



Willistown Troop 78

Website: www.tr78.org

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October 2025

Volume 42 Number 2

Food Festival!

WORLD CULTURES MEET FOR AN EVENING OF FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP



Inside this issue

Knoebels

OA Weekend

Court of Honor



October 2025

- 1 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 6:30PM**
- 3 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM**
- 4 Saturday Run-a-Muck, parking event, need helpers**
- 5 Sunday Court of Honor and family dinner, 3PM**
- 7 Tuesday Board of Review 6:30PM**
Troop Committee 7:30PM
- 10 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM**
- 11 Saturday Radnor Horse Trials, helpers needed**
- 12 Sunday Navy/Marine Anniversary trip**
- 17 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM**
- 18 Saturday Mr D's Thank you event**
- 24 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM**
- 30 Thursday TROOP MEETING 7PM, Halloween Party**

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

Family Food Festival

Friday September 12, 2025

Cabin

By Jacob L.

The Food Festival kicked off with an hour of regular meeting stations, rotating through three different stations: tent setup, knots, and fire building. Once everyone made it through, the real fun began.

Many scouts brought a spread of homemade dishes, highlighting their family backgrounds. Everyone grabbed portions of each to enjoy together. The food was such a hit that most of the scouts went back for thirds and even fourths!

By the end of the night, almost every dish was gone. Scouts and scouters headed home with full bellies and big smiles.



First Meeting of the New Scout Year!

Friday September 5, 2025

Cabin

By Jay T.

The first meeting of the year is, as always, eventful. It was nice to see the troop back together as the summer came to a close. To get everyone back into the scouting spirit, we had a Boom Town. Patrols would run arcade games such as axe throwing, minigolf, slingshot, obstacle course, and a new one for this year, Clash Royale trivia.

Scouts played games to try to win monopoly money for their patrols to use at the auction later that evening. After counting up each patrol's money after all of the games, the scouts bid for items or coupons that would benefit their patrol. Some chose short term advantages such as cookies or soda while others chose long term perks like having a staff member in their patrol for a meeting. Overall, all of the scouts had fun playing games and getting to know their patrol members.





Junior Leader Training

Saturday September 6, 2025

Cabin

By Ethan S.

On a beautiful Saturday morning in September, the troop's youth leaders gathered at the cabin for our annual Junior Leader Training. This year, Justin and I prioritized teaching each leader how to apply leadership skills to their specific role in the troop. Highlights of the event included team-building activities, a cabin tour, and the famous rock game. These activities were designed to reinforce the methods we wanted to focus on this year, such as individual communication, leading by example, and self-advocacy. Patrols also developed a vision and goals, while the staff updated our overall troop vision.

The event was a big success, with more than fifteen youth leaders in attendance. After the training concluded, the scouts enjoyed pizza and a few rounds of bowling as a reward.



We look forward to building on the troop's high standard of youth leadership!

Cabin Workday

Saturday September 13, 2025

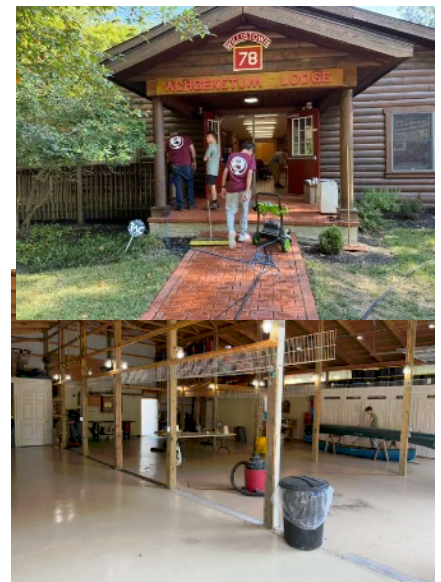
Cabin

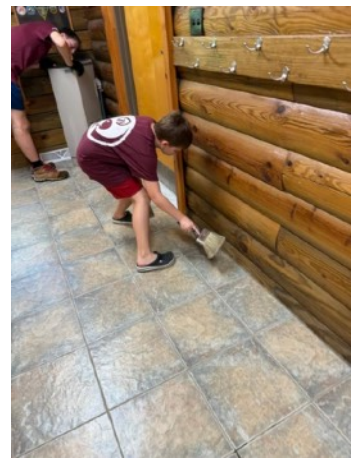
By Sean T.

