



Newsletter

Volume 27 Number 7 March 2011

COMING EVENTS

MARCH 2011

3/1 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.

3/2 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 PM)

3/4 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)

3/6 - **ANNUAL PARENT'S NIGHT AND COURT OF HONOR (3 PM) – Scout Cabin**

3/10 – *Diamond Rock Roundtable*

3/11- TROOP FIRST AID MEET (7 to 9 PM)

3/12 – **Council First Aid Meet (plan to attend!) Meet at Cabin at 6:30 AM**

3/12 – Order of the Arrow Banquet (5:30 PM)

3/15 – *Pasta Night* (7 PM)

3/18 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM) Hoagie money due

3/25-27 - **Backpacking Trip**

APRIL 2011

4/1 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)

4/2 – Spring Clean-up Day at Cabin

4/5 - Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.

4/6 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 PM)

4/7 – *Diamond Rock Roundtable - Charcuterie*

4/8 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM) Parents build hoagies

4/9 – **Build and Deliver Hoagies (7 to 9 AM)**

4/15 - 4/23 – **Florida Trip – Disney World**

4/29 - 5/1- Order of the Arrow Ordeal & Service Weekend

4/30 – Troop Yard Sale, Flower Sale & Bake Sale (8AM to Noon)

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

NEW DADS NEEDED!

The March Troop committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 1, at 7:30 PM at the cabin. The committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month to guide and discuss the operation of the Troop. New dads are especially encouraged to attend.

WILLISTOWN TROOP 78 PARENT'S NIGHT AND COURT OF HONOR Sunday, March 6, 2011

Time: 3:00 pm (Scouts arrive by 2:45)

Place: Troop 78 Cabin, 15 Mill Road (If our lot is filled, please park at the baseball fields next door.)

Our program includes -

- Highlights of the first half of the Scout year
- Presentation of merit badges, rank advancement and Eagle Palms
- Recruit of the Year award presentation
- Order of the Arrow call out ceremony
- Eagle award Court of Honor for Jimmy Hogan, Mark Dimonte, and James Mateyk.

The Eagle families will provide cake and refreshments.

Scouts and Scouters please wear your complete uniform (OA sash if a member).



CHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL FIRST AID MEET Saturday, March 11 Oxford Area High School

This is the one we've been practicing for since November. Don't miss it! Your patrol needs you!

- Meet at the cabin at 6:30 am (in complete Scout uniform) for the bus ride to Oxford
- Wear rubber soled shoes or sneakers
- Expected pick up time 1:00 pm
- Each participant will receive a first aid meet patch

Please let your Patrol Leader know if you are coming!

Remember to study the First Aid in your Scout Handbook the night before.



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BACKPACKING – HOW TO HAVE A GREAT TRIP

March is upon us, and Troop 78 is about to hit the trail for our annual backpacking trip. For many of us, the backpacking trip is the premier event on the Troop 78 weekend camping calendar. It combines the best elements of Scouting. We take a challenging hike, complete with backpack; we carry all of our own gear and food; we experience the best (and sometimes, depending on the weather, the not-so-great) of nature. How many people, when asked, "What did you do this weekend?" can say that they were self-sufficient for an entire weekend? Well, come on this trip, and you'll be able to make exactly that claim!

The great thing is that is trip is geared to appeal to both the experienced backpacker and the novice alike.

We'll be taking two different hikes that end up at the same place. The shorter hike is perfect for newcomers. You'll work on map and compass skills, and everyone will get a chance to lead the hike. So, if you are a first-time backpacker – no problem – we can help to make sure that your experience is a good one. Step one (literally and figuratively) starts with making sure you're properly dressed, that you have the appropriate equipment, and that you have packed to keep your gear dry. Here are some simple guidelines for you to follow to help you get the most out of your trip:

- Line your pack with a heavy plastic liner. When backpacking, you must protect your gear and food from the elements. Lining your pack with a heavyweight plastic bag – like a contractor-grade trash bag – will keep moisture out of your pack and away from your gear.

- Bring a pack cover. Unlike our usual weekend trips, on the backpacking trip, your pack stays outside at nights. Moreover, you'll be carrying your pack, and it's possible that we'll have rain or snow. Having a heavy-duty liner in your pack is a big help, but you need to cover the outside of your pack with something waterproof as well. Pack covers that are specifically made to cover your backpack work well. They are relatively inexpensive, can be purchased from outfitters like REI and EMS and can sometimes be found at sporting goods stores. If you don't have a pack cover, you can use a second heavy plastic bag and put it over the outside of your pack. With a cover on the inside *and* a cover on the outside, you'll be sure to keep your pack's contents nice and dry.

