



Newsletter

Volume 29

Number 4

December 2012

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2012

- 12/1 – Poinsettia Order Pickup at Cabin
- 12/4 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.
- 12/5 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30-8:30 PM)
- 12/7 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
- 12/13 – *Diamond Rock Holiday Roundtable*
- 12/14 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
- 12/21 – TROOP MEETING and Holiday Party (7 to 9 PM)

JANUARY 2013

- 1/2 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 - 8:30PM)
- 1/4-6 - **Winter Camp at Horseshoe – Fathers invited!**
- 1/8 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.
- 1/10 – *Diamond Rock Roundtable*
- 1/11- TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM) (Fla. Deposits Due)
- 1/18 -TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
- 1/25 -TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)

COMING UP

- 2/22-24 – Ski Trip/Matje Farm
- 3/3 – Parents' Night/Court of Honor
- 3/9 – First Aid Meet
- 3/22-30 – Florida Disney Trip

NOTE: Camping Trips/Major Events shown in Bold. TROOP MEETINGS underlined in CAPITALS. *Adult only meetings in Italics.*

CPR TRAINING AND RECERTIFICATION

CPR training and recertification will occur on February 5th, 2013, immediately after the regular troop committee meeting. CPR certification is valid for 2 years. All registered adults who are active with the troop are urged to attend if they have not been certified within the past 2 years. Due to increased costs, we are requesting a \$10 donation from each registered adult who is certified. No

prior CPR training is required to attend.

Please contact Dave Schertz at 610-687-0366 or at registrar@willistown78.org for more information.



ANNUAL WINTER CAMP AND FATHER/SON WEEKEND

(Father's attendance is not required for Scouts to attend)

WHEN: January 4 to 6, 2013

WHERE: Camp Horseshoe, Rising Sun, MD. Browning and Schramm Lodges (both heated by woodstoves)

WHAT TO BRING:

- Sleeping bag
- Foam pad
- Flashlight
- Warm clothes
- Rain or Snow gear
- Sturdy shoes or boots
- Toilet articles
- Gloves and work gloves (two pairs)
- Drinking cup (troop mugs will be on sale for \$5)**
- Scout Handbook
- Sled?
- PACK IN a DUFFEL BAG (no suitcases please)

HOW TO GET THERE: the Troop 78 bus or your dad's car. The bus (or carpools) will be leaving the cabin at 6:00 pm on Friday. Expected return is 10:30 am on Sunday.

WHAT WILL WE DO THERE?

Scout skill sessions, advancement, camp tour, woodcutting, scavenger hunt, games, movie, snacks, etc.

HOW DO I MAKE RESERVATIONS?

Tell your patrol leader by Sunday, December 30th. Food cost is \$20 for adults (collected at camp) and free for Scouts and visiting Webelos. **Dads, we encourage you to join us and see what Troop 78 is all about. Please tell your son's patrol leader you will be joining us.**

WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

Call your patrol leader or senior patrol leader.



HEADING TO WALT DISNEY WORLD WITH TROOP 78?

Reserve your spot for Spring Break 2013 – March 22-30
With a five day Park-Hopper ticket,

you can visit any of the four theme parks (Magic Kingdom, Disney's Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom, and Epcot), and you can use your pass for up to five visits to Disney Quest and the water parks (Typhoon Lagoon, Blizzard Beach), or just swim and hang out at the Fort Wilderness campground at any time.

Our Troop Committee has determined eligibility as, those Scouts who:

- 1) **are registered and active in the troop (50% minimum participation),**
- 2) **attended or worked at summer camp at least one week in 2012,**
- 3) **are or will be First Class rank by March 22nd , and**
- 4) **are responsible enough to visit the theme parks with a small group of other Scouts as determined by their parents and the Scoutmaster.**

The total cost including bus transportation, food, camping fees, a five-day, Park-Hopper Disney pass, is expected to be **only \$495.00**. Money from your Scout camping account may be used for this trip. A \$200 deposit is due by **January 11th**. Note: Although all meals are provided at the campsite, most Scouts bring \$100 to \$150 spending money for food (lunch in the parks), beverages, souvenirs, etc.

