

**BSA TROOP 356 HISTORIAN'S REPORT**  
Gulf Ridge Council Camporee, December 6-7 2009



By: Troop Historian  
Timothy M.

## The Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round

For our December campout we had planned on going to the Gulf Ridge Council's Camporee. Mr. E. could not go Friday night so we ended up leaving early on Saturday morning.

Although the forecast was for rain, since it started out dry here in Boca we all were hopeful that it would clear up. It did not work out because it did not take long before it started to pour. It rained the whole 3 ½ hours for the trip to the camp. When we got there it did not look good. Although the rain was slowing down the camp area was soaking wet with tons of puddles and only a few campers.

We decided to look around to see if we would stay the night. Not only was it still raining but it was starting to get cold. Not much was happening because people were under shelters trying to keep dry. The Police S.W.A.T. team was there and had a cool display of weapons. Too bad it was too wet for them to demonstrate. So after about an hour and a half we decided it was too wet to camp, so we headed back to the bus for another 3 ½ hour drive home. Looking back it was a good thing Mr. E. could not go Friday night or we would have been soaked.

Once we got on the bus the first thing we all wanted was food. Mr. E. took us to a Golden Coral for lunch. While we were at the Golden Coral a lady told Mr. E. that there was a scouting mural painted on one of the buildings in town. So after lunch Mr. E. drove the bus into the little town to look for the mural. The town had a lot of nice murals painted on the buildings. We finally found the scout mural.



Checking the internet the mural is called "The Trail to Eagle Scout" and is located in Lake Placid, Florida. The Hometown Website has information about the mural and states:

This mural highlights two scouts of Troup 482 – Joe Hernandez and Todd Fortier. Joe Hernandez reached the Life Scout Rank, and Todd Fortier achieved Eagle, earned the bronze, gold, and silver Eagle Palms, and became a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. Tragically, Joe and Todd were lost in separate vehicle accidents. We honor and remember both young men as they continue to “soar with the Eagles.”

After our trip around town it was back to Boca. It was a long, wet bus trip and it is hard to believe that we spent 7 hours on the bus and did not see any movies. We spent the whole time resting or talking to each other.

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