

## Troop 880 Orienteering Campout

By Ethan Gasta

On April 23rd, 2010, eighteen scouts and six adults camped out at J.N. Webster Scout camp in Ashford, Connecticut. They were there to learn and practice orienteering. Orienteering is navigating through forests from one point to the next using only a map and a compass.

We arrived Friday night and we quickly set up our tents in the same campground we used for Summer Camp in 2009. Many smores were built and eaten using a great campfire built by the younger scouts in the group. Most people turned in before 10 pm, to get rested for the next day.

Saturday morning was a little chilly but sunny and we all knew it was going to be a great day. Breakfast, which was prepared by younger scouts to satisfy certain requirements, was eggs, bacon, oatmeal, bagels and hot chocolate. It was an awesome meal.

We broke up in to three groups. The newer scouts got a short lecture about orienteering and the routes they were given. This was done by an expert from the New England Orienteering Club. We then headed out on the course. Each course is ranked by difficulty using a color and letter system. White A is the least challenging and Orange is the most. All three groups did at least two different courses with lunch in between.

At the end of the day we met back at our site for another New-Scout-Prepared-Meal. This time they made chili. Man, it hit the spot. After a long, hard day of hiking and searching, a hot bowl of chili was awesome.

We built another awesome camp fire and spent the rest of the night woodworking, telling jokes, performing skits and eating more smores. Everyone was pretty exhausted from the day and most everyone fell asleep pretty quickly.

It began to rain early the next morning so we packed up quickly and headed home.