



# Willistown Troop 78

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February 2025

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## Winter Weekend Troop 78 returns to camp!

GATHERING FOR THE FUN



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**February 2025**

**3 Monday Friends of Troop 78 7PM**

**4 Tuesday Board of Review 7PM**

**Troop Committee 7:30PM**

**5 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7PM**

**7 Friday TROOP MEETING, Troop First Aid Meet 7PM**

**8 Saturday Chester County Council First Meet 7:15AM**

**9 Sunday Super Bowl Breakfast 8AM-11AM cabin**

**14 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM, camp deposits due**

**21 Friday - 23 Sunday Matie Farm Winter Olympics**

**28 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM**

**[Click here for the full one page calendar](#)**



# Winter Weekend

Friday January 2 - 4, 2025

## Camp Horseshoe

By Caleb F.

On the first weekend of the new year, the troop set off on our annual adventure to Camp Horseshoe for a fun weekend of winter activities and games. When we arrived at camp, we walked down to Browning Lodge where we would stay for the weekend. Once we set up our bunks and settled, we all went and had a snack of chili and hotdogs before going to bed to get a good night's rest before the long day ahead. We all woke up to the sound of sizzling sausage and before we knew it, we all went down to have a breakfast of French toast, sausage, and hash browns. Then John Wark, the senior patrol leader, handed out scavenger hunt part one and a few notable items we had to find were a full clay pigeon, a candle with a wick, and a map of Japan and all its prefectures. Then the troop set out on the annual wood detailing project, and this year we went down into the stockade sites and up by camp road to clear some downed trees and get all the firewood for the camp. We worked for about 3 hours that morning and had splitting stations with axes and a hydraulic wood splitter. To finish the projects, we had to load it all into various trucks and unload it at different spots in camp. Then we went back for our traditional lunch of grilled cheese and tomato soup. During siesta, all the patrols turned in scavenger hunt part one and then were given part two. Some notable items on this list to find were a very cold scout, a cooked cheese pizza, and a loon. So, during siesta, everyone got to work on scavenger hunt part 2. After siesta, the troop split up to work on merit badges such as citizenship in society, first aid, and pioneering. Then there was the second block of time where there was an awesome camp tour led by Dr. Motel, and advancement opportunities before dinner. Once everyone got back from merit badges, we had a dinner of pasta and meatballs along with a garden salad. Then we all handed in scavenger





hunt part two and those scores were tallied up. Then we all got ready to go around and play various games including three-man skis, saw drill drop, spider web, river crossing, trivia, Kim's game, and bolt splitting. My favorite was saw drill drop as each member of your patrol had to help to cut a "cookie" out of wood, drill a hole in the center, and then let it go in a hole in the fastest time. It is a display of teamwork, and it is as much fun to do as it is to watch. Once we were all done and cold we went back to the lodge, and we watched Cars 2. We had a snack of popcorn, chips, and cookies while watching the amazing movie. Then once the movie was over, we all went to bed after a long, tiring day ready to head home tomorrow. The next morning, we woke up, packed up our gear, and then had to do all the chores that needed to be done before we could leave. Each patrol was assigned a room in the lodge that we had to clean. Then we had to get firewood for the wood stove and then sweep. Once all of these things were done, John announced the winner of the whole weekend and Flying Eagle ended up winning the winter camp competition. Then we got a cool new patch and headed home to enjoy the rest of our weekends.





# Klondike Derby

## Camp Horseshoe

Saturday January 25, 2025

By: Justin S.

Before dawn on January 25, the scouts and leaders of Troop 78 boarded the troop bus for a short ride to Camp Horseshoe, ready to take on the Klondike Derby - a patrol competition hosted by Chester County Council. This year marked the first time in a few years that we participated and the troop sent three patrols: Flying Eagle, Panther, and Stag.

Upon arriving, scouts eagerly unloaded their sleds, each sled decorated the night before to fit the '80s video games theme. After registering, the patrols set off to tackle the various stations scattered throughout the camp. Each event tested their Scout skills, teamwork, and creativity.

