of Harkness initiative



Students at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville work collaboratively using the Harkness Method.

The Episcopal School of Jacksonville received a \$40,000 grant for professional development from the Benedict Foundation for Independent Schools. This year, the Foundation funded proposals throughout the United States that support teachers who are inspired, well-prepared and innovative.

Episcopal applied for the grant for support of its Harkness initiative, a widespread change to its teaching paradigm with a move toward student-centered, collaborative learning.

“Episcopal is grateful to the Benedict Foundation for its support of our foray into Harkness teaching,” said Charles F. Zimmer, Head of School. “This program has enlivened our faculty and engaged our students, and we are excited about its potential here.”

Named for philanthropist Edward Harkness, this style of teaching has been used successfully at Phillips Exeter Academy since the 1930s and since then at other independent schools. Its success and

continued relevance are due to its focus on students’ participation, preparation and responsibility for the subject matter, and ensures that learning is a collaborative process.

The grant enables Episcopal to fund the next phase of Harkness teaching, including on campus and off-site training, professional development trips to Exeter Humanities Institute for four teachers to learn and adopt the Harkness Method in their classrooms; evaluation and additional training for teachers already using Harkness; and training for two experienced teachers to become Harkness Method trainers.

Every student at Episcopal will benefit from Harkness in the coming academic year, because all English classes will employ the Harkness method beginning in 2015-2016. As part of the grant award, Episcopal will provide documentation of the program’s accomplishments in the coming year.

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