

EXPERIENCES IN BOY SCOUTS

As a Boy Scout, one may be included in many exciting events. They range from camping trips to service projects. Most of these tasks and adventures may be tedious and tiresome but the results are rewarding. Scouts have the opportunity to help the community and environment in various service projects including the annual “Toys for Tots” and the beach cleanups. Camping is an important part of scouting. As Boy Scouts, the troop frequently set off on trips. Our troop has camped everywhere from snowy mountains to dry, arid deserts and has camped in rain, shine, thunderstorms, and near forest fires. The most memorable trips the troop attends every year are to Lost Valley.

Lost Valley is a scout reservation in the high mountains in San Bernardino County. There, scout troops from all over the district come to do various things all throughout the year. In 2001, several scouts and I went to this camp as our first camp in the Boy Scouts. I attended the camp to earn a merit badge (one of the many earnable categories that specifies in a certain field) called Soil and Water Conservation. The badge explains the many attributes of the environment. One of the most unforgettable moments was when the scouts and I did a ser-

vice project where we had to plant trees. In total, volunteers planted over 200 pine saplings all over the camp. We dug holes, added fertilizer, planted and watered them. It was exhausting work but going back to that spot and seeing the trees that you have planted is gratifying.

Lost Valley also offers a summer camp. It is a whole week-long camping trip that lasts seven days

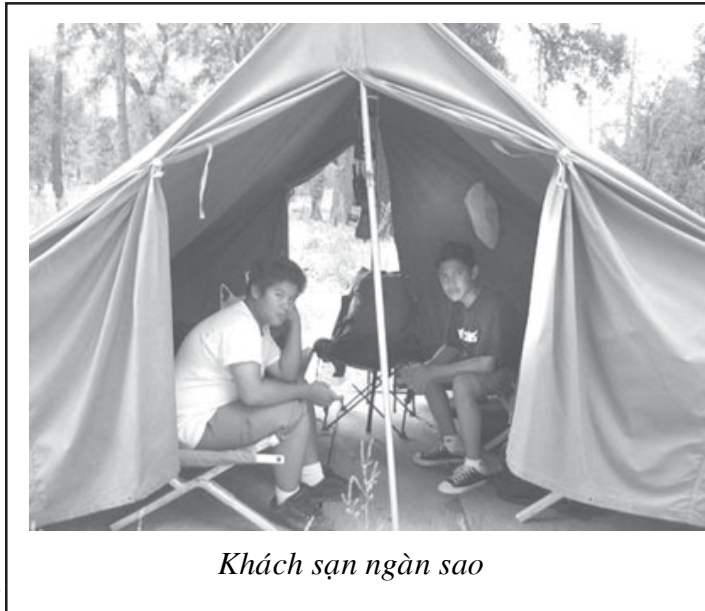
shaped piece of fabric, two posts on either side, and were supported by rope. These two-man tents had a dirt floor though some had wooden boards for the base and we slept on cots. These conditions were unbearable but it was worse when it started to rain. The situation was not that horrific when compared with the mountain lions, rattle snakes, and the food. Three meals a day were provided but most troops prefer to bring their own supply of food. Despite these conditions, Lost Valley is a great way to spend a week of summer vacation.

I have enjoyed this week of arduous survival despite the uncomfortable conditions. The camp has taught me well of the challenges and obstacles life comprises. I know now the difficulties that pioneers had to face as they led the

way for others to follow.

Lost Valley provides a vast array of activities for scouts. Merit badges are only some of the activities at camp. There are hiking and backpacking trails, Indian cultures and traditions, and swimming. Lost Valley summer camp is a memorable event among all who have participated.

Anh-Quan Viet Do



Khách sạn ngàn sao

and six nights. Scouts come to this camp to earn merit badges that cannot normally be earned at home, such as rock climbing, horsemanship, archery, forestry, and animal studies. I took the merit badges Rifle Shooting and Shotgun Shooting last year. The reservation has swimming pools, gun ranges, and cabins. My troop did not sleep in cabins. Instead, we had “wall tents” like military tents consisting of only a large tent-