- Avoid cotton! Cotton products – even 50/50 materials – are the enemy of the backpacker. Why? Because cotton fibers absorb moisture. When cotton gets wet, it becomes heavy, and it takes forever to dry. Additionally, even damp cotton clothing robs your body of heat. The same holds true when you wear cotton sweat socks. Your socks absorb moisture, and your feet get cold.

Leave your cotton clothing at home. Check the tags of your clothes to find out the materials they contain.

- Go with wool and synthetics. Bring clothing made of wool or high-tech synthetics. Synthetic materials wick moisture away from your body. They tend to be lightweight, and when they do get wet, they dry quickly. Wool, while heavier than synthetics, keeps its insulating properties, even when it's wet. We recommend wool socks and a wool hat, and synthetic shirts and pants. And remember to bring extra socks. Have a clean pair for bed and a clean pair for the return hike. And, bring high socks – not the low-cut “running socks” that several of you brought to Winter Camp.

- Wear hiking boots. Taking good care of your feet when you backpack is Priority 1. We've already discussed wearing wool or synthetic socks to hike. Next, make sure that you're wearing hiking boots on the trail. And the day of the trip is NOT the first time you should be wearing those boots! Break your boots in by wearing them around for several weeks before you hike. It's ok to wear “hand-me-down” boots. If you don't own hiking boots, ask the older boys in your patrol if they have a pair they've outgrown that you can borrow or purchase for a modest amount. Check the insoles of the boots. If they're old or don't have any spring, you can purchase new insoles at any drug store or supermarket for a low cost. Check the laces. Are they worn? If so, replace them *before* the hike. Buy a can of waterproofing at Kmart or CVS and waterproof those boots before the trip.

Hiking boots provide ankle support and a good “alligator tread” for the trail. Sneakers and running shoes do not offer that support, and their soles get slippery when wet. We will be hiking on rocky trail, so make sure you have boots and not sneakers when we hike. If you want to bring running shoes or sneakers to wear once we get to camp, that's fine – in fact, it's a good idea to let your boots air out and dry overnight, and your “dogs” will love you for letting them get comfy in camp.

- Dress in layers. Wear synthetic layers so that you can add or remove layers as the temperatures rise and fall. Think about your outer layer first. You want something that is water-repellant. Under that, you want a layer that could be removed and stuffed into your pack if we have a warm day. Remember, it will be colder in the morning, warm up as we hike, and then get cold again at night, so that layer could be on and off several times. Under that, you probably want a long-sleeve synthetic shirt. Finally, close to the skin, you want a synthetic, high-tech t-shirt. On your lower half, it's a matter of comfort. Synthetic, long outer pants that dry quickly are key. Leave your Nike basketball shorts at home – you need long outer pants. Whether you wear a layer of long synthetic underwear under that is up to you. Against your skin, synthetic briefs or boxers – not cotton – are the way to go.

Other things to avoid: Your backpack when loaded should weigh no more than about 25% of your total body weight. Before you put personal gear in your pack, ask yourself if you'll *really* need it. You'll be surprised at how much you'll leave behind (and how much you'll appreciate that discarded weight at Mile 5!). Save room in your pack for your patrol gear. Pack smart. Instead of bringing your big, fluffy pillow, just bring a pillowcase that you can stuff with your pullover and use as a pillow. You just saved a third of the room in your pack – and you'll need it for your tentage – including a ground cloth – plus cookware and food.

Things to remember: Bring several bungee cords. They come in handy when your sleeping bag gets a bit lopsided on the outside of your pack. Pack that sleeping bag in its own plastic bag (that is, in addition to the plastic liner you put in your backpack). Leave your snacks at home, unless you're bringing something like energy bars. And don't forget to bring water. You'll need at least two quarts. Fill two Nalgene-type bottles with water – NOT juice, NOT Gatorade – plain old water - before you leave home.

If you plan ahead and pack carefully, the backpacking trip will be one of the best camping experiences you'll have with Troop 78. Do you need some pointers or have questions? Call your Patrol Leader or give SPL Dan Dufoe or one of the ASPLs a call. They will be happy to use their experience to help you out. They may even have some "gently-used" gear that they've outgrown, but would be happy to lend out or sell to you at costs well below new. But make sure you don't miss this trip!

BACKPACKING TRIP PACKING LIST

Pack all gear in a backpack that has been lined with a heavy plastic bag. If you do not have a backpack and need to borrow one, please let your Patrol Leader know. The Troop has a few packs to lend.