Reserve your spot now by sending your deposit of \$200. per person via check **payable to Willistown Troop 78, B.S.A., to: Miles Stevens, 1130 Paxson Hollow Rd., Media, PA 19063, or bring it to a troop meeting.** You may use your Scout camping account money by calling or e-mailing Mr. Joe Cady at (610) 647-4037 jcady@comcast.net

Once you reserve a spot you will receive further instructions regarding departure times, what to pack, spending money, bus preparation etc. **We must have at least 20 Scouts and adults to camp at Disney. If we do not have 16 Scouts, we will have to cancel, so talk it up!**



BACKPACKING ON THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

By Ian Riley (Rattlesnake Patrol)

On the weekend of the 17th, Troop 78 went backpacking in lieu of the New York Trip (postponed due to Superstorm Sandy). Although it was no trip to the Big Apple, it was a marvelous experience for everyone who went. We all quietly arrived at the cabin at six in the morning and collected our lunches before climbing into the bus for the long drive out. When we arrived, the long hikers began their 7-mile trek, and the bus pulled around to drop off the short hikers for a 3-mile one. Though the day was a bit on the cold side, we quickly took off our top layers in preparation for the walk ahead, which deposited us at the campsite around 2:00. We were excited to find a rocky wall that we quickly began to scale. We got more water (courtesy of a small stream about a quarter mile away and a water pump) and prepared dehydrated meals like Beef Stew, Lasagna and Chicken Teriyaki. We all went to sleep around sundown (roughly 6:00) and got up at the crack of dawn to pack up and head home, but not before a quick visit to a local rest stop. This trip was splendid, and I for one I am looking forward to one next year.

APPALACHIAN TRAIL HISTORY

By Michael Orlow, Troop Historian

In 1921, a forester named Benton MacKaye conceived the idea for the Appalachian Trail. His idea was to create a massive trail from Maine to Georgia to connect farms and forest work camps for city dwellers. On October 7th, 1923, the first section of the trail was opened. It led from Bear Mountain to Arden, New York. In 1925, the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) was formed to undergo the creation of the trail. It was

led by a retired judge named Arthur Perkins and his associate Myron Avery. A farmer named Ned Anderson was tasked with mapping and blazing the part of the trail that led through Connecticut from 1929 to 1933. Anderson's effort renewed the interest that people had in the trail. Myron Avery rerouted part of the trail and became the first person to hike the entire trail in 1936 (though not as a Thru-Hike). In 1948, Earl Shaffer of Pennsylvania was the first person to complete a Thru-Hike on the trail. A Thru-Hike is when the entire Appalachian Trail is hiked in the time-span of one season. Later, Shaffer turned around and completed another Thru-Hike in the opposite direction. In 1998, Shaffer once again completed a Thru-Hike at the age of 80, making him the oldest person to do so. In 1994, a story about six Boy Scouts from the Bronx was posted, saying that they completed a Thru-Hike in 1936, but people were very skeptical, so it was not believed to have been true. In 1971, a permanent trail had been marked, and by the end of the 20th Century, all but a few miles of the trail were complete.

NEW DADS NEEDED!

The Troop Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 4, at 7:30 PM, at the cabin. The committee usually meets on the first Tuesday of the month to guide and discuss the operation of the troop. New dads are especially encouraged to attend.



ORDER YOUR SCRIP NOW

Hello 78ers! Already, we placed our first order of the season and are planning to place another in December, so why fight the holiday crowds when you can shop at home with Scrip? You can buy gift cards for

everyone on your list. You can get gift cards for restaurants, electronics, gas, toys, movies, iTunes, clothing stores, sports stores, books, music and the list goes on.

Take advantage by placing your orders by December 7th and all cards will be in for pickup on December 14th

at the troop meeting. You can get your order forms either at the cabin or email us and we will send it to you via email.

You can also check out Great Lakes Scrip Center, the site where we place our orders, for all the gift cards available to order. We streamlined the

order form so that you don't have to look through the 1000 or more vendors, but if you are looking for something off the beaten track, check the website, and if you find it, we will be more than happy to order it for you.

Ted and Diane Dinsmore

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Newsletter

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