



# Willistown Troop 78

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

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

YouTube Channel: [Troop 78](#)

May 2023

Volume 39 Number 9

## Disney A Magical Trip!



- May
- 1 Monday Friends of Troop 78 Board meeting 7PM
- 2 Tuesday Board of Review 7 PM  
Troop Committee Meeting 7:30PM
- 3 Wednesday Patrol Leaders Council 7PM
- 5 Friday - 7 Sunday [Grand Canyon of PA Bike or Hike Trip](#)
- 10 Wednesday Flower sale delivery and sorting 11AM
- 11 Thursday Flower sale order pick up 3 - 7PM
- 12 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM
- 19 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM
- 20 Saturday [Radnor Races](#)
- 21 Sunday Radnor Races clean up
- 26 Friday No Troop Meeting due to the Memorial Weekend
- 31 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7PM

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 Radnor Races  
 Scuba Training  
 OA Weekend

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

# Disney: a Magical Trip!

Saturday April 1 - Saturday April 8, 2023

Articles by Luke Fox and Ben Barsotti

## By Luke Fox

This past Spring Break, a group of 16 78ers (10 Scouts and 6 adults) had the amazing opportunity to travel to the illustrious Disney World in Orlando Florida. Starting the trip strong, the group left promptly at 5:30 p.m. on Friday evening embarking on the 20 hour journey south. The bus ride was characterized largely by the expected: sleeping, food, and cards. One fun experience on the ride was when a number of people tried their hands at the card game of Sebak in a fun imitation of the one and only Han Solo.

After the long trip, we arrived groggily at 7:30 AM and set up a much needed tasty breakfast cereal, muffins, and danishes in the parking lot. While waiting for our campsite to become available, everyone went to the pool for a quick, but refreshing dip. After our swim, everyone headed with the bus over to our campsite that consisted of 3 RV parking spots that would become our base of operations for the coming week. Everyone helped set up the palace and troop gear before setting up our tents and heading off to Disney Springs. After a night of shopping everyone got a much needed night's rest, in preparation for the theme parks.



The days followed roughly the same schedule. We woke up early for a 6:45 a.m. breakfast and to book our fast passes for the day promptly at 7. After a quick debrief and pairing with a buddy, we signed out of the campsite for a day in the park before returning back at 6 for dinner if desired. After dinner there was a debriefing that included a negotiated curfew time and in pairs headed back into the land of adventure. Some group highlights from the week were the famous Space Mountain in Magic Kingdom, Avatar Flight of Passage in Animal Kingdom, Rise of the Resistance in Hollywood Studios, and a new ride called Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind in Epcot that we spent hours in a virtual queue in order to ride but it was unanimously agreed upon to have been the best ride of the week.

Beyond having an absolute blast, this trip left Scouts having learned practical life skills such as time management, public transportation, and budgeting which helped make their experiences even better. Personally, over this trip I gained a new respect for the work that goes into planning family vacations. Overall, this past Spring break, scouts and adults both had an amazing experience on a week long trip to Disney World having both a great time and learning important life skills.

## By Ben Barsotti

On April 1st, we began loading the bus at about 5:00 PM, ready for a straight, 20 hour long drive down to Wilderness Lodge at Walt Disney World. We arrived early Sunday and ate a quick breakfast. We had arrived before check in, so the scouts took this opportunity to explore the campsite and go swimming, which everyone enjoyed. We then went to our campsite to set up. After all of our personal gear and troop gear was set up, we went over to Disney Springs, a shopping center with everything from a Lego store to a Ghirardelli ice cream shop to a Rainforest Cafe. Some scouts used this time to buy Logan Duff a very nice ring, for some



reason, while others bought Lego sets, souvenirs and more.

The next day we visited the Magic Kingdom, a favorite among the group. Despite many glitches and issues with the Genie+ service, everyone was (mostly) able to use their Fastpasses for rides such as Space Mountain, Big Thunder Mountain, Buzz Lightyear's Space Ranger Spin, and so much more. We all met up after lunch for a troop tradition of riding Pirates of the Caribbean together, which was very fun. The troop returned to the camp for dinner, then headed straight back to the parks for new rides, as well as doing some favorites again. Just before the park closed, the whole troop got into



the Seven Dwarfs Mine Train roller coaster, which had an hour and a half wait, but was still a lot of fun when we got to it. We all got back and went to sleep immediately to get as much rest as possible for Hollywood Studios, which was scheduled for the next day.

