



# Troop 85 trail talk



October 2005

## FINDING OUR WAY AT BEAR LAKE

**Mark, Patrick, Philip, and Ryan** all attended our September camping trip to Bear Lake, at Blackwater River State Forest in Florida. Adult leaders for this trip were Mr. Horne and Dr. Campbell. The troop had originally planned on camping at Dauphin Island, but Hurricane Katrina changed our plans.

The scouts spent Saturday morning participating in a mile-long orienteering course. They used their map and compass skills to navigate to seven markers strategically hidden throughout the park. Some were easily found. Others were placed far away from roads and the scouts had to traverse cross-country to find them. All the scouts did a wonderful job! Ryan and Patrick had the best time and completed the course in 1 hour and 40 minutes. Phillip and Mark came in second with a time of 1 hour and 59 minutes.

Pictures from our trip can be found on Troop 85's website: [www.troop85.org](http://www.troop85.org)

## A Valuable Life Lesson

While at Bear Lake the troop met a family from Mississippi camped next to us. They and other family members had unfortunately lost their homes in Hurricane Katrina and were camping until they could return home. Despite their misfortune, the father of this family had a very positive attitude. He had grown up in the scouting program and told our scouts that his years as a scout had prepared him for many of life's challenges including being able to camp in the outdoors after a hurricane. Even years later he still tries to use some aspect of scouting in his everyday life. Our scouts were deeply touched by this and we all learned a very valuable lesson on the importance of scouting. We wish this unknown gentleman and his family well and thank him for his encouragement and positive influence on our scouts.

## Troop Elections Results

Congratulations to Ryan who was re-elected as the troop's Senior Patrol Leader. Mark will be serving as his assistant and as Patrol Leader. Several leadership positions are still available. See Mr. Horne for details.

## Rank Advancements

Mark successfully earned his Life Rank and will be working towards Eagle. Philip completed the requirements for his First Class Badge and goes on to work on the Star Rank.

## Troop Committee Meeting

We will be holding our monthly Troop Committee meeting on **Tuesday October 18<sup>th</sup>** at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church at **7 PM**. Troop committee meetings typically fall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

## October Campout

October's campout is tentatively scheduled for **Oct 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>**. We are planning to camp at Claude D. Kelly State Park near Atmore. Scouts will work on their scouting skills and advancement. We'll have more information at the upcoming meetings.

## Halloween Party

This year Halloween falls on a Monday night. The troop will be having a halloween party. We're asking scouts to show up in a costume they designed. We will also have lots of ghoulish goodies and fun games to play.

## Popcorn Dates Have Changed

Due to Hurricane Katrina all popcorn orders are now due on November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Troop Meeting. More information to come.



**Troop 85 Scouts head down the trail at Blackwater River State Forest**