



ALLEGANY BOYS CAMP

inspiring change through relationship

September 2018

CRAFTS TENT

Nestled between a few trees at the edge of the campsite's wood corral is another tent, known as Crafts Tent. As you might expect from its name, boys work on craft projects in this tent.

Carving crafts out of wood is pretty popular around here. On a typical day at camp, there is often at least one boy in the group that is carrying a craft project he is working on. It may be a wooden spoon, a slingshot, a fishing lure, a small wooden canoe, a miniature ax in a chopping block, or any other craft he may have come up with. Over these next few months, we will be full swing into Christmas craft season and each boy will make at least one handmade craft to give to a family member at home.

Craft projects are a great way for boys to practice their creativity. For a boy that struggles to believe he is capable of doing anything well, completing a craft well is a real confidence booster.

Crafts Tent is more than just a place to work on crafts, though. The Crafts Tent is a useful storage area that aids in campsite organization. Most of the tools the group owns are stored in the Crafts Tent: a number of rakes for raking the campsite trails, an ax for splitting firewood, a draw knife for skinning bark off tent poles, a hammer, a tape measure, and numerous other tools.

Hanging on the wall of the Crafts Tent is a bin that



is used to store wood shavings for starting fires. There is also a rack for drying and storing kindling. A workbench in the corner provides an excellent place to work on crafts and the shelf underneath the counter is a storage area for partially completed crafts. For boys that are into fishing, there is a shelf for tackle boxes and a rack for fishing rods.

If you were to compare the tents in a campsite to the rooms in a house, the Crafts Tent would be most like a garage - an excellent place to work on projects and store tools. A Crafts Tent is more than a garage, though. It is also a cozy place to spend a winter evening. A couple of log benches provide

good seats and the wood stove in the corner radiates heat that drives away the winter cold. The group might gather there for an evening to read books or play a group game. They might take shelter there on a rainy day and draw up some ideas for the next tent they want to build.

So yes, Crafts Tent is a place where boys work on crafts, but it is also used for many other things. This useful tent contributes to a well rounded campsite.

Charles Yoder
Groupwork Supervisor

MERLE MEMORIES

and today he's going to share his knowledge with us. We will be going on a tree ramble and he will teach us about Scarlet Oak, Black Oak, Red Oak, White Oak, Chestnut Oak, Hop Horn Beam, Service Berry, and Witch Hazel. We all learned a lot during our adventure. I learned that Scarlet Oak has dead hanging branches that are slightly curved.

The next day we learned more about trees. Like... Pignut Hickory, Shag Bark Hickory, Sassafras, Dogwood, Catalpa, Cherry, Cedar, Tulip Poplar, Sycamore, Ash, Hawthorn, Paw Paw, and Black Birch. Paw Paw and Black Birch have distinct smells. Paw Paw smells like a green pepper, while on the other hand... Black Birch smells of winter green. OH, and I shouldn't forget the Sassafras. The smell and taste of the leaves often remind the eater of fruit loops.

The third day with Mountain Man Merle was a blast. Because today is the Tree test! Merle put numbers on 40 trees, and we had to identify them. But first let's go off on a bunny trail to the Hot Chocolate Stand!!

After an enjoyable hot cup of cocoa, we start the Tree Quiz. The first trees were so easy I didn't have to look at my notes. Then I started to lose confidence after #8. #7 was easy because the leaves were Golden. Plus the stem all the way up to the leaf got thinner. Also the leaf looked like it had teeth on the end of it... big teeth. Which means it could only be Big Tooth Aspen. It just got harder from there - all the trees started to look the same. But finally... I finished the test, and results came at supper time. I got 8th place with 22 trees right... how about that. John got 3rd place with 29 trees right, and last but not least Chief Brandon. A Grand Total of 33 trees right... 1st place!

The next day Mountain Man Merle preached in chapel. He talked about trees, and how we are like them. He showed us two trees... the first tree was small, and it's age was 63 years old. Then he brought in a big tree cut out. It was massive, but its age was 63 years. The difference between the trees was that one was planted by the water but the other one wasn't. So if we plant our "roots" in good places we will grow strong and prosper. But if we plant our roots in bad places we won't reach our full potential.

Throughout Mountain Man Merle's stay he sang us a few songs. His signature... "Mountain Man Forever" song was awesome. He dressed up, and we had a good time singing with him. He also sang "Blind Bartimaeus", "Roly Poly", and my favorite.. "Denomination Blues". Over all everybody enjoyed his stay and I learned some stuff about trees that I will never forget. I will end up teaching those facts to my siblings. Well...that was our time with Merle. I hope you enjoyed this article.

Several weeks ago, Merle Yoder from Gladys, VA came to spend a few days at camp and teach the boys and staff about trees. He taught us how to identify trees by their unique characteristics. Following is Logan's report about learning with Merle.



Logan
Mountaineers

Camp Kindling small pieces of camp news and needs



- 🏠 Chief Jonny Stoltzfus graduated from camp as chief on October 11. We are grateful for his investment to the Pioneer group over the last 2 years. He is planning to stay at camp for a few months to help with our chuckwagon remodel project.
- 🏠 We are happy to have Chief Matt Stoltzfus back at camp again. He is helping with the chuckwagon remodel project and is also going to help out as groupwork supervisor.
- 🏠 The Pioneer group just returned from a 3-week canoe trip on the James River. This trip was adjusted quite a few times due to flooding and high water levels. They were originally planning to canoe the Shenandoah River, but due to flooding could not go there. They started their trip several days later than planned, and in the middle of it had to get off of the James River for 3 days because of high water. We praise the Lord for looking out for them and that they had a safe and enjoyable trip in spite of all the changes made.
- 🏠 We just moved back into the kitchen section of the chuckwagon. The dining area is still at the temporary location in our maintenance building. We built several rickshaws to transport the food back and forth at meal times. The next step is to get the timberframe part of the dining area completed.