

Twas the Night Before Summer Camp

A Parody of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" By Jordan Moore

Twas the night before summer camp and I had yet to pack,
Nothing was ready, not sleeping bag, bug net, hammer, or tack.

This day had been coming for twenty-four weeks.

I didn't want to go; I thought summer camp was for geeks.

The brochure that Mom had showed kids having fun,

Outside all day long in the hot, humid sun.

She said there'd be hiking and fishing, and such,

But I like to sleep, not be active so much.

She put her foot down and said I had to go,

So out came the Deep Woods, bedding, and aloe.

I took a flashlight and lantern, Kleenex for my nose,

The car was so full the trunk would not close.

Early the next morn we got on our way,

The camp was so far the drive lasted all day.

Mom helped me make up the sheets on my bunk,

Then she had to go, leaving me in a funk.

The first day we went hiking, I got really bored,

But the next day we swam, and I won an award!

At the archery site, I hit a bulls-eye.

Each night after dinner we ate really good pie.

I learned some neat crafts, how to canoe and kayak.

I made lots of new friends, the coolest was Zach.

Camp wasn't that bad, better than I thought,

We played pranks on our leader, and never got caught.

The week came and went; the days flew by so fast,

At first I was doubtful, in the end, had a blast.

Even the bus home was fun and full of good cheer,

I'm not unpacking a thing, so I'm ready next year.

Maple Hill Christmas Trees

Courtesy of EJ Verhoff, Kittan Lodge

Every year Troop 53 helps out “Maple Hill Trees” by selling Christmas trees in Castleton NY. The owner, Al, and his children have been involved in Scouting since the 1970s and started this tradition. Here is an excerpt from their website:

In the 1970’s both of Al’s sons were members of Boy Scout Troop 53 in Castleton, NY. After his boys moved on Al stayed involved on the troop committee. By the early 1980’s the troop needed to replace and repair camping equipment, but they didn’t have the funds. They settled on the idea of selling Christmas Trees. Al offered the farm as a location for the Boy Scout Christmas Tree sale. For the past 40+ years, the Boy Scout Troop and now Cub Scout Pack have come to the farm the weekend after Thanksgiving to hold their Christmas Tree sale. In 1983, seeing the farms open, Al had the idea to plant a few Christmas Trees so the Scouts could offer some fresh cut trees and offer the community the traditional Christmas experience of going out into the countryside to find and then cut down their family’s Christmas tree. Since then we have expanded ... to a fenced in field on the other side of the farm.



Scouts from Troop 53 help load a Christmas tree