



Newsletter

Volume 28 Number 8 April 2012

COMING EVENTS

APRIL 2012

- 4/10 - Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.
4/11 - Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 PM)
4/12 - Diamond Rock Roundtable & Hoagie Slice Night (6:30 PM)
4/13 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM) Parents build hoagies
4/14 - Build and Deliver Hoagies (7 to 9 AM)
4/20 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
4/21 - **Baltimore Inner Harbor Trip - National Aquarium**
4/27-29 - Order of the Arrow Ordeal & Service Weekend
4/27-29 - **West Point Camporee**

MAY 2012

- 5/1 - Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.
5/2 - Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 PM)
5/4 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
5/4-6 - Youth Leadership Training Weekend 1
5/5 - Troop Yard Sale, Flower Sale & Bake Sale - 8 AM to Noon
5/7 - Friends of Troop 78 Board Meeting
5/10 - Council-wide Roundtable
5/11-13 - **Assateague Island Canoe trip**
5/11-13 - Youth Leadership Training Weekend 2
5/18 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
5/19 - **Radnor Races (Save This Date!)**
5/20 - Radnor Races Cleanup - 8 AM

COMING UP

- 6/1-3 - Order of the Arrow Ordeal & Service Weekend @ HSR
6/10 - **Field Day & Family Picnic (3:00 PM)**
6/15-17 - **Bike Trip**
6/24-7/1 - **Horseshoe Summer Camp Week 1**
7/1-7/8 - **Horseshoe Summer Camp Week 2**
7/24-8/5 - **KISC Trip**

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



BALTIMORE INNER HARBOR TRIP - APRIL 21

This is a day trip only, visiting the National Aquarium and the Maritime Museum.

The troop bus is leaving the cabin at 6:30 AM on Saturday, April 21st. Return is about 6 PM.

Bring lunch and souvenir money, and dress for the weather. You will be both inside and outdoors.

Call your patrol leader by April 15 and let him know you want to go along.

DADS NEEDED! Dads you can let your son's patrol leader know you will be coming. Dad's fee for admissions is \$20.



NEW DADS NEEDED!

The troop committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 10, 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.

TROOP 78 INVITED: WEST POINT SCOUTMASTERS COUNCIL CAMPOREE

It's rare that Troop 78 visits the same location more than once in a Scout year, but we have been invited to participate in a very special event at West Point, New York, for the weekend of April 27-29. Mark your calendars for the West Point Scoutmasters Council Camporee, to be held at Lake Frederick in West Point, New York.

More than 6,000 Scouts attend this camporee every year. Invitations are hard to come by, but this year our friends from West Point Troop 23 (the troop that went to Matje Farm with us) have invited us to join them at the event. The Cadets of West Point run the Scoutmasters Council Camporee. Many of the cadets are former Scouts and high percentages are Eagle Scouts. The events at the camporee are geared toward highly motivated Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Originally, we anticipated being limited in the number of members that we could bring to the event. However, Troop 23 has graciously extended the invitation to our entire troop! Interested male adults can sign up, too, but we will give preference to registered leaders and troop bus drivers.

Scouts attending the event participate in a number of great activities run by the West Point cadets. A list of activities accompanies this article. In addition, the cadets run demonstrations using a variety of military weapons and other equipment. The camporee is nationally renowned, and the invitation to participate is one that is coveted by troops across the US. We are

fortunate to have this invitation extended to us.

Attendees will have to complete a waiver form. We will provide that form to registrants after signups. If you want to come, please let your patrol leader know by Sunday, April 15th, at 7:00 PM. Be sure to let your patrol leader know if your father will be joining us. Dads will be charged \$25 for this trip. No charge for Scouts, however, those who sign up and are "no shows" will have \$25 taken out of their Scout accounts. In the meantime, check out the camporee on the web at <http://www.usma.edu/uscc/dca/clubs/scou/camporeeapplication.html>. This trip should be on your "don't miss" list!

West Point Camporee Events

Scouts can earn awards by hiking their equipment into their campsite. In addition, attendees will participate in the following events, which are held at various stations staffed by West Point cadets:

Land Navigation Site - tests basic land navigation skills under a challenging environment. Each patrol will have to negotiate several obstacles.

Grenade Site - Scouts will learn the proper deployment of a military grenade. Scouts will then demonstrate this skill by throwing at a target for score.

Fire-building Site - Each Scout troop will be allotted time to pick up sticks and then be timed on how long it takes them to start a fire to a set standard.

Knot Tying Site - requires members from each patrol to tie several Scouting knots. The criteria are correctness of knot and speed.

