



The Gilwell Gazette

DAY THREE

TO THE MOON AND BACK

Troop One Reaches New Heights

DAY THREE SCHEDULE

Gilwell Field Assembly

Interfaith Worship
Service Presentation

Model Interfaith
Worship Service

Troop Meeting

Apply Interpersonal
Savvy

Patrol leaders Council
Meeting

Ticket Time

Patrol Meeting

Manage Conversations

Coach and Mentor

Leadership
Connections

Ticket Time

Day Recap

Closing Gilwell
Assembly



Houston, The Fox Has Landed.

FOX PATROL TAKES BEST IN SHOW AT GILWELL ROCKET CONEST.

Day two of Wood Badge blasted off with Troop 1 diving headfirst into a full schedule of learning, teamwork, and fun. The morning began with a Blue and Gold crossover ceremony, followed by sessions on diverse talents, leadership connections, and the art of "Listen to Learn, Learn to Listen." Patrols met throughout the day for meetings, elections, and ticket writing, laying the groundwork for their leadership journey beyond Gilwell.

The afternoon brought out everyone's competitive spirit with Newton cars and bottle rocket launches, where creativity and engineering were on full display. The Beaver Patrol earned the Best Design award, the Bobwhite Patrol claimed Best Performance, the Eagle Patrol took home the Quality Built award, the Fox Patrol soared away with Best in Show, and the Owl Patrol earned the Fun Factor award. The day wrapped up with a spectacular troop campfire, where laughter, skits, and songs lit up the night — a perfect finish to a day that blended leadership growth with plenty of Gilwell fun.

WOOD BADGE - 7-775-25

From Backcountry to Backyard



How Leave No Trace Shapes Scouting's Outdoor Ethic

Instilling values in young people and preparing them to make moral and ethical choices throughout their lives is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America. Leave No Trace reinforces that mission by teaching us to respect the rights of other outdoor users and preserve nature for future generations.

This ethic encourages us to develop an appreciation for the natural world and a deeper understanding of how everything in nature is interconnected. That understanding fosters a sense of respect and reverence for the environment — values that align closely with the Scouting program.

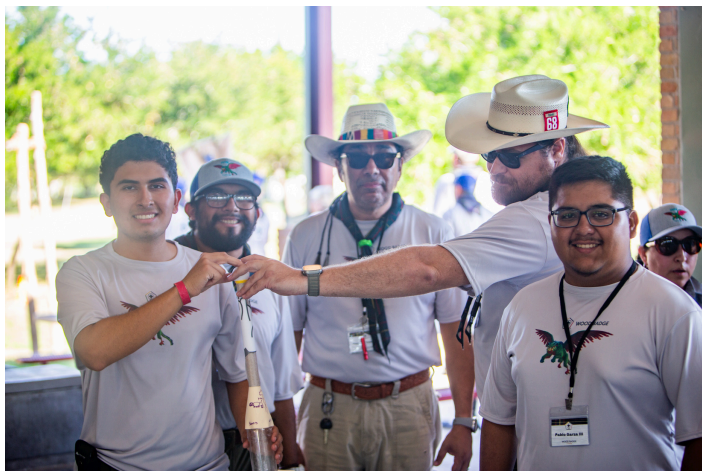
Leave No Trace is more than a checklist of rules. It's an awareness and attitude — a way of thinking and acting that applies whether you're on a backcountry trek, visiting a local park, or simply enjoying your own backyard. Practicing Leave No Trace means continually considering how our actions affect the land, wildlife, and other people.

We learn this ethic by sharing the principles and discovering how to apply them in our daily lives. The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace offer a simple framework for minimizing impact while enjoying the outdoors. Originally developed for backcountry travel, these principles are now adapted for use in all outdoor settings:

- 1. Plan ahead and prepare – Careful planning increases safety, reduces environmental impact, and enhances the outdoor experience.*
- 2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces – Use established trails and durable ground, keep groups spread out, and make campsites small to protect natural areas.*
- 3. Dispose of waste properly – Pack out all trash and leftover food, and bury human waste 6–8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, trails, and campsites.*
- 4. Leave what you find – Enjoy natural and cultural features without disturbing them, and leave campsites as you found them or better.*
- 5. Minimize campfire impacts – Use camp stoves when possible. If fires are necessary, keep them small, use dead and downed wood, and never cut live trees.*
- 6. Respect wildlife – Observe from a distance, never feed animals, and secure all food and trash to prevent harm to wildlife.*
- 7. Be considerate of other visitors – Respect others' experiences by traveling quietly, keeping campsites unobtrusive, and leaving pets and portable audio devices at home.*

By practicing these principles, we embody Scouting's commitment to stewardship — ensuring that our enjoyment of the outdoors never comes at the expense of others or the environment. Together, we can leave the world better than we found it.

