

Pathfinders on the Chattooga Trail

It Snowed!

Hey Everyone! I hope ya'll are doing good so far. It is our first day on the trip, and it was difficult, but it was also very exciting. Right before Chief Susan dropped us off, it started to snow! And it started out snowing slowly and softly, to dumping down freezing cold pieces of white ice that melts when it touches anything that is warm. It was so fascinating and it made me so very happy. I wish that it would last for the whole entire trip, but I know that it probably won't. Today we found Ellicott's rock, well actually Abby was the one who found it, and I was second, Chief Emily was third because she walked right past it the first time. I am so exhausted and I cannot wait to eat supper and then have evening routines, then go to bed! Tomorrow is a brand-new day without any mistakes in it...yet! Good night, everybody and I hope that you all have a good night sleep. Good night, Pathfinders! --

Alison S. PF

Day 2: Fish Hatchery

So today we hiked 30 minutes to this campsite. We stayed at the campsite right by the fish hatchery trail. After setting up campsite and eating lunch we started hiking to the fish hatchery. It was 2 ½ miles away. On the way we saw big mountains and a pretty river there were little waterfalls and shoals all along the river. It even snowed on the way. Once we got to the fish hatchery we got surprised by Miss Emily. She had brought more clothing layers from camp. On the way to the fish hatchery, I prayed for a blizzard and God gave us a mini one. There were little baby fish and really big fish. There was Rainbow trout, brown trout, and brook trout. Under covered areas they kept 5–10-year-old trout for breeding. They also had signs explaining the process. They took 2 truckloads a week to let the fish go in the Chattooga and other rivers. Sometimes they took a helicopter instead. We hiked back after that. Soon after we got back, Rosa, Abby, Kortnie, Katrina, Chief Althea and I hung up the bear hang. It was pretty fun. For supper, cooks made Oreo pudding and ramen. We sat by the fire and sang good songs for a while. Today was a good day even though we had struggles, because those helped us grow. --Miracle K. PF

Day 3: Determination

Today we hiked a lot of long hard miles. In the morning, we walked about 2 miles to Burrell's Ford where we stopped for lunch and siesta. Oh, it was a wonderful siesta. A little bit of glorious sweet rest. It's a good thing

that I didn't know how much farther we would walk, or I might have refused to move again. I didn't know and I did move. We walked up and up and up. The one mile, we were supposed to go, came and went. There were no spots big enough for our large group to set up camp. As it started to get later, some of us got a bit discouraged. I also was tempted to fall into a depressive mood. I knew that wasn't going to help me any, so I just kept putting one foot in front of another, taking the trail one step at a time. My feet hurt, and underneath my straps were sweaty. However, campsite wasn't going to come to me, so I kept walking. Finally, we found an uninhabited location big enough to squeeze 11 pup tents into. It's not comfortable. It's not pretty, but it works. Thank you, God for the strength and peace you have provided me. -- Katrina C. PF

Day 7: A Poem

The sun in the sky,
The cool spring breeze,
The sharp scent of smoke,
It calls me.
The bubbling brooks,
The tall green trees,
The pastel flowers,
It sets me free.
The majestic mountains,
The winding river,
The rolling hills,
My heart grows bigger.
The voice of God,
The thunder in the sky,
It rings in my stone-cold heart,
Like a bird, I fly.
I was trapped in a cage,
Like a small weak bird,
Jesus set me free,
I know I'm heard.
He listens to
My desperate cry,
He comforts me,
I know He's nigh.
He is bigger,
He is stronger,
In His protection,
I fear no longer.
On the mountain top,
Or in the bubbling brook,
I know I belong.
--Abby C. PF

Day 8: Chief!!!!

