

What I did to prepare for National Scout.

My brother, Wayne Ridgeway Jr. won National Ranger of the Year for 2005–2006 & I have competed in Ranger of the Year for the past three years, this is my fourth year to compete and the first year that I can earn National Ranger of the Year. When Wayne won National Ranger of the Year for 2005-2006 I thought it would be awesome to be National Ranger of the Year & National Scout so I set a goal to earn both. At the Georgia Junior Training Academy this year a guy from Alabama came to do JTT with us, his name is Kyle Husley. I was talking with him about going for National Scout. He said that's great just be prayed up about it. From then on I prayed all the time about it. When I meet Kyle I did not know that he was National Scout for 2000-2002, but God had a reason for him being at our JTT to tell encourage me and also see how to do a JTT camp. After that I prayed and prayed and said God, if it's Your will let it be done. A couple of weeks before we had to go to Alabama I started practicing with my Knife, Hawk, & Black Powder Rifle.

On Thursday the 11th of October, Dad, my brother Wayne and I left home about 3:00 or 3:30 to head out to Alabama. On our way there an 18-wheeler had flipped over and we got stuck in traffic for an hour, after that the trip there went fine. We arrived about 6:30 or 7:00 and it was just about dark. We unloaded, and then had to start setting up in the dark. As we were setting up the Council Fire had begun so I went to the Council Fire while my brother & dad finished setting up. I was praying about the National Scout competition all evening.

The next morning after Devotion I had to get ready for the Scout competition. When we started the competition I was praying that all of us (scouts) would do our best and do it unto God. The first thing we did was go to the Rifle Range and shoot Black Powder Rifle. When I shot there was a target with 10,8,6,4, & 2 points I shoot & hit the 6 point circle. Then we broke for lunch. After lunch we meet at the Knife and Hawk area and we threw. I made 2 out of 10 sticks with the Knife. With the Hawk, I threw the first 5 times and missed, I thought that was it, I'm not going to be Scout, and then I threw 5 more times and stuck all 5 times. I got 5 out of 10 sticks with the Hawk. After that I was thinking I'm not going to be National Scout so I prayed and told God, Lord who ever you want it to be let it be. The entire time we were doing the events I prayed we would all do our best unto the Lord. After Knife and Hawk we did Flint and Steel and also Outfit's. Some of the other guys did Flint and Steel before me and did not do all that well, I did it in 7 seconds and was happy about this event. I was the last to be judged on my Outfit. I guess I did well with that. After the Outfits were judged I went to the camp and waited for the next morning. When I was waiting I was thinking that I did bad, I was like man why am I thinking like this, I prayed & said Lord if it's me it's me if not pick the right person.

The next morning we were all standing in front of the FCF members waiting to see who the new National Scout was. I was standing there thinking the guy next to me was going to be National Scout, when they called my name I was like what that's me, I was so happy after that I felt like crying but as my dad came up there he gave me a hug I was battling to hold the tears back.

Ad Dare Sevire
N"Steel
Michael Ridgeway