



Cornhusker Journal



The official newspaper of record for Camp Cornhusker

June 13, 2025

"All the news that fits, we print"

Vol. II, Issue No. I

Rendezvous Report

By Nolan Caldwell, Troop 159, Aiden O'Dowd, Troop 78 & Will Golick, Troop 8

Rendezvous is a celebratory event where scouts and staff come together to get to know others who came to camp. "Rendezvous" is a French word meaning "present yourself." They have many events at Rendezvous including tomahawk throwing, branding, a mini trading post, and music. Traditional activities like tomahawk throwing are lots of fun. Someone even landed tomahawks in all three posts of the target!

It is hard to walk through the Mountain Man Rendezvous without seeing lots of trading, and this year was no exception. After the mountain men lit their big roaring fire, the camp set out to trade.

The ground was covered in blankets full of patches, trinkets, and a lot of junk. Some of the more unorthodox items included pine cones, rocks, plastic jumping frogs, necklaces, pencils, small stuffed animals, a World War II canteen, an old fossil, and even a roulette wheel! Trading is fun because everything in your hands can change with a few trades.

This year, there were stories of trading from a rock to a huge patch or turning a blade of grass into a Hot Wheels car. But Rendezvous is not just about trading junk for more junk. By far the best part about trading is getting a chance to meet lots of new people.

Not everyone is there to trade. Some scouts just wanted to get their sticks branded, dance, and sing until dark. It was perfect weather for the Rendezvous and to celebrate camp and scouting. Overall, Rendezvous is one of the best community building events Camp Cornhusker has to offer.



Photo by Rue Pruitt, Troop 34

Abel Lake Lore

By Will Golick, Troop 8

Every scout who comes to Camp Cornhusker knows Abel Lake, but not everyone knows the stories it holds.

Almost twenty years ago, a snapping turtle was spotted in the lake. He was named "Chomps." According to staffer Charlie Cover, his head was as big as two fists put together, and his shell was so big it would curve in on itself. Chomps has not been seen for many years, but he may come back one day to prey on the scouts who do not know the legend of Chomps.

More recently, camp staffer Caroline was competing with her troop in the Banana Relay. They used frying pans for paddles in the canoe race because you cannot use normal paddles. As the men in her group went, they lost a stainless steel frying pan to the depths of the lake. "They went out with two frying pans and came back with one," according to Caroline.

Reptile Encounters at Eco-Con

By Rue Pruitt, Troop 34

Noodle is a Black Rat Snake. Rat snakes eat small rodents, eggs, and birds. They spend most of their time in trees.

Edward is an Eastern Racer. He has recently shed his skin. Eastern Racers are very fast. They have to be fast to get away from their predators. Eastern Racers eat rodents, small eggs, birds, and other small prey.

The staff at Eco-Con had another snake that was huge and strong. It was a little bit too strong, though, and broke out of its cage.

Eco-Con also has two turtles named Pedro Pesto and Leonardo Pepperoni.



Meet Your Medic

By Zowie Hanson, Troop 34

Charisa Woods is our medic and is an NREMT. She has been registered for two years. She says that some of the big things at camp are ticks and the hot temperatures causing dehydration. Doing tick checks regularly will help, but be sure to also use tick repellent. Ways to prevent dehydration include drinking water, making sure you are getting electrolytes, and going to the bathroom often.

Some things you may not know about Charisa is that this is her second year at camp, and she is the Committee Chair for Troop 111. When she is not helping other people, she is a stay at home mom with four kids and makes alterations for clothing and all sorts of other things.

Banana Relay Is Here!

By Aiden O'Dowd, Troop 78

Banana Relay will start at the Trading Post, also known as Kimmel Lodge. From there, participants will go to the games area and must land one of four bean bags. Missing all of them means you will take a one minute penalty.

After that, competitors will go to the lake for canoeing, but with kayak paddles! Watch out for penalties there, too: one minute if you forget your buddy tag, thirty seconds if you forget to ask for entry, and one minute for forgetting to remove your buddy tag, and one minute for forgetting to ask for a life jacket.

Then, it is on to the pool. To participate, you will need to be blue on the swim test. You will be swimming with your banana in a ziploc bag. The same penalties from the waterfront apply at the pool except for the life jacket.

The next station is in the Trail To First Class area, and the activity is fire-building. You have to build a fire that burns for at least thirty seconds and to roast a marshmallow. Failure at this stage means racking up a ten minute penalty. After leaving TTFC, it is on to Outdoor Skills. You have to tie the following knots: timber hitch, bowline, taut-line hitch, and two half hitches. You will be judged by Shannon, the TTFC director, or by Broom.

Next is rifle. Competing scouts shoot to obtain time off per point you shoot. Then, it is time for tomahawks, but you just need to stick one for 30 seconds off, up to a maximum of 90 seconds.

Finally, there is a tire pull from the chapel to the flags. Any violation, like pushing the tire, can mean that you have to start over. In the end, the Scoutmaster and the Senior Patrol leader rock-paper-scissors to see who eats the banana!



Why Join Camp Staff?

By Nolan Caldwell, Troop 159

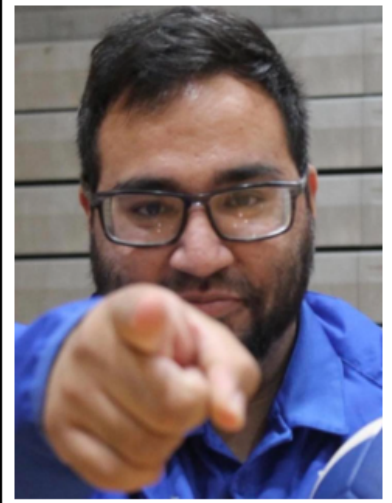
Camp Cornhusker is one of the best places to be a scout, and there's no doubt that without our wonderful staff none of us would get to come to summer camp. So let's take a look at why Camp Cornhusker is home to so many staff members and why so many of them come back every year.

One big reason is the community. Staffing is one of the best ways to make friends and have in-depth relationships. Staffing is unlike any other experience and bonds are made easily. Through the adversity and hardships you will find friendships that last outside of scouting, too.

Longtime staffer Charlie Cover emphasizes that staff do not come for the money. They come to have fun and gain memories that last a lifetime. And although it may be hard at times, serving on staff is truly something you never forget.

Del Hodgin, another experienced staffer, noted that this year the amount of staff is larger than in years past which has led to larger groups of friends and has made it easy for staff to find people to click with. He also comments that the staff have been very organized compared to other years despite having a lot of young faces.

Overall, staffing summer camp is one of the best ways to not only give back to your community but also positively affect your whole life.



Are you 14+? Do you love camp?
Do you have scout spirit to spare?

**WE WANT YOU
FOR CAMP STAFF!**



Scan for staff application.

Working On the Water

By Zowie Hanson, Troop 34

Julie, the aquatics director, wanted to be a part of the staff because she enjoys the outdoors. When she saw the aquatics director job, she said yes. She keeps scouts safe on or in the water, ensuring fun for everyone visiting the pool or lake.

Isla is a lifeguard from Troop 16, with this being her first year as a lifeguard. Isla wanted to be a part of the staff because she enjoyed the staff from her time as a regular scout at camp and how fun was easily created with the amazing staff.

Lyrander is another lifeguard from Troop 144. This is his first year staffing. He applied because being on staff seemed like it was amazing. He is passionate about keeping scouts safe. Swimming and sailing are his favorite activities.

Clara is a pool aid from Troop 324. She decided to be a part of staff because she saw an offer on Facebook and opted in to be a part of a great group.