

Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park

July 15-18, 2016

This trip to Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks may be the most beautiful outing we had this year. For this trip we started out on the road early in the morning. Everyone was packed into one car, so we got to know each other better. I can guarantee we were not all smiles when we arrived back home, but the boys handled it well as usual. Up on the Grapevine we stopped in Gorman for a gourmet breakfast at Carl's Jr.



When we arrived inside the national park it was about 1pm. It was a beautiful day. We got our gear together and hit the trail



We started the hike from Big Meadow, and headed into the Jenny Lakes wilderness. The hike was pretty much uphill all the way. The boys did well, they jumped out to a good start. Although it was a tough hike, the view on the way up was very nice, and kept us going.

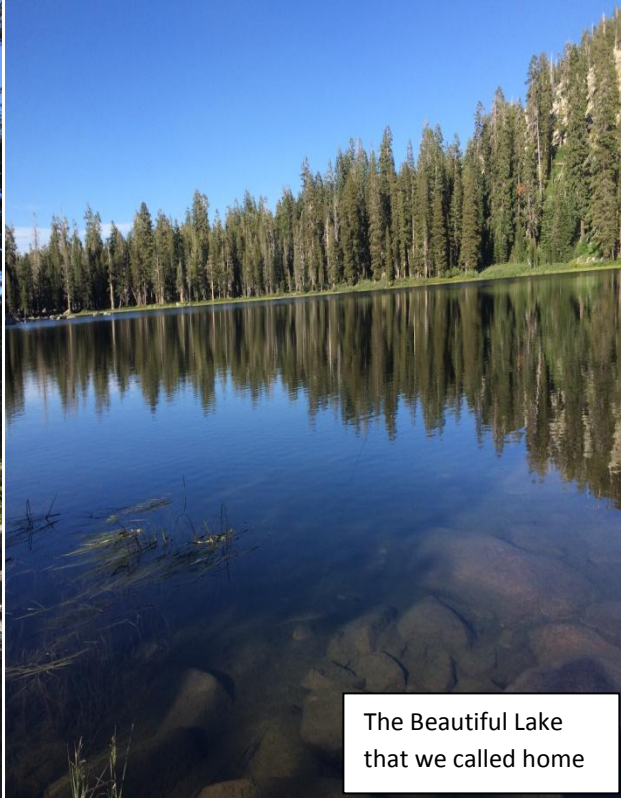


Changes in the view as we went up the hill

When we arrived at weaver lake, it felt so good. We caught a glimpse of the lake and headed for our campsite.

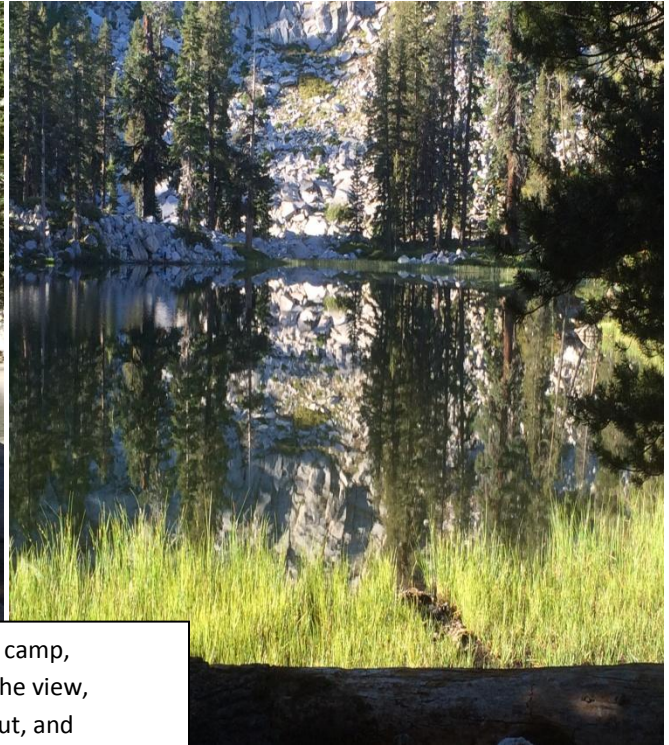
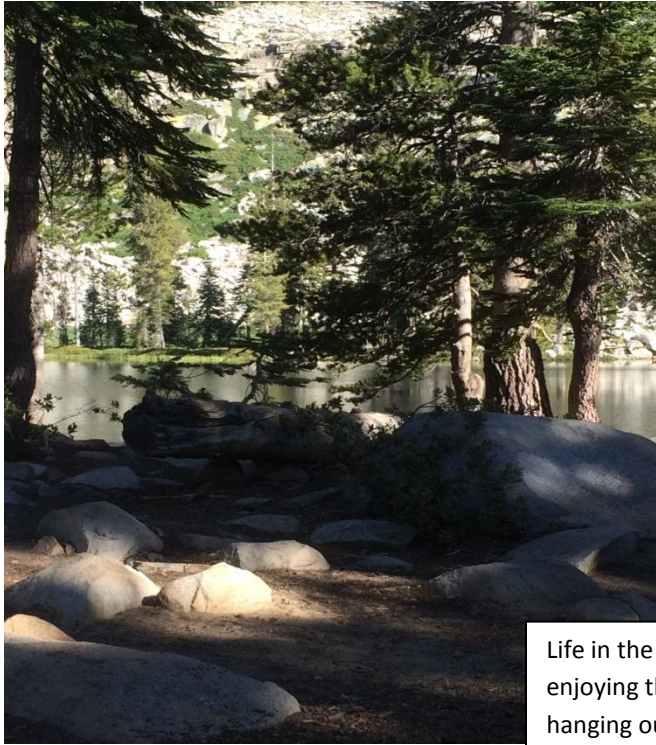


