



Willistown Troop 78

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Volume 32 Number 3

November 2015

Upcoming Events

November

Monday 2

Friends of Troop 78 7PM

Tuesday 3

Board of Review 7PM

Troop Committee Meeting 7:30PM

Wednesday 4

Patrol Leaders' Council 7PM

Friday 6

Troop Meeting 7PM

Early poinsettia orders due for delivery

November 20

Saturday 14 to Sunday 15

Campout: Backpacking trip to the Appalachian Trail at the Delaware Water Gap

Tuesday 17

"First Responder" Webelos Event

Thursday 19

Pick up early poinsettia orders at the cabin

Friday 20

Troop Meeting 7PM

Holiday poinsettia orders due for December 3 delivery

Please note: There is no Troop Meeting Friday November 27th.

[Click Here for Full Troop Calendar](#)

Glorious PA Grand Canyon!

The troop visited the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon on the glorious October weekend of the 16th, 17th and 18th. The trip was very popular with 35 scouts and 14 leaders in attendance. After a lengthy bus ride up to the canyon Friday night, we set up camp. Early Saturday morning we broke into two groups, the bikers and the hikers. The trail was a rail-to-trail along Pine Creek which runs through the gorge at the base of the canyon. The hikers went in one direction for an 8 mile up and back. The bikers went in the opposite direction for either a 16 mile or a 32 mile up and back.

The day was spectacular with the sun sparkling through the trees in full Autumn splendor of yellows, oranges and reds. Afterwards there were sore feet and bottoms, but a great time was had by all. When everyone was back from their respective hikes, we all motored to the Park Headquarters where there was an overlook for tourists. There we viewed the canyon from the upper rim and took in the most beautiful views and got some great pictures.



Pennsylvania Grand Canyon



Taking a rest

[Bike Hike Video](#)

[Bike Hike Video](#)

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Poinsettia Sale Underway

Orders Due for Troop Apparel

Volunteers needed for the Webelos Event

Hickory Run State Park Campout

By Francis Purcell

The trip to Hickory Run state park was a great success. This was because we had a great team of adults and a stellar Senior Patrol Leader. As I was riding to the cabin on Friday night, I found out the trip was pushed back to Saturday morning. So, the next morning we arrived to the cabin at 5:45 AM to leave at 6:30. Mr. Bravo drove the bus and Mr. Bilson led the trip. On the bus, Ethan took attendance and everyone else either slept or talked about current events. When we arrived to the trailhead, it was still raining, but everyone was prepared because we all brought our rain gear to stay dry. Ethan led the hike and the adults stayed in the hike. We had an abundance of visiting boys and they fit in nicely on this trip. We hiked for a while and then we stopped to see a beautiful view of the Lehigh River near some rusty train tracks. After we saw the beautiful view, we kept hiking until we crossed a road into a parking lot. At the parking lot, we ate some delicious ham sandwiches made by Christian Skodny and Martin Williams. Next, we kept hiking and came to a stop when Mr. Bravo saw a black bear. Then after the bear sighting, we split into two groups, those two groups were the longer portion and the shorter portion. On the longer portion,

our nature enthusiast Mr. Bravo saw a brown hairy caterpillar that was on a log munching on some leaves.

After the hike, we got on the bus for a short ride to our campsite which was in beautiful condition since the rain was nowhere to be seen. Next, we set up our tents, the kitchen, and our patrol cooking sites in great time. For dinner, each patrol cooked beef stew and had dinner rolls to accompany our beef stew. There was a competition to see who had the best tasting beef stew. The judges were Ethan Bilson and Mr. Bravo. The adult patrol came in first led by Mr. Bilson, Flying Eagle second led by Nathan Motel, and Rattlesnake Patrol came in third which was led by Jay Madarasz. After dinner, we cleaned up and got into our cozy sleeping bags. That night, there was a lot of wind that sounded pleasant going across the trees.

The next morning, we woke up to the sound of the blustery wind hitting the trees. Breakfast was cooked by patrols and we had some scrumptious sausage and French toast. Then, we cleaned up breakfast and helped the adults put away the entire troop's camping gear quickly in under an hour. After that, we got on the bus and traveled back to the cabin. I would like to thank Mr. Bravo for driving the bus and Mr. Bilson and Ethan for leading the trip.



