



Willistown Troop 78

Website: www.tr78.org

Facebook: [Willistown Boy Scout Troop 78](https://www.facebook.com/WillistownBoyScoutTroop78)

YouTube Channel: [Troop 78](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC78)

November 2024

Volume 41 Number 3

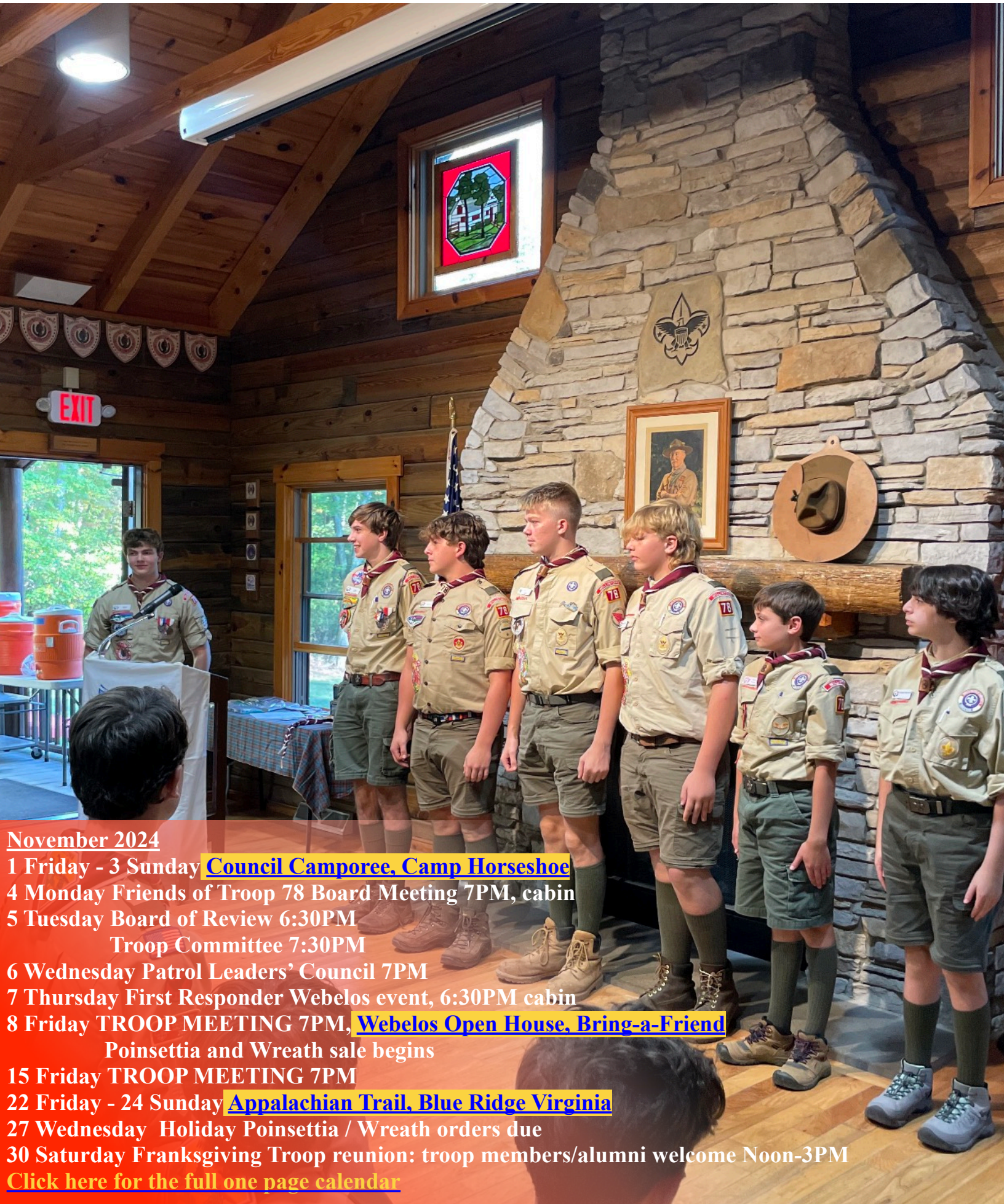
Eagle Court of Honor A Record Six Scouts Earned Eagle!

