



# Willistown Troop 78

Website: [www.tr78.org](http://www.tr78.org)

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

YouTube Channel: [Troop 78](#)

Volume 37 Number 4

December 2020

## Backpacking!

### Scouting Continues During the Pandemic



#### December 2020

- 1 Tuesday Virtual Troop Committee 7PM
- 2 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7:00PM
- 3 Thursday Poinsettia order sorting and pick up
- 4 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM
- 11 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM
- 18 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM, Holiday Party
- 25 Friday NO Troop meeting due to the Christmas Holiday

[Click here for the full calendar](#)

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# Backpacking on the Perkiomen Trail

Saturday November 14 - Sunday November 15, 2020

By David Lane

During this past November we had our backpacking trip of the year on the Perkiomen Trail. This trip was a bit lighter than our normal backpacking trips on the rocky hills of the Appalachian Trail and was much more paved, but was still a great hike. I went with the long hike group which experienced about a 8-9 mile hike on the way there, and it was a pretty interesting trip this time. Overall we passed a few interesting things on our way to the end of the hike, but I must say this was only a reminder of our great backpacking trips to the mountain trails.



After completing the trek to our end destination, we shuttled over to Camp Delmont. In total it was a good site to camp, with some good staff. There, after setting up our tents, we cooked up some standard backpacking dinners, Beef Stroganoff and Chicken soup. Sunday morning, we hiked out another six miles to our pick up spot and returned home by individual car (no bus).

If I was to summarize this trip, it was a great experience. It was no Appalachian Trail backpacking trip, but it was great for the times we are in and a great trip given the circumstances. Hopefully next year we can get back on the bus to get in an even better trip.



# Scout On!

## Troop meetings continue

The Troop continues to hold meetings and outings, uninterrupted throughout the pandemic. We are conducting all activities outside, following recommended restrictions and guidelines. The scouts and leaders are determined to make Scouting work despite the obstacles put in our path by covid.

On a recent Friday night, in the pouring rain, we had 35 scouts and 15 leaders push through a full troop meeting program from opening to Scoutmaster's Benediction.

The scouts are prepping for the upcoming Klondike Derby, the Council-wide winter camporee, set for the third weekend in January at Camp Ware. Events planned for the camporee are all outdoor scout skills competitions. At the troop meeting, the scouts practiced shelter building, two-man saw, knots and other outdoor skills, with plans for future meetings to practice for the other events such as string burning, sled race, map and compass, first aid, obstacle course, archery, paintball target shooting.

Lots of fun and looking forward to the Derby!



## In Memoriam

### Remembering Jim Donnelly

By Ernie Heegard

Jim Donnelly is a legend around Troop 78 as he spent a great portion of his 97 years using his talents and skills for our troop. He joined us with his two sons, Jim, Jr. and Ed, in 1957. He was heavily involved in all of our troop activities.



His first big trip was our first big canoe trip in 1958 to the Algonquin Provincial Park in Canada. It was so successful we have continued almost every year since then to explore almost all of this huge park.

Jim was always a big help in our fundraising, upkeep at the old cabin, and the current one, but his greatest contribution was as his role as Secretary, a position he had for 58 years - first as Secretary of Troop 78 and he later added the role of Secretary of the sponsoring organization - Friends of Troop 78. His total tenure in the position of Secretary of both organizations is a record which will be hard to beat.

He will be remembered a long, long time for his love of Troop 78 and all the friends he made along the way. We all salute you for your contributions to Troop 78.

**By James Donnelly, Jr.**

James Joseph Donnelly, age 97 of Malvern PA passed away on September 13, 2020. He is survived by his wife of 76 years, Gladys, two sons, James J. Jr and Edward, four grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Born on May 16, 1923, Jim was one of ten children. Jim enlisted in the Navy in 1941. He served as a radio operator on Liberty ships taking supplies to the North Atlantic area. He was then assigned to the destroyer USS Shubrick and saw combat off Okinawa when the ship was struck by a kamikaze plane. The ship was patched up enough that it was able to return to Washington State under its own power. Fortunately, the war was over, the ship was not repaired, and Jim was given an Honorable Discharge from the Navy in November 1945.

