

Highlights of the Trip

- Playing Manhunt on the last night of the trip
- The different Monuments on the Billy Yank Trail
- The Gettysburg Cyclorama
- The amazing view of the entire battlefield from the lookout post

Overview

Seven score and six years ago, Union and Confederate soldiers met on the fields and farmland in the vicinity of Gettysburg, PA, to fight in what is now believed to be the pivotal battle of the Civil War. From June 26 to June 29, 2009, ten Boy Scouts of Troop 5 Bronxville, two Webelos from Bronxville Pack 5, six siblings and ten adults toured those very same battlefields where Civil War soldiers fought so many years ago. The Scouts completed a program that earned them five awards for hiking three historic trails, visiting Dwight David Eisenhower’s farm, observing the Cyclorama of the Battle of Gettysburg, and spending a day at the Gettysburg Museum and Soldiers’ National Cemetery where Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address. In addition, all of the Scouts retraced the footsteps and

battle plans of Generals Robert E. Lee and George Meade. They even charged through the fields and scaled the original stone walls where Pickett’s Charge took place on July 3, 1863. One evening, USAF Lt. Colonel Gregory “Elroy” Hillebrand, a professor at the Gettysburg War College, joined the Scouts for a fireside chat in which he dressed two boys like enlisted soldiers and fired a real Civil War Musket. Finally, on the last day of the trip, the Scouts helped the National Park Service in its endeavor to restore Gettysburg National Military Park to the way it was in 1863 by clearing exotic plants that were not native to Gettysburg at the time of the battle. For doing this they received the BSA Historic Trails Award.



From left to right: (Front Row) Donald McAllister, Malcolm Roeser, Charlie Brusco, Michael Landy, James Tubridy, Will Stoeffhaas, and Brian Chrystal (Back Row) Savino Brusco, Justin Hoak, Steven Ircha Jr., Owen Hayes, Christopher Landy

Gettysburg Trip Newsletter

BRONXVILLE BSA TROOP 5

The Different Patches the Scouts Earned



BSA Historic Trails Award



Gettysburg Medal of Merit

Visiting the Eisenhower National Historic Site

Hiking the Billy Yank Trail

Going to the Gettysburg Visitors’ Center



Hiking the Historic Gettysburg Trail

Gettysburg Facts

The Battle of Gettysburg was the Civil War’s bloodiest, with 51,000 casualties.

Soldiers’ National Cemetery was built after the battle as a burial ground for Union soldiers. It was here that Abraham Lincoln recited his famous Gettysburg Address to dedicate the cemetery.

Hiking the Johnny Reb Trail

What the Scout's Enjoyed Most

"This was an extremely fun, educational, and fulfilling trip which helped me learn about our country's history."

Will
Stoeffhaas

After each place they visited, the Scouts were surveyed about what they liked best. Here is what they came up with.

Historic Gettysburg Trail

- Learning about different guns and grenades used in the battle
- Seeing the cannon embedded in the sidewalk

Billy Yank Trail

- The observation tower overlooking the Confederate battle line
- The Castle on Little Roundtop

Eisenhower Farm

- Getting an Eisenhower silver dollar from Mr. Landy
- Touring the Show Barn

Johnny Reb Trail

- Soldiers' National Cemetery
- Observation Tower overlooking the entire battlefield

Fireside Chat With Lt. Colonel Gregory "Elroy" Hillebrand

On the second night of the trip, USAF Lt. Colonel Gregory "Elroy" Hillebrand, a professor at the U.S. Army War College, came to the campsite at Camp Conewago to talk to the Scouts about the Civil War. He showed how both Union and Confederate soldiers dressed, how they marched, and how they fired their guns. The Scouts also learned about the soldiers' food and supplies. He described how Civil War soldiers felt in battle and how they reacted when wounded. Finally, at the end of a fascinating evening, Lt. Colonel Hillebrand fired a real Civil War musket.

"I feel bad for all of the soldiers who died at Gettysburg."

Michael
Landy



Chris Landy dressed as an enlisted Union Soldier and Steven Ircha dressed as an enlisted Confederate Soldier



USAF Lt. Colonel Elroy Hillebrand, dressed as a Union Officer fires a real Civil War musket

Snapshots From Gettysburg



Twenty-five scouts and family members took part in the Gettysburg experience. Everyone enjoyed the trip. The above photo was taken in front of a statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee on the Billy Yank Trail. From left to right: Will Stoeffhaas, Dennis Hayes, Owen Hayes, Charlie Brusco, Christopher Landy, James Tubridy, Brian Chrystal, Donald McAllister III, Donald McAllister II (Front Row) Malcolm Roesser, Savino Brusco, Steven Ircha Jr., Steve Ircha Sr., Jane Ircha, (Middle Row) Paul Chrystal, Jeff Stoeffhaas, Kirsten Ircha, Caroline Ircha, Sasha Ircha, Joe Landy, Michael Landy, Justin Hoak, John Brusco, (Back Row) Jackie Brusco, Jamie Brusco, Gina Brusco, Mary Brusco (Missing from picture).



The Scouts are on the same fields where Pickett's Charge took place, lining up shoulder to shoulder to shoulder just as the Confederate Soldiers who took part in Pickett's Charge did.



The scouts are around a real cannon that was used in the Battle of Gettysburg. Many cannons commemorating various regiments that fought in the battle can be seen on the battlefield today.



The scouts are seated in front of a monument commemorating Lincoln's famous Gettysburg Address in Soldiers' National Cemetery.



The Scouts have just completed the work clearing exotic vegetation from a National Parks trail near the Gettysburg Battlefield in order to get their Historic Trails Award.