ICE “RESCUES” AT MOSES SCOUT RESERVATION

The Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures (WHOA) saw several ice “rescues” this past Saturday, February 15, at the Moses Scout Reservation. In conjunction with the Russell Fire Department one of WHOA’s many weekend activities included ice rescue demonstrations. Russell Fire Chief, Niles LaValley, and fire fighters from the Russell Fire Department showed onlookers how fire fighters safely rescue people who have fallen through the ice. After cutting a hole in the ice, fire fighters dressed in protective waterproof suits and jumped into the freezing water of Russell Pond to be rescued. Tethered with a rope held by other fire fighters on shore, the rescue fire fighter entered the water with the “victim” who together were then pulled from the water by those on shore.

One of the ice rescue “victims” included WHOA intern, Sydney Pounds. Ms. Pounds, a Marketing Major from Western New England University, volunteered to help out the fire fighters with their training. Plunging into the cold waters Pounds was pulled out by the Fire Chief. Afterwards, Chief LaValley and Ms. Pounds reversed roles with Pounds being the “rescuer”.

Away from the lake, on the sunny but cold February WHOA participants enjoyed over a dozen other activities including; geocaching, snow shoeing, escape rooms, amateur radio station and more. A sweet reward was on hand for WHOA hikers braving a mile long wilderness trail to the Top O’ The Hill maple sugar shack. Upon their arrival, the hikers witnessed how the Top O’ The Hill’s proprietor, Chuck Andrews and his family, makes the sweet liquid gold, a rare mid-February treat. Weather permitting, Mr. Andrews expects to have his “sugar shack” open for the next WHOA on March 14.

MORE
Each month Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures presents activities taking advantage of the Moses Scout Reservation’s 1300 acre acres located at 310 Birch Hill Road in Russell MA, just a few minutes from I-90 Exit 3. From 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM, a day of “WHOA” costs $15 per person and $10 for children under ten years of age with group rates available for parties of 10 or more. The ever growing list of activities are open to everyone, boys, girls, youths, adults, clubs, teams in short anyone age 5 to 105! All proceeds benefit various improvement projects and programs at the Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation.

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**About Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures:**
Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures (WHOA!) is offered by the Western Massachusetts Council, Boy Scouts of America to provide outdoor programs to families, youth groups, and businesses without being members of the BSA. The BSA has long used the outdoors as the classroom to develop young people to appreciate their environment and nature. WHOA! gives the community opportunities to “unplug” and enjoy outdoor adventure under the guidance of trained camp counselors using the 1300 acre Horace Moses Scout Reservation.

**About the Western Massachusetts Council, BSA:**
The Western Massachusetts Council, BSA is one of the largest youth-serving agencies in the four western counties of Massachusetts, serving more than 6,000 youth with educational programs that instill values, develop social and leadership skills, and promotes physical fitness and environmental awareness. The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The latest annual report is at [https://www.wmascouting.org/files/13928/Annual-Report-2017](https://www.wmascouting.org/files/13928/Annual-Report-2017).