



Willistown Troop 78

Website: www.tr78.org

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December 2025

Volume 42 Number 4

Appalachian Trail!

HARPERS FERRY WEST VIRGINIA



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December 2025

2 Tuesday Board of Review 7:00PM

Troop Committee 7:30PM

3 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7PM

4 Thursday Holiday order pick up at the cabin, 3-6PM

5 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM

7 Sunday Brandywine Art Museum, Troop 78 Open House 5-7PM

12 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM

19 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM Holiday Party

Due date for Sea Base interest and deposit

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

Backpacking on the AT in Harpers Ferry

Friday November 7 - Sunday November 9, 2025

Harpers Ferry, WV

By Avi G.

On November 7, we boarded the bus in the evening at the cabin and prepared for the three hour long journey to the campsite. Once we arrived at the site which was 20 minutes outside of town, it started raining, so we put up our tents quickly. Once we were all set up we got ready to sleep.

The next morning we woke up early and got ready for the day. We had eggs, sausage, and cereal for breakfast. After that we went to explore the town of Harpers Ferry, where we learned about the history of slavery and how John Brown tried to free the slaves. We also visited some of the historic shops in the town. Then we split up into two groups: one taking the short hike and one taking the long hike.

The short hike was about three miles and the long hike was about six miles. While on the trail, there was an overlook from the side of the mountain which had a very beautiful view. The cliff was very high and when you looked down you saw the shimmering water of the Potomac River. You could see miles and miles into the Appalachian Mountain range. Once we reached the campsite, we set up our tents and enjoyed a dinner of Chana Masala, beef, Cuban rice with beans, and other backpacking meals. Then we slept in our tents.

The next morning we ate breakfast and hiked back down to the bus. After we got on the bus, we didn't make any stops, so the ride was about three hours. When we returned to the cabin, we hung up all our tents, rain flies, and ground tarps. Once the troop gear was put away, we were dismissed.



December 2025



Gettysburg National Battlefield

Friday November 21 - Sunday November 23, 2025

Gettysburg, PA

By Caleb F.

The troop was back on the road again on Friday the 21st of November, to make our way to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to tour the incredible battlefield. After the two and a half hour bus ride, we arrived at a scout camp local to the Gettysburg area, Camp Tuckahoe. We all began to set up camp quickly because of the impending rain in the forecast. This was where the legendary "Caterpillar Tent" was created. Our wonderful staff members Nic, Jay, and Ryan decided to combine a troop tent and the tent that Nic brought into one tent. In order to finish the Caterpillar, they used two ground tarps and tied them to the end of the tents. This combined the two and turned this tent into a masterpiece. Once this happened and everyone set up their tents, we all had a snack of hot dogs and chips and went to bed to the sound of rain, excited for the day ahead.

Everyone woke up the next day and was a little tired as we all ate an amazing breakfast of pancakes, sausage, and cereal. After breakfast was over and everyone had a great meal, we packed onto the bus and headed to the Gettysburg Battlefield Visitor Center. When we arrived at the Visitor Center, we were shown into a mini movie theatre, and we watched a short documentary about the Battle of Gettysburg. At the conclusion of the film, we were all led up an escalator into a circular room with a painting of the Battle of Gettysburg on the encircling walls. This painting was absolutely beautiful, and it was interactive too. When the ranger would talk about a specific thing that happened during the battle, it would flash or light up on the painting. This created a very cool atmosphere and a completely new way to understand what happened at the Battle of Gettysburg. After the ranger explained everything and everyone had seen all that they could in the painting, we all went down into the main lobby of the Visitor Center. This is where we all split off into the museum exhibits and got to see even more about the Battle of Gettysburg.

These exhibits were incredible, and we were all able to learn a great deal about the very historic battle. Once everyone had gone through the exhibit, we all loaded onto the bus and started our tour of the battlefield. This tour was an absolutely amazing experience filled with absolutely amazing views and an incredible amount of information. My favorite part of the tour was when we stopped at Little Round Top and Big Round Top and got to see some amazing views. At the conclusion of the tour, we went to have a packed lunch in one of the visitor center's many outdoor spaces.

After lunch, we headed into the gift shop to grab a souvenir, then we all headed out to the final museum of the day at Gettysburg College, the Beyond the Battle Museum. The highlight from this museum was definitely the Caught in the Crossfire exhibit. This was a small room that was made to look like a Gettysburg-period dining room. There were windows, and people were hiding beneath



the floor. You could hear everything, and there were gunshots and shell explosions. They created a crazy experience, and it showcased what the town's people had to go through during the battle.

After touring this museum, we all went back to camp and began to prepare our dutch oven dinners. Even though it was a lengthy process, the chicken stew turned out to be one of the best meals of the trip. After dinner was done and cleaned up, everyone went to a big, open field next to a wooden pirate ship, and we played capture the flag. The pirate ship was great, and it was such a cool thing to have at a scout camp. That night we played two games of capture the flag. Afterward, everyone went back to the campsite to get a good night's rest in the cold.

