

The weekend of the 12th to 14th May was skills camp for 3rd Warrington East 1st Culcheth scouts, cubs and beavers at Ashworth Valley campsite near Rochdale.

When we arrived on Friday evening, we opened camp with raising the Union Jack. While the scouts and cubs put up the tents, the leaders made us hot dogs. Then we played some games – the floor is lava, Red Rover and hide and seek. After a while, the scouts separated to play some football and we then retired to our tents to get a good night's sleep prior to the busy day ahead.

Waking up to a beautiful morning (a bit too early in our opinion!) we split into two groups – one practising axe skills cutting wood for the fire and the other cooking an English breakfast. Delicious! Scouts always like to help out and Ashworth Valley had a new set of orienteering signs, so the scouts set out to put them up across the site. Some soup and a sandwich kept us going for the afternoon's activities. The scouts then joined the cubs for a spot of pioneering (building catapults) but escaped to play football before they became targets.

After that, we discovered that the cave bus feels a lot tighter as scouts than when we were cubs, but we made it through with just a few scrapes. Some more football took us through until it was time to cook some chicken curry on the fire for our dinner which was followed by cake and custard. The beavers had joined us during the day and we all spent the evening together around a campfire, singing some traditional songs and toasting marshmallows. A bit more football followed for a change and then we called it a night.

Our day started with another English breakfast cooked on a fire and we then started packing up. Ashworth Valley has its own climbing tower, so we all had a good go at reaching the top. Once we all made it down, we had the opportunity to practise our shooting skills, using crossbows which was new to all of us. Some of us got closer to the centre of the targets than others, but we all had lots of fun. Thank you to the crossbow instructor who came to help us.

After a final lunch and finishing the packing up, we closed the camp by lowering the Union Jack and all headed home for a rest. Thank you very much to all our leaders and everyone who helped on the camp – we all had a great time.