

Kayaking

Last year the scouts spent much of the summer term learning to sail. Everyone enjoyed it and the pressure was on to set up a similar activity for 2010.

This year we are getting on the water in kayaks and canoes.....

The first session was Monday 7th June. Everyone met at the Riverside Centre for 6:20pm with the plan of starting at 6:30pm. Our main instructor Charlie started with a safety briefing and a run through of what the scouts would be doing.



The scouts opted to work through the paddle power syllabus, hopefully giving them a qualification at the end.

Next it was out to get the boats. This takes a bit longer on the first night as boats and scouts need to be matched according to size. The boats and paddles were then taken down to the river bank.



After a few warm up exercises it was time to get on the water.



The river can be a busy place with rowers and other craft all wanting to use the same stretch. As the scouts struggled to get used to the handling of the craft, a few strayed across the river into the path of rowers travelling at speed. The instructors had obviously dealt with this before and shepherded the kayaks and canoes out of harms way.



As the rain began the scouts didn't seem to notice as they continued their training, but the leaders did!!



Shortly before 9pm it was time to get off the water and put the boats away. Then the instructors spoke to each of the scouts and confirmed what level they had attained so far and what they would be working on next week. When asked if they had enjoyed the night, the scouts replied with a resounding "YES".

We have 3 more weeks at riverside, so let's hope the scouts all achieve the level they want.

Thanks

Andy, Skip and Barry