CRITTER CORNER



Beaver Patrol

On Friday night while the troop was preparing for the campfire, some scouts entered the OA lounge, where they encountered an owl inside. Scouts from the beaver patrol proceeded to safely remove the owl and ensuring the safety of the troop. The owl was safely released into the wild. A scout reiterated the importance Powell said "Powell scout back to wilderness". It is vital to keep youth and scouts in the outdoors. Beaver patrol completed their unit totem.



Bobwhite Patrol

With a cool south texas breeze on Saturday Aug 2nd 2025 Bobwhite Patrol presentation of the colors at this morning flag ceremony was heart warming and inspirational.



Eagle Patrol

We kicked things off with breakfast and a generous helping of "Cub Scout Spirit" (goes great with syrup). Then we went full chaos mode with the Banana Song—wild hand motions included. Crossed over into Troop 1 with only minimal tripping and lots of cheering. Andrew and Jesus built our totem like woodland engineers. Saul and Molly faced the first aid kit—emerged victorious and only slightly confused. Esmeralda and David created our flag like pros (no knots harmed). We tackled Personality Traits, Diversity, and "Meetings That Don't Put You to Sleep 101." Pulled off a daring Service Totem heist—only to be robbed in return. Shared our biggest fears (turns out, spiders and improv acting top the list). Lunch was amazing, and ice cream made us forget all our emotional damage. Learned to run a PLC meeting without anyone crying (a win). Practiced listening through role-play—no pirates, surprisingly. Dinner was saved by the mighty C.O.W.S.—heroes in aprons. Played games that taught teamwork, confusion, and competitive friendship. Closed out Night 2 with a legendary Bobwhite campfire—songs, and chaos.





Fox Patrol

Our troop enjoyed the know thy self and DISC activity. We spent time getting to know each other and our different personalities and experiences. We found that communication is a key component and we know that we had the tallest tower even though we didn't get the points for it. But it doesn't matter because it was a great experience and that is what counts. We're still forming, storming, and norming.



Owl Patrol

On day two guide Robert attempted to teach a band of superhero misfits. Carlos showed off a rocket that grabbed the attention of Elon Musk. The Owl patrol's Gigi and Terrie built the world's greatest solo cup tower on the way to the world's harshest lesson courtesy of Mike Hall.



Staff

In a groundbreaking display of Scouting aerospace excellence, the Gilwell Rocket & Propulsion Laboratory successfully launched its flagship craft: Perry 1 a massive, gold-painted soda bottle fueled by state of the art, advanced bicycle pump propulsion. After an intense countdown and several highly technical "pump faster!" commands, the rocket thundered off the pad in a glorious 30-foot hop, stunning onlookers and slightly startling a nearby armadillo.

Though its maiden voyage fell short of orbit (and the Arroyo), Mission Control proudly declared the launch a triumph. "It flew... technically," one wood badger said. Indeed, in true Wood Badge fashion, Troop 1 proved that with teamwork, vision, and a two-liter bottle, even the shortest flights can reach new heights.



MEET THE TROOP GUIDES

Taylor Villalobos

My name is Taylor Villalobos and I have been involved with scouting for approximately 20 years - since I was a Brownie in the Girl Scouts of America program. I grew up alongside my brother who was a Boy Scout, and have been attending Camp Perry ever since. While a scout, I was in the Venturing and Sea Scouts programs until I aged out. I held a vice president position with Southern Region Venturing for one year, and traveled throughout the greater lower half of Texas visiting Crews and attending events. I have staffed numerous summers at Camp Perry and served in countless scouting events. I am also an Arrowman with Wewanoma Lodge (Brotherhood) and have served as an assistant adviser. Raised in Mercedes, Texas, I obtained my Bachelors degree from UTRGV and moved to San Antonio, Texas right after college. I currently work for a health care staffing company in the Human Resources department. Although I do not have children in the scouting program like most scouters/adults, I continue to serve because, "Someone once did it for me." and I aspire to be a lifetime scouter as I know the fruit that comes from this program.



Jesus Becerra Jr.

Jesus Becerra Jr. is from Eagle Pass, Texas, he is currently an Agriculture Operations Manager, working for Customs and Border Protection. He helps oversee Agriculture Operations from Del Rio to Brownsville, Texas. He has 12 years of military service. He served in the US Army for 6 years and another 6 years in the Texas Army National Guard. He graduated from Angelo State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science and minor Criminal Justice in 2001. In 2020, he graduated with a Master of Science degree in Environmental Policy. He was introduced to adult leadership in Scouting around 2005. Today, he is the Scoutmaster of Troop 201, Laredo, Texas. Troop 201 is part of Aztec District and South Texas council. In 2023, he was nominated and awarded the Scoutmaster of Merit.



