

Camp offers Scouts experience to grow

By Barbara Ann Homick
Staff writer.

BATH — Attending a Scouting event at Camp Gorton last week brought back many fond memories for one diocesan priest.

Father Philip J. Billotte, parochial vicar of the Corning-Painted Post Roman Catholic Community, returned to the campsite on Waneta Lake for the re-dedication of Camp Gorton's Memorial Chapel July 11.

During the eighth-annual ceremony, the priest recalled how he spent many happy summer days at the Southern Tier camp. Father Billotte spoke about the relationship between religion and nature as he addressed the 175 Scouts of the Five Rivers Council.

He described how Scouting served as a way for youths to explore nature and develop their relationship with God.

"The outdoors helped me appreciate my love for God," explained Father Billotte.

In addition to re-dedicating the 8-year-old chapel, the ceremony honored former Scouts who had died in the past year. Father Billotte used the solemn occasion to advise the 7- to 10-year-old Cubs to show respect for their Scout leaders.

"Look at your leaders and thank them," said Father Billotte. "They give you this opportunity to learn more about God and country while letting you enjoy the outdoors."

The Corning priest said the youths should appreciate the men and women who volunteer their time as Scout leaders because their efforts enable the youths to continue the long, rich tradition of Scouting.

"The ministry of the volunteers is the true sense of ministry," said Father Billotte. "They help train boys in living — in Christian living and Catholic living."

He added, "It is a ministry to young people to help them grow in experience

and knowledge in their formative years."

The ceremony was part of the group's four-day summer Scouting experience at Camp Gorton. More than 1,300 Scouts from the Five Rivers Council of the Boy Scouts of America will visit Camp Gorton over the seven-week summer program.

The Five Rivers Council — made up of troops from Steuben, Chemung, Schuyler and Tioga (Pa.) counties — formed last January after the merger between the former Sullivan Trail Conference Council in Elmira and Steuben Area Council in Bath.

After the service, the Scouts participated in a sing-a-long around the campfire.

During subsequent interviews, George Vieira, a member of Pack 129 from Elmira, told how much he liked many of the activities at Camp Gorton. He said, however, that he enjoyed some events in particular.

"I like the fishing, swimming, archery ... and the food," said Vieira with a smile.

Eight-year-old Paul Nessel noted that he's following in the footsteps of his father, Lou, who was a Boy Scout at Camp Gorton in 1962.

"He liked it here and so do I," said Nessel, a member of Pack 91 from Corning. "If you know some friends, you can see them again and you can be mates."

The parishioner of St. Patrick's in Corning added that he enjoys fishing more than any other camp activity.

"You can win prizes if you catch a fish and can identify it," said Nessel, who caught a bluegill this summer. "Once you catch one you feel real proud."

Fellow Cub Scout Greg Kamas, another member of Pack 129, said the simple pleasures of camping are the best.

"I just like spending time with my friends," remarked Kamas. "I just like walking with them and talking with them."



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
Cub Scouts Paul Nessel (from left), George Vieira and Scott Cary look at a chart of religious emblems for Boy Scouts. The three were among 175 representatives from the Southern Tier's Five Rivers Council who attended the July 11 eighth-annual rededication of the Memorial Chapel at Camp Gorton.

Kearney taps alumna to direct advancement

ROCHESTER — Bishop Kearney High School recently announced the appointment of Colleen M. Sullivan as director of institutional advancement.

Sullivan, who began her position on June 24, will be responsible for development, public and alumni relations, and recruiting.

A native of Rochester, Sullivan graduated from Bishop Kearney in 1984. She graduated cum laude in 1984 from St. Bonaventure University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in mass communication. Sullivan served as an intern with the

university's public relations office and a resident assistant during the 1986-87 academic year. In addition, she worked at the campus radio station, WBSU-FM, and the school newspaper, the *Bona Venture*.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Sullivan of West Irondequoit, Sullivan earned the Society of Professional Journalists Award for overall excellence in scholarship and character at St. Bonaventure.

In 1990, Sullivan was promoted to associate director of public relations at St. Bonaventure.

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