Chief—there is a surprising amount of comfort and consolation that comes in that word alone. When you've been at camp, you learn to love and trust those 2 people a lot. You learn that when you're hurt, to call chief. When you need a shoulder to cry on, call chief. Confused? Call chief. Struggling with a fellow camper? Chief! It's the security that comes from knowing that there's someone to always protect and comfort you. There's freedom in knowing that as wrong as it is, you can yell at your chief, but she'll still love and support you. They are always so patient, even if you have the same problem 10 times. They're strong and brave enough to tell you to get over yourself when you're just stewing in feelings, yet tender enough to you as you cry. Their faith inspires us all. I aspire to be just like them. --Briana H. PF

Day 8: April 15th, 2022

We hiked half of the day. We had stopped for more water by the creek. We filled five platys (water holders) and had devotions and snacks. Then we kept on going. Up and down hills, roots, and rocks on the pathway. We ate lunch at a flat spot and had siesta. We got to air out our hot feet. They were very sore from walking. We had a good time at lunch, one of the campers had a talk out. We filled up our Nalgens and kept on walking, not too far till we reached a campsite that's big enough for all of Pathfinders to sleep tonight. All ready for day 9 of hiking tomorrow. We came to our campsite and the fire is rolling hot and fast. We got to roast marshmallows for our supper and they hit the spot all golden brown. Yuummm, they were very good. Well, we are having a good supper tonight. --Kortnie M. PF

Day 12: Humans and Hives

Bzzzzzzz, and the sound goes on and on. Today we went to the bee farm. It was really fun. Randal told us that we as humans are like hives. Organs work together to function well and all of the bees work together to keep the hive running. Is that not super cool? We function like a beehive. If one of our organs shut down, the rest of our organs fight to bring it back to life. In the same way, bees fight to keep the hive running. Bee kind, bee loving, bee humble, bee sweet. Great quotes come from bees. Ummmm, I can't believe that the trip is coming to an end it seems like we just came to Burrell's Ford yesterday for lunch and kept hiking. Now we are staying here for several nights. That just seems wrong, doesn't it? Tomorrow we are going to Woodall Shoals and some homestead remains. I'll share more later. Thought for you today, just be you and let God do the rest. --Nevaeh C. PF

Day 13: Today

Today we are going to Russel House, it is a homestead with a lot of buildings. It's a historic site, and has an old spring house. Then we are going to Woodall Shoals which has lots of rapids, and of course shoals. Right now though, the view is gorgeous and pretty cool. The sun is shining on the water and is glistening through the trees. All you hear is the water rushing and the birds chirping as they wake up. Also, our fire is leaping high and the smoke floats through the trees. This morning is beautiful, let's hope that it warms up later tonight. We are a bunch of hungry girls right now, and all are waiting on our breakfast. I am excited to go on an adventure today and have some fun! --Marie W. PF

Day 14: Homeward Bound

You better rise and shine because we are going back to camp. We quickly packed up our tent stuff and gobbled our food, put on our hiking packs, and went to the bus. Everybody could not sit still as we rode along the highway. As we turned onto our road, our energy could not be contained any longer. So, chief laid on the horn and we rolled down the windows as we yelled. Most of the staff came out to greet us and we told some trip stories. Then we unloaded our trailer and started cleaning our gear. We ate lunch in the hot sun and finished up. I can now finally take a real shower. It felt so good to be all the way clean and now wearing clean clothes. Camp has really changed. It's greener, more flowers, lots of bees and lizards. It's good to be back. --Rosalinda P. PF

Day 14: Trips—Let's Grow!

When this trip draws to an end, I will have been on 3 trips in my 10-month camp stay. I took a lake trip on Baden Lake, a river trip on the Satilla, and a hiking trip on the Chattooga trail. Evaluating these trips, I believe that all of them helped me to grow in important ways. Lake Badin, my first trip, got me acquainted with trip life and helped me grow in trusting my group. The Satilla taught me bravery instead of constant fear. My verse for the trip was 2 Tim. 1:7, "We have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and sound mind." This trip on the Chattooga Trail has taught me the power of mentality and the importance of words. Basically, hiking is about 80% mental. If you think that you're too weak and can't go on, you likely won't. If you believe in yourself though, and think that I CAN do this, I AM stronger than I know, you'll have more power to continue. Also, what we say to ourselves and others can help or hinder your group's progress. Indeed, trips do help you grow a lot. --Briana H. PF