Camouflage Site - requires Scouts to learn the basics of military camouflage and show their knowledge by correctly applying camouflage.

Leadership Reaction Course - This site will have the Scouts complete a difficult mission across a simulated treacherous obstacle. Scouts will have to use some creative problem

solving in order to complete the mission.

Zodiac Site - Scouts race in a watercraft to obtain the fastest time.

Fitness Site - Scouts will be required to perform a set of rigorous physical tasks. The troop will gain a score based on the fitness of the entire group.

First Aid - At this site, Scouts will learn and practice knowledge about proper treatment of casualties under various conditions.

Drill - At this site the Scouts learn the fundamentals of military drill, which they will use in the parade on Sunday.

Static Weapons Display - Here the Scouts will get a hands-on look at some of the equipment and weapons in use by the Army today. Cadets at the site will give short briefings on the capabilities and use of the different pieces of equipment.

Swiss Seat Site - The rope bridge is a fun and exciting site where the Scouts actually learn how to tie a Swiss seat and climb across a one-rope bridge.

Wilderness Survival - Each troop will make a shelter meant to keep one Scout warm and dry over the course of a night. Scouts will be scored based on creativity, ability to house a Scout and use of resources.

Pistol Site - Scouts will shoot air rifles at rifle targets. One Scout's score will be used for the overall troop score.

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING

Please don't forget to support Scouting in Chester County through a tax-deductible contribution to the council. Your donation of any size helps support thousands of Scouts, camps Horseshoe and Ware, Council Staff, and the 3,000+ adult volunteers in Chester County. This is an excellent way to ensure that Scouting remains strong in our area. Checks payable to "Chester County Council, BSA" should be mailed to Bruce Balmat at 24 Harvey Lane, Malvern, PA 19355.



WILLISTOWN TROOP 78 IS A YOUTH-LED SCOUT TROOP

Just a reminder that Willistown Troop 78 is a youth-led Scouting troop. Our boys, through their patrol leaders and senior youth staff select the trips that we take; they plan our menus; they plan and run our meetings.

This "youth-led" program allows Scouts to take on responsibility and to achieve success (and sometimes, and just as important, to experience failure) in leadership opportunities. In order for the program to work, all of the adults involved in Scouting – leaders and parents alike – have to recognize their roles in Scouting. As adults, we need to provide the structure for the boys to succeed. We help them with logistics, like transportation, getting permits, and thinking through equipment needs for camping trips. We work to ensure their safety by providing qualified, trained adult supervision for their activities. And we intervene on those occasions when safety becomes a concern. But it is not our job to tell the boys what to do or how to do it or when to do it – or to reach out to other adults to find out these answers for the boys.

From the newest Scout to the most experienced Scout, each boy needs to take responsibility for his actions and needs to understand what is expected of him. For over 100 years, Scouting has employed the "Patrol Method" to provide Scouts with a structure to help ensure that responsibility and ownership for the troop's success lies with the boys. Each patrol has three leaders: a patrol leader, who is in charge of the patrol; an assistant patrol leader, whose job it is to assist the patrol leader; and a

quartermaster, who is in charge of the patrol's gear. Generally, a boy serves in each position for a year (sometimes two) and he is then advanced to the next position. Patrol Leaders join the senior youth staff as assistant senior patrol leader or senior patrol leader.

The senior youth staff and the patrol leaders and assistant patrol leaders meet once a month at Patrol Leaders Council ("PLC"). At PLC meetings, the senior patrol leader presides over the meeting, and the boys plan the agenda for that month's meetings and events, including camping trips. The success or failure of PLC meetings really depends on the participation of the boys. When youth leaders don't show up for PLC meetings, fewer participants do the planning. When the whole youth team shows for the meeting, the troop's members are well represented and participation in events is generally higher. The PLC also generally meets right after troop meetings to review the meeting itself – essentially a review of what went well, what didn't, and what corrective steps need to be taken to improve the next meeting.

Patrol leaders are required to call (not "text," "Facebook" or "e-mail") their members every week to remind the boys about the upcoming meeting and any items that the boys ought to remember to bring to the meeting. Troop 78 requires this active form of contact so that the patrol leader can report back as to whether he actually spoke to everyone in his patrol or simply left a message. Passive forms of communication, like texting, Facebook and e-mail, do not enable the patrol leader to gauge first-hand whether his patrol members understand the instructions being conveyed.