At Eye Spy Knots, patrols used binoculars to identify scout knots. While some, like the square knot, were easy to spot, others—such as the bowline—proved more challenging.

Pitfall required scouts to lash three poles together using round lashings and use them to “fish” for alligators and scorpions. Points were awarded for the quality of their lashings and their fishing ability.

At Koopa Kastle, patrols constructed a shelter big enough to hold their sled and entire team. Extra points were given for durability and their shelter being freestanding. The Mario Kart Race was exactly what it sounded like, with scouts racing their sleds through a challenging course. In Donkey Kong Kim's Game, scouts faced a classic memory challenge, observing items for a minute before trying to recall them all. The Pac-Man Obstacle Course put scouts' communication skills to the test. A blindfolded “Pac-Man” navigated a maze while avoiding a “ghost,” guided only by their patrol's chaotic shouted directions. At Dr. Mario First Aid, scouts applied their training to help three “injured” Mario characters. Troop 78 performed well in this event, thanks to our vigorous first aid training. In Tetris Fire Building, patrols used 2x4s to build a fire and burn a suspended string as quickly as possible, a challenge similar to our field day string-burning event. The '80s Trivia Scavenger Hunt featured





fun questions, like “What does VHS stand for?” and tasked scouts with presenting things such as an Eagle Scout from the ‘80s. The two shooting sports stations—archery and shotgun—were also very fun. Troop 78 even ran an event: a giant Pac-Man game requiring four scouts to work together to play.

Between morning and afternoon sessions, the troop served a delicious lunch of grilled cheese and hot chocolate. The meal wouldn’t have been complete without a snowball fight, of course.

As the day wrapped up, everyone gathered at the parade field for the awards ceremony. Each Troop 78 patrol earned at least one event ribbon, with the Flying Eagle Patrol taking third place overall.

Winning ribbons was exciting, but the day’s real highlight was the fun and teamwork that took place along the way. On the bus ride home, scouts excitedly recounted their adventures of this year’s Klondike.

It was a truly memorable trip for everyone who went.



## Pinewood Derby Workshop

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Troop 78 Pinewood Derby Workshop**

**Saturday January 11, 2025**

**by Brian Opielski**

Troop 78 conducted its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pinewood Derby Fabrication Workshop in the main hall of the cabin on Saturday, 1/11/25 from 9AM – 4:00PM. The workshop was fun for all involved and a huge success with Cub Scouts of all ranks from 10 different Packs around the greater Malvern area attending. During the workshop, 16 Troop 78 youth and 9 Adult Leaders contributed 158 service hours in addition to their talent and tools to make this event both a success and a great help to our local Cub Scout families.

The goal of our workshop was to match a Cub Scout’s age with the amount of work they were reasonably and safely able to perform on their cars. We also wanted to teach Cubs how to properly use basic hand tools





and give all Cubs a sense of pride and ownership in their cars while creating lasting memories with their parents.

The event was divided into six (1) hour time slots from 9AM – 3 PM where 6-8 Cubs began their fabrication journey by first being assigned and introduced to a Troop 78 Scout who was tasked with mentoring them during the workshop. Each time slot began with a short physics lesson. The use of everyday terms like Newton’s Laws of Motion, center of mass, rotational inertia, energy dissipation and potential vs kinetic energy along with formulas like  $KE=0.5(\text{Mass} \times \text{Velocity}^2)$  and  $PE=(\text{Mass} \times \text{Height})$  were thrown at us by visiting Cubs and we learned quite a bit from them although I still have some questions.

Following the physics instruction, Cubs entered the main room with their 78 Scout mentors and parents where older Cubs (Bear, Webelos & AOLs) proceeded to 8 fully equipped workstations where they were able to use an assortment of hand tools (clamps, fixtures, coping saws, rasps, files etc.) to fabricate their cars. Younger Scouts proceeded to the power equipment workstations being manned by very dedicated Troop 78 Adult Leaders. These work centers consisted of band saws, scroll saws, drum sanders, belt sanders, drill presses and other powered equipment. Cubs of all ranks and their 78 Scout mentors met back at the axle prep and digital scale table where they added weight to their cars and were taught how to prep their axles/wheels and paint/assemble their cars when they got home.