At 8 AM on September 13th, many scouts came down to the cabin to work on fixing and cleaning the cabin.

Many things were going on such as organizing the Algonquin gear, fixing the canoes, power washing the porch, as well as a very well done and deep clean of the cabin, pole barn, and shed.

Overall, the teamwork of the scouts made this workday very efficient.





Knoebels Amusement Park

Saturday September 20, 2025

By Josh S.

After several years, the troop is finally going on a trip to Knoebels! Except that almost didn't happen, as the bus was still out of service. So, the trip was shortened to only Saturday, and we would get all the scouts there through carpooling. After a rather uneventful 2-hour drive, we made it to Knoebels just before the park opened.

Unpacking everything didn't take very long, and we were set free to go into the park for about an hour until lunch. I went with a group that was mainly leadership and that would be who I would stick with for the rest of the day. The first ride we went on was the swings, but half of us weren't actually able to because they hadn't gotten their tickets yet. After that, Nic thought it would be a great idea to get a funnel cake 10 minutes before our lunch, so then he wouldn't be able to have any of the delicious grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup.

After that, we had a lot more time to do what we wanted to and first on our list was the Phoenix, and it was by far the best ride we had gone on the entire trip. It was plenty tall and it dropped you really fast, but it never made you feel too nauseous compared to a few other rides. We went on it twice before moving on to the trackless ride. It was cool in concept, but it wasn't too exciting as it wasn't that fast. After that, we decided it was a great idea for us to all go on the drop ride. It was horrifying, as it seemed to just go up and up without stopping, until it did stop, and dropped you all the way to the bottom. Safe to say I'm never riding anything like it again.

We decided to slow down a little bit and go on the ski lift ride. It was a nice change of pace. After that, we had been eyeing the motorized boat ride the entire day, so we decided to do that. The line took forever, but we had gotten a few snacks while waiting. The boat ride was terrible. Slow, boring, and short. Jay and I had gotten the short end of the stick, with our boat being half as fast as the others. After that, everyone decided it was a great idea to go on the log flume. We all headed back to the pavilion to drop all of our things off before getting in line. Nic decided to stay behind, and I had forgotten my tickets, so we were the only ones not to get soaked. After everyone else all got soaked, we had a dinner of hamburgers and hot dogs. After that, some of us went on the Twister ride, while others sat out because they had eaten too much. For our final attraction, we went to do the laser tag. It took a while, but it was extremely fun and well worth the wait. After that, we packed everything up and then went home. It was a very fun trip, and I'm glad we were able to go on it again.



New! Troop 78 Photo & Media Archive

We are excited to announce that **Troop 78 is creating a digital library** to store and organize photos, videos, newsletters, and other scouting-related media to preserve our memories for years to come!

We are inviting members of the Troop 78 family to contribute their favorite Scout-related photos and videos using the link below. Whether it's campout adventures, service projects, ceremonies, or other troop activities, we'd love to include your memories in our collection. This archive and all of the media you share will be held on a secure, in-house storage drive 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 New Text Notification Platform!

Long story short: The Troop 78 text notification platform “Remind” has changed its rules and no longer allows non-profits other than schools.

We are adopting a new platform called “Band.”

Band will offer Troop 78 access to an expanded set of communication and group / event management services. This 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

Court of Honor and Family Dinner

Sunday October 5, 2025

Cabin

Please join us for the fall Court of Honor and Family Dinner at the cabin at 3PM. We will gather to recognize the scouts for their achievements at summer camp, many merit badges and ranks will be awarded. The Scout of the Year will be recognized.

We will share a great buffet dinner and some fellowship.

Families please bring either a salad or a side dish for the buffet. The troop will provide meat and vegetarian lasagna, rolls, butter and beverages.

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

Navy and Marine 250th Anniversary

Sunday October 12, 2025

Philadelphia and Camden

Sunday October 12 the troop will be venturing to Penn's Landing in Philadelphia for commemorations recognizing the 250th anniversary of the US Navy and Marines.

Then we will travel Camden for a tour of the Battleship NJ.