WHAT TO BRING:

Winter sleeping bag or sleeping bag w/blanket

Sleeping pad

Pack cover*

Two (2) Nalgene/unbreakable water bottles holding at least 1 liter of water each (Do NOT put anything in the bottles EXCEPT water)

Camelbak water bladder (if you have one)

Trash bags (2) – one for dirty clothing; one for refuse

Flashlight

Warm clothes (think synthetics; gloves; hat with visor; knit hat**

Sunscreen

Lip balm

Long underwear**

Synthetic pullover

Water repellent jacket (think layering)

Rain jacket; rain pants

WEAR sturdy hiking shoes or boots (no sneakers for hiking)

Camp shoes (sneakers ok to wear in camp)

High wool or synthetic hiking socks (no cotton socks)

Toilet articles

Plate or bowl; utensils (at least a spoon)

DRINKING CUP

Spending money for pit stops (optional)

Pocketknife

Two bungee cords

*A second trash bag will work as a pack cover – see accompanying "Backpacking – How to Have a Great Trip article."

**Remember – It is best to dress in layers. The trail can be quite warm during the day and cold at night, or cold all day. March weather is subject to sudden change. BE PREPARED!

The Troop will hold a "Backpacking 101 – How To Pack" meeting for inexperienced backpackers. Date will be announced.



SUMMER CAMP 2011 June 26th to July 10th

Have You Reserved Your Spot?

It is hard to believe but summer camp is just around the corner! By now you should have received the mailing outlining everything you need to know about summer camp. Once again Troop 78 has reserved the Dan Beard campsite at Camp Horseshoe for two weeks starting Sunday, June 26th, and ending Sunday, July 10th. The basis for our Scouting program is camping, and this two-week period is always the highlight of our Scouting year. Your Troop Committee and leadership would like to have 100% of the Troop in camp this summer.

The cost this year is \$315.00 per week. **A \$35 deposit per week is due by March 11th.** In order to receive the discounted price, your balance must be paid by April 29th. The late fee is an additional \$40 per week. In addition, you will receive a free Troop T-shirt if you complete your medical form by May 13th.

If you have not received a camp packet with all the information or if you have any questions at all, please contact Mike Tredinnick at 610-993-8226.

Dads, don't be left behind, join the Troop for this camping experience. The cost to you is free; the value of your being there is priceless.



TROOP HOAGIE SALE IN FULL SWING

The annual Troop Hoagie Sale has begun! Sales forms have been handed out and the Scouts are collecting orders. If you need forms, they are available on the website. Our great hoagies are still only \$6, with \$1.50 of each hoagie sold going to the Scout's account. We ask that each Scout try their best to sell a minimum of 12 hoagies as every Scout benefits from the funds that are raised.

The sale will end and all orders and money will be collected at the start of the Troop meeting on Friday, March 18th.

The Troop will sell well over 1000 hoagies! Parents, as most of you know, we are responsible for making all these hoagies, so please make note of the following very important dates! They are also noted on the Troop calendar for easy reference.

Friday, March 18th: Hoagie sale ends; orders & money collected at Troop meeting

Thursday, April 7th: Meat & Cheese Slice Night @ cabin 6:30 PM

Friday, April 8th, 7-9 PM: Hoagie Set-ups during Troop meeting

Saturday, April 9th, 7-9 AM! Hoagie Assembly/Scouts pick-up orders from 9-10 AM.

There is a parent sign-up sheet included with the order forms. Please fill out when you can help and return with your Scout's order on March 18th. This is a very large, labor-intensive project that can be done with minimal effort if everyone helps out!

Thank-you and good selling!

Scott Vercoe

Hoagie Sale Coordinator



PASTA NIGHT

Tuesday, March 15th, at 7:00 PM

Chicken Cacciatore

With pasta, salad and dessert.

Call Joe Cady at 610-647- [redacted] or

email at [jcady@\[redacted\]](mailto:jcady@[redacted])



SUPPORT TROOP 78 DONATE A BRICK, LEAVE A LEGACY

You can make a financial investment in the lives of the boys of Troop 78 by purchasing a brick that will be engraved with a name of your choice (personal, family, or business). The brick will be laid in the walkway at the entrance of the Troop 78 cabin as a reminder to others of your involvement. This is your last opportunity to purchase a brick this year.

Please contact Dave Schertz at 610-687-[redacted] or e-mail him at registrar@willistown78.org for more information or an order form.