In conclusion, the workshop was a great success. I received many compliments regarding our Scouts both during and after the event. I want to sincerely thank all of our exceptional Scouts and Adult Leaders listed below who dedicated their time and talent to helping and teaching others. This event definitely would not occur without you.



**Thank you to all who made this event a great success!**

**Scouts who helped:** Ethan S, Justin S, Sushanth K, Rishabh A, Jay T, John W, Ben B, Alex O, Nic O, Nishant S, Sean T, Mason E, Alexander B, Cater S, Alexander W, Judah C.

**Adults who helped:** Camper Bull, Chris Campbell, Rob Duff, Dan Esterly, Kipp Happ, Brian Opielski, Mike Simms, Don Tyson, Steve Wark.



# Troop 78 Class A Cotton/Poly Shirt Shortage

It is not hard to identify from a distance a Willistown Troop 78 Scout in their Class A uniform. Our classy maroon neckerchief with its artistic patch, handmade leather 78 slides, green convertible pants, green scout socks, and of course the star of the show, our unique and traditional Troop 78 Long Sleeve Khaki Cotton/Poly Class A Button Down Shirt (Class A Shirt).

Unfortunately, our Class A shirts in youth sizes were discontinued by BSA several years ago and are becoming difficult to obtain on the secondary market.

If you have an “Official Troop 78 Shirt” that is no longer being used and is in good condition, please consider donating it back to the Troop. Your generosity would go a long way in keeping our important uniform tradition alive and well.

Please note we CANNOT use the following shirts:

1. Shirts that are not the Official Troop 78 cotton/poly long sleeve model.
2. Shirts that have patches that are specific to your Scout’s accomplishments and attached with Badge Magic adhesive tape. These patches will need to be removed before a new Scout can wear the shirt. The adhesive left behind by Badge Magic will not pass inspection.
3. Any type of short sleeve shirt or any non-Troop 78 Official Shirt including Blue Cub Scout shirts.

Note: The Scout Shop sews patches on very inexpensively. An even better option is to have your Scout do the patch sewing. They can use a machine by just turning the wheel on the machine and slowly guiding the needle around the patch.

Unfortunately for us, there may come a day when we have exhausted every possible source of our Class A shirt and be forced to make a change, but with your generous help.... It’s Not Today.





# Upcoming Events

## Chester County Council First Aid Meet

Saturday February 8, 2025

The troop has been preparing at the past several meetings for the upcoming Council First Aid Meet. We continue to prep, learn, and practice first aid. The older scouts, patrol leaders, and senior patrol leader staff pass along their first aid skills to the younger scouts, and then they practice the skills together and review the results.

At each meeting the scouts improve, all with the goal of being well trained first-aiders. The troop will hold its annual First Aid Meet Friday February 7, and then the troop will compete in the Council First Aid Meet Saturday February 8.



[Click here for more information on the Council First Aid Meet.](#)

## Super Bowl Breakfast

Sunday February 9, 2025

Troop Cabin

Enjoy a wonderful home-cooked breakfast with your family and the company of others in the troop cabin. This “super” troop tradition of eating breakfast with your family on Super Bowl Sunday at the cabin will take place on Feb 9th, 8-11AM.

We are asking everyone to sign up in advance for a specific time slot. You can pick a breakfast reservation time and the number of people in your party on the Troop website.

We are looking forward to seeing you!

[Sign up for our annual Super Bowl Breakfast here.](#)





# Matje Farm

Matje Family Property

New Albany, PA

Friday February 21 - Sunday February 23, 2025

We are planning again for the Winter Olympics at Matje Farm! The troop gathers at this wonderful 125 acre property of longtime troop alum Mr. Matje. At the farm, the scouts sleep in a large barn and the leaders sleep indoors in bunk rooms. We will cook meals as a troop and during the day will compete in various “Olympic” events. It will be a great weekend of fun, food and fellowship!

