



Willistown Troop 78

Website: www.tr78.org

Facebook: [Willistown Boy Scout Troop 78](#)

YouTube Channel: [Troop 78](#)

Volume 37 Number 2

October 2020

French Creek!

Scouting Continues During the Pandemic



October 2020

- 2 Friday Troop Meeting, [Food Festival](#)
- 6 Tuesday Virtual Troop Committee 7:00PM
- 7 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 6:30PM
- 9 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM, Field Day Part 1
- 10 Saturday [Radnor Horse Trials 7:30AM-4PM](#)
- 11 Sunday [Field Day and Court of Honor 2PM](#)
- 17 Saturday Bike Hike, Schuylkill River Trail
- 23 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM
- 30 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM, Halloween Party

[Click here for the full calendar.](#)

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Annual Registration
First Troop Meeting!
OA Weekend

French Creek State Park Campout

Saturday September 19 - Sunday September 20, 2020

By Ethan Sansone

The French Creek State Park trip was one very different from trips in past years due to COVID-19. However, many of the scouts and adults alike were able to adjust to the changes with masks and social distancing. The trip began with scouts and leaders arriving at our campsite, setting up their tents, and unpacking equipment. The troop then split into two groups, the first hiking before lunch and canoeing afterwards, and the other group doing the opposite. For the canoeing portion of the trip, we had a gentle paddle around the lake for roughly an hour and a half before having lunch. After lunch, we prepared for our hike. Then we hit the trail.



We hiked out of camp and walked for about a half mile before encountering an incline, which lasted for about a mile. The trail began to turn gradually downward, until it was a steady descent. As we hiked along the trail, I noticed there were many aspects of nature along the trail and surrounding area. It made the trail very beautiful.

We steadily hiked downward until we encountered the road running through the park. We took a short break there. Then we continued parallel to the road until the lake was in sight. We took a break there for around fifteen minutes while scouts rested and then walked the final half mile along the road back to camp. It was a very relaxing and refreshing hike.



French Creek outing (continued)

By Ethan Winkleman

On our first trip of the year to French Creek, half of our day was spent on the lake gliding over the waters in canoes. From the shore the lake looked shallow and placid because of the seaweed, but in reality the lake was surprisingly deep, as the seaweed covered the depths. We spent our time testing each other's canoeing skills and exploring the secluded corners of the lake. One scout even (intentionally) went swimming in the cold waters. When all scouts were back on land and the canoes were loaded onto the trailer, that was that.



First Troop Meeting of the New Scout Season

Friday September 11, 2020

By Ethan Winkleman

Cheers to a new year of fellowship and adventure! But there was a twist: current events had changed some procedures. All scouts and leaders wore masks, distanced themselves and squirted copious amounts of sanitizer onto their hands. However we didn't let that impede our meeting.

This September we started off the season with Field Day practice. Scouts competed in a medley of classic events such as flint and steel, heaving bar, and water boiling. A few new troop members learned how to do these like the many scouts who came before them. No one could boil the water because of wet conditions, but scouts won both the flint and steel and heaving bar among others.

With this we are a step closer to being ready for Field Day, rescheduled to this fall due to covid.

With a few special words from our Scoutmaster we bade farewell from the first troop meeting after summer. Cheers!



Order of the Arrow Service and Induction Weekend

Friday September 25 - Saturday September 26, 2020

We found ourselves at our favorite place on Earth (Camp Horseshoe) again for the September OA service weekend to benefit the camps and the scouts of Chester County. We had several scouts and a leader take the Ordeal.

The rain made the weekend a true ordeal. It rained Friday night (and on and off Saturday), and due to the covid, and there being a “no indoor” restriction, all of the candidates slept outside, without tents, in the rain.

We welcome Steve Wark, John Wark, Bill Purcell, and Jace Anderson to the Order of the Arrow!



Upcoming Events

Family Food Festival

Friday October 2, 2020, 8PM at the Cabin

We are excited for the upcoming Family Food Festival!

We are hosting the festival on Friday Oct 2 at 8PM at the regular Troop meeting.

We ask scouts to bring a food specific to their cultural heritage, to offer to the group. This year, due to the pandemic, we request everyone bring their food in ready-to-serve individual portions.

We will be following recommended State and CDC guidelines, everyone must wear a mask, except when eating, then you must socially distance.

[Click here for more information.](#)

To make this year's Festival a safe and fun one, we need your help and cooperation.

Please register in advance:

If you are bringing a food dish for the festival, [you must register in advance using this link](#) before Thursday, 10/1.

This will give the Troop time to plan the festival.

If you have not registered in advance, then please don't bring food on Friday. Hope you understand.

We will follow this rule strictly.

Please come prepared to serve your food offering in individual servings.

Food Festival (continued)

Food Festival Safety Notes:

The event will be held outside.

All those attending must wear a mask.

Food stalls will be separated by at least six feet.

Scouts will be in small groups and will be kept six feet apart.

All plates and utensils will be disposable. Troop will provide all the disposable items.

