

Gloucester County Boy Scouts arrive at Jamboree

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By Ryan Wolfe

Boy Scout Jamboree Hometown News Correspondent

Ryan Wolfe, 14, of Mickleton is a life scout with Boy Scout Troop #17 Gibbstown. He is a recent graduate of Friends School of Mullica Hill and will be attending high school at The Tatnall School in Wilmington, Del. Ryan enjoys basketball, history, and attending youth group and Bible study at Sharptown Church.

At 1 a.m. on Monday at the Millville Scouting Resource Center, the charter bus pulled away with Scouts from the Southern New Jersey Council excited for the opportunities and challenges which are presented by the 2010 National Scout Jamboree.

After a long ride and a hearty breakfast, the troop pulled into Fort A.P. Hill, Va. to begin their 10-day adventure. Once the troop arrived, the process of setting up camp began.

After the supply truck was unloaded, the picnic tables were assembled, and the tents and dining flies were put up, Troop 231 began on a unique yet traditional structure at the Jamboree called the gateway.

The gateway is an entrance to a particular troop's camp and each troop must construct one. The troop's gateway was very simple, yet elegance was added by a very simple element. Each Scout was given a wooden cookie to place on the gateway and could draw their own design on the wooden cookie.

"It's a highly personalized gateway," said Patrol Leader Steven Hael. Scout Chip Fantini said the gateway is "Awesome and one of a kind, because we all contributed."

Another symbol used at the Jamboree is the council contingent's logo. The Southern New Jersey Council's logo consists of some boardwalk rides from the New Jersey shore, and some farms as you can see in most of the towns in Gloucester County and all of Southern New Jersey.

After the stressful process of unpacking, the Scouts were able to venture out into the new world that would be theirs for the next nine days.

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