The scouts see the lake and move on



The Beautiful Lake that we called home

While at camp we were able to really relax, enjoy the view of the lake, get to know each other better, swim in the lake, and prepare out backpacking food. It is interesting to see what the different scouts prepare with their backpacking stove.



Life in the camp,
enjoying the view,
hanging out, and
swimming in the lake



A scout, living large: Tent is setup, got his bear box full of delicious backpacking food, and he going to fire up his jet boil.



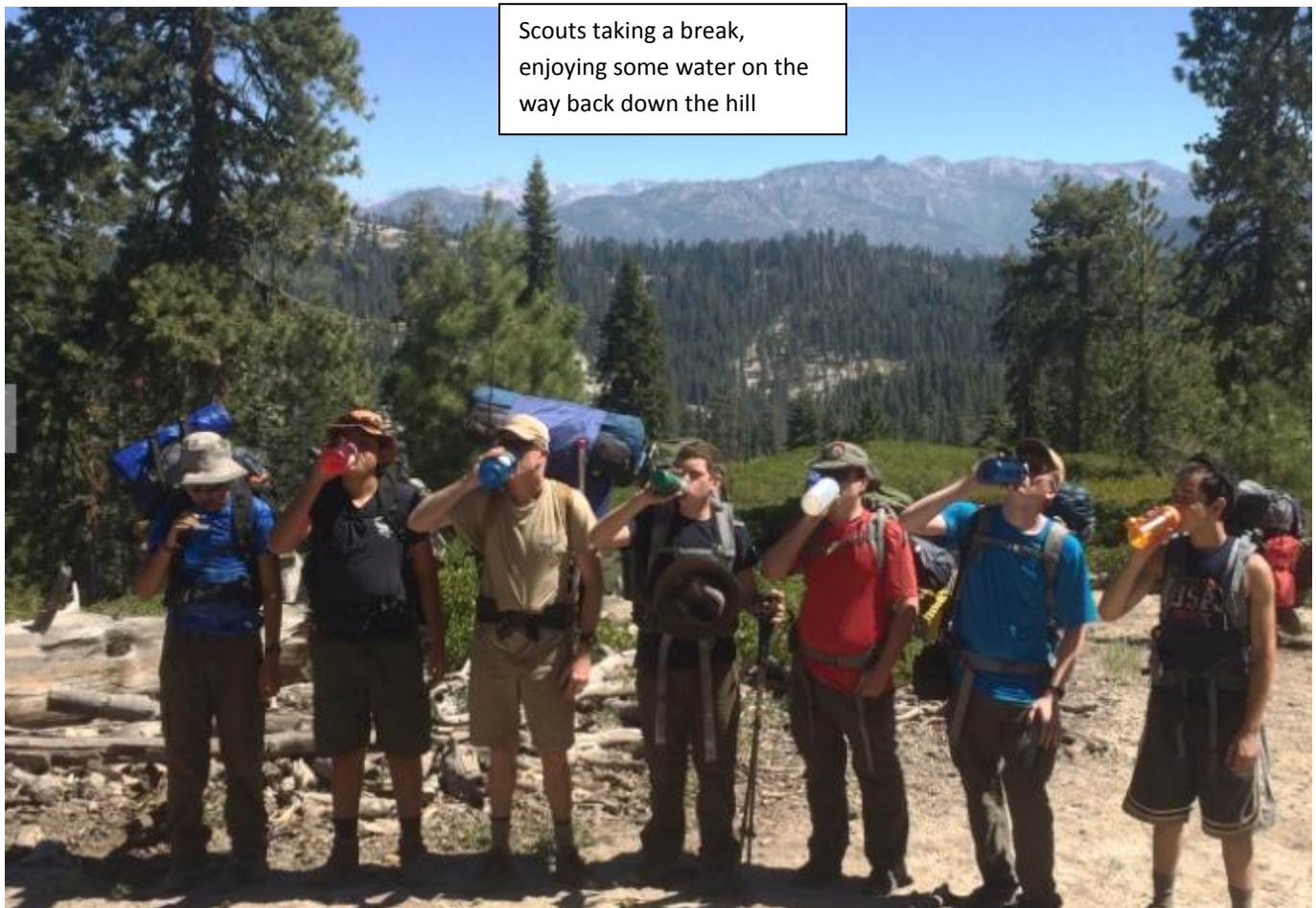
There was some fish in the lake and believe yours truly caught one. That was cool. I brought it back to camp, and the Senior Patrol Leader proceeded to cut it up and put it in a pot and cook it. It was very tasty.





