



# ALLEGANY BOYS CAMP

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## FATHER/SON HIKING TRIP



My day started off with a 4 hour car ride from Lynchburg, VA. My destination was Allegany Boys Camp for a father and son hiking adventure. When I arrived we packed our packs and headed to the trail. We met up with our sons and hiked for 2 1/2 miles to our campsite. Once camp was set up we skipped rocks in the creek and relaxed. Tomorrow we head back. However, the best part is spending time with my son, Jacob.

Chris, A Dad

Today started early 5:30 AM heading to camp for an exciting day camping with our sons at Greenbrier park God blessed me with the opportunity to help Arlyn who stayed with us overnight and provided company on the 2 1/2 hour trip to camp.

At camp we met up with the other dads, finished up packing and took 2 vans up to trail to meet up with the boys. We met up with the boys about noon just in time for lunch. We gathered in a circle and set some goals for the hike today.

When we hit the trail it went from an easy hike to a rocky, winding trail that shadowed 15 Mile Creek. The hike was challenging but the views were spectacular.

When we reached camp Madden showed me how to set up a tent, a first for me. The chore we were assigned to was privy. This proved interesting to say the least.

The next challenge was to write my article. This has been a good experience for me to better understand what our sons do on a daily basis. I am looking forward to tomorrow and all kinds of new experiences.

Andy, A Dad



Today was the day when we get to see our dads. So we went and hiked to Dug Hill Rd. When we got there, we spent some down time at the road catching bullfrogs and carving. Then we met our dads. Then had siesta. Then headed to our campsite. We are having a blast with our daddys.

Jake, Camper

# Nature Corner - Poison Ivy

Poison ivy has been an annual experience of my earlier years. I would often get a fairly severe case of poison ivy once a year. I would get it all over my arms, upper torso, and face. When it got bad enough I would go to the doctor and he would give me some prednisone to take the swelling down. There were several times that I got it on my face and my eye swelled up because of it.

Recently, I was on the West Branch of the Susquehanna with the Pioneers. One day where we stopped for lunch I felt a tickle or itch just under my eye and immediately knew that I had poison ivy. As the next several days passed it just got worse and my eye swelled up. Wednesday morning I woke up and it was completely swollen shut. After a long day of hard canoeing I was able to go to the emergency room and get some meds to take the swelling down.

After returning to camp I decided to do some research on poison ivy and some remedies for it. That is what inspired this article.

I have wondered if God actually created it. Why would God, when making a world that was “good,” create a plant with such aggressive consequences upon contact? After having gotten bad cases of poison ivy for years I decided that it was time to get to know it a little better. I know what it did to me and how it felt when I got it but it was time to know how it looked, why it affected me the way it did, and what to do when I got it?

The first question that I wanted to answer is what did it look like? After one of my fellow chiefs showed me what it was, I realized that I hadn't had a clue what it looked like. I had thought that it was a small plant with small leaves in groups of three. The plant that I was shown though was a viney plant growing on a tree. The plant was bigger than the crown of the tree that it was climbing. The leaves were in groups of three and had a shiny surface on them. They were a dark green and as large as four inches wide and six inches long. We also found some of the same plant growing on the ground around the base of the tree. After doing some research I found a picture of the vine. The vine has hair or fur on it which makes it easy to identify.

Along with poison ivy there are several other plants that have the same effect on people. Poison sumac and poison oak cause the same reaction. This reaction is caused by oil that is found in the leaves, vine, and roots of the poison ivy plant. This oil is called urushiol. When one comes into contact with this oil from the plant the skin reacts to it. This reaction appears in different forms and severity for different people. Normally one reacts with itchiness, a rash, blisters, and seeping in the area that was contaminated. Poison ivy can only be spread to other people and other spots on the body by coming into contact with the oil from the plant. The only other way for it to spread to other places on the body is by being absorbed into the body's system and shows up in other areas. Scratching the rash doesn't spread poison ivy.

The reaction one gets from poison ivy is the body's immune system fighting or reacting to the oil. When it comes to treating poison ivy there are many ways to treat the symptoms but it is difficult to stop the reaction. The best way to treat it is to wash the affected area with a soap that removes grease or oil soon after contact. Once the symptoms start there aren't very many ways to cure them. The itchiness can be treated with creams, baking soda, apple cider vinegar, and rubbing alcohol. One can also get a prescription steroid from the doctor. This makes the body's immune system not as strong or reactive so that the rash and swelling go away. This is according to one source I read.





In my study I learned a lot and I was able to answer most of my questions like what it looked like, why it affected me the way that it did, and what to do when I got it? The answer that I didn't come up with was why God would make such a plant? I didn't find any positive uses for the poison ivy plant other than ground cover. I have learned a lot and hope to keep myself away from poison ivy and perhaps help others answer some of the same questions that I needed answered.

Chief Ben—Pioneers



## Camp Kindling

... small pieces of camp news and needs

-  We welcome Brent Mast from Shippensburg, PA to staff team. He will be serving as a maintenance man.
-  The new house for chiefs is progressing. We still need interior doors, trim, and vinyl flooring. If you would like to help with this project, contact camp and talk to Lester Fisher.
-  We need living room furniture, kitchen chairs, and basic kitchen supplies to furnish the new chief's house once they move in. Contact camp for more information if you are interested in helping meet those needs.
-  We enjoyed having 400 people here for our recent Open House. It is great to feel the support and interest of so many people.