SIX NEW EAGLE SCOUTS RECEIVE THE EAGLE CHARGE



Inside this issue

- Halloween Party!
- Council Camporee
- Appalachian Trail Hike



- November 2024**
- 1 Friday - 3 Sunday [Council Camporee, Camp Horseshoe](#)**
- 4 Monday Friends of Troop 78 Board Meeting 7PM, cabin**
- 5 Tuesday Board of Review 6:30PM**
Troop Committee 7:30PM
- 6 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7PM**
- 7 Thursday First Responder Webelos event, 6:30PM cabin**
- 8 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM, [Webelos Open House, Bring-a-Friend](#)**
Poinsettia and Wreath sale begins
- 15 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM**
- 22 Friday - 24 Sunday [Appalachian Trail, Blue Ridge Virginia](#)**
- 27 Wednesday Holiday Poinsettia / Wreath orders due**
- 30 Saturday Franksgiving Troop reunion: troop members/alumni welcome Noon-3PM**
- [Click here for the full one page calendar](#)**

Court of Honor

Sunday October 6, 2024

By Ryan W.

On Sunday, October 6, scouts and their families came together for the annual October Court of Honor where many scouts were recognized for their achievements and awards as their scouting journey continued. To start the event, everyone gathered outside at 3 o'clock for a delicious dinner of lasagna. Dinner took place for about an hour and then the scouts and families filed inside the cabin for the beginning of the ceremony. Per usual, the ceremony started with a few of the older scouts giving speeches about recent trips such as exploring the Baltimore Inner Harbor, spending time at Camp Horseshoe Summer Camp, and swimming at Cape Henlopen for the beach trip. Scouts also recapped the high adventure trips over the summer which included hiking at Philmont New Mexico and canoeing at Algonquin Canada. Ben B and a few scouts also put together a photo presentation about Summer Camp, Philmont, and Algonquin which shared some pictures and hinted at the good memories that were made on those trips.

During the October Court of Honor, the prestigious award of Scout of the Year is given to the scout that accumulates the most points over the past scouting season. Points are earned for attendance, rank advancement, and placement in certain events. This year, Jay T



was awarded the Scout of the Year trophy. Another award that is given out is the Patrol of the Year. To win this award, each patrol member's points over the scouting year are tallied up and the winner goes to the patrol with the highest amount of points. This year, Cougar Patrol was awarded the Patrol of the Year for their outstanding attendance, commitment, and advancement.

This Court of Honor was also unique because six scouts were decorated with the highest rank of Eagle Scout. In order, these scouts include Jacob D, Anish Narr, Logan S, Joshua S, Ryan W, and Ben G. Each one of these scouts has completed their path to Eagle, where they move into a new section of their life, using the skills and knowledge they gained from scouting over the years. The Eagle ceremony concluded with the Charge to the Eagle Scouts and congratulations to all. Following the formal ceremony, many pictures were taken and cake was enjoyed by all. We wish all of the Eagle Scouts a bright future in and out of Scouting.





NEW EAGLE SCOUT RYAN W



NEW EAGLE SCOUT ANISH NARR



NEW EAGLE SCOUT BEN G



NEW EAGLE SCOUT LOGAN S



NEW EAGLE SCOUT JOSH S



NEW EAGLE SCOUT JACOB D

Halloween Party!

Friday October 25, 2024

By Judah C.

On a peaceful Friday evening at a spooky and un-peaceful cabin, pigs, crayons, ghosts, secret agents, Rick Sanchez, Jake from State Farm, and many others doubling as Troop 78 scouts gathered for a very fun night of Halloween partying. After fall-in, cries broke the night with cuts, burns, choking, snakebites and many other horrible (simulated) tragedies that befell the staff and assistant scoutmasters. Troop 78 tackled these first aid problems with vigor and skill thinking about the candy waiting them at the end of the night.

Next each patrol took up knives, saws, and a great deal of creativity to compete in our annual pumpkin carving contest. Many had scouting themes with a carved Fleur-de-Lis, 78 illuminated by a candle, and a pumpkin cottage complete with a porch swing made with lashings. We all piled back in the cabin eagerly awaiting our candy and cider based on the order of the way patrols placed the Halloween first aid competition; Flying Eagle taking the top spot.

After the candy was consumed and sugar flowing through our brains, the troop fell-in to hear who won the best costume of the night. Third place was Eddie dressed as a break dancer, second place was Caleb as Rick Sanchez and first was Ethan as agent 0078. The last competition to be decided was pumpkin carving and that was dominated by Panther patrol's pumpkin cottage and everyone else came in second.