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

Run-a-Muck

Willistown Conservation Trust, parking event

Saturday October 4, 2025

Troop 78 volunteers have assisted Willistown Conservation Trust with this event for the past few years. This fun event is a fundraiser for the Trust to help them preserve open space in our community. We need helpers to volunteer. [Please click here to sign up if you can help.](#)

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

Radnor Horse Trials

Saturday October 11, 2025

Radnor Hunt

Since the first Radnor Hunt Horse Trials were held in 1972, volunteers have ensured the event's success. Willistown Troop 78's volunteers continue to sustain the rich heritage of the Radnor Hunt Horse Trials in our community. [Please click here to sign up if you can help.](#)

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

Retirement Celebration for Mr. D

Saturday October 18, 2025

Cabin

As a reminder, on Saturday, October 18, 2025, we will be hosting an invitation-only event at the Troop 78 Cabin to honor Willistown Troop 78 Scoutmaster, Steve D'Antonio. The event begins at 4 PM and is anticipated to end by 7 PM. After a buffet meal, Mr. D will be feted by dignitaries, Troop alums, family and friends. The festivities are being sponsored by our charter organization, Friends of Troop 78, Inc. There is no charge to attendees.

Invitations were sent to EVERY current Scout, as well as to members of the Friends of 78 and Troop Committees, and to select other alumni and guests. Each person is permitted to bring one (1) guest to the event. The exceptions: Any Friends or Troop Committee member who has a Scout in the Troop may bring a guest, but that Scout member may not bring a guest (so a Troop Committee member who has a Scout in the Troop may bring their spouse, for example, but their son may not bring another guest).

If you do not recall receiving an invitation, PLEASE CHECK THE SPAM FOLDER of your email account. The invitation came from a Google application, and if you do not have a Google account, you may not have received an invitation. If you have questions about the status of your invitation, please email ASM Jack Bilson at jackbilson@gmail.com. Include your name in the body of the email, followed by QUESTION ABOUT THE STATUS OF MY MR. D EVENT INVITATION. Mr. Bilson or another member of our organizing team will get back to you.

If you HAVE received your invitation and have NOT RSVP'd yet, please do so IMMEDIATELY. We have costs for our caterer and those are dependent upon an accurate head count. We will have a list of those who responded YES and those who responded NO with us at the event, and only YES RSVPs will be admitted. We hope you understand our need to strictly adhere to this requirement.

Mr. D's tenure as our Scoutmaster is nothing short of remarkable. During his 30 years as our unit leader, Troop 78 built a new Scouting facility; a barn; acquired several buses; made trips as far-ranging as Florida, Vermont, New Mexico and Canada; and provided a tremendous Scouting experience for over a thousand young men. Many of those Scouts – including Steve's sons, Greg and Brett – have gone on to be leaders in their own right.

We look forward to seeing you at an event that will be a highlight of our Scouting year and a milestone in the history of Willistown Troop 78. Again – check that spam folder and send your RSVP – either that you will attend or that you cannot attend – upon reading this notice. Thank you for your cooperation!

Order of the Arrow

Octoraro Lodge 22 Ordeal and Service Weekend

Friday September 26 - Sunday September 28, 2025

Camp Horseshoe

By Alex B.

At Camp Horseshoe, 47 scouts from a variety of troops gathered at the kindness center for the Order of the Arrow Ordeal. The Order of the Arrow is the National honor society of Scouting. They have their belongings checked and are given a vow of science after earning First Class, spending 15 nights sleeping in a tent, and selected by their peers in Scouting.

They are guided to a ceremony where they test a bow, symbolic of them testing the strength of brotherhood. They then set up their blanket and tarp under the stars. The next day, they make a cooking fire and set out to do several hours of service for the camp.

After the Ordeal, you are told you can select from a variety of positions that are always in need of new scouts for the OA. Additionally, after you receive your OA sash, you may attend exclusive events such as the OA banquet, ordeal weekends as Elongomats, and the largest event in the OA, Conclave.

OA members can attend several events, wear additional patches, and participate in exclusive events.