At the start of the hike



Lehigh River overlook from the trail

Radnor Horse Trials

You will be pleased to know our long association with Radnor Hunt continued Saturday October 10th at the Fall Radnor Horse Trials. That day dawned with Troop 78 volunteers posted at the usual places on the Radnor grounds. Troop 78ers began the day parking horse trailers, big, noisy, smelly, from Pennsylvania and from places as far away as Ohio and Connecticut.

When the events began our scouts and leaders were posted around the jumping rings helping set up and take down and reset the jumps. We organized and maintained the two jumping rings throughout the day and took the rings down at the end of a long day which ran from 6 AM to 5 PM. All together the troop supported the event with 12 scouts and 10 leaders putting in over 120 man-hours.



Fall Court of Honor and Family Picnic

By Nathan Motel

Every October Troop 78 has one of its tri-annual award ceremonies to honor the scouts that have achieved higher ranks and other awards. This Court of Honor was a special one due to the four new Eagles and the banquet before the ceremony.

Everyone arrived at the cabin around three o'clock on Sunday October 11th with a side dish or salad. The weather was perfect and everybody gathered outside and Mr. D called the start of the picnic with lasagna as the main course. Everyone rushed the food line. The troop as always had too much food for anyone to eat, which is a good thing. After everyone had their fill, we all gathered inside the cabin to begin the Court of Honor part of the program. This Court of Honor was quite an impressive one due to the fact that we had 4 Eagle Scouts. We started the ceremony with the handing out of the lower ranks and the hundreds of merit badges earned at Camp Horseshoe. Then came the announcements about upcoming trips and fundraisers. Then we recognized the Patrol-of-the-Year: Stag and the Scout-of-the-Year: Branden Schallack. The final award was the Eagles. Michael Orlow, Chip Lemheney, Andrew Chow, and Lee Neeves all received their Eagle Scout Rank. This is the highest rank in scouting and is a huge honor. Before receiving the rank, all four of the scouts were introduced by another scout. This introduction explains the scout's career as a scout and the highlights of their time in Troop 78. I introduced Michael, Tommy Walsh introduced Lee, Kyle Sheridan introduced Andy and George Meltzer Introduced Chip. After the awarding of all of the Eagle ranks there was, as always, cake. Everyone enjoyed the Court of Honor and is looking forward to achieving higher ranks in scouting at the next Court of Honor in February.



Four new Troop 78 Eagles



Patrol of the Year: Stag

Left to Right: Andrew Chow, Michael Orlow, Chip Lemheney, Lee Neeves

Appalachian Trail - November 14th and 15th Backpacking Trip

Once again, we have a great backpacking trip lined up for beginners and experienced hikers alike as we traverse the Appalachian Trail on November 14 and 15, 2015.

This year's trip takes us to New Jersey, home to 72 rugged miles of the world-famous Appalachian Trail. Our camping destination will be the Appalachian Mountain Club's Mohican Outdoor Center in Blairstown, New Jersey. The Center is located on the banks of Catfish Pond, which is a 60 acre, pristine glacial lake.

Our shorter hike – about 7.5 miles in length – will start from a point north of the Center from Blue Mountains Lake Road and the hikers will follow the ridge to the Appalachian Mountain Club's Mohican Outdoor Center. This group will gain about 300 feet in elevation – until they come to the Catfish Fire Tower. The Tower climbs another 300 feet up and affords tremendous views for miles around. The Tower is staffed in November and we're hopeful that the hikers on this route will get a chance to go up in the Tower.

The long hike will be just over 10 miles and will start at the base of Mount Tammany, on the New Jersey side of the Delaware Water Gap. These hikers will wind along the Dunnfield Creek Trail until they ascent 1,000 feet to meet the AT at Sunfish Pond – another beautiful glacial lake. From there, the long hikers will travel along the ridge, enjoying beautiful views, until they arrive at the AMC Mohican Outdoor Center.

The Mohican Outdoor Center has a great fire pit and plenty of potable water, so once we settle into camp, our hikers will enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship around a fire. The Sunday hike out will either be a reverse of the shorter hike, or we make take an alternate route out to catch the bus.

The backpacking trip is one of the highlights of our Troop camping calendar. As always, we want every Scout in the Troop to go on the backpacking trip. The scenery will be tremendous, and each Scout will get to use all of his Scouting skills – including cooking and map and compass navigation – on this trip. Fathers are welcome to join us as well.