The next morning, we all had our traditional Sunday morning cold breakfast with some hot chocolate, and we began to take down camp. Once we took down camp, we realized that there was a slight problem. The bus wouldn't start, so our wonderful staff members, Braeden, Colton, and Doug, all said that we need a moment of silence for the bus. As everyone got quiet, we could hear the engine start up to everyone's delight. The final thing we did at this scout camp was hike down to the impoundment structure that they had at the camp. This was a man-made water structure, and it was beautiful. After spending some time there, we went back to the bus and headed home to enjoy the rest of our weekend. It was a truly memorable trip!



Halloween Party!

Thursday October 30, 2025

Cabin

By Arjun J.

On Thursday, October 30th, the day before Halloween, scouts gathered at the cabin for Troop 78's Halloween party. After a quick fall in, all the patrols started the realistic first aid problem, where we found the headless horseman, who, unfortunately, had fallen off his horse. The Cougar patrol and Flying Eagle patrol tied for first place, both earning full points.

Afterwards, we moved on to the pumpkin carving contest. Patrol members had to work together to carve a pumpkin which would impress the judges. Flying Eagle took third place, with their pumpkin resembling Alex O's Halloween mask. In second place was Cougar, whose pumpkin featured a movable tongue. And Panther placed first, taking the gold with their pumpkin, which had eyes shaped like the number 78, and a very creepy mouth.

Next up was the costume contest. Staff voted for the scouts whose costumes they deemed the most creative. In third place was Nishant S., dressed as Mr. D. Taking second was Arjun J., who was Doug from Liberty Mutual. And in first place was Gavin L. with his security guard costume.

Finally, everyone gathered in the main room to grab some candy from the candy bowls, and wrap up our Halloween party.



Troop 78 Photo & Media Archive

We are inviting members of the Troop 78 family to contribute their favorite Scout-related photos and videos using the link below. Whether it is campout adventures, service projects, ceremonies, or other troop activities, we'd love to include your memories in the troop's collection.

This archive and all of the media you share will be held on a secure, in-house storage system.

Things to keep in mind before you add to the collection:

- This is a shared drive. Content uploaded to this drive may be visible to other troop members.
- Please only upload scouting-appropriate, troop-related content.

Please use the following link to upload your memories today!

<https://willistowntroop78.quickconnect.to/mo/request/9PANIK7xo>

Feel free to share this invitation with other members of the Troop 78 family. Thank you for helping us preserve and share our troop's amazing memories

“Band” - Our Text Notification Platform!

Band will allow us to provide improved instant communications and a better membership experience for scouts, scouters and parents.

Please download the Band app on your smartphone and join our group, “Willistown Troop 78” using the following link.

[Click this link to join the Troop 78 group on our new system.](#)



Upcoming Events

Brandywine Art Museum Open House

Sunday December 7, 2025

Brandywine Art Museum

1 Hoffmans Mill Rd

Chadds Ford, PA

The Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art welcomes members of Willistown Troop 78 and their families to the Brandywine Museum of Art for a special holiday evening on Sunday, December 7, 2025, 5PM – 7PM. The Brandywine Conservancy graciously offers this event to the Troop families as a way to thank us for our efforts at the Radnor Races.

The museum will be open to Troop families only, including all permanent and current exhibitions.

Also see the Museum's renowned Brandywine Railroad O-gauge train layout with over 2,000 feet of track and 1,000 pieces and enjoy light refreshments provided by Radnor Hunt Races staff.

Please RSVP by Wednesday December 3rd to Steve Brown at stevencharlesbrown@yahoo.com if you are going (or not) for this exclusive family event for our troop. Scouts and Scouters should be in Class A uniform.

The Museum will be open to the Troop from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 7, 2025.



Pinewood Derby Workshop

Saturday January 17, 2026

Cabin

Please join us for our annual Pinewood Derby Fabrication Workshop on 1/17/26.

During this workshop Troop 78 members will be lending their time, talent and tools to help local Cubs (and parents) fabricate Pinewood Derby cars. Cubs will be asked to bring their official Pinewood Derby car kit, a package of weights and a sketch of their car's design. More on this in future newsletters.

Disney 2026!

Saturday March 28 - Saturday April 4, 2026



**Heading to Walt Disney World with Troop 78?
Reserve your spot for Spring Break 2026**

When are we going? March 28 – April 4

What are we going to do? We will spend a morning at the Disney Imagination Campus in one of the parks. We will participate in a workshop in a Disney Park learning about the Physics of Disney's Parks. We will also spend four days Park-Hopping, we can visit any of the four theme parks (Magic Kingdom, Disney's Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom, and Epcot), or just swim and explore Fort Wilderness campground during your downtime.

Who can go?

- 1) Scouts and leaders who are registered and active in the troop,
- 2) Scouts must have attended (or worked) at summer camp at least one week in 2025, and
- 3) Scouts who are *or will be* First Class rank by March 17th, and who are responsible enough to visit the theme parks ***on their own*** with a small group of other Scouts as determined by their parents and the Scoutmaster.