ADULT TRAINING CORNER

All **Assistant Scoutmasters** must be trained to their position requirements **by the end of the year**. These trainings include -

- Fast Start – Boy Scout (online)
- This is Scouting (online)
- Youth Protection (every two years) (online)
- Scoutmaster Leader Specific
- Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills

The Troop Committee is encouraging all of the **Troop Committee Members** to complete their training also. All of the Troop Committee training is available online. No classroom-style

sessions are offered for these trainings.

- Fast Start – Boy Scout
- This is Scouting
- Youth Protection (every two years)
- Troop Committee Challenge

There are also numerous supplemental trainings available which are beneficial to have if you do a lot of camping with the Troop. These trainings are available online and have a two-year renewal time period. Many people have expired supplemental training.

- Hazardous Weather
- Safe Swim Defense
- Climb on Safely
- Trek Safely
- Physical Wellness
- Generational Diversity

If you are unsure what trainings you have completed or are unsure what we have documented for you, there are summaries on the training page of the Troop website: willistown78.org/beascout/training.html

Upcoming Adult Training Dates (Mark your calendars now so you don't forget.)

- SM & ASM Specific Training – Coatesville, March 12, 8:00AM-5:00PM
- Wilderness First Aid - West Chester, Saturdays, March 19 & 26, 8:00AM-6:00PM
- SM & ASM Specific Training – Malvern Area, May 14, 8:00AM-5:00PM
- IOLST – Camp Jarvis, Oct 1 – 2 weekend

Please continue to submit copies of your training cards to Sam Lemheney for inclusion in our training database.

SCOUT TRAINING CORNER

Scouts, don't feel left out, there are leadership and position trainings for you as well in the fall.

If you are a new den chief, **Den Chief Training** is recommended. Please plan on attending one of the trainings. Den Chief Training is intended to build enthusiasm for the job, develop high

morals, and teach the skills the Den Chief will need to be successful.

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) NYLT is an exciting, action-packed program designed to provide youth members of the Boy Scouts with leadership skills and experience they can use in their home Troops and varsity teams. The leadership skills taught can be used in any other situation demanding leadership of "self" and "others." This process begins with a "vision" of what success will look like in the future.

Scout Training Dates (Mark your calendars now so you don't forget.)

- Den Chief Training – St. Peter's, Coatesville, March 19, 9:00AM-12:00PM
- NYLT – Camp Ware, May 6-8 and May 13-15 weekends



WHAT IS SCRIP???

Scrip is simply a word that means "substitute money." In other words, scrip is gift certificates from national and local retailers. They're the same gift certificates that you buy at the store. Many popular retailers participate in our scrip program including Giant, Acme, Wawa, Starbucks, iTunes, Home Depot, Outback, CVS, Walgreens, and many, many others.

You're probably asking yourself how these stores help us raise money. It's simple: scrip participating retailers agree to sell gift certificates to our organization at a discount. You buy the certificates for full face value, and then redeem them for full face value, and your son and the Troop keeps the difference as revenue. And scrip is exciting, because everybody wins:

- The retailer gets cash up front and repeat business...

- You get a powerful revenue alternative that involves no selling...
- Your son and the Troop get a regular source of revenue.

The beauty of scrip is that you put your regular household shopping dollars to work. You earn money for your son and the Troop without spending a single additional penny. Just spend your regular shopping dollars with scrip at the stores that participate in the scrip program! And scrip can be used for just about any household purchase including food, clothing, entertainment, gasoline, and even dining out.

It's common for people to wonder, "What's the catch?" The catch - if there is one - is that you have to plan your purchases a little bit. That's it!

What that means is what we all learned in Savings 101. "PAY YOURSELF FIRST - THEN PAY EVERYONE ELSE."

We all go to the grocery store weekly, and all you need to do is plan beforehand. Come to a Troop function (meeting, trip, Court of Honor, etc.) and buy your Acme or Giant gift card to do your grocery shopping for the week. You have just paid yourself with money that you will use for your groceries.

The Troop 78 scrip program promises to be a simple and effective revenue-generating program that will be very beneficial for your son and the Troop. Half of all of the proceeds from your purchase will go into your son's Scout account.

For a list of retailers and both types of order forms go to the Troop web site at <http://www.willistown78.org/scrips-mainmenu-57.html> and download to your computer. I always have Acme and Giant gift cards in \$25 and \$100 denominations as well as \$100 WaWa cards. All others can be ordered. Fill out a form and have your son drop it off to me at a meeting. I order normally on the 1st Sunday of the month and have the cards in by Friday to distribute at the meeting. The next order will be placed on Sunday, March 6th, and the cards will be distributed on Friday the 11th at the meeting.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks for your support,
Jim and Claire Hogan
 Troop 78 Scrip Coordinators
 610-644-
 james.hogan



Newsletter

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