The trip is appropriate for hikers of all abilities. While the shorter hike isn't "short," the fact that hikers don't do a lot of climbing allows them to walk further than if we had a lot of ups and downs on the hike. The long hikers will be rewarded with terrain that is both varied and beautiful: We'll walk along Dunnfield Creek and then gain a lot of vertical in a short amount of time as we reach Sunfish Pond. And the Mohican Outdoor Center is a well-regarded facility that will be a welcome respite for all hikers.

If you've never backpacked, now is your chance! If you need a backpack, the Troop can provide you with a "loaner." We have plenty of experienced Scouts and Scouters who are ready, willing and able to help you enjoy this trip. Our backpacking excursion is designed to build confidence and camaraderie. First-time Scouts who do this trip are awarded a Troop "spork." Maybe you'll take yours on a high-adventure trip to Canada or Philmont!

Sign up information will be available at the next Troop meeting, but mark your calendar and plan to join us for this great trip.

[For More Information Click Here](#)

Notices of Upcoming Events

Fall Registration Due

Click below to open the registration article and the registration forms. These forms also contain the link to the information necessary to complete the new mandated background checks. [Annual Registration Information and Form](#)

Poinsettia Sale

ATTENTION ALL SCOUTS AND SCOUTERS -

Our 2015 Poinsettia Sale is now underway. This is a reminder for you to get your early orders together from your BIG customers because your orders along with the money are due FRIDAY NOVEMBER, 6TH. The plants will be ready for you to PICK UP and deliver to your customers on THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19TH, 2pm - 6pm.

You should also start taking orders for the REGULAR ORDERS, to be delivered on THURSDAY DECEMBER 3RD, 2pm - 6pm. Money for those orders is due NOVEMBER 20TH.

If you need any forms or pictures of the plants you can get them on website at: [Poinsettia Sale](#)

“Holiday” Pasta Dinner

All the retailers are starting the season before Halloween. Joe and his crew are starting after Halloween. Again the boys are putting together an incredible meal. Come out and support the troop but more importantly support the guys that put this gathering together.

Consider this to be Troop 78's Thanksgiving feast, come out and give "thanks" for all the troop does for the boys. Also, show appreciation and thanks to "the Pasta Crew."

Date: November 10

Time: 7:00PM

Menu: Roasted pork tenderloin

Pasta with marinara

Green Beans with almonds

Salad

Dessert

Cost is only \$20 includes entire meal, beverage, tips and gratuities.

All proceeds go to the bus fund.

Notices of Upcoming Events (continued)

Important KISC Trip Updates

We're now only nine months away from our great adventure in the Swiss Alps at the Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) next summer! The trip is rounding into shape as we get closer to the date. We've locked in our flights from Philadelphia as the price was better than our other options. The Scout Committee will be meeting soon, Matt Urban will select the date and contact the Scouts. The Committee will be finalizing our itinerary, which we'll then get out to the group. Also there are two trip gear updates to let you know about.

First, the due date for the neckerchief patch design contest has been moved up a month. The due date is now December 4, 2015. Patch designs will be collected that evening at the Troop meeting. Or you can submit them to me via email at stevencharlesbrown@yahoo.com. I can also now announce that the prize for the winning design will be a Troop jacket, which will be needed for the trip. And that brings me to the second gear update, which is the Planning Committee has decided to require that everyone have a Troop jacket for the trip. Not only will you need a warmer jacket in Switzerland, wearing the same jacket (and hats) makes it easier to keep track of everyone and keeps the Troop looking sharp. Troop clothing is now on sale with orders due November 20, 2015.

First Responder Webelos Event

Willistown Boy Scout Troop 78 is providing a First Responder Session for The Arrow of Light. On November 17, 2015 from 7:00 - 8:30pm we will be providing a First Responder session for all Webelos and their Dens at our cabin in Malvern. [Click here for directions to our Cabin.](#) For More information on this event view our flyer below.

[Click Here for More Information on the First Responder Event](#)

Troop Jackets, Hats and Hoodies

Orders for Troop jackets, fleece, hats and hoodies are now being taken just in time for the Holidays. Once again you can sport the famous Troop 78 logo on your very own fleece jacket, Leader's jacket, polo shirt, baseball cap, knit cap, and cotton hoodie. We are taking orders through to November 20 for delivery in time for Christmas. Please note: if you plan to attend the trip this coming summer to Kandersteg in Switzerland, youth must have a Troop 78 fleece jacket and adults must have a Troop 78 leader's jacket.

[Click here for more information on troop apparel](#)