



Backwoods Bulletin

Today is just
another normal
day, full of
miracles, gifts,
and
opportunities.
- Robert Holden

Sleepy eyes open and a hand reaches out to shut off the alarm. Chief hops out of bed. It's warmer today than some, and it's March first. Where did February go? Wasn't it just the beginning of the year?

Seven forty-five rolls around finding the Frontiersmen and Trailblazers sitting at their logs eager for a good breakfast. Omelet roll and cinnamon muffins really hit the spot! After some discussion and singing, the Frontiersmen are outside picking a few rocks off the grass. A few moments later, Trailblazers charge around the corner of maintenance shed on the way up to campsite.

Meanwhile in the office, secretaries are busily typing and clicking their mouses as they send out invoices, fill out medical files, and create our next walkathon announcement while getting disturbed by the various staff passing through. A few steps away in the kitchen, cooks are making some delicious creamy Italian chicken, rice, and salad for this hungry group.

The midmorning breeze tells us the Frontiersmen are working hard at Chapel getting a pad ready for the ladies's Sunday school logs. Over in Trading Post, the Trailblazers are in the thick of planning for their four week canoe trip in May. After trip plans are done for the day,

and with a bit of extra time before lunch, they decide to play volleyball.

Lunch time! The first Saturday of every month is board meeting which happens to be today, so the board members eat with the boys, a highlight for the boys and the board.

Soon lunch is over and the sun peeks through the clouds to catch a glimpse of the two groups as they wind their way through the woods to their own campsites for siesta. Up at Chuckwagon an off duty chief tosses a canoe on an Escape and heads off in search of an adventure.

Chief's timer rings... What? siesta is over already? Before long campers are scurrying around to get their wood stoves set, for tonight's low is 22°F. Before long the Frontiersmen are coming up from campsite with discs in their hands, eager for the disc golf game they will play. Meanwhile, Trailblazers grab their tools from requisition box and head over to Chapel to continue work on the pad.

It's 5:30 and Supervisor stands at the Chuckwagon's door and shakes every boy and Chief's hand as they come in for supper of hamburgers, pasta salad, and cake and ice cream.

After dishes are cleared, a lively discussion is followed by singing, and yes, there is mail, another huge highlight for the campers!

After supper a few Trailblazers receive a sharp looking haircut during shower time. Subsequently, a Supervisor is told to look outside. As he gazes up at the clear starlit sky, he sees a trail of satellites sent into space just days before.

Sometime later, almost a quarter mile away the Frontiersmen find themselves sitting on logs while a little fire is lit and a discussion ensues about their day. Shortly thereafter, Chief walks from tent to tent giving each boy a hug and bids them goodnight. Not long after, the Trailblazer Chief also tucks everyone in and calls Hoya.

As the crescent moon silently slips behind the western horizon, all is quiet in the woods.

-Chief Dave

"And they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods."

Ezekiel 34:25





Wonderful Tuesday

It's 7:00 AM at the Frontiersmen camp. They are getting ready for another wonderful day. The chores are done, and the day has begun! Breakfast is served. We go ramble for thirty minutes. Then lunch is served. We sleep for thirty minutes. Siesta done and week plans begun! Showers are fun! Then supper is served and our patience reserved. Ed night is finished. We go down for Pow-wow. Goodnight.

- Written by a Frontiersmen camper

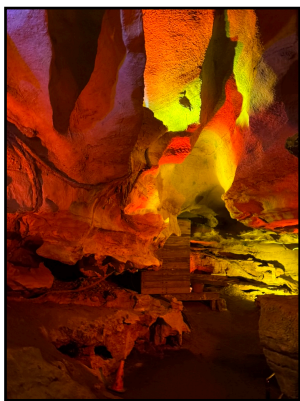
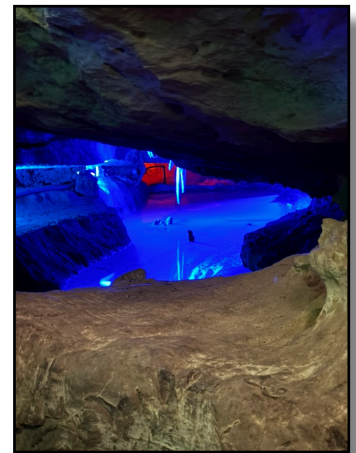




Trailblazer's Cave Trip



On January 23, 2025, we left for Skyline Cavern in Front Royal, Virginia. It was an hour and a half drive there. The building/entrance to the cavern was on the side of the hill, where a scientist found a sink hole with cave crickets crawling out of it in 1932. The tour was an hour to an hour and a half long. Our tour guide gave us lots of information and had a dry humor. The deepest part of the cave is two hundred feet underground! Within the cave grows a rare flower type of crystal. The water down there was so clear and still you would have thought that the pool was very deep. On the ceiling and floor of the cave, were many stalagmites. One stalagmite had fallen, and four people tried to move it. After our cave tour we went to the gift shop. On the way back to camp, we made ham sandwiches for lunch and arrived back by mid afternoon. - Written by a Trailblazer Camper



Thursday, January 23, 2025, we encountered Skyline Caverns. In 1934, Mr. Amos saw a sink hole with crickets crawling out of it. By the time they cleared an entrance big enough for them to crawl through, it was time to set up camp for the night. They set up camp and lit a fire near the entrance, hoping that the smoke would be drawn out of the entrance. But instead, the smoke became trapped in the cave and nearly killed them. Coughing, Mr. Amos and his friends were about to pass out, but suddenly the smoke escaped through a hole and raced to the outside air. Later, the same hole was used for the fireplace of the visitor's center.