All those serving will wear gloves and masks.

There will be no buffet style food service or shared condiments.

All food items will be individual servings.

Court of Honor and Field Day

70th ANNUAL FIELD DAY and COURT OF HONOR

PARENTS AND FAMILIES ARE INVITED!

Sunday October 11, 2020 2PM at the cabin

Please join Troop 78 at the Annual Fall Court of Honor. As an added bonus, that afternoon we will hold our re-scheduled Field Day, moved from June because of the pandemic. All family and friends are welcome. We will be following State and CDC guidelines, and the event will be held entirely outside. Everyone attending must wear a mask.

We have a scout receiving Eagle, Scouting's highest rank. In addition, the Patrols will compete for Field Day winner in various contests demonstrating scout outdoor skills.

We plan to finish up around 5PM and due to the pandemic, there will be no dinner this year.

FIELD DAY - 2:00 PM to about 3:30 PM at the Scout Cabin Grounds

Come see your Scout's patrol compete in various skill events in an attempt to win the coveted Field Day trophy. For 70 years, Troop 78 has been holding this Inter-Patrol competition to determine the top patrol in Scout skills. The events today are still much the same as those of years ago.

COURT OF HONOR AND EAGLE AWARD CEREMONY 3:30 – 4:30

(or immediately following Field Day Events)

PLEASE BRING: Lawn Chairs

SCOUTS: PLEASE WEAR YOUR COMPLETE SUMMER UNIFORM TO FIELD DAY.

Bike Hike

Saturday October 17, 2020

Please join us for an exciting bike hike day trip on what we hope is a beautiful Saturday in October. We will venture to the Schuylkill River Trail in Phoenixville for a bike trip which will be set at different skill levels. You can take the beginner, intermediate, or expert trip.

We will keep you posted for more details as the date gets closer.

2020 Annual Registration

Troop 78 registration fees are now due.

Troop 78 needs to register all scouts and adults each year with the Boy Scouts of America.

BSA fees assessed on each troop member have **increased significantly**. The Troop 78 committee is raising the registration fees a very modest \$10/person to partially cover this expense and subsidizing the remainder using funds from previously cancelled activities. Registration fees will need to increase again in the future to help close the funding gap.

2020 Troop 78 Registration Fees:

Your registration category	Your registration fee	Troop provided subsidy	Troop owes BSA
First Scout	\$100	\$44	\$144
Each Additional Scout in a Family	\$85	\$27	\$112
College Scouters Age 18-20	\$55	\$23	\$78
Adults	\$75	\$3	\$78
1st Year Dads	\$55	\$23	\$78
Seniors Age 65+	\$55	\$23	\$78

All registered adults must also complete online Youth Protection Training (YPT) every calendar year at <http://my.scouting.org>. It is highly recommended you use Google Chrome browser. As a reminder, background checks are valid for 5 years. All registered adults need to renew their PA State Police and PA Child Welfare background checks before they expire. Detailed instructions for required PA background checks are found at <https://www.cccbsa.org/resources/pa-background-checks/>

[Click here for more information.](#)

Save the Date! Troop 78 Backpacking Trip

Saturday November 14 - Sunday November 15, 2020

By Jim Bennett

THIS JUST IN: Willistown Troop 78 will continue its tradition of backpacking in 2020! We will be camping at Camp Delmont, a Cradle of Liberty Council camp that is part of the Musser Scout Reservation in Pennsburg, PA (<https://colbsa.org/activities-2/musser-scout-reservation/>). Participants will meet on Saturday, November 14th at locations off the Perkiomen Trail, which is a short ride from our Cabin. We will have two departure points: one closer to camp for first-time and less-experienced backpackers; and one farther from camp for more experienced trekkers. We will hike out on Sunday, November 15th to the starting point for the shorter Saturday hike.

If you have never been on a backpacking trip, GET EXCITED! This trip is always one of the highlights of the Troop's camping calendar. And while we won't be on the Appalachian Trail this year, participants will still have the satisfaction of carrying their own gear into camp and making their own backpacking meals. This will be a first-time experience for all us, so please – don't miss this trip!

WEBELOS ARE WELCOME! Webelos will have the option of joining us for the hike in, either with gear or without, or they can come to our site at Camp Delmont to join us for post-trekking activities, including dinner and a campfire. More details to come. Look for the handout at an upcoming Troop meeting.

Scouts B.S.A. Training

Completion of the appropriate portion of the Scouts BSA training will meet the requirements for:

- Scoutmaster & Assistant Scoutmaster: S24 Scoutmaster Specific Training
- Merit Badge Counselor: D76 Merit Badge Counselor Orientation Training
- Troop Committee Chair & Committee: WS10 Troop Committee Challenge

[Click here for the link to the Adult Training page on the troop website.](#)

Where?

Answer to last month's contest:

West Point Military Academy

Please vote on this location:

[Click here to vote.](#)



Please print out this Newsletter for everyone in your house to see. Thanks!