Robert Eason

I have been a member of Boy Scouts since 2018, serving as an Assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 68. I currently help in Range and Target Activities as Rifle and Shotgun Instructor, in aquatics as a Certified Lifeguard, in Fishing as a Certified Angling Instructor, and in outdoor ethics as a Level 2 Leave No Trace Instructor. I volunteer for the State of Texas as a Hunter's Education Instructor, Huntmaster, and Angler Education Instructor. I currently live in McAllen, Texas and have two sons who are Boy Scouts. I enjoy hiking, fishing, and hunting as well as spending time with my wonderful wife, Nelda.



Mindy Escamilla

My name is Mindy Escamilla, and I am from Rio Hondo, Texas. I currently serve as a Probate Court Investigator with Probate Court No. 1 in Cameron County. Outside of my professional responsibilities, I have been actively involved in Scouting since 2012.

I am proud to serve as the Committee Chair for Troop 1701 in Harlingen, Texas. My journey in Scouting began when my oldest son, Noah, received a flyer in first grade. I enrolled him as a Tiger Scout, and from that moment, our family's Scouting adventure began. He started with Pack 23, which later transitioned to Pack 1889. While Noah was in Cub Scouts, I was an engaged parent—regularly attending Den and Pack meetings, campouts at Camp Perry, and many Pack events—though I had not yet registered as an adult leader.

In the summer of 2017, Noah earned his Arrow of Light with Pack 1889 and crossed over to Troop 1701. That same year, I officially registered as an adult leader and served as an Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM) from 2017 to 2023. In the fall of 2023, I transitioned into my current role as Committee Chair. I'm proud to share that Noah also achieved his Eagle Scout rank in the fall of 2023.

Our Scouting journey continued with my younger son, Matthias, who began as a Lion with Pack 123 in the fall of 2019. I registered as the Cubmaster for Pack 123. Unfortunately, due to low participation, the Pack did not recharter, and we transferred to Pack 24, where I served as Matthias's Den Leader. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Pack 24 also did not recharter, so we joined Pack 777 in Brownsville, where I continued to serve as his Den Leader. In fall 2023, we transitioned to Pack 89 in Harlingen, and in summer 2025, Matthias earned his Arrow of Light and will soon be crossing over to Troop 1701.

I also had the privilege of attending Wood Badge in Fall 2019, completing my tickets and receiving my beads on September 24, 2021. Our ceremony was held during the Spook-O-Ree event on October 30, 2021. Over the years, I have served as a staff member for several Winter Camps, attended Summer Camps as an ASM, and helped with BALOO training. I have also served as a Merit Badge Counselor for Citizenship in the Nation.

Throughout my time in Scouting, I've had the honor of holding various leadership roles, including Assistant Scoutmaster, Chartered Organization Representative, and Committee Chair. I've remained committed to service, participating in community events such as the Willacy County Cut and Beach Clean-Up, Memorial Day events at Pendleton Park, the Food Pantry at the Church of Christ, the Jalapeño 100 water station, and assisting at Camp Perry events like Spook-O-Ree and Pow Wow.

This will be my first time serving as a Den Chief/Troop Guide for a Wood Badge course, and I am truly excited for the opportunity. I look forward to learning and growing with all of you as we support one another in becoming stronger leaders for our Scouts.



Javier Gonzalez

Javier Gonzalez was born and raised in Brownsville, Tx. where he currently resides alongside his spouse of 27 yrs, Veronica Celis-Gonzalez. Gonzalez is a proud father of his two amazing and talented children, Leilani Lizeth Gonzalez a Biology Major from St. Mary's University in San Antonio and Christian Javier Gonzalez a Class of 2025 High School graduate.

Javier is currently employed with the Rio Grande Council, Scouting America where he serves as a District Executive for the East District. Gonzalez has an extensive background in Marketing and Communications. Aside from being a council employee, Gonzalez is also a Scoutmaster for Troop 189 and a Charter Organization Representative for Pack 189 out of Jubilee-Brownsville. Javier is a proud Scoutmaster of three Eagle Scouts, one being his son Christian Javier Gonzalez. He is also pending Board of Reviews for three tentative Eagle Scouts.

Javier currently serves as the Alter Server Coordinator for St. Luke's Catholic Church in Brownsville for the past 7 yrs. He is also the Chair for the Southmost Veterans Parade Committee in Brownsville where he has been a volunteer for the past 10 yrs. His community service and leadership in his community do not go unrecognized.

Javier is also a Merit Badge Counselor for the RGC and part of the Range and Target Activities. He is currently certified as a Shotgun and Rifle Instructor. Javier is also a USA Archery Level 2 instructor and a USA Archery Trainer Coach. His mission in life is to continue serving God, his family and his Rio Grande Valley Community.



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