At Hollywood Studios, we did a program through Disney that taught us about the physics and engineering of rides such as Tower of Terror and Rock 'n' Roller Coaster, although the latter was unfortunately closed. This program also let everyone skip the line for Tower of Terror and ride it, which was a lot of fun. We also went over how some coasters use opposite poles on magnets to launch the coaster extremely fast. After the program, we all headed over to my personal favorite part of the park, the Star Wars land known as Galaxy's Edge. This area was a fully immersive land where everything is themed and based on the Star Wars universe. We



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got lunch, which was themed after Star Wars, went on one of the rides, called Star Tours, then walked around the area doing an interactive app game where you would scan things throughout the park. After this, we headed back to camp for dinner. After dinner, we headed back to Hollywood Studios to do some more of the Star Wars Rides, and those were a lot of fun.

The next day was Animal Kingdom, where we started the day by running to the Pandora ride Flight of Passage to try to get a shorter wait. Luckily for us, the wait was only an hour, which was relatively short. After this, groups went to do rides such as Mount Everest, It's Tough to be a Bug, and others. We then met up again for Dinosaur, an animatronic-based ride where you are transported back to the Cretaceous period to retrieve a certain dinosaur, which had a lot of jump scares. The groups then split up again, with some returning to the campsite. After dinner, the troop met up again for another ride of Flight of Passage.

The next, and unfortunately final day, was spent at Epcot, which was a favorite of the troop. We started out the day at Soarin' Around the World section, then went to France for the Ratatouille ride, which, despite the long wait and technical issues, was a lot of fun. We then walked around the nations, with people stopping in places such as Japan, China, and the USA for lunch. We then went to Test Track, a popular one with the group. After this, it was our time slot for Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind, a roller coaster with an interesting



twist. The individual cars weren't locked in place, so they would swivel with the momentum of the coaster. It also had a story playing on the screens around us, as well as music playing in the background. This was most people's favorite ride of the whole trip, and it was definitely my favorite. After this people split up again for rides such as Turtle Talk, Test Track, and more.

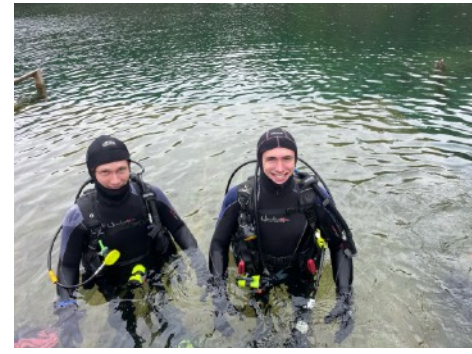
The next morning, we packed up the campsite, loaded the bus, and after a few hours getting some souvenirs at Disney Springs, we hit the road, ready for a long bus ride back. On the way, we continued the tradition of stopping at a Dennys for breakfast on the way home, and arrived at the cabin at about 10:30. Overall, this was an incredible trip and very different from every other trip we do.



