



ANGELA'S ANGLE

By Angela Johnson Email the author January 24, 2011

Opinion

A 'Fanny Freezer' in Woodbury

My son went out ice fishing with his Cub Scout den recently. I'm feeling more Minnesotan already.



Cub Scout Pack 60 recently hosted an ice-fishing event on Powers Lake in Woodbury. It was aptly dubbed the "Fanny Freezer." Credit Angela Johnson

I'm not a native Minnesotan. But I've lived here long enough to occasionally call dinner supper and a casserole a hotdish.

I've learned to love Minnesota, and I especially love that my kids are from here. But being a Minnesotan means more than using Midwest slang for food that's mixed, cooked and served in a *hot* dish.

It sometimes means sitting on a bucket on a frozen lake under an icy bright January sun. Being Minnesotan means ice fishing.

Fortunately, my kids are Cub Scouts. So they get to experience this cold-weather, crazy activity without me. Cub Scout Pack 60 recently hosted an ice-fishing event on Powers Lake in Woodbury. It was aptly dubbed the "Fanny Freezer."

Den leaders, parents and volunteers built shelters, organized games and drilled holes in the 19-inch thick ice so that kids could try their hand at this Minnesota tradition.

I was in charge of delivering a five-gallon jug of hot chocolate. I could have left it in the parking lot and made a quick get away, but I wanted to check out the Minnesota mystique of fishing through ice. So I bundled up and tromped out onto the frozen lake.

I wasn't as cold as I thought I'd be. But I did wear two thermal layers under my down-filled coat, snow pants, boots, scarf, hat and gloves with hand-warmer packets tucked inside. I didn't fish... but I stayed for two hours clicking pictures and seeing how it's done. I'm quite proud of my outdoor endurance on a 14-degree day!

A representative with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources was there to provide the Scouts information about ice-fishing techniques as well as proper cold weather gear and ice safety. He said that since the fishing pier was built at Powers Lake in 2004, fishing interest on the lake has increased, albeit mostly in summer. He said that a typical catch at Powers Lake includes crappies and northern pike and he encouraged people to check out

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishing/index.html for more information about licenses, regulations and where the fish are biting.

The Cub Scouts didn't catch any fish at the Fanny Freezer. There were a few nibbles, but no fish for frying. But they didn't go hungry or lack for fun. They roasted hotdogs over a portable fire pit, played a rod and reel casting game, learned to identify fish and enjoyed the camaraderie of a day gone fishin'.

One father said that last year's Cub Scout ice fishing event turned his son onto fishing. Being a fishing enthusiast himself, he was thrilled to buy his boy fishing gear for Christmas and begin building a new family fishing tradition.

Here's where my heart overflows with gratitude to Cub Scouts.

My sons have been involved with Scouting since the first grade. Their experiences have been exactly what the organization said they would be: focused on building character, improving physical fitness, teaching practical skills, and developing a spirit of community service.

Most importantly, scouting provides opportunities for my sons to do Minnesota type things that I prefer not doing—like ice fishing!



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