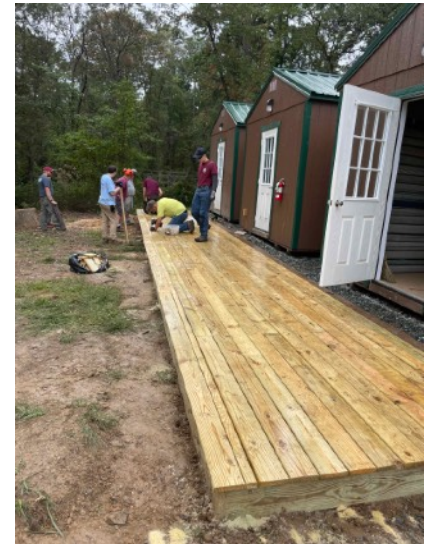
OA Service Weekend Project

Troop 78 activated its construction crew to add a much needed deck to the staff cabins in Staff City.

All that was needed was a design, a drop of supplies, a lot of sweat and the skills of the troop.

A major upgrade for the Horseshoe staff!

Thanks to Rob Duff, Dan Conners, Arek Conners, James Conners, Nate Motel, Steve D'Antonio, Camper Bull, and Pete Motel.



Chester County Council News

Dedication of the Eagle Pavilion

Friday September 19, 2025, 6PM tours, 7:30PM

dedication

PARC

1 Scouting Way, Exton

On a warm Friday evening in late September, nearly 100 Eagle Scouts from across Chester County gathered at PARC to celebrate a milestone moment for the local scouting community. The evening marked both the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Eagle Scout Pavilion and the formation of Chester County Council's National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) chapter.



Over light hors d'oeuvres, these Eagle Scouts shared stories of their scouting journeys, the challenges of earning Eagle, the lessons learned along the way, and how those experiences shaped their lives beyond scouting. The gathering brought together scouts of all ages and backgrounds, united by the rank of Eagle Scout and their love of scouting and shared appreciation for the values and character that this program instills.

As the sun set, the group made their way to the newly constructed Eagle Scout Pavilion for the official ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony. This pavilion was dedicated to the Eagle Scouts of Chester County Council, creating a lasting symbol of achievement and community. The celebration continued with the cutting of a commemorative cake created specifically for the occasion.

The new NESA chapter will work to enhance scouting programs, provide resources and mentorship for those pursuing Eagle rank, and foster ongoing connections among Eagle Scouts who have moved beyond their years as youth in scouting. It is an investment in both preserving the legacy of past Eagle Scouts and supporting the next generation working toward that achievement.

The chapter will hold its first official meeting at **7:00 PM on October 15th at PARC**. All Eagle Scouts are welcome to attend and help shape the future of this organization.



Training Palooza

Saturday October 4 and Sunday October 5, 2025

Camp Ware

The Council will hold its annual training palooza the first weekend in October.

On those two days training will be offered in first aid, CPR, chainsaw safety, adult leader IOLS, youth leader ILST and much more.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Weekend Merit Badge Program

Camp Horseshoe

The weekend off-season merit badge will continue with Plumbing MB Saturday October 25 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.](#)

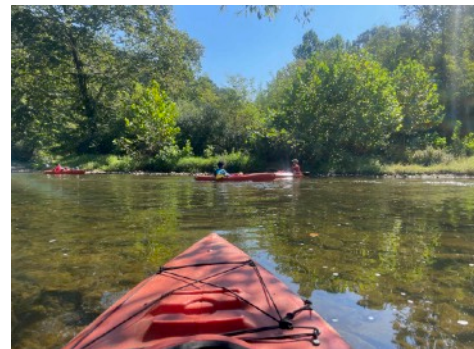
Scenes from Kayaking Merit Badge 9/13/25

On Saturday, September 13th, five scouts gathered on the Trading Post porch at 8:45 am for a day of adventure on the water. By 9:15, the group was launching kayaks from the docks into the cool, clear waters of the Octoraro Creek, ready to learn and earn their Kayaking Merit Badge.



Over the next six hours, scouts learned and practiced essential kayaking skills, reviewed safety requirements, and demonstrated their abilities on the water. After a quick lunch break at the Trading Post around noon, the group headed to the opposite end of the Octoraro loop, launching near the swinging bridge to Camp Ware for a scenic river trip that brought everything together.

By 3:15 pm, our day on the water was over and all five scouts had successfully completed the Kayaking Merit Badge. The beautiful September weather made for a perfect day at Camp Horseshoe. There's no better way to spend a Saturday than learning new skills on the water with Chester County Council Scouting America.



National Jamboree

Wednesday July 22 - Friday July 31, 2026

Summit Bechtel Reserve

[Click here for more information.](#)

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

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