# SCUBA Training Prep for Sea Base

Friday April 21 - Sunday April 23, 2023

By Josh Simms



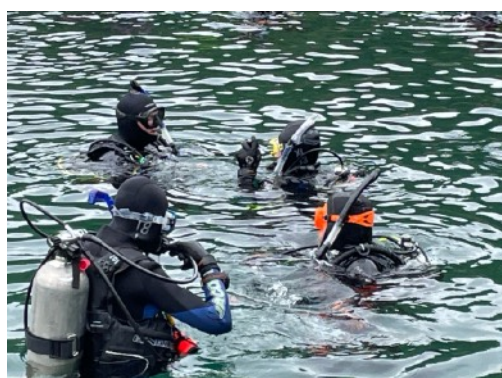
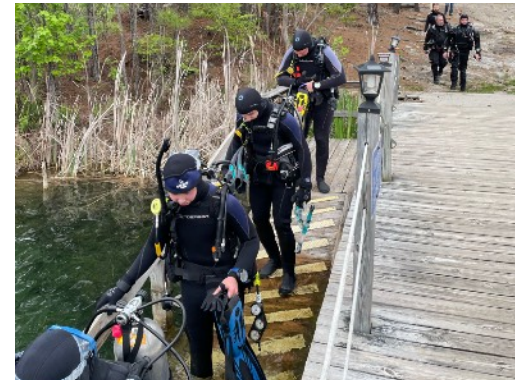
On a Friday night after a long 6 hour bus ride, our group of about 20, scouts, parents, and Blue Crew Diving training team finally made it to Lake Phoenix in Virginia to complete our Open Water Diving Certification. We got there extremely late, late as in it was Saturday when we arrived. We quickly set up camp and went to bed until the following morning.

In the morning, breakfast had to be cooked, but we didn't have nearly enough people from our troop patrols, so we made some makeshift ones with the purpose of cooking and cleaning. My patrol was assigned to making breakfast, which was pancakes, bacon, and cereal. After a nice breakfast, we began our long day of scuba activities. The hardest part wasn't even diving, it was getting our wetsuits on. After the hour-long process of getting all of our gear situated, we began our dives.

There were 3 dives spanned across the entire day, with each dive having multiple activities to complete. Those activities included descending, ascending, clearing our masks, and all the basic stuff that was necessary to use when diving. After the 3rd and last dive of the day, everyone was tired. We all filled out our dive logs and relaxed until dinner.

Dinner was spaghetti and meatballs, along with some salad. Almost everyone then went to the playground, where there was a badminton court, basketball hoop, swings, and a merry-go-round. Finally, after a long day it was bedtime, which I have never been more excited for.

Sunday morning we had a cold breakfast, because nobody felt like cooking. After that, we went off to finish our last dive, which our group had to plan and execute, and included swimming around a bit, and looking at many artifacts that were put there, like a basketball court, a boat, and a selfie mirror. We then ascended for the final time, and then took all our gear off. We debriefed, got changed, packed up camp, and started the long drive home after a weekend of diving for our Open Water Certification in order to go to the Florida Keys Scout Sea Base this summer.



# Spring Cabin Cleanup

Saturday April 15, 2023

We had a great turnout for the annual spring clean up of the cabin. A super crew of volunteers swarmed the cabin, bus barn, shed, and the grounds.

Joe Johnson spent four hours cleaning the kitchen. Mark Christaldi led a crew cleaning all the windows. Thomas Pizzutto and his girlfriend mopped all the floors!

Don Tyson painted the front doors, now a sophisticated red. Rob Duff cut trees and gave the cellar doors a second coat of paint. Ernie and Logan Duff repaired the heaving bar. John Wark led a group which folded all the tents, tarps, and ground cloths and cleaned up the barn. Allen Johnson removed the stump at the exit drive, left over from a tree that was removed in the fall. There was also major tree trimming, the wood pile got straightened, the shed was emptied and everything sorted and replaced.

A few things still left on the list, but all in all, the cabin and the grounds look good and we are ready for full programing through to summer camp.

## Scenes from a Recent Troop Meeting

Friday April 21, 2023

Troop 78 Annual Field Day is set for Sunday June 4, 2023. With that in mind, Troop 78 scouts have been practicing furiously for Field Day.

We are closer to June than we think!

As of May 1, there are only 2 troop meetings until Field Day.



# Order of the Arrow Service Weekend

Friday April 28 - Sunday April 30, 2023

By Kipp Happ

## Braved the Weather!

Anyone who has spent a weekend camping knows all too well that foul weather can ruin even the most well-planned event. Sometimes these events can be postponed or cancelled, but many times the situation calls for renewed vigor and perseverance. Such a situation occurred at Octoraro Lodge's spring Ordeal this past weekend, which was plagued with intense downpours that would have rendered any normal outdoor endeavor pointless. The Arrowmen of Octoraro did not quit; rather, they joined together in brotherhood and pushed forward with the Ordeal, keeping intact a tradition far older than themselves.