It was a great evening with lots memories and fun! Happy Halloween from Troop 78!



THE WINNING PUMPKIN !



Willistown Conservation Trust (WCT) Run-a-Muck

Saturday October 5, 2024

On October 5th, 14 intrepid Troop 78 Scouts and Scouters braved brilliant sunshine and warm temperatures to assist with the 2024 Willistown Conservation Trust Run-a-Muck at beautiful On Point Farm. The 14 cheerfully assisted a record number of 518 attendees find safe and secure parking for their approximately 250 vehicles.

Our helpful and courteous volunteers provided over 70 hours of volunteer time to the event that raises funds to preserve open space in Willistown Township. After parking the vehicles, our friendly Scouts and Scouters enjoyed a BBQ dinner, music, a bonfire, and the satisfaction of a job well done.

Thank you to the following for their time and for representing the Troop and Scouting in a positive manner: Ben, Will, and Steph Gunderson, Jacob L, Tony Walton, Constable Jack Bilson, Charles Lane, Brian Rothberg, Jasper, Rob and Jen Duff, Don Tyson, Andrew Brown, Steve Brown.

The Troop looks forward to helping them again at the 2025 Run-a-Muck!



Spook-o-Ree!

Saturday October 19 - Sunday October 20, 2024

Saturday October 26 - Sunday October 27, 2024

Camp Ware

The Cub Scouts of Chester County Council had an amazing frightfully fun weekend at the annual Spook-o-Ree this year at HSR Camp Ware, with so many activities for the Cubs to enjoy and participate in! Troop 78, scouts and scouters were there to staff and run some of the activities for the Cubs to enjoy. All culminating in the main event on Saturday night: the Glow in the Dark Pinewood Derby track runs in the Fisher

Pavilion which is always a big hit. Troop 78 has been hosting this Pinewood Derby event for the past 3 years and we have grown to over 60 cars participating this year at both Spook-O-Ree weekends.

Many thanks to the 78ers that helped out these past 2 October weekends!



BLACK LIGHT PINEWOOD DERBY!



Sustainability Merit Badge

Saturday October 26, 2024

The Brandywine Conservancy offered to teach Sustainability Merit Badge to the scouts of Troop 78. This merit badge is required for Eagle. On Saturday October 26, the counselor from the Brandywine Conservancy and a group of Troop 78 scouts met at the cabin from 8:30AM - noon to complete the requirements for this difficult badge.

Mr. Grant DeCosta from the Brandywine Conservancy was so kind to come over to the Troop 78 Cabin to teach the merit badge. He introduced the vision and mission of the Brandywine Conservancy organization and told us the story about the King Ranch property which is also referred to as the “black hole” by local pilots as it is such a large area of protected land in the middle of Chester County.

We also talked about the flood prevention efforts for the Brandywine Museum, and the importance of renewable energy production by solar panels and wind turbines. We did a CO2 footprint for a typical American family member, which resulted in the fact that we would need 5 Earths, if we continue with the typical American lifestyle. Obviously, this is not sustainable, and we talked about what we can do to reduce our carbon footprint.

We learned that there are many ways we can help sustainability efforts globally by changing little habits in our daily lives such as reduce, reuse, and recycle. We talked about electric cars, and new ways for farmers to organize a farm to be more environmentally friendly and ways to get our creeks and streams clean and populated with fish again.

We modeled rainwater impact on a landscape and added water pollution to the surface water and discussed how re-naturalization of wetlands can help clean water pollution and help the environment.

We also did an assessment of the scout cabin, walked around the cabin, and discussed different ways to improve the cabin’s sustainability footprint. A few ideas such as adding a native flower garden, adding solar panels and a rainwater collection system were discussed.

All boys concluded that this was one of the most interesting merit badges they have ever participated in. Mr. Grant had so many practical examples of how to create real life impact which made our scouts realize how much potential there is to improve our way of living.

Many thanks to the Brandywine Conservancy for this wonderful new program, we hope to continue into the future!



Vermont Work Crew

Friday October 25 - Sunday October 27, 2024

Troop 78 Scouters “Lodge” Best Efforts on Vermont Construction Projects

A team of Troop 78 Scouters and friends headed north to Vermont for a service weekend at the ski lodge that serves as the winter launch pad for the Troop’s ski trip at Mount Snow. Trucks packed with materials and power tools departed at various times from the greater Malvern area, with a common goal of completing a long list of tasks.

