

## Yawgoog By Eric Geyer

I guess you won't want to go to Yawgoog until you've already been there. That's how it was for me and probably most of you. But then you want to go back for your second year. For me it was getting merit badges that drove me. I didn't want to sleep in a tent for a week! For some of you the worry could be who your bunkmates are, not liking the food, being bored because no activities are opened, being left out of activities, not taking classes with your friends, or being pranked, maybe that worries you. Don't worry, these things are small.

### The fear of food....

Fear of not liking food is a very good fear to have because the food is pretty bad. But there are bread and butter with every meal, and eating seconds with breakfast is a good idea because it's usually pancakes, french toast, or waffles. But, bring about two boxes of Pop-Tarts (or other packaged food) in your trunk!

### Fear of sleeping conditions....

Some people may have a fear of the sleeping conditions. It is the summer so it is not that cold but you may want to bring one pair of long pants. The bunks are not that uncomfortable. The mosquito netting helps with most bugs except for the fact that Yawgoog had a lot of carpenter ants that can come up through the floorboards. Most people however, didn't have to worry about this but I had a problem around my bunk. One night I had to change bunk because there were so many ants! One solution for next year may be to put a bowl of water on the bunk legs so the ants get trapped or to paint the rails of the bunk with Vaseline.

Other than that, the sleeping conditions were really okay. Lights go out at around ten o'clock and by eleven o'clock most of the campground is quiet (except for a couple of tents that stayed up to play games.) Pranks can happen but most of the kids will not do anything as long as you tell them you are not interested. Most kids just prank their friends. If you say you don't want to get pranked, the pranksters have to listen to you. However, if you prank someone, then you are asking for it!!

My big reason for going was the merit badges. During the day at camp you can take up to five scheduled classes plus some extra independent stuff (leatherwork, basketry). If you are not taking merit badge classes you can take a benefit swim or take a boat out at the aquatic center. Some kids sign up for classes and then drop at least one class. They may go the first day and realize that the class is too hard or not what they expected. Some kids just don't want homework so they drop a class. Yawgoog is all about choice, so you make the decisions on your daily activities. You can come home with one badge or seven!

My advice to you is don't worry about small things and stick with your drive. You will love it at Yawgoog.