It all started on Friday night; a light rain greeted the new Ordeal candidates and returning lodge members, but the lodge members determined that the weekend should proceed according to plan. At approximately 6AM the next morning, the skies cleared and made a day that was designed to be filled with arduous labor even more intense. The candidates focused on clearing the camp's trails, repairing the camp site tent platforms, cleaning the pool, and surrounding area, as well as removing fallen tree debris and splitting firewood.

In an event where comfort is by no means expected, the fact that the additional, constant hardships brought on by the weather could not stop an almost century's worth of tradition is remarkable. The members of Octoraro Lodge should be proud of their endurance, for what they did not only benefit the camp and the lodge, but it also showed that the resolve of the Arrowman is stronger than the harshness of nature.

This weekend the Lodge welcomed 33 new ordeal members and 24 brothers that sealed their membership in brotherhood. We look forward to the next service weekend in June.



### Troop 78 attendees:

Kipp Happ, Ted Diederich, Ernie Heegard, Ryan Wark, Jacob Diederich, Shreyas Sao, Nic Opielski, Braeden Happ, Brian Opielski, and Pete Motel.

### Achieving Brotherhood:

Ted Diederich, Jacob Diederich and Ryan Wark.





# Spring Flower Sale

Helpers needed!

## Key Dates:

**Wed 5/10 - Unload and Sort (Parents and Scouts help needed) 11AM - 4PM**

**Thu 5/11 - Pickup and deliver (In time for Mother's Day on Sunday, May 14) 3PM - 7PM**

## Schedule

- Parents/Alumni volunteers unload/sort flowers at the cabin Wednesday, May 10th (11am - 4pm)
- Scouts pickup flowers at the cabin Thursday, May 11th (3pm - 7pm)
- Scouts deliver flowers by Saturday, May 13th

For orders questions, to volunteer, or to help unload/sort, please contact [Steve Wark](mailto:stevenwark@yahoo.com) ([stevenwark@yahoo.com](mailto:stevenwark@yahoo.com))

For online store questions, please contact [Jim Fox \(troop78sales@gmail.com\)](mailto:troop78sales@gmail.com) or at 484-883-2588.

## Scouts:

Check your email for your total orders.

Sign up for a pick up time.





# Cabin Walkway Bricks

Walking into the cabin there is a beautiful brick walkway with names of scouts, scouters and friends, both past and present, engraved into the brick pavers. Have you ever wondered how you could get your name or your scouts name included in the walkway?

Troop 78 is re-launching the engraved brick purchasing program, where you have the opportunity to purchase an engraved brick which will be added to the front walkway.



For a fee of \$350 each, you can include the name of your scout, your family or the name of any supporter of scouting. Order forms can be found on the troop website.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jim Hogan at jim.hogan @foxroach.com.

[Click here for the order form.](#)

# Upcoming Events

## Radnor Races

Saturday May 20 and Sunday May 21, 2023

Radnor Races weekend is coming up on Saturday & Sunday, May 20th & 21st.

This is one of THE MOST IMPORTANT WEEKENDS on the Troop 78 calendar.

We need as many people coming out to help as many hours as they possibly can. We especially need ADULTS! We will be out working from around 7 AM to 6 PM on Saturday, May 20th. The hours from 11:00 to 3:00 are the most crucial, but any time is valuable. Clean-up is Sunday morning from 8 AM to Noon.

Remember working at the Radnor Races helps:

- TROOP 78 EARN FUNDS
- BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY PROTECT OPEN SPACE IN OUR AREA
- EARN MONEY IN YOUR CAMPING ACCOUNT
- TROOP 78's MAJOR PUBLIC SERVICE PROJECT

You and those you bring to help, can stay after your shift & take-in a fabulous event.

**In the unlikely event that you have not yet responded, please do so now. If your schedule has changed and you now have a few more hours to spare, let us know. Please remember, we need every possible family member. Moms are welcomed & needed!**

**We need your help!**

Please email Brian Rothberg at [bricycle@verizon.net](mailto:bricycle@verizon.net) with any questions or to sign-up!