Leaders Ted Dinsmore, Rob Duff, Steve Wark, Dan Connors, Dave Bravo, Jim Bennett and Troop friend Frank Baer arrived at Buck Ridge Ski Lodge on Friday, October 25th and rose early the next day, determined to tackle some significant projects that were time-sensitive ahead of winter’s arrival. By the end

of the day, the crew had put a new roof on a large storage shed; torn down and rebuilt a set of stairs from the lower driveway leading up to the lodge; repointed the indoor fireplace hearth; removed an inoperable refrigerator; and insulated the crawl space. The team broke only for lunch. As the sun was setting on the days’ work, the tired craftsmen entered the cabin to enjoy a meal of salad, pasta and sausage that was prepared by two of the less-skilled craftsmen, who shall remain anonymous and hereinafter will be referred to only by their newly-minted nicknames of “Cookie” and “Deuce.”

Sunday dawned with cooler temperatures and a shorter list of chores. Following a simple breakfast, the team was back at it. No “day of rest” for the 78ers, as the crew installed a new bunkbed in one of the guest rooms; finished the rail guard and landings on the new steps; coated the new staircase with sealant; straightened up the contents of the shed; packed up the tools; cleaned the cabin; ate lunch; and departed for home promptly at noon and precisely on schedule.

All of the time, talent and materials for the work effort were donated by our capable Troop 78 crew, and both the Troop and the ski club are grateful for their generous contributions. All Troop 78 families are invited and encouraged to join Buck Ridge Ski Club and to use the Lodge. Fees are modest and the Lodge is family-friendly.

The lodge is heated; has two kitchens; three bathrooms and two showers. It features three family-style bunk rooms; two dining areas and a great room, complete with a gas-powered fireplace. Its location close to Mount Snow makes it a great place to stay for skiing but the Lodge is also a wonderful place to stay to enjoy the many activities that southern Vermont offers all year round. To learn more, speak with Ted Dinsmore or Jim Bennett.

In the meantime, check out the club and the Lodge at <https://www.buckridgeskiclub.org/>.





THE FINISHED PRODUCT



DEMONSTRATING THE SAFETY OF THE NEW STAIRS !

Horseshoe Dining Hall Project

Saturday October 26, 2024

Work on the Camp Horseshoe dining hall continues. As you know, the dining hall at Camp Horseshoe got a new raised-seam metal roof last spring due the generosity of you all and many others who donated the necessary funds. As a part of the roof project, the roofing contractor removed the old chimney in the original section of the dining hall.

The dining hall has had several additions over its 100 years. The original dining hall was just the section where the entrance and exit to the kitchen are.

Now begins the task of removing the balance of the old fireplace in preparation for the replacement of the floor in the oldest section of the dining hall.

Troop 78 had a work crew report to the Horseshoe dining to begin this huge undertaking. Under the direction of Todd Cappelli, a crew consisting of Joe Johnson, Doug J, Allan J, Jake C, Jamie C, Nate Motel and Pete Motel began the tedious task of removing the fireplace stone by stone.

The crew made remarkable progress, clearing about half the fireplace. The balance will be removed on a subsequent workday, to be scheduled.



BEFORE WE STARTED



BEFORE WE STARTED



DONE FOR THE DAY



ALL BUTTONED UP !

Order of the Arrow Octoraro Lodge 22

[Click here for the National Order of the Arrow Newsletter](#)

Alumni Corner

Troop 78 Alumni Association

The Troop 78 alumni is finalizing plans for upcoming events to welcome former and current troop members and families to the cabin for food and fellowship. First up will be the Franksgiving on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Saturday November 30 from noon to 3PM at the troop cabin.

We would love to hear from you!

Please send in your updates. Where are you now? What are you up to?

[Click here to contact us with your alumni news.](#)

Troop 78 Online

YouTube Videos

[Click here for the latest Troop 78 videos.](#)

Troop Media Consent Policy

Throughout the Scout year Troop 78 will be publishing troop events on its various media platforms including this Newsletter, Facebook, Instagram, and Alumni social media platforms. All scouts and leaders understand attending troop events will result in images, videos, and written content.

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

Upcoming Events

Chester County Council Camporee

Friday November 1 - Sunday November 3, 2024
Camp Horseshoe

Scouts and Scouters from all over Chester County Council will descend on Camp Horseshoe this weekend for the Council Camporee.

Patrols will compete in various contests including campsite setup, meal planning and preparation, useful campsite gadget and campsite gateway.

