

THE  
FIRST  
BOY SCOUT ENCAMPMENT

AT

MOUNT BLUE STATE PARK

1946

JUNE 29 - JULY 13

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## FOREWORD

This, the first Eagle Scout Pioneer Camp, became a reality as a result of the State Park Commission receiving funds from the Maine Foundation. The State Park Commission heartily endorsed the expenditure of these funds for this purpose.

The charter is the labor of Field Scout Executive Howard D. Butler. The Camp Program was made up by Custodian Rudolph Waldron of Mt. Blue State Park; however, Mr. Waldron's resignation precluded his carrying out his program.

Cooperation and assistance were cordially extended by everyone contacted to lend a helping hand. Among the many the following are some that sent beyond the difinitions of duty.

Scout Leader Clinton F. Thurlow, State Trooper Wesly Records, Messrs. Frank and Bates of Camp Kewanhee, Col. Charles W. Savage, Forest Supervisor Austin Wilkins, Tower Man Ezra Noyes, Mr. Hilton of the Woodworkers of Weld, Game Warden Conant, Dr. Maynard Colley of Wilton and many others.

As indicated above this is a first experiment. We know there are opportunities to make improvements. If you have any criticism, constructive or otherwise, please write to the State Park Commission, State House, Augusta, Maine.

There is available at the above address information not included in this report that will be forwarded to officials of organizations that may be interested.

CHARLES P. BRADFORD  
SUPERINTENDENT

MAINE STATE PARK COMMISSION

T H E

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C H A R T E R

## PIONEER SCOUT CAMP REPORT

## I THE CAMP CHARTER

## A. AIMS AND PURPOSE

To provide a select group of Maine Boy Scouts an opportunity for rugged camping, pioneering, conservation, exploration and an appreciation of the natural opportunities of our State Parks and Reservations.

## B. ELIGIBILITY

The Pine Tree Council and the Katahdin Council, Boy Scouts of America shall be entitled to send two Eagle Scouts per thousand registered Boy Scouts or major fraction thereof.

A Scout to be eligible must be:

1. Fifteen years of age
2. An Eagle Scout
3. Selected and approved by the Local Council and his Scoutmaster and parents.
4. An experienced camper
5. In excellent physical condition
6. Willing to attend a two-day orientation session at a Boy Scout Camp.

## C. LEADERSHIP

Leadership shall be furnished jointly by the Boy Scouts of America and the State Park Commission. The minimum staff shall be three adults or at least one adult for each eight Scouts or fraction thereof. Each of the Boy Scout Councils shall furnish one leader. The State Park Commission shall furnish one permanent leader and such specialists as seem desirable to provide a balanced program for the Scouts.

## D. BASE CAMP

The base camp, with the approval of Boy Scouts of America, shall be established at a site chosen by the State Park Commission. The base camp shall be a tent camp, using trail equipment. No equipment of a permanent nature shall be installed. Water supply shall be approved by the State Sanitary Engineering Division of the State Health Department. Menus to be furnished by the Boy Scouts of America. Food is to be prepared by the Scouts.

## E. PROGRAM

The program shall be divided roughly into two parts, one for service and one for exploration.

## 1. Service

- a. Trail clearance and improvement

- b. Pioneer Construction
- c. Conservation Projects
- d. Wild-life Projects

## 2. Exploration

This will include trips through the immediate vicinity to points of interest, nature trips and mountain climbing as well as other types of hiking trips. All trips, when possible, will be made on foot or by canoe, with all equipment carried in packs.

In both of the above, there will at all times be one Scouter and one of the State Park representatives present.

## 3. General Program

Scouts will spend an equal amount of time on service and on exploration. Basing our program on four Crews, two would be at the base camp engaged in working on service projects while the other two Crews were away on trips of exploration. In the evening both groups would seek the fellowship of the campfire for stories, instructions, songs and discussion. During the two-week period of the camp, each Scout would be in the base camp for seven days and away on trips for seven days.

## 4. Church

Opportunities will be available for Scouts of the Protestant and Catholic Faiths to attend a regular church service on each Sunday.

## F. LENGTH OF STAY

It is proposed to conduct this camp for one two-week period. Chosen Scouts would remain for the entire period.

## G. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

### 1. Transportation

Each Scout shall be responsible for his own transportation to the public Transportation terminus nearest the camp site. The State Park Commission shall be responsible for transportation from public transportation terminus to within hiking distance of the selected camp site.