[Click here for more information.](#)



## Join Troop 78 For Winter Sports Fun in Vermont

Mount Snow, Dover Vermont

Friday March 7 - Sunday March 9, 2025

The Troop returns to the Buck Ridge Ski Lodge in West Wardsboro, Vermont on Friday, March 7th. Downhill thrill-seekers can spend Saturday at Mount Snow and can return to the mountain for a half-day of skiing on Sunday. Mount Snow is southern Vermont’s premier ski mountain and is just minutes away from the ski lodge where we’ll be staying (<https://www.buckridgeskiclub.org/>). Mount Snow was the host of the Winter X Games in 2000 and 2001, and was the “home mountain” of Olympians Kelly Clark (5 Olympics), Devin Logan (3 Olympics), Caroline Claire (2 Olympics) and Mac Forehand (1 Olympics, and currently training for the 2026 Games).

While downhill skiing at Mount Snow is a challenge and should only be undertaken by experienced skiers and boarders (we cannot accommodate those who want to “give it a try” for the first time, unfortunately), we are planning alternate activities for Scouts and registered male adults who would like to join us. As we go to press, we are researching other snow adventure activities, such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing at an outfitter close to the lodge where we’ll be staying. Those who do not downhill ski will be able to snowshoe or cross-country ski on





Saturday at a Nordic center within a reasonable commute of our accommodations. That same group – and others who might prefer a Sunday walk in the woods – will be able to hike on the Long Trail on Sunday morning. The Long Trail is a hiking trail that runs from the Massachusetts-Vermont border to the Canadian border. It is the oldest long-distance hiking trail in the United States. The Long Trail and the Appalachian Trail are one-and-the same for the stretch that we will explore.

Those who have been on this trip in years past will tell you that, for reasons not easily explained, when Troop 78 goes to Vermont, the snow accompanies us. It has snowed on virtually every one of these trips in the past. That has meant great conditions for winter fun, and with an expanded itinerary of choice, we believe we have something for everyone. Details and fees will be provided in a handout to be distributed at an upcoming Troop meeting. Be sure to join us for one of the Troop’s best trips of the year!



## Radnor Races! Save the Date!

Saturday May 17 and Sunday May 18, 2025

PLEASE, open your new 2025 calendar and block out the third weekend in May to help Troop 78 at this year’s edition of the Radnor Hunt Races.

### Had your fill of cold weather?

Expect a beautiful day in Hunt Country as the Troop spends a weekend at the Races.

Planning is already well under way to make the Event better than ever.

On Saturday, May 17 & Sunday, May 18 we need your help as Troop 78 does its annual Radnor thing!

PLEASE PLAN TO BE THERE!



## Algonquin Canoe Trip

Saturday August 9 - Saturday August 16, 2025

A week of adventure and fun awaits in the lakes and streams of Canada.

[Click here for more information.](#)





# Chester County Council News

## Council Off-Season Merit Badge Program Continues

Camp Horseshoe

[Click here for more information.](#)

**Off-season Merit Badge schedule:**

Wood Carving February 1

Welding April 12

Fishing May 10



[Click here for the latest news from Chester County Council.](#)

## Order of the Arrow Octoraro Lodge 22

### Annual Lodge Banquet

Sunday March 2, 2025

The **2025 Annual Lodge Banquet** will be held at the **Red Clay Room** on **Sunday March 2, 2025** from 4 PM to 8 PM. The banquet will include a Silent Auction, activities, door prizes, featured speaker, various recognition awards including the Founder's Award, and the Vigil Honor Callout.

Registration for the annual lodge banquet closes on **February 16th, 2025**.

[Click here to register for the Lodge Banquet.](#)

[Click here for more information on OA Lodge activities.](#)



**Please feel free to forward.**

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