

NEWS FROM BOY SCOUT TROOP 113

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TROOP 113 BOY SCOUTS RELIVE THE PAST IN SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

By Carter Coudriet, Senior Patrol Leader

The Boy Scouts of Troop 113 enjoyed trekking and reliving the past on their annual historical expedition, this year to Salem, Mass. The scouts' three-day adventure to and from the site of the notorious "witch hunts" was packed with education, enthrallment and entertainment.

"I found [the expedition made it] a lot more interesting to learn the history of the area, considering I was a lot younger when I went before," reflected one scout, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and rising photographer Brian Izzo. "The town was incredibly photogenic."

The crew of 12 scouts and eight leaders, led by Scoutmaster Doug Hutt and myself, Senior Patrol Leader Carter Coudriet, began their Salem Expedition in Danvers, Mass., the home of many of the accused witches and the location of the first "witchcraft" incident. The troop then stopped at Salem's former armory, now a guest relations center, to see a film that set the scene for the following journey.

Next, they hiked through the streets of modern-day Salem, stopping at historic sites, including an apartment building with bona fide jail cells that the witches were housed in. The last stop was the Salem Witch Museum, where the boys learned the complete, detailed plot of the Salem Witch Trials through narration and depiction.

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Although the excursion was relaxed and enjoyable for all, the scouts discovered much about the witch trials and life in seventeenth-century colonial America. “It was an interesting way for us to learn about history hands-on where it happened instead of just reading about it,” stated Star Scout David Early.

In addition, Troop 113 was engrossed in history during the drive to and from Massachusetts. The crew stopped at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center in Connecticut. Following an authentic Native American meal including antelope burgers, the group toured the museum and was able to relate to the lives of the Pequot Tribe.

On the journey back, the group visited the *USS Nautilus*, a ballistic submarine used in the mid-20th century. The scouts not only were able to operate the actual equipment used on the ship, but also were allowed to tour the submarine and see where our sailors slept, ate and lived during the war.

Captivating sites, diligent leadership and, most importantly, the cooperative, fascinated scouts of Troop 113 made for a remarkable trip and countless memories. “The expeditions we go on are a highlight in our program,” said Assistant Scoutmaster Pat Dillon. “This one was particularly enjoyable, and we are already talking about where we will go next year!”

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