3/02/2009 Along with having to keep warm constantly and worry about not stepping off or into any deep snow trenches, I also learned the hard way about staying hydrated in such cold weather. I awoke with a massive headache, hours before anyone else woke up and I couldn't do much about it, until everyone was up and prepping for breakfast. After we got breakfast going and I drank water to relieve my headache, I had to go wake the boys (BSA) up for the 3rd or 4th time, which required being out in the cold and wind. Because this day was also a scouts birthday (Andrew), I organized an outing to nearby Pikeville to pick up extra supplies for a party. I found the napkins, plates and I had time to buy a few souvenirs for my family as well. Pikeville is an interesting mix of cultures. It is or was dependant on coal mining, but there is also a pretty active art scene as well. It is definitely a poor and rural area, but there is a lot of Appalachian and Coal country culture as well. Once we got back to camp, I made use of hand warmers, which improve my whole outlook. We made dinner and set up for Andrew's party. It was a lot of fun, and a unique way to celebrate a birthday. Because we were up late celebrating, we decided to sleep in the next day. I really was looking forward to it.

3/03/2009 Unfortunately, we didn't get to sleep in, but the thought of it was nice. We headed out early in the morning (6:00) to a place far out from out camp on some snowmobile trails. We learned that you have to have a driver's license to drive a snowmobile, so I had to drive, which I hadn't planned on. Learning how to use them was difficult, or at least it was for me. But eventually I figured it out and I had a blast on the trails. Two of the scouts with us kept getting stuck and one of them hit a tree (he was un harmed) but he did have to pay for the damage to the snowmobile he was using. Luckily everyone got out of the trails alive. We had packed our lunches, so we sat out in a clearing in the middle of the snow and ate a brief and filling lunch. Because we had explored Pikeville the previous day, I decided we should go into town for dinner that night and eat dinner. It took forever for us to find a restaurant that could accommodate us all, but we did eventually, and everyone enjoyed the food and fun and warmth. I think we must have been quite a sight for the waitress who worked that night. After dinner, everyone was so exhausted by the snowmobile experience and the mad dash around Pikeville, we turned in early.

3/04/2009 I made an executive decision to have a late breakfast (everyone liked the idea of sleeping in) and give everyone the chance to recuperate. But when we did wake up, we found our selves snowed in by several inches. It gave us an excuse to sleep in more, stay warm and avoid frostbite. I snacked on cashews to stave off hunger and hold out until breakfast. Since we had some experience with skiing now, we all skied out to the lake in the park and ate lunch and enjoyed the scenery. The snow covered mountains are beautiful. Not everyone had an easy time of the trip, but by the end we were all having a good time. That night, after dinner we tried snow cycling, which is essentially a tricycle with skis and it is fast. It was not a calming experience so slide down a mountain at break neck spped in the middle of the night, but I will remember it forever. I did consider not trying it again, because I was freezing

and it didn’t seem like the safest thing in the world, but I manned up and took a second try. I am glad I did, because I knew what to expect, I had a blast on the second run- I couldn’t feel anything by then, but it was fun any way. I was glad to climb back into my sleeping bag that night.

3/05/2009 On our final morning, I woke everyone up early and we took group pictures, cooked dinner and packed up. After everything was loaded up, we did a final walk trough to make sure we left our sight in the same condition we found it, and a snowball fight broke out. It was a perfect ending to the trip, with snow and ice lodged in my ear, but fun none the less. We had a quite ride home; everyone was exhausted and a little sad the trip was done. I was glad I had organized such a successful trip. I was happy to have the memories from the trip as well. It was a unique experience and I will remember it my whole life.