

Northern Alberta LDS Scout an

Five hundred and twenty youth and 300 leaders from the Northern Lights Region participated in the LDS Scout Venturer Camp at Kootenay Plains, AB. Being close to Banff National Park and the Columbia Ice fields allowed for off-site activities, as well as many more at the camp.

Morning devotionals and a flag break started each day. At eight o'clock AM the groups embarked for their daily adventure. Each evening, there were gatherings where the youth and leaders interacted with new friends. The camp coincided with the 200th anniversary of David Thompson first exploring this part of Western Canada, so a voyageur theme was carried out in many activities. One evening, some First Nations people sang and taught native dancing.

A black bear wandered around camp for the last 24 hours and just like the campers, didn't seem to want to leave. It was obvious that he had hung around the camp before us and knew that there was food around.

Many high adventure activities such as rock climbing, canoeing in Class I and II rapids, caving, ice field climbing and biking were enjoyed by all. Service projects provided an opportunity to return to the area some lasting service in return for the many wonderful experiences the area has provided us over many years. Projects included trail improvements, facility repair, and assistance in improving the Nordegg Historical site. Opening and closing ceremonies provided fellowship and excellent entertainment. Elder Richard Melchin, a church leader from Calgary, even arrived in a helicopter and delivered a stirring message.

It was an incredible and memorable camp for all involved.

