

# Never Smile at a Crocodile



"Never Smile at a Crocodile, no you can't get friendly with a crocodile, don't be taken in by his wicked grin, he's imagining how well you'll fit within his skin. . ." that's what Disney says in "Peter Pan." One of our members is a little younger than the rest of us—still has children at home—a stay at home mother—very devoted to her three Eagle Scout sons and husband. So when one of her boys wanted to earn a special National High Adventure Grand Slam



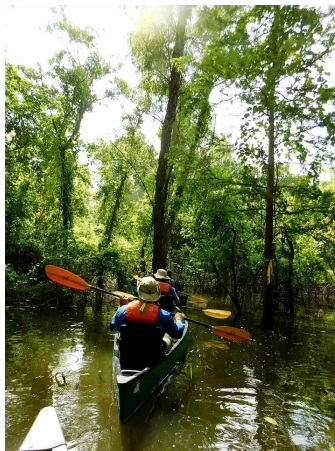
Award Boy Scout patch by attending several "high adventure" (not for the faint of heart) camps she supported him, like any good mother would, but she went one step further by going with him, so did her husband, and one other son. A week in Louisiana. A week in a canoe—nothing too unusual for a Boy Scout or an experienced leader such as she is. Didn't sound too rough.



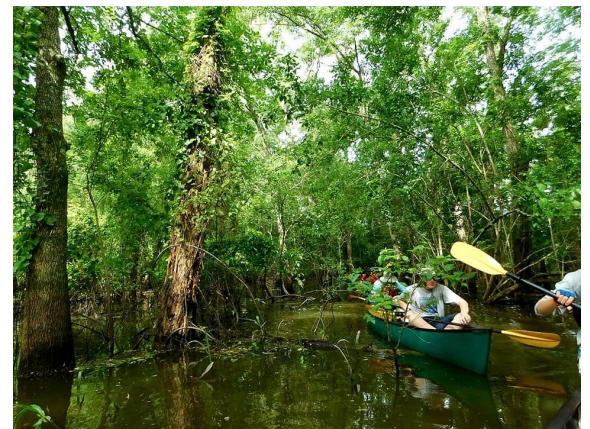
The overnight accommodations were good—cabins on the shores and since she was the only female, she had a cabin all to herself. Can't beat that! The time spent around the campfires was great. As is typical of a Boy Scouting function, campfires are the highlight at the end of a long adventurous day. A method of reflecting, relaxing, and blowing off



excess steam before climbing into those long awaited sleeping bags. Being the only Hoosiers attending, she and her family represented the State of Indiana.



This turned out to be a trip of a lifetime. Absolutely nothing was what she was expecting. The name of this high adventure Scout Camp is Swamp Base and, yes, it is in a swamp in Louisiana. They paddled 63 miles in a canoe through the swamps of Louisiana. That's right—63 MILES! .





The scenery was beautiful and so were the sun rises and sun settings.

With scenery the likes of this what can possibly go wrong? Well, Tropical Storm Cindy for one, with 25

mile per hour winds and one to two foot swells for four hours pushing them sideways. A canoe isn't all that easy to paddle on calm waters much less being pushed sideways by currents or winds. It took extra effort to make their evening destination.



Beautiful scenery, beautiful sun rises and sun

sets, made up for the Tropical Storm Cindy. They were able to protect themselves from the expected bugs. Bathroom breaks in a canoe? Won't even go there but I'll give you a hint—there's lots and lots of very, very, very dirty water around. Man Overboard!



But the extra tag-alongs they had? Peering eyes up from under the water. Fish? Nope! Snakes? Nope! Why was this article entitled Never Smile at a Crocodile? Well, an Alligator is close enough! "Never Smile at a Crocodile" is Michelle's new theme song. We played part of it in "Disney at the Movies" but she refused to stand and take recognition. These are actual photos she took on her trip.



This is Michelle Carroll, our "alligator hunter." Her hair is always just so. Her makeup is always perfect. She is always dressed prim and proper for any occasion. Can you imagine this dainty, pretty little lady in the water with alligators? Neither could I but she was brave and did it for the love of her son!

A Boy Scout Is Brave  
And So Is His Mother