After the war, Jim was fortunate to gain employment with the Red Arrow Line of the Philadelphia Suburban Transportation Company which was bought by SEPTA. Jim was employed in this line of work for more than 40 years.

Jim was an avid golfer, hunter, fisherman, boat captain, and traveler. He enjoyed boating so much he went to Canada every summer with friends and family for 25 years. He volunteered his time at numerous events and served on the board of Willistown Boy Scout Troop 78 from 1958 until his death. He became a member of the Order of the Arrow and received a Scouting lifetime achievement award.

**Editor's Note:**

Jim received the Bellgrau award for outstanding leadership and service to Troop 78, and in 2006, was the first recipient of the "Old Loon Award" presented by the Friends of Troop 78. In 2013, The troop named the youth Compass Award for leadership and continued commitment to Troop 78 in honor of Jim Donnelly on the occasion of his 90th birthday and over 55 years of service to the troop. In July of 2019, the Troop held an Appreciation Banquet to honor Jim and Gladys and their many contributions to Troop 78.

## **Poinsettia and Wreath Holiday Sale Update!**

### **Regular order delivery starting Dec 3**

Preliminary results of the Holiday Sale are in and the sale was a grand success! Hundreds of poinsettias and wreaths will be decorating homes throughout the region for the Holidays, thanks to the efforts of the troop scouts and leaders.

The plants and wreaths have been sorted into their individual orders and picked up by the scouts. At this point, all of the plants have been cleared out of the cabin and most if not all of the orders have been delivered.

More information to come! We will tabulate the totals and report the proceeds in future issues of the Newsletter.



## **Scout Camping Accounts**

[Please click here for updated information on individual scout camping accounts.](#)

## “Remind”: Text reminder system

Stay informed! Please join the Troop 78 Remind system. This text system is used by Troop leadership to keep you informed about last minute schedule changes and updates.

We only send out about one text a week, so you do not need to worry about too many texts!

Join by texting @willistown to 81010.

## Scrip Gift Card Program

Giving a gift card this year? Do you know family or friends who might be? Please consider buying your gift cards through Troop 78. The Scrip program is a rebate program for gift cards for hundreds of national and local retail stores. Purchaser pays face value for the gift cards and Troop 78 receives a rebate - this rebate is split in half between the selling scout (for their Scout Camping Account) and the Troop. The rebate varies by store but can range from 2-12%. For instance: for each Barnes and Noble card, the Troop earns 8% of the value. If you buy a \$100 B&N card, the Scout earns \$4 towards their Scout Account, and the Troop earns \$4. The value of the card remains \$100.

Please see the Scrip website for the full list of stores, <http://www.shopwithscrip.com>. If you wish to purchase gift cards, please contact Sherri Wark by December 9th at [sherriwark@yahoo.com](mailto:sherriwark@yahoo.com). Cards will be delivered to the Cabin for the meeting On Friday December 18th.

In addition to gift cards for holiday gifts, please consider purchasing gift cards for regular monthly expenses if you can. Giant, Acme, Wawa, Home Depot, and many restaurants. Even pre-purchasing one month of any expense will help raise funds.

If you wish to purchase electronic gift cards, please contact Sherri Wark for more details. [sherriwark@yahoo.com](mailto:sherriwark@yahoo.com). \*Not all gifts cards are eligible for electronic purchase.

[Please click here for more details.](#)

Thank you for helping Troop 78!!

## Adult Training

### Chainsaw training!

The next round of chainsaw training is set for:

January 14: Online

January 16: in-person at Camp Ware

# Updated Covid Restrictions

We have updated our protocols for Troop activities due to the pandemic.

[Please click here for our updated protocols.](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Holiday Party!

Friday December 18, 2020

At the troop meeting on Friday December 18 we will have our Holiday Party, gift exchange and snack.

The scouts will begin the meeting learning and practicing wilderness survival skills to help them prepare for the upcoming Klondike Derby in January.

After the training, skills demonstration and competition, the scouts will move to the party.

Scouts: if you wish to participate in the Holiday gift exchange, this is how it works. Bring a small, in most cases scout or outdoor activity related gift of approximately \$10 in value. If you bring a gift, you may take a gift someone else brought.

