



THE TOM-TOM

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Nawakwa 85th Anniversary 1919-2004

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Nawakwa Lodge brings 3 lodges together for Mini Powwow

November 5-7 2004, Blackstone VA, event was Blackstone Merit Badge Weekend

Members of our new Native American Indian Dance Team from Nawakwa Lodge 3, Shenandoah lodge 258, and Blue Heron Lodge 349, came together to teach Indian Lore Merit Badge to 1,500 attendees of the 2004 Methodist Scouting Fellowship. The Camporee was hosted by the Tidewater Council's Tommy Byrum where over 30 Merit badges were offered to the attendees on the campus of the Blackstone Assembly. This is also where some 450 United Methodist Men hold their annual retreat as a part of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Our arrival on Friday afternoon with the Tipi, we had to re-tie the tripod as three years has shown much wear and tear on the 30 foot Tulip Popular poles. We got the canvas on and were staking it down when Lodge 258 showed up. We helped out by assisting in unloading necessary items from their long trailer, by then the boys were introducing themselves to the lodge 258 members. They had to go to get their Troop 48 set up out in the woods, so we took a break to get our dinner. Paid for our Meal tickets, got a great hot dinner. We thanked the cook crew and returned to unpack our gear for the weekend. By now lodge 258 returned and we went over to help set up their tipi. They have a Cheyenne style tipi

with some antique 30 ft. Lodgepole Pine poles. Very straight and perfect tapers. We helped, but watched as they arranged the tripod and set in the poles. We must try their method some time. It was getting very dark and cold quickly in the crystal clear moonless evening when we went back to our lodge to start our fire, and we crafted until 1:15 PM.

Awoke to freezing temperatures and a white blanket covered the campus grounds. We began our day by getting a hot breakfast. This is when we met up with Lodge 349 and the one traditional dancer. Did not take long to introduce each other, and find out who was dancing which style. We returned to the lodge to get in regalia, spreading our blankets, spreading the artifacts, and waiting for the rush at 9:00 AM. There we taught 14 boys the Indian Lore merit badge, from history, to regalia parts, to Indian words, songs, crafting, dance, and models of lodges. Because we had so many instructors, while the merit badge boys were with one group, the rest could learn and test out new dance routines, mock judging in preparation for next year's conclave. Many stopped by to watch the dancers learn and practice their dance moves. In the evening they were able to perform two dances and sing

with the Drum in front of the attendees at the evening campfire. Retired from the campfire to remove the regalia and properly put our outfits away. We all went to the Evening patch auction, some of us contributed a few dollars toward a few trinkets. We retired to the tipi, sprinkled a little prairie sage, sweet grass and red cedar chips on the small fire and retired for the evening. We even made an extra trip to find a cup and water to soak the chips, that was a treat.

Awoke to the Drum and went off to find another hot breakfast. Returned to pack our stuff away and began to take down the lodge. Paused while the Sunday service was held, then resumed completing the job. This was a great mini Powwow for all three lodges. All wanted to return next year and make this event bigger than this year. 🦋

*Jim Richards
Dance Team Adviser*