For the patrol members, the Patrol Method gives the boys a "chain of command" to be followed in conveying information. A Scout should always call (again, better than one of the passive forms of communication) his patrol leader to let him know if the Scout cannot make a meeting or will be attending a camping trip. Talking on the phone is a lost art. We want our boys to be able to communicate

succinctly on a real-time basis.

As parents, we all have a tendency to want to make sure that our sons are conveying information to us accurately or that they won't miss out on an opportunity to participate in a fun event because they're forgetful or busy or any of the other things in life that tend to get in the way from time to time. It's therefore easy for us to want to "go to the source" ourselves and check in with the adult leaders to let them know that Johnny's coming on the camping trip or to confirm the date and time of the ski trip. When we do so, however, our sons do not learn the fundamental lesson of Scouting: responsibility. As adults, we sometimes teach our youth the most when they fail. Who among us hasn't learned more from the times that we didn't succeed than we did when we succeeded?

To that end, help us to help your son by requiring him to abide the Patrol Method. When he's unsure about what time the bus is leaving for a camping trip or whether he needs to bring his summer camp deposit to this week's meeting, have your son call his patrol leader. Most of the time, his patrol leader will have the answer. And if he doesn't, it is the job of the patrol leader to find out the answer by calling the senior patrol leader (SPL) or one of his assistants. Finally, if the SPL doesn't have the answer, he can reach out to the scoutmaster or one of his assistants.

What is the result of the Patrol Method? The patrol member takes responsibility for his own actions; the patrol leader (and his assistant patrol leader) are responsible for the members of the patrol; and the SPL is setting the tone at the top by being the source of information and direction for the troop. When the Patrol Method works, the job of the adult leaders is easy and rewarding. And as parents, our jobs become a little easier and more rewarding, too. Our sons assume responsibility and relish in their successes and learn from their mistakes. It's a little hard to watch sometimes, but when it goes well – and it goes well most of the time – it pays a huge return on investment.

So, resist the urge to pick up the phone or to send an e-mail on behalf of your son. Watch how well he functions when he follows the Patrol Method.

SCOUT UNIFORM UPDATE: GETTING THE RED OUT

The troop will be switching to summer uniform on Friday, April 13th: Scout shorts, long socks and shirtsleeves rolled up above the elbow. Summer camp is on its way, and it's *extremely* important for the entire troop to "look uniform" at the retreat ceremony each evening. If you need to purchase new uniform parts because you've outgrown yours and there is nothing available in the used uniform exchange in the hallway of the cabin, the information below should help you sort out what to purchase from the various uniform types offered by the BSA.

Scout Shirt: long sleeve, cotton rich poplin (*not supplex nylon*) with new forest green shoulder loops. "Willistown," "78" and red-and-black patrol insignia are supplied by the troop. They are not available at the Scout shop.

Scout Pants: canvas convertibles (*not nylon switchbacks*). These have zip-off legs to convert from long pants to shorts (all you have to do is remember where you put the legs when it's time to zip them back on in October).

Socks: Summer knee socks are again available from the BSA. They no longer have red on the top, as the BSA is eliminating the red in the uniform in favor of forest green. In order to have the entire troop in the same uniform, **we are asking you to purchase the new knee socks for summer camp this year.** We suggest you get to the Scout shop early, because all the Horseshoe troops heading to camp will clean out their supplies.

Scout Belt: Scout web belt (now with a black buckle). A Camp Horseshoe branded belt or a Philmont belt are acceptable as the official uniform.

Footwear: Brown mid-height or low

hiking boots of all leather or leather with nylon are required. Sneakers are not acceptable for uniform wear.

Hat: Our official hat for summer camp will continue to be the troop issued Campaign style hat.

Please contact the Scoutmaster if you have any questions or suggestions regarding the proper uniform.

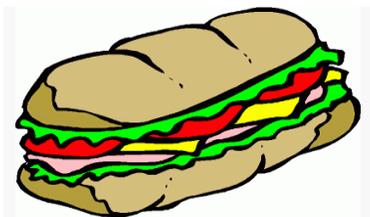
RECENT ADVANCEMENT

Merit Badges:

Chip Lemheney - Personal Mgt.
Billy MacKrides - Citizenship in the Community
Lee Neves - Rifle Shooting, Shotgun Shooting
Aaron Steel - Rifle Shooting, Shotgun Shooting, Archery

Ranks:

Jack Lee - Second Class
Zach Chan - First Class
Mathew Urban - Star



CALLING ALL HOAGIE MAKERS!

