

Share Outpost 50's 20 Mile Backing Expedition

Recently, my Senior Commander John Larroco gave me the opportunity to plan, organize and lead a 20 mile backing expedition through the Pine Barrens of the Wharton State Forest, along the Batona Trail. Our crew consisted of myself, Commander Keith McKinney, Commander Mike Barnes, my older brother Dan, GMA recipient Andrew Speight, Expedition Ranger Kyle Kington and Adventure Ranger Eric Guidarelli.



We started hiking at 6:30 p.m. at Batsto Village on Friday May 18th. A little over three and a half hours later and 7 miles into the hike, the 7 of us found Lower Forge Camp, where we would sleep for the night.

We enjoyed M.R.E's for supper and called it a night by 11:30 p.m. By 6 A.M everyone was up and eating oatmeal and tearing down camp. By noon we hiked another 5 miles and met Commander John Larroco at Carranza Memorial, where an additional 6 Rangers would meet us and hike the last 8 miles of the trail.

Our last stop was Apple Pie Hill, one of the highest points in South Jersey (205 ft above sea level) where we climbed the observation tower.



On the last 2 mile stretch I got a bad blister on my foot and the last mile was hard to walk. No one was seriously injured and everyone had a wonderful time.



Submitted By: Expedition Ranger Tyler Hemple, OP 50