After a few days in camp we hiked back down the hill, it was a lot easier going down than it was coming up.

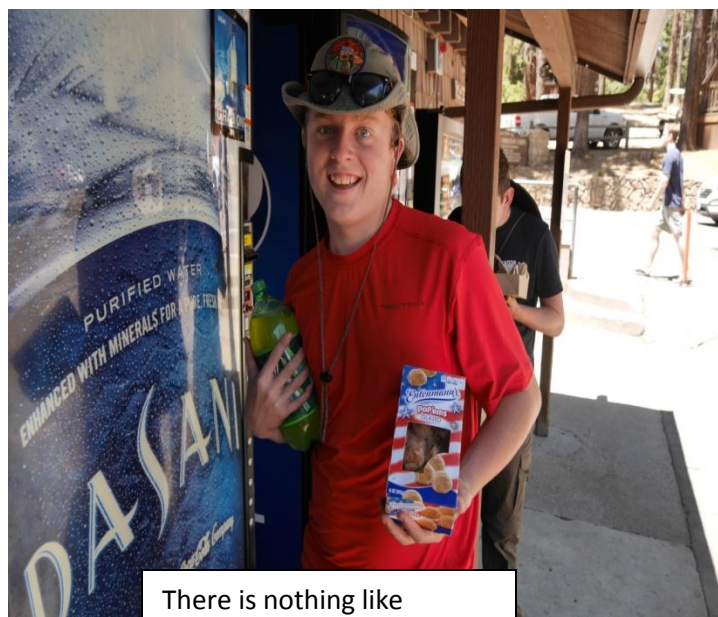
So we proceeded to head down the mountain, and enjoy the view on the way down.



The boys did an amazing job on the hike down. You would think they were very seasoned hikers. I am proud of them. We then headed by car into the National Park for a quick look at Grant's tree. A very well known and large tree. You have to see this tree to believe it. The pictures here do not do it justice.



After enjoying the Sequoia National Park for a while, we headed to nearby Hume Lake. This is a beautiful christian conference center and resident camp. We had lunch and the boys were craving something more food for their sweet tooth. But of course not quite as nutritional.



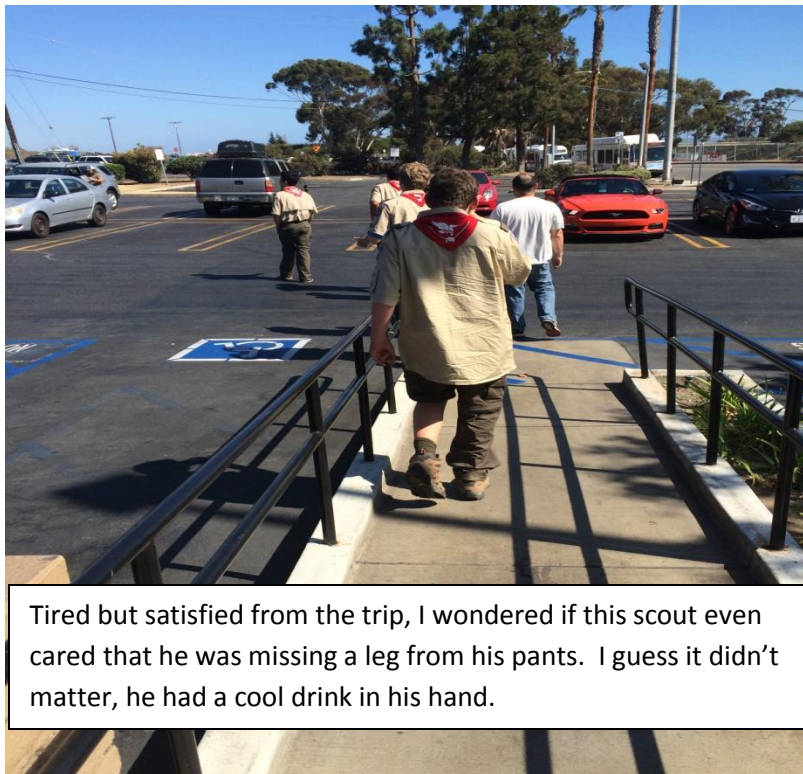
There is nothing like Mountain Dew and Donuts after a rugged hike and lunch.

We continued to enjoy the Hume Lake area, we swam in the lake, and found a camp site for the night, before heading home the next day.

The scouts are always finding something to play with. Here a scout rests on a log that was found floating in the lake



The next day we headed home. We had a very good time. The scenery was incredible, the time together was full of stories and talk of video games and telling some jokes. The hike was a challenge that the scouts met with energy. At the last stop on the way home, I realized how tired the scout may have been. I think we all just wanted to get home.



Tired but satisfied from the trip, I wondered if this scout even cared that he was missing a leg from his pants. I guess it didn't matter, he had a cool drink in his hand.

We wish you could have been there. Until next time.