

Colorado River Trip

By: Anthony Hoang

On April 7, 2015, scouts went to Hoover Dam for our Troop's very first canoe outing. We first arrived at Carmenita early in the morning and took off to Nevada. The drive took around 7 hours but it was worth the wait. The first thing we did there was take the Hoover Dam tour and we all learned quite a lot from it. After exploring the Hoover Dam and visiting the gift shop, it was time to leave.

We set up camp in a nearby campsite and got all the equipment out. As we were setting up the tents, the first thing we all realized was that the camp was tremendously windy and we struggled to set up the tents. Being the boy scouts that we are, we managed to get it done. It was then time for dinner and we had a delicious meal of hamburgers that Gabriel and Thomas cooked for the troop. We still had some time to spare, so we played games like chess, hacky sack, and mafia. At night, we built a campfire and played more mafia. We all got tired after a long day and it was time to go to sleep. However, there was one problem as everyone was sleeping. The wind was louder than a train and was so strong that if you flew a kite, it would be blown away and be gone forever. I had no idea how I was going to sleep that night, but I miraculously did.



In the morning, after surviving that gruesome life-threatening wind, we had a delightful breakfast of breakfast burritos. Since we were sleeping inside our tents and bearing with the wind, Jefferson made a nice joke saying that, "Last night was 'in tents' ". We started to pack up and begin our canoeing trip, but first, we had to stop by a place to pick up our canoes. Then, we drove to the Colorado River and we unpacked everything. We first put the canoes in the water along with our waterproof equipment. Finally, we were off to paddle through the Colorado River. Our first stop was at a cave deep in the mountains. The next stop was my favorite, if not everyone's.

There was hot springs in the rocks spilling out such hot water, it could cook your ramen and yes, we cooked our ramen there. We stopped there for lunch and I must say, ramen had never tasted better in my life. Next, we canoed until we hit a hiking trail. We got to see the sights and climbed ropes to get over the big rock obstacles. After canoeing a total of 12 miles, we reached our campsite. We parked our canoes close to our campsite so that it would not be swept away by the rising tides. For dinner, we had scrumptious meal of cheese noodles and chicken. There was time to spare and we continued to play games

like chess, hacky sack, and mafia during free time. It was then time to go to bed and we all had a deep sleep that night. Luckily, there was no wind this time and that saved us a whole lot of trouble. In the morning, we woke up, packed our equipment, and had a nice warm breakfast of hash browns and eggs. We then canoed off four more miles to reach our destination. At the end, we all had a nice treat of ice cream and candy from Mr. Gorospe. We waited for the staff to pick up the canoes and we headed back to the same place where we got them. After a long day, we departed Nevada and headed back on the road for another seven hour drive home. We arrived at CPE and we were all glad we made it home safely.

The canoe trip was our very first trip of its kind for our troop. As I paddled through the Colorado river, I saw amazing sights and experienced a different type out camping. The whole troop had a splendid time and we got to build strong bonds with each other. This canoe trip was amazing and I will never forget it. Thank you to all the adults who made this possible.

Hoover Dam Facts

- Construction began in 1931 and was finished in 1936. This was two years ahead of schedule.
- Hoover Dam is 726 feet high. It is 650 feet thick at the bottom and 45 feet thick at the top.
- It is located on the border of Arizona and Nevada
- Hoover Dam required over 3,250,000 cubic yards of concrete