[Click here for more information.](#)



# Grand Canyon of PA trip

**Friday May 5 - Sunday May 7, 2023**

The troop plans a bike or foot hike to the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania.

Scout (and leaders) will have the choice of either a bike hike or a foot hike along the rail-to-trail in the canyon along the Pine Creek.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Gift Cards!

### **Willistown Troop 78/Scout Gift Card Fundraiser (Scrips)**

Did you know that you can purchase gift cards for family, friends, teachers and service providers through Troop 78?? There are hundreds of stores on the list. Consider purchasing gift cards for monthly expenses such as groceries, gas, household items, clothing, and restaurants. Additionally, think about spring/summer gifting occasions and summer vacations. Every gift card purchased through Raise Right (formerly Scrips) sends a rebate back to Troop 78. Half is deposited into your troop "Scout Account" (used for summer camp, Disney, high adventure/weekend trips etc) and half is used by the troop for operating expenses such as the Troop Bus. Rebates range from 1%-12%, For the next few weeks there are smaller gift cards—\$5/\$10 range as well as lots of special bonuses.

You can fill out a paper order form and return to Steve or Sherri Wark or you can input your order electronically and pay by check made out to Friends of Troop 78 or through Paypal or Venmo (ask Sherri for details on those). For some stores, e-cards are available. Reloadable gift cards are also available for some stores. Please visit raiseright.com/shop for a full listing of gift card retailers available. A few popular retailers include Apple, Home Depot, Instacart and Starbucks!

**NEW!!** You can use the RaiseRight APP! Please ask Sherri for the enrollment code. You can input your order through the app and still pay by cash/check/Venmo, or you can connect a bank account (small transaction fee applied) or pay by credit card (2.6% fee added to your order at checkout). If you would like to order your gift cards online but not with the app, please contact Sherri Wark at sherriwark@yahoo.com. She will send you an email link to our Troop account through Raise Right. It is an easy process. You can also order instant gift cards through the app. I order these when we go out to certain restaurants – while at the table!

**Checks should be made out to Friends of Troop 78. Please complete the form and return it with full payment. Bring the form and the checks to the cabin on or before the Troop meeting on May 19th. Please contact us directly with any orders after that date. Cards will be distributed during Troop Field Days (June 1 and 4th). You can also pick up at an alternate time.**

**For example:**

<b>Giant \$100</b>	<b>\$4 rebate</b>	<b>Wawa \$100</b>	<b>\$1 rebate</b>
<b>Target \$100</b>	<b>\$2.50 rebate</b>	<b>Old Navy \$100</b>	<b>\$14 rebate</b>
<b>Dick’s Sporting \$100</b>	<b>\$8 rebate</b>	<b>Outback Steakhouse \$100</b>	<b>\$13 rebate</b>

We highly encourage participation in this Troop Fundraiser.

**If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us**

<b>Sherri Wark</b>	<b>Steve Wark</b>
<b>sherriwark@yahoo.com</b>	<b>stevenwark@yahoo.com</b>
<b>484-883-9213 text</b>	<b>610-213-5363 text</b>

[Click here for more information.](#)

# Summer Camp!

**Week one: Sunday June 25 - Saturday July 1**

**Week two: Sunday July 2 - Saturday July 8**

Summer Camp Coordinator: Kipp Happ

## Upcoming Dates

**Health / Medical Forms** will be due on or before **May 19<sup>th</sup>** (Parts A, B1, B2 & C with a Copy of Insurance Card, also any Special Dietary Needs and Medication forms if applicable).

**If you need assistance with summer camp payments, please let Scoutmaster Mr. D. or Kipp Happ know if you would like assistance. There are funds available.**

For any additional information please review the Summer Camp page on the troop website.

[Click here for more information.](#)



## Alumni Corner

### 78 Friends and Family Go to the IronPigs

**Sunday, August 6, 2023**

Let us take you out to the ballgame! We invite Troop members, alumni, family and friends to join us on Sunday, August 6, 2023 at Coca Cola Park in Allentown to see the Phillies' AAA affiliate, the Lehigh Valley IronPigs, take on the Buffalo Bisons (Toronto AAA affiliate) at 1:35 PM. We will sit as a group along the first base line. Tickets are just \$15 per person (kids 2 and under are free).

