

Troop 45 Makes Scoutwalk 2003 Special

Although the day dawned gray and rainy, the forecast was for improving weather as the Scouts and Leaders from Troop 45 showed up at Christopher Morley Park before 7 AM to do their part for Scoutwalk 2003.

Troop 45's Greenbar had been planning the event, billed as the "Scoutwalk Ultimate Challenge" since early in the year, refining the stations and finalizing their plan. Although they were disappointed that they were not able to put on the full event they had planned for the rained out Scoutwalk in April, they were confident that the scaled down version they were to present at the re-scheduled event would still be a challenge.



Under the direction of Senior Patrol Leader William Schweiger and Scoutmaster Steve Grosskopf, 12 Adult Leaders and 30 Scouts set to work. The area was roped off, lanes were arranged, an 8 foot wall and a 75 foot Monkey Bridge was built, registration tables and a Gateway were set up, and an audio system and timing gear was wired together. As the opening hour for Scoutwalk 2003 approached, the Troop 45 Scoutwalk Ultimate Challenge was ready!

Designed as a Patrol Event, groups of 4 Scouts were to work their way through the various challenges laid out on the course. The object was to complete the course in as short a time as possible and the Patrol with the fastest time of the day would be the winner of the event winning \$500 for their Troop. As the Scouts left the starting gate they raced down to one corner, picked up a two man saw and sawed through an oak log, then it was over some hay bales set up as hurdles, then it was time to work as a team and get all 4 Scouts over an 8 foot wall, then crawl under a series of alarmed ropes placed a foot off the ground, cross the monkey bridge, run around a number of highway cones, make a stretcher with 2 staves and a blanket and transport a



"dummy" 30 feet and then finally race to the finish line and hold down 4 buttons to stop the timer. The only way a Patrol could do well at this event was to work together as all the Scouts needed to complete every event before they could move on.



During the course of the day there was some fierce competition. Several Patrols from Troop 390 in Uniondale competed and did very well. As the morning went on, a Patrol from Troop 46 in Massapequa set the time to beat. Several Patrols from Troop 45 competed but the Troop 46 time stood for several hours. Then, a Patrol from Troop 45 beat the Troop 46 best time. Well, Troop 46 came back and bettered their best time and once again it looked like they would go home with the trophies and the \$500 Troop prize.



About an hour before the end of Scoutwalk, a new Patrol from Troop 45 gave it a try. Made up of Senior Patrol Leader William Schweiger, Summer Camp Senior Patrol Leader Erik Sapanara, Scout Brian Thomann, and Scout Zane Kerney, their first run looked great, but because of a timing problem did not count. A couple of more Patrols ran the course and then the Troop 45 Patrol got to re-run the event. Would they be able to match the speed they looked like they had on their first run? The crowd swelled as those watching realized that if Troop 46's record was going to go down, this was the group to do it! The horn sounded and they flew into action, they sawed through the log in record time, used real team effort to scale the wall, made short work of the other stations and when all was said and done, shaved close to 2

minutes off Troop 46's best time.

At the closing ceremony they were awarded the First Place Trophies as the winning Patrol from Scoutwalk 2003's Ultimate Challenge. Speaking for the Patrol, William Schweiger said that Troop 45 had done this event to help raise money for the Council. He was very happy with the Trophy, but that his group felt that since Troop 45 had planned the event and donated the \$500 prize it wasn't right for a Patrol from Troop 45 to keep the \$500 and they would like to donate it to the Council as an additional Scoutwalk donation.



All in all, a great event for the Scout Troops that participated at the re-scheduled Scoutwalk 2003. As

in all of Scouting, the Scoutwalk Ultimate Challenge proved once again that the Patrol method, and the teamwork it fosters is really the best way! A huge "thanks" and a big "BULLY" to all the Troop 45 Scouts and Adults who participated that day. At an event like this, its easy to see why Troop 45 is #1!!!!