Proudly, the cave houses the biggest anthodite crystal known to mankind. The anthodite is so rare that it needs to be protected by a wire meshing. If a person touches it, they are fined five thousand dollars and sent straight to prison.

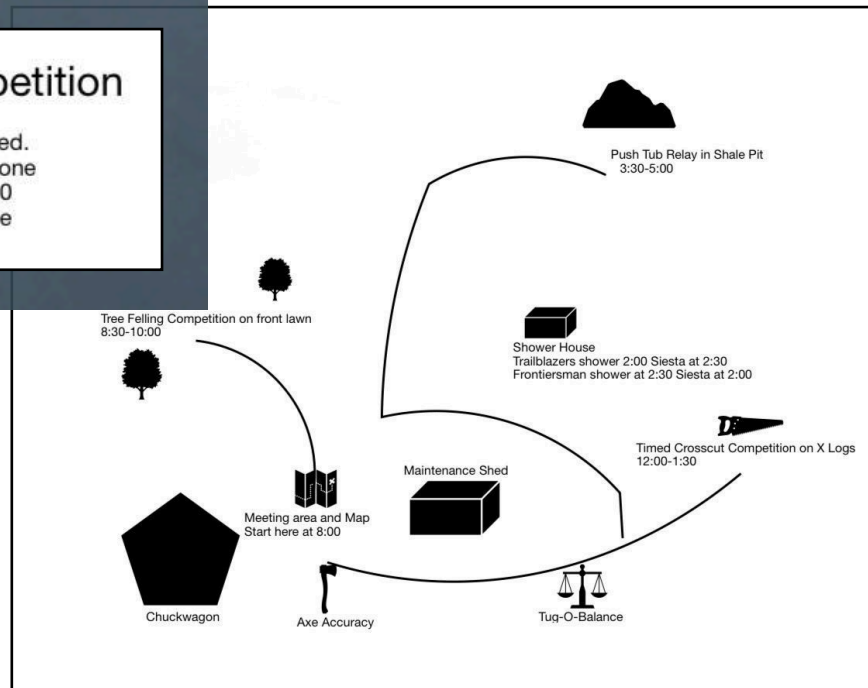
Like many other caverns, Skyline is filled with stalactites, stalagmites, columns, and flow stones. Stalactites hold tight to the ceiling. Stalagmites stand boldly on the floor, and columns form when the two meet each other. If it was not for Mr.

Amos, we would not have the beautiful site we can see today

-Written by a Trailblazer Camper

Woodsman Competition

2/20/25. @ 8 A.M.
Meet in front of maintenance shed.
Brunch at 10:30-11:30 for everyone
Showers and Siestas at 2:00-300
Supper at 5:30-6:30 for everyone



Brunch time!



Tree felling competition



Push tub race!

Critters

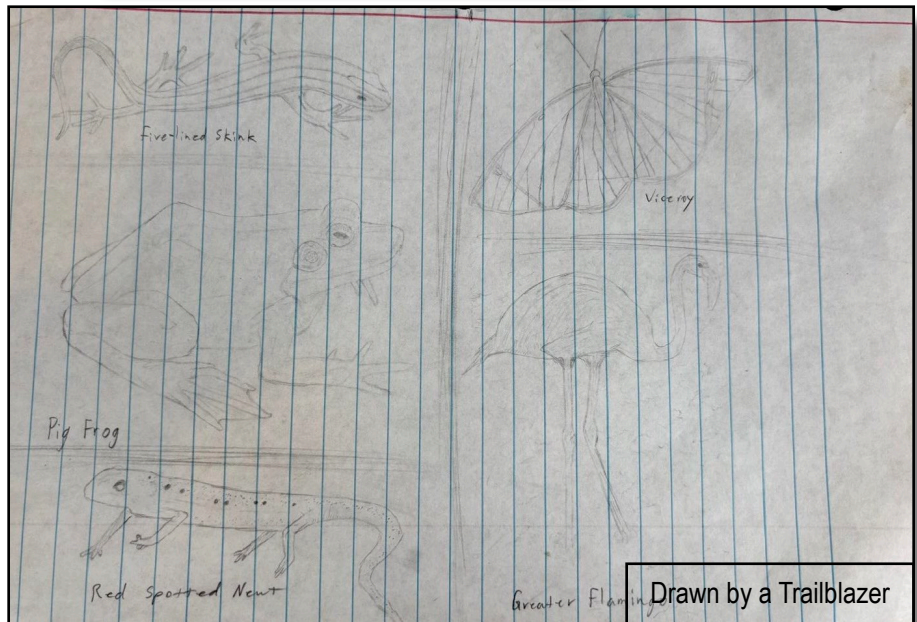
Did you know that a Kentucky flat millipede gives off a cherry scent because of a cyanide they release as a defense mechanism?



Did you know that a newt contain tetrodotoxin the same as a puffer fish?



Hogna spider





Welcome

To Kendall and Savanna Kurtz from Versailles, MO. Kendall will be our new Program Director.

To Lee and Carol Nikkel from Grant, NE. They will be houseparents at the Chiefs' house.

Goodbye

Chief Jerry and Miss Jane, Thank you for being Chiefs' houseparents and support for us all.

Chief Caleb, Thank you for your six months on the maintenance crew! Your help did not go unnoticed.

Chief Patrick and Chief Dalyn, Thank you for coming and helping us out for a few months working on the Chief basement project, etc.

Progress Report

A fence has been added to the ball court and is being enjoyed by all!

Chief's basement has been finished. We now have a coffee bar and a lounge area for off duty chiefs!

Renovation on a recently purchased house has been started.