## 2. Equipment

Each Scout shall be responsible for his own:

- a. Clothing (List to be provided)
- b. Pack
- c. Eating utensils (Plate, bowl, cup, knife, fork, and spoon.)
- d. Belt axe, flashlight, first aid kit, soap, compass and toilet articles.
- e. Physical examination (Blank to be provided by Local Council)

The State Park Commission shall furnish:

- a. All tools to be used on service projects.
- b. All materials to be used on service projects.
- c. An adequate first aid kit (Large)
- d. All cooking gear
- e. Wash basins
- f. Tentage (Shelter halves)
- g. Field range
- h. The services of a licensed physician to recheck the Scouts upon their arrival at the point of departure for the base camp.

## 3. Food

To be purchased by a representative of the State Park Commission. Menus as noted previously to be furnished by the Boy Scouts of America.

## 4. Fees

Cost to each Scout for his entire stay, shall not exceed \$10.00. Spending money is not included in the above fee.

November 9, 1945

Howard D. Butler, F. S. E.

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## PIONEER SCOUT CAMP REPORT

## II THE CAMP PROGRAM

29	June	1946	Day Program Evening Program	Arrive at Mt. Blue State Park Met Ezra Noyes, Mt. Blue Tower
30	June	1946	Day Program Evening Program	Church - About camp Outing at Beach
1	July	1946	Day Program Evening Program	Put in 1-24" x 18' Culvert
2	July	1946	Day Program  Evening Program	Put in 1 - 12"x16' Culvert Mow 1/2 mile bushes
3	July	1946	Day Program Evening Program	Cut 1 1/2 miles bushes Mr. Hilton of Woodworkers of Weld talked to the boys about camping.
4	July	1946	Day Program Evening Program	Climb Tumbledown Mt. Camp out at base of Tumbledown Mt.
5	July	1946	Day Program Evening Program	Pan Gold on Swift River
6	July	1946	Day Program  Evening Program	Clear 1/2 mile trail on Center Hill and carry out fireplace wood.
7	July	1946	Day Program Evening Program	Church and about camp
8	July	1946	Day Program Evening Program	Clean 1000 s.y. beach-Caulk 1 boat State Trooper Records talks and demonstrates fly tying
9	July	1946	Day Program Evening Program	Lay out new trail on Mt. Blue
10	July	1946	Day Program  Evening Program	Clear 500 sq. yds. beach. Put in 1 - 18"x24' Culvert. Work on well. Game Warden Conant talks on hunting and fishing.
11	July	1946	Day Program Evening Program	Lay out new trail on Mt. Blue
12	July	1946	Day Program Evening Program	Wrote their themes Camp Kawanhee for driving exhibition.
13	July	1946	Day Program	Break Camp

All other evenings boys furnished their own entertainment.

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## III THE CAMP PERSONNEL

## A. EAGLE BOY SCOUTS

1. Dominique Casavant	Troop 180A	204 Colloge Street, Lewiston
2. Robert Booker	Troop 4	115 Lexington Avenue, Portland
3. John Bradford	Troop 305	202 South Street, Biddeford
4. Bruce L. Corey	Troop 30	23 Elizabeth Stroet, Gorham
5. Roger Crosby	Troop 4	93 Broadway, Portland
6. Jack Henderson	Troop 200	127 Washington Street, Camden
7. Richard Hess	Troop 176	33 Eastern Avenue, Augusta
8. Albert Hevcy	Troop 308	36 Graham Street, Biddeford
9. John McCoy	Troop 136	36 Merrill Avenue, Waterville
10. Russoll Mundi	Troop 104	43 Bowdoin Street, Winthrop
11. Alan R. Sarle	Troop 145	2 Erchles Street, Rumford
12. Robert W. Ward	Troop 20	Willow Street, Peak Island

## B. BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

1. P. L. Dunn	Executive
2. H. D. Butler	Field Scout Executive
3. C. F. Thurlow	Scout Leader

## C. STATE PARK COMMISSION

1. C. P. Bradford	Superintendent
2. R. E. Haffner	Custodian, Mt. Blue State Park
3. A. V. Bedo	Ranger, Mt. Blue State Park
4. R. C. Pettingell, Jr.	Ranger, Mt. Blue State Park
5. L. L. Bradbury	Cook

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S C O U T S

S P E A K

RULES:

1. Each Scout shall submit an article of at least 500 words which may be illustrated in any manner.
2. Article must be in the hands of Scout Official by noon Friday, July 12, 1946.
3. All articles become the property of the Maine State Park Commission.