The cost to go on the trip to Disney? \$1,100 plus spending money

What do I get for the \$1,100 cost? Round trip bus transportation on the luxurious troop bus, food and meals, camping fees, a morning of learning about the Physics of Disney Parks, a Four day Park-Disney pass, adventures of conquering all of the mountains in Disney, visit Mickey and Minnie, and create some magical memories. During this time you will practice scout skills of reading a map, money management and time management as well as brushing up on your cooking skills.

How do I sign up for this awesome annual trip? Handouts will be given out during the troop Holiday Party in December and they will also be posted on the troop web site.

Once you reserve a spot you will receive further instructions regarding departure times, what to pack, spending money, bus preparation etc.

Dates to remember for mandatory meetings and payments are:

1. **Friday December 19th – \$600 and permission slip handed in**
2. **Sunday, February 8th (Super Bowl Sunday Pancake Breakfast)- \$500 Final Payment due**
4. **Friday March 6th, 9:00 PM (after Troop meeting) – Scout and Parent Meeting (Parent must attend with scout)**
5. **Sunday March 15th – Bus and equipment cleaning meeting 1:00PM to 4:00PM**
6. **Friday March 27th – 7:00 PM Load your gear on the bus**
7. **Saturday March 28rd – noon Leave for DISNEY**

We must have at least 15 Scouts to participate in the Educational Workshop. If we do not have 15, we will have to cancel, so talk it up!

Sea Base - 2027

The Troop is putting together a crew for the summer of 2027 at Sea Base in Florida. Watch for more in upcoming Newsletters.

[**Click here for more information.**](#)

Fundraising

Holiday Poinsettia and Wreath Sale

Key dates:

Order arrival at the cabin Tuesday December 2, 11AM

Sorting the orders Thursday December 4, 11AM

Order pick up at the cabin Thursday December 4, 3PM - 5PM.

The holiday order of poinsettias and wreaths is expected at the cabin Tuesday at 11AM.

We need help unloading the order.

On Thursday, we need help sorting the orders. If you can join us, please do.

Scouts: pick up your order at the cabin Thursday December 4, from 3 - 5PM.

All orders need to be picked up before the troop meeting Friday night.

Gift Cards

Troop 78 is running the gift card service again for the holidays!

Grab some holiday gifts for family, friends, teachers, plan ahead for Valentine's Day or for those winter vacations! Or grab some grocery store gift cards for personal use or to donate to a local food bank.

Choose from hundreds of gift card brands and pay full face value. The troop gets a rebate back and that money is split between the selling scout and the troop. Win-win! (Rebate varies by store - some are over 10%!)

Order form available. You may also sign up and order online. Please email sherriwark@yahoo.com so she can send you the troop's earnings code. RaiseRight can also be used as an app and you can order gift cards instantly at the restaurant or store where you are.

Orders are due by Friday December 12th to the Cabin or by Sunday the 14th to Steve/Sherri Wark. Pickup will be December 19th during the Holiday Party meeting or by pick-up from the Wark's house.

Please review the letter about Raiseright and check out the website raiseright.com.

Questions? Email sherriwark@yahoo.com

Please click here for more information and the order form.

Chester County Council News

Weekend Merit Badge Program

Camp Horseshoe

The weekend off-season merit badge program will continue with Electricity and Electronics merit badges Saturday December 20 at Camp Horseshoe. Please consider signing up for one of these exciting merit badges and an opportunity to visit camp during the off-season.

Here is the complete list of merit badges offerings for this year: Kayaking, Shotgun, Plumbing, Cooking, Electricity/Electronics, Communication, Geology, Welding, Fishing.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Chester County Council Annual Gala

Friday November 14, 2025

The Fox Barn at Twenty9

16 Great Valley Parkway, Malvern

On a recent beautiful Friday evening, the Council held its annual Gala. It was an incredible evening filled with energy, generosity, and community spirit.

Thanks to our very own Sam Lemheney, the Council events coordinator and Development Chair, the evening was a grand success.

Through both online and live auctions, we raised vital funds that go directly toward delivering the Scouting programs that make a difference in the lives of youth across our Council.

In addition, the event raised \$15,000 for Camperships, money used to subsidize summer camp fees for scouts who may not otherwise go to camp, ensuring that every Scout has the opportunity to experience summer camp at Horseshoe Scout Reservation, regardless of financial circumstances.

We are extremely grateful to our generous supporters!



Veteran's Breakfast

Tuesday November 11, 2025, 7:30 - 9:00AM

Desmond Hotel

This past Veteran's Day we welcomed 130 guests to the event room at the Desmond Hotel for the annual Veteran's Recognition Breakfast. This event began years ago as a small breakfast in Diamond Rock District to honor Veterans, and under the leadership of many including the current Council Development Chair, Jim Bennett, this event has grown into an acclaimed Council-wide event.

This year troop Malvern 7 opened the event with presentation of the colors, Pledge, Scout Oath and Law. The guest of honor speaker was Major General Wesley E. Craig (Ret), commanding general 28th infantry division, Adjutant General of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

It was a great morning, honoring those who have served in the armed forces of the United States.



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

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