

Scouts camp out at the gun club

Most popular activity: Gun safety education and shooting practice

MATAMORAS – Together with their leaders, the Boy Scouts of Troop #76 recently held a campout at the Matamoras Rod and Gun Club.

The weather was calm, but without a campfire – there was a burn ban in Pike County at the time – the Scouts exercised resourcefulness and imagination. A Coleman lantern served as their campfire.

The highlight of the weekend was fundamental gun safety education and use of the shooting range. The rod and gun club's focus has always been on educating local youth in conservation, environment, and wildlife. The club has hosted many educational programs, camp-outs, hunter safety

courses, and shooting instruction. Club members have volunteered their time in organizing these campouts, instructed safety courses, and functioned as certified National Rifle Association Range Masters. John Finkeldie instructed the Scouts on the proper handling of a shotgun, in shooting at moving clay birds. Jim Furmo was stationed at the trap, Ralph Cowell and Laura Gallagher supervised the .22 range, and Herb Werden monitored the silhouette targets at the 100-yard range.

As the Boy Scout Merit Badge requirements for Shotgun and Rifle are stringent, it generally takes a Scout some time to earn them. The campout gave the sScouts

an opportunity to learn, ask questions, practice, and sharpen their skills under strict supervision and professional guidance.

"The troop is extremely grateful to the Matamoras Gun Club and its' members for their hospitality, dedication, and on-going support in the education of their scouts with regard to respect for the outdoors."