The afternoon will be fun and competitive events throughout the camp like: Axe Throwing, COPE, First Aid Scenarios, Good Turn Projects, HSRAA History Challenge, Scavenger Hunt, Shotgun shoot and Team Building Games.

Good weather is in the forecast and we are all looking forward to being back in camp!

[Click here for more information.](#)

Appalachian Trail Shenandoah Virginia

Friday November 22 - Sunday November 24, 2024

We will be venturing to the Blue Ridge mountains for a weekend of backpacking on the Appalachian Trail and camping on the Duff family property in Front Royal Virginia. Two hikes will be offered, depending on how far you want to backpack. There will be a Challenge Hike of 5 miles and a Longer Hike of 12 miles.

We are expecting wonderful weekend of hiking and camping and fall colors in the valleys and mountains of the Blue Ridge.

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

Disney 2025!

Saturday April 12 - Saturday April 19, 2025

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



When Pigs Fly

Scouts, BSA
Camporee
November 1-3
@ Camp Horseshoe



Sign Up:
<https://www.scoutingevent.com/539-fallcamporee24>

This camporee will focus on patrol-based activities, testing the strength of the patrol method.

COST:
Scouts, BSA Youth \$20
Adult Leader: \$10

activities@cccbsa.org

Chester County Council News

Sporting Clays

Friday October 4, 2024

Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays

On a beautiful Friday in early October Chester County Council Scouters gathered in the Lehigh Valley for a day of fun and fundraising for Scouting. Troop 78 friends and family fielded three 4-person teams.

The Clays course surrounds an old quarry set in the woods of PA. This wonderful place helped all the participants raise funds to support scouting in Chester County.

After finishing the course, everyone joined together for a buffet of fabulous barbecue and many delicious sides.

The generosity of those in attendance resulted in raising \$60k for Scouting and another \$10k for Camperships, scholarships for youth to attend the Council's summer camps.

Hope to see you there next year!



Vista Leadership Megastars

Thursday October 17, 2024

PARC - 1 Scouting Way, Exton, PA

Leaders from across Chester County in education, health, youth leadership, government and business gathered to celebrate the Class of 2024 Megastars.

The BSA VISTA Leadership Megastars event recognizes Chester County leaders who are shaping the county's future through their character, service, vision, courage, passion, and humility.

These Chester County leaders addressed the group about their leadership and work in the community and how it connects to the teachings of Scouting and the Scout Oath and Law.

Meet the Class of 2024!

Bill Belknap - President and CEO, AEONRG, LLC

Rosemary Fordjour - CEO, Row Psychiatric Services

Bill Friedmann - Co-Owner, Blue Dog Printing and Design

Roberta (Robbe) Healey - Consultant, Aurora Philanthropic Consulting

Melissa King - Chief Transformation Officer, Ellucian

Gina Mazzulla - Success Communications Program Manager, Bentley Systems

Mary Francis McGarrity - Sr. Vice President, CCEDC

Colin Neill - Chancellor, Dean, and Chief Academic Officer, Penn State Great Valley

Alphonso Newsaun - President/Executive Director, Movement Community Development Corp

John Serock - President, John Serock Catering

Peter Urscheler - Mayor, Borough of Phoenixville

Michelle Venema - CEO, Home of the Sparrow



Council Off-Season Merit Badge Program at Camp

The Council launched a merit badge program at Camp during the off-season.

First up was Kayaking merit badge on Saturday September 14. It was a glorious day at Camp to welcome the first class of off-season scouts to merit badge training. Twelve scouts and three merit badge counselors took to the river for a day of kayaking practice, swamping, and rescue. The day was capped off by a paddle from the Camp Ware swinging bridge all the way around the loop to the Horseshoe Athletic Field.



[Click here for more information.](#)

Off-season Merit Badge schedule:

Metalwork November 16

Electronics and Electricity Dec 21

Cooking January 18

Wood Carving February 1

Welding April 12

Fishing May 10

Veterans Breakfast

Monday November 11, 2024

Desmond Hotel, Malvern

Please join us to recognize the service of our veterans on November 11, 2024. We will gather at the Desmond in Malvern for an event to honor those who have put on the uniform of the United States military. We will enjoy a great breakfast, moving speeches and some awards.



[Click here for more information.](#)

[Click here for the Chester County Council Newsletter.](#)

Please feel free to forward this Newsletter.

Print this Newsletter for all of your family and friends to see!