

Bartlesville Troop 6 completes Double H Ranch Trek

Special to the E-E

Boy Scout Troop 6 has completed another first for the local Cherokee Area Council. They are the first and only Cherokee Area Council troop to complete a Double H Ranch Trek.

Double H Ranch is the Boy Scouts of America's newest high adventure camp. Located south of Albuquerque, N.M., on over 100,000 acres of the Ponderosa Forrest, Double H Ranch is operated by Philmont Scout Ranch.

Boy Scout Troop 6, sponsored by American Legion James H Teel Post 105, spent a week at the Double H Ranch during July. During their stay they hiked approximately 50 miles through the high desert. There were no native trails, so land navigation and advanced GPS equipment were required to locate each day's destination.

Each day the troop had to purify their drinking water taken from small "open tank"

reservoirs provided for the native wildlife. They purified over 20 gallons of water each day.

Troop 6 Committee Chairman Bobby Miller commented that "The members of our trek had to be in top physical condition, as the daily activities were very strenuous. But the beauty of the local landscape was definitely worth the work." Miller, at age 54, is also the oldest person to ever complete a Double H Ranch trek.

They also performed two service projects for Double H Camp. Both projects worked to reduce yearly erosion of portions of the park. The trek members from Troop 6 literally moved local rock to build roads used by visitors during the hunting seasons.

Trek members participated in numerous team building exercises, including a Low Copes Course. They also had the opportunity to fire black powder rifles, use high quality archery equipment,



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and study Native American petroglyphs. The team also practiced Search and Rescue techniques during one planned exercise where they were challenged to locate a missing person. They were also trained in Wilderness First Aid skills, further preparing them to handle emergencies during their stay.

Scoutmaster Charles Lewis

reported "It was a great honor to be the first troop from our council to complete a trek at Double H Ranch. We are excited about the information and pictures we have brought back to share with the rest of the council."

Troop 6 has posted photographs from their trek on the web at www.cherokeescouter.org/troop6/