PRIZES:

To be selected from the Scouting Catalogue by the winners, not to exceed \$2.50 each, for the first three prizes.

JUDGES:

Rev. Mrs. Mildred Huffman, Pastor, East Winthrop Church, East Winthrop, Maine.

Mr. John W. Moran, Executive Secretary to Governor Horace Hildreth, Augusta, Maine.

Mr. Harold E. Kimball, Traffic Manager and Secretary, Maine Port Authority, Portland, Maine.

THE SCOUTS SPEAK:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. "My Experiences at Mt. Blue State Park" | by Bruce Corey      |
| 2. "Eagle Scouts Encampment at Mt. Blue"   | by Robert Ward      |
| 3. "The Eagle Scout Encampment"            | by Albert Hevey     |
| 4. no title                                | by John Bradford    |
| 5. "The Eagle Encampment"                  | by Robert Booker    |
| 6. "Eagle Scout Encampment"                | by Roger Crosby     |
| 7. no title                                | by D. Casavant, Jr. |
| 8. "Two Weeks at Mt. Blue"                 | by John McCoy       |
| 9. "The First of the Pioneers"             | by Richard Hess     |
| 10. "History of Eagle Scout Encampment"    | by Jack Henderson   |

No essays were received from Russell Mundi and Alan R. Sarle.

"THE FIRST OF THE PIONEERS"

Richard Hess  
Augusta, Maine

FIRST

My adventures during the two-week stay at the Mt. Blue Eagle Pioneer Camp.

In the distance, the cloud of dust grew larger as it came nearer. Slowly the ghost-like shadows at the head of the drifting haze began to take definite shapes. One, two; no, -four; yes—four wagons, each pulled by two yoke of oxen; each with a covered top supported by ribs which arched at regular intervals over the wagon. Behind the wagons, which were tightly packed with household necessities, came the livestock, consisting usually of not more than a horse, cow, and a few pigs and sheep.

These, along with his wife and children, were all the worldly possessions owned by the first pioneers who opened up new and wonderful lands to others less daring by their courageous exploits into the unexplored west.

We too, like the hardy pathfinders of old, are striving to open up to others the many wonders which nature has hidden among her countless hills, streams and forests.

In the distance the cloud of dust grew larger as it came nearer. Rapidly the ghost-like shadows at the head of the haze took shape. This time it was not the old covered wagons of the pioneers from days gone by, but an open truck and a car of the pioneers of today.

Yes, the Eagle Scouts who were the pioneers of years to come had finally arrived at their camp sites after a long and dusty trip.

Instead of being very cheerful and optimistic about the future, we were exactly the opposite. For we thought we were going to spend our two-week stay at Mt. Blue in much-too-short-and-small pup tents with only the ground for a bed. Our dejection was soon erased by the arrival of some very large army tents and some very comfortable cots. We were further elated by the news that a cook instead of ourselves would take care of the meals. Once we had pitched our tents and had organized our things, we soon got into a daily schedule.

The purpose of this Eagle pioneering camp was to work on the Mt. Blue State Park for the park commission on a fifty-fifty work and play basis. In return for repairing roads and bushing them out, making trails and weeding beaches, the park commission planned a hike up Mt. Blue, an over-night stay at Tumbledown Mountain, fishing, and a gold panning expedition and talks by several men.

After we had reached the top of Mt. Blue we could see Mt. Katahdin, 120 miles to the east. On Tumbledown's highest peak we saw a forest fire 20 miles to the northwest. After the gold panning expedition there was enough gold dust for everybody to have a flake and some garnet sand also.

Mr. Hilton, head of the Wood Workers of Weld, gave us some hints on camping, and Mr. Conant, the game warden, gave some on hunting. Wes Record, a State Trooper, gave the most interesting talk about fly tying. He also gave us a demonstration by tying two flies, a red-and-bucktail and his own version of a brown hackle.

"The First of the Pioneers" continued

The woods around our camp was teeming with wildlife. Although we only saw one live porcupine, a pile of fourteen dead ones can be seen for a while down in the field below the cook-shed. Clinton Thurlow, our leader, and the cook especially, gave their contributions to make the pile as large as it is.

After the invasion of the porky's was thwarted, a new menace to our food presented itself in the form of racoons. Of a possible seven or eight, two coons were neatly trapped by the cook and then, much against their will, had a leash put around their necks by the cook who lead them around while they cut some fancy capers to get away. Although of short duration, this furnished us with a miniature wildwest show until the first coon got away and the other released.

Now we are going home, but not to stay. The Pioneers will be back to finish the work they have started, to help bring nature's wonders to the public.