But wait – there's more! Each ticket includes a \$2 voucher that can be spent on food, drink or merchandise at the Park. And, you and your family can ride the Troop bus to the Park at no additional cost! That's right – bus transportation from the Scout Cabin to the Park and back will be provided for the first 42 people on the Troop bus (others will have to arrange their own transportation and pay for parking at the Park). AND, if we have a minimum of 40 people in attendance, one of our lucky attendees will get to throw out the ceremonial first pitch for the game.

The deadline for ordering your tickets is Sunday, June 4, 2023 (Field Day). Tickets can be ordered by payment only. We will accept checks (made payable to Friends of 78), or you can purchase through our on-line payment system on the Troop website (coming soon). Checks must be in Mr. D's office by Field Day, and on-line payments must be made by Field Day. Don't delay – tickets will go fast!

Note: ALL attendees under 18 MUST BE accompanied by accompanied by an adult age 21 or over, including if traveling on the bus.

# More Upcoming Friends and Family Events

- Happy Hour (21 and over) Wednesday, June 15, 2023 5:15 PM till 7:30 PM Lot 6, Malvern PA
- Troop 78 Quizzo Night Coming in the Fall, 2023. Watch the Newsletter for details!
- Franksgiving 2023 (Troop open house and hot dog lunch for Scouts, friends and family) – Saturday, November 25, 2023 Noon – 3 PM
- Holiday Happy Hour Thursday, December 28, 2023 Venue and time TBD – Watch the Newsletter for details!

## Chester County Council News

### Silver Beaver and Eagle Recognition Dinner

The Eagle Recognition and Silver Beaver Awards will be held together at one event.

The Silver Beaver Award recognizes registered Scouters of exceptional character who have provided distinguished service to the Council. This year Chester County Council will award the Silver Beaver to four recipients.

**Troop 78’s Jim Bennett is one of the recipients this year!**

**If that isn’t enough, our very own Jack Dinsmore will be the Keynote speaker!**

We will also recognize all Eagle Scouts awarded in 2022.

This will be an evening to remember!

All members of the Scouting family are welcome to attend.

[Click here for more information.](#)



## State Forester Walk-through at PARC

Friday April 14, 2023

On a recent Friday in April, several CCC volunteers and staff walked the grounds of PARC with a PA State forester.

Chester County Council Headquarters at PARC in Exton is situated on 28 acres of meadow and forest boarded by the Valley Creek, which is a direct tributary of the Schuylkill River and designated a High Value Waterway.

The State will help the Council develop a forestry management conservation plan for the site, which will aid the Council in applying for grants to make improvements, such as removal of invasive plant species.



# Horseshoe Pool Changing Rooms and Shower House

Available for use this coming summer

Update! New pictures from the site.

Construction is on schedule.

A new changing room, restroom, and shower house facility is under construction at the Camp Horseshoe Pool.

We look forward to using this new facility at summer camp 2023!



# New Staff Cabins at Camp Horseshoe

Staff housing in Staff City gets an upgrade

New for summer 2023, three new cabins complete with electricity installed in staff city.

Each will house four staff members, in a new program the camp is piloting the summer. If it is decided this is a success, more will be added eventually replacing all of the tents in Staff City.



# Good Advice from Scouting



# Eagle Scout Video Story Project

The Eagle Scout Recognition Committee of Chester County Council would like to spotlight your efforts as an Eagle Scout. This project is part of an ongoing effort to spotlight the accomplishments and successes of our Scouts and Scouters.

We want to hear your story!

We would like to collect videos about your Trail to Eagle so we can spotlight it on social media.

**Trail to Eagle Video:** This video should be no more than 45 seconds - 1 min. This can include a funny story, or a story about the biggest challenge, or one of the valuable lessons you learned on your trail to Eagle.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Links

[National website](#)

[Council website](#)

**Please print this Newsletter for everyone in your family to see.**