The selling part of the annual troop hoagie sale has ended and the Scouts have done another fine job. Parents, it is now our turn to "step to the plate." We will be preparing, assembling, wrapping and packaging 1,000+ hoagies in just 2 short, 2-hour sessions. Please volunteer just a small amount of time to get this very important task done. The 2 sessions are:

- Friday, April 13th, during the Scout meeting from 7-9 PM
- Saturday, April 14th, **7-9 AM** (the 7:30 AM start time on the website calendar is incorrect). Order pick-up on back porch from 9:00-9:30 AM.

The meat & cheese slicing will be on Thursday, April 12th, 6:30 PM, at the cabin. We need about 10 people to help with this task. If you have access

to a meat slicer, please contact Scott Vercoe @ groutguy66@aol.com, cell# 610-659-3344.

Please remember to bring your hat or you can wear our lovely hairnets! Thank you all for helping the troop!



YARD SALE TO BENEFIT KANDERSTEG TRIP

It's spring and you know what that means! No, it doesn't mean the end of long, cold winter, since winter didn't show up this year. It means that it's time for the Friends of Troop 78 Yard Sale.

This year's yard sale will be held on May 5, from 8 AM to noon, at the Scout cabin. The yard sale is one of the main fund-raising events for the Kandersteg trip, taking place this summer. As such, the entire troop is needed to pitch in and help.

One of the primary ways to help also helps you. We need your unwanted and unloved stuff! We need you to provide items for the sale and to encourage your family, friends and neighbors to dig through their closets, attics and garages for treasures to sell. The Scouts will be provided with a list of items that we're looking for as well as items that are unacceptable.

Also, fun volunteer opportunities abound! We need the troop to help out with the event itself and in the work leading up to it. Most important are the drop-off and pricing dates, April 12th, April 19th, April 21st, May 3rd and May 4th (all from 7 to 9 PM). We will also need a lot of help the day of the sale, so please clear your calendars for May 5th. Keep your eyes peeled for more information on how to get involved.

So get ready to help out and have fun at the big Friends of Troop 78 Yard Sale on May 5th! To volunteer (everyone going on the Kandersteg

trip must participate) or if you have questions, please contact Steve and Jeanne Brown at 610-692-2001 or stevencharlesbrown@yahoo.com.



RADNOR RACES – SAT, MAY 19 & SUNDAY MAY 20

Radnor Races weekend is coming up on Saturday & Sunday, May 19th & 20th. This is one of the most important weekends on the Troop 78 calendar.

We need as many people coming out to work as many hours as they possibly can. We especially need adults. We will be out from around 7 AM to 7 PM on Saturday, May 19. Please concentrate on helping us between 11:00 and 3:00. These are the most critical times. Of course, help any time is appreciated and extended hours are always needed. Clean up is Sunday morning from 8 AM to noon.

Remember, working at the Radnor Races helps -

- our troop's major community service project,
- Troop 78 earn funds,
- protect the environment, as Troop 78 helps the Brandywine Conservancy preserve open space in our area,
- earn money in your Scout account.

Your sign-up sheet should arrive in the mail soon. *Please fill it out & send it back as soon as you get it.* That will minimize unnecessary calls and e-mails both for your sake and ours.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
MALVERN BLOOMS SPRING
FAMILY FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, MAY 6TH**

The Malvern Blooms Spring Family Festival is looking for volunteers to assist throughout the day on Sunday, May 6th. The festival brings 2,500 visitors to the Borough of Malvern to enjoy all Malvern has to offer along with 130 vendors (crafters, jewelry, food, home repair, landscapers, and much more) and a myriad of entertainment. This year the Malvern

Blooms Festival includes a Mid-Atlantic BBQ Association sanctioned grilling contest, a craft beer garden, a judged antique/hot rod car show, 3 stages with local and regional entertainment, a KidZone with Moon Bounce, batting cage, speed pitch contest, and kids craft by Home Depot.

Scouts (and Parents) are encouraged to sign up to volunteer to fulfill service hours. Help is needed starting at 7 AM to assist vendors with unloading their

vehicles and setting up their booths. Once the festival begins at 10:00, assistance will be needed throughout the day with various duties. Once the festival ends (4 PM), assistance will be needed with tear down and clean up.

Volunteers can work one or more two-hour shifts (7-9 AM, 9-11 AM, 11-1PM, 1-3 PM, 3-5p+).

Contact Mr. D if interested at sdantonio@comcast.net.



Newsletter

Willistown Troop 78
Chester County Council, B.S.A.
Steve D'Antonio, Scoutmaster
Barry Evans, Editor
Email: newsletter@willistown78.org
Cabin: 610.644.8702