"EAGLE SCOUTS ENCAMPMENT AT MOUNT BLUE"

Robert Ward  
Peak Island, Maine

SECOND

Twelve Eagle Scouts were selected for pioneer work at Mount Blue from Pine Tree Council.

We arrived Saturday at 2:30 p. m. and picked out our camp sites at the foot of Mount Blue.

Sunday we went to church at Wilton. It was about twenty miles from Mount Blue.

Monday we put in culverts in the road and went swimming after supper. Brad, our cook, is an excellent cook and a very good fellow.

Tuesday we worked on the road clearing brush. Then after supper we climbed Mount Blue. It sure was a nice view from the top of observation tower. Mr. Noyes showed us the map of the different mountains.

Wednesday we worked in the gravel pit and cleared brush on the road.

Thursday we camped at the foot of Mount Tumbledown and climbed it in the afternoon.

Friday, Uncle Clint, Casavant, Bradford, and I went fishing in Swift River. We caught twenty trout and cooked them on the bank of the river. Boy! were they delicious. In the afternoon we went gold panning with Camp Kewanhaee. We had a lot of fun sifting the red sand for gold.

Saturday I was on (K. P.) Kitchen Police. The rest of the boys went to Center Hill and clean up the trail.

Sunday Rudy took the boys to church. In the afternoon we played horse-shoes and so far the cook is the champion.

Monday we worked at Andy's place at Webb beach pulling up grass on the beach. During the evening Wes Record gave us a demonstration on fly tying.

Tuesday it was a misty day and we went into the town of Weld for recreation.

Wednesday we mark off an easier trail to the top of Mount Blue.

Thursday night the cook caught two raccoons in two big G. I. cans. He had quite a time to tame them when he put them on a dogs chain. He let them go after a while.

I liked this pioneer and camping trip very much. I think the Eagle Scouts should help the Park Commission every year and get pioneer experience.

Saturday we leave for Camp Hinds for two weeks.



"THE EAGLE SCOUT ENCAMPMENT"

Albert Hevey  
Biddeford, Maine

THIRD

Sometime at the end of April, I received an application for an Eagle Scout Encampment to be held at Mt. Blue State Park in Weld, Maine.

I hurriedly sent in my application and later received notice that I had been chosen as one of the 14 Eagles from Pine Tree Council to represent it at the Encampment.

On Thursday, June 27, my friend John Bradford and I left for Camp Hinds, where we spent a day and a half in training with 10 other boys.

Saturday morning at 10:30, we left Camp Hinds for Mt. Blue where we were to set up a base camp.

Upon our arrival, we were greeted by two Rangers: Rudy Haffner, the Head Ranger and Andy Bedo, his assistant. The rest of the day was spent setting up tents and preparing our bedding for the night.

That evening the two Rangers and "Junior" Pettingill came up to see how we were doing. "Junior", who has a very vivid mind, told us that there were plenty of bear up on the mountain.

So, filled with talk about bears etc....., I went to bed.

About 3:30 in the morning, I was rudely awakened by a gnawing noise beside my bed. I gathered enough gumption to turn over and see what was causing it. To my astonishment as I turned over, I saw a huge beast. My thoughts immediately reverted to what Junior had told me. "Good Lord", I said to myself, "it's a bear." I slowly turned over again and told my tent-mate, Bruce Corey, that I had a bear beside my bed. Then, Clint Thurlow, our leader, turned over and I told him the same thing. Having more courage than the rest of us, he turned his flashlight on the monstrosity which turned out to be a large porcupine, straddling my duffel bag while trying to get at some sugar I had stored in it. After considerable ribbing from my fellow campers, the episode has settled down a bit.

Sunday afternoon, we went to Webb Beach and had a "Weenie Roast." That night, I gathered somewhat of a small arsenal which I placed under my pillow, in order to protect myself against the wild beasts of the area.

The porcupine again visited us during the night but we chased it away.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday were spent clearing off and repairing the road. We were again visited on Monday and Tuesday nights by my friend the porcupine. Alas, the poor creature didn't know enough to stay away after Mr. Hilton's interesting visit Wednesday night, and Uncle Clint killed it with a multitude of blows.

"The Eagle Scout Encampment" continued

On Thursday morning, I went to breakfast blustering with the pride that one of my tent-mates had killed a porcupine. But, when I arrived at the mess tent I almost fell flat on my face. There, neatly arranged side by side, lay six "porkys" which our cook, "Brad" Bradbury had killed with his trusty Elm stick.