**NO gag gifts! Only gift something you would wish to receive.**

After the gift exchange, we will enjoy a snack of Holiday treats.

[Click here for more information.](#)

### Klondike Derby

Saturday January 22 - Sunday January 23, 2020

Willistown Troop 78 will be attending the Chester County Council Klondike Derby. This is a winter countywide camporee, a weekend of fun and scout skill competitions with all the other troops in the Council.

We will convene at Camp Ware Saturday, camp in tents (one person to a tent) and enjoy a day of fun and wilderness survival skill competitions. The scouts have been prepping for this trip now for several weeks.

[Click here for more information.](#)

See you at Camp Ware!

# Walt Disney World Spring Break 2021

Saturday March 27 to Saturday April 3, 2020

Troop 78 has been going to Florida every Spring Break since before Disney opened, and the troop made its first trip to Walt Disney World in 1973. The troop trip to Disney has become a valued tradition as we have ventured down to Disney every year since 1973, missing only 2 years in a 47 year span. Disney's unprecedented closure last year due to Covid-19 accounted for one of the 2 missed years.

We recognize that Spring Break 2021 may not be back to normal, but due to the deep tradition and popularity of the Disney trip, we wanted to gage the interest for the Disney Spring Break trip for 2021.

**We must have at least 15 Scouts and Adults to Camp at Disney's Fort Wilderness Campground.**

**When are we planning on going?** March 27th to April 3rd

**What are we going to do?** We plan to visit each of the four theme parks (Magic Kingdom, Disney's Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom, and Epcot). During your non-park time you can relax and swim at the Fort Wilderness campground.

**Who can go?**

Scouts and leaders who are registered and active in the troop,

Scouts must have attended (or worked) at summer camp at least one week in 2019, and

Scouts who are *or will be* First Class rank by March 17th, and who are responsible enough to visit the theme parks *on their own* with a small group of other Scouts as determined by their parents and the Scoutmaster.

**The cost to go on the trip to Disney?** \$825 plus spending money

**What do I get for the \$825 cost?** Round trip bus transportation on the luxurious troop bus, food and meals, camping fees, a Four day Disney Park pass which provides you with the adventures of conquering all of the 'mountains' in Disney, visiting Mickey and Minnie, and creating some magical memories. While doing all of this you will learn the value of money, how to read a transportation map, learn how to use public transportation, time management, and many more life skills.

**How do I sign up for this annual trip?** Handouts will be given out during a troop meeting in December and they will also be posted on the troop web site.

Once you reserve a spot you will receive further instructions regarding departure times, what to pack, spending money, bus preparation etc.

**Dates to remember for mandatory meetings and payments are:**

1. Friday January 15<sup>th</sup> (Troop Meeting) - \$425.00 Deposit and permission slip are due (Che
2. Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> (Troop Meeting)- \$400 Final Payment due
3. Friday March 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 PM (after Troop meeting) – Scout and Parent Meeting (Parent must attend with scout)
4. Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup> – Bus and equipment cleaning meeting 1:00PM to 4:00PM
5. Friday March 26<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM Load your gear on the bus
6. Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup> – 1PM Leave for DISNEY

**We must have at least 15 Scouts and Adults to Camp at Disney.**



# Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) Trip

Saturday July 23 - Saturday August 6, 2022

As most of you know, we had to reschedule our 2020 Kandersteg Adventure due to the COVID-19 restrictions. We have rescheduled this trip to the summer of 2022. Many of our participants have signed up again, but we have had several participants drop out. With that said, we are taking this opportunity to open up this trip to the entire troop for those who might want to join us on this adventure. The new dates of the trip will be July 23 - August 6, 2022.

Questions?: Please email Sam Lemheney at [sam@creativeeventsolutions.com](mailto:sam@creativeeventsolutions.com)



## Scout and Scouters Requirements for the Kandersteg Trip

- Must be a minimum of 13 yrs. old as of the start date of the trip
- Registered in the Troop as of September, 2020
- Scout must be First Class before trip departure
- Actively participate in all Troop 78 fundraisers
- Scout must attend summer camp in 2021 and 2022
- Be an active Troop participant (Scoutmaster discretion)
- Agree to abide by Troop Code of Conduct

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