That morning, we left for Tumbledown Mountain where we spent the night after having a gay old time climbing it. Tumbledown was really a rugged climb compared to Mt. Blue which we climbed Tuesday night. The next morning we left at 5:30 for a fishing trip up the Swift River. As I didn't feel so well I didn't go fishing.

Friday afternoon, we went gold panning and gathered enough of the precious metal to give everyone a piece as a souvenir.

We returned to Mt. Blue Friday night and Saturday we cleared off Center Hill and later went swimming.

Sunday was spent in a quiet manner. The Catholic boys went to mass in Wilton and Protestant services were held at the base camp.

Monday and Wednesday we worked on Webb Beach clearing away grass. On Monday night we received some very fine instructions on fly tying from Wes Records, a State Trooper. Tuesday it rained so we went to Weld and got soaked coming back. That night was stunt night for the entire encampment.

Wednesday night, the Game Warden gave us an interesting talk on game laws etc.

Thursday was spent blazing a new trail up Mt. Blue. Some of the boys got some nice birch bark and made some very quaint little canoes with it.

Friday most of the boys wrote their themes for the essay contest and late Friday afternoon went swimming at Camp Kawanhoec.

Saturday morning will be spent breaking camp and late Saturday noon we shall leave for Camp Hinds after a much enjoyed sojourn here.

The food was very good and we had plenty of it. We also learned many interesting facts. So, all in all, I really enjoyed myself at the Eagle Encampment and I heartily thank the two Rangers, Rudy and Andy, our leader, Clint Thurlow, the Boy Scouts of America, and the State Park Commission for giving us such a good time.

"MY EXPERIENCES AT MT. BLUE"

Bruce Corey  
Gorham, Maine

THIRD

After a long and beautiful ride, we arrived at the spot which was to be our base camp, on Saturday afternoon about 2:30. We picked tent-mates and began to put up our tents. I was in the tent with Uncle Clint, Robert Ward, and Albert Hevey. To be honest, I had no idea how to put up our tent but with a little help from Uncle Clint and Andy, we were able to succeed in getting it up. It was quite a surprise to find out that we were sleeping in large tents with cots instead of in pup tents and on the ground. Also I think that whoever picked this spot for a base camp had very good taste. At first I was kind of disgusted because we were so far away from swimming but now I am glad we have our base camp right here. Another thing, the insects have been very light here at night. We also have a very beautiful view of the mountains on all sides of us. The cook and his wife are swell sports and their cooking is excellent.

Saturday night we had some excitement in our tent. About 4:00 a.m. a large porcupine came into our tent and tried to get into Albert Hevey's duffle bag. Uncle Clint got up and drove him away. The next night we had another one in our tent and drove him away again. Then on Wednesday night, Uncle Clint killed one near our tents and the cook killed six near his camp.

Tuesday night we climbed Mt. Blue and what a view! We could see part of Portland, Mt. Katahdin and many other large mountains. Cleaning the bushes away from the road wasn't as bad as it sounded. It also makes the road look a lot better. After filling in the culverts it was a lot easier riding on certain parts of your body. It was quite a rugged climb to get to the top of Tumbledown Mt. but I think that it was well worth it after seeing the magnificent view. It must be pretty wild country around Tumbledown. I learned quite a lot from Mr. Bateman about gold and Swift River. Although I didn't find any gold, I learned how to pan it and where to find it.

Another good thing about this base camp is the water. It is always cold and has an excellent taste. Saturday morning we cleaned up the trails on Center Hill and in the afternoon we went for a swim at Webb Beach. He had short church services on both Sundays. Monday and Wednesday we dug out the grass and raked up Webb Beach. I think that we made quite an improvement. After supper on Monday night, we learned how to tie flies from Wes Records. It was very interesting to watch him tie them.

Wednesday night Mr. Hilton came up from Weld and gave us some interesting facts concerning his wood working plant at Weld. Thursday night Mr. Connant gave us some facts about hunting and fishing. He also told us some things about game wardens in other parts of the state.

Wednesday night we had a campfire and each tent had to put on a short act. Although I brought along my equipment for collecting insects, I didn't get much of a chance to collect and mount them. I was either washing my clothes, on K. P. or doing something else. The K. P. was a lot easier than I thought it would be. I think that it would be a very good idea to have another group of boys up here next year. One reason because there is a lot of work that needs to be done in the park and also one gets a lot of experience in camping, swimming, fishing, mountain climbing, and many other things. I've had a swell time here this year and I think another group would next year.

