



Willistown Troop 78

Website: www.tr78.org

Facebook: [Willistown Boy Scout Troop 78](#)

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September 2023

Volume 40 Number 1

Summer Camp 2023! Camp Horseshoe

September

- 5 Tuesday Board of Review 6:30PM, Troop Comm Mtg. 7:30PM
- 7 Thursday Patrol Leaders' Council 7:00 -8:00 PM
- 8 Friday TROOP MEETING 7 to 9 PM
- 9 Saturday Junior Leader Training @ cabin 9AM
- 11 Monday Friends of Troop 78 Board Meeting
- 15 Friday TROOP MEETING 7 to 9 PM **Family Food Festival**
- 16 Saturday "Meet the Hounds" @ Radnor Hunt, Vols. Needed 1:30PM
- 17 Sunday Cabin Workday 12noon
- 21 Thursday TROOP MEETING 7 to 9 PM
- 22 Friday-24 Sunday Order of the Arrow Ordeal & Fellowship Weekend
- 30 Saturday Charlestown Day - Volunteers needed 10AM-2PM
- 9/29-10/1 – Delaware Seashore State Park Trip

[Click here for the full calendar.](#)



Special Supplement

Christian Skodny Remembered

Horseshoe Summer Camp

Week One

Sunday June 25 - Saturday July 1, 2023

By Ethan Winkelman

Near the end of week 1 of Camp Horseshoe, it would fill me with some pride and (I admit it), a dash of arrogance whenever a random camper noticed what troop I was from. "78?" They would say. "Isn't that the troop that wins everything?" To these statements I would always shrug and respond, "yea." And yes, Troop 78 absolutely dominated in the awards section, placing first in marching, Paul Bunyan Field Day, Turtle Derby and taking home most of the competition ribbons.

Aside from becoming an icon on the leaderboards, week 1 also featured an iconic roster of scouts that got along harmoniously. The SPL was Jack Barsotti, flanked by patrol leaders/staff Alex Lemheney, Luke Fox, John Wark, Shreyas Sao, Jay Tyson and Logan Duff to name most of them. This absolutely monstrous core of experienced scouts with the driven younger scouts allowed us to steamroll to the top of Buzzards Rock as the week 1 GOATs.

Sunday was moving in day for the troop, older scouts helped first years get situated with the camp among the hustle and bustle. That evening the opening campfire occurred, with 78'ers sharing tarps to defend their bottoms from



the wet grass while they laughed/groaned at camp staff skits.

From Sunday, the entire week unfolded, with scouts heading to different merit badges for the next five days. One notable occurrence was the traditional "snack \$\$\$ raising ceremony", also known as the Tuesday troop auction. As always, it proved to be lucrative, with scouts bidding for high value items such as Dr. Pepper, OA patches, and even a watergun to splash Mr. D with.

Another event was the camp game on Wednesday, themed after Pokémon. Patrols had to run after and wrangle with camp staff to secure valuable Poké Balls. Gotta catch them all! The atmosphere was melancholy but also joyous on Friday, the last day of merit badges. That night the closing campfire commenced, and to the shock of everybody and the shame of the camp staff, the center fire was extinguished, leaving the circle dark. Oh well, they have six more weeks to get it right.

On Saturday, the end seemed near, but not before the anticipated Paul Bunyan Field Day. And the results are in: victory! Troop 78 once again made Paul himself proud with our 39th consecutive Pbfd win. No one can forget the climactic string burning competition, and the Tug O' War. Feeling the afterglow, scouts departed Camp Horseshoe week 1 thinking: complete!





Horseshoe Summer Camp

Week Two

Sunday July 2 - Saturday July 8, 2023

By Ethan Winkelman

As the dust settled after a productive and inspiring week 1 at Camp Horseshoe, the only scouts left were the 78'ers planning to stay in camp for both weeks. "Week 2" at camp began with a troop tube sesh down the Octoraro river, on Saturday just hours after everyone from week one had gone. Enjoying a secluded camp, the dozen or so scouts sailed along the loop waters, splashing each other with hands and some water guns. After this outing was Saturday dinner, and an evening's rest until Sunday, when the week 2 campers arrived. Among the army of cars and parents dropping stuff off, scouts from 78 trickled into Dan Beard campsite ready to begin the week.

A while after everyone was settled the first day of marching (and our marching practice) commenced. Recently promoted to SPL, Alex Lemheney did 78 proud on the marching field, netting us a win. Following this was dinner, then the opening campfire. These procedures, familiar to the week 1 campers, refreshed themselves in their minds once more.

But onto the next day, MONDAY! Otherwise known as the first day of merit badge classes, which would last for a total of five in the week. During the night of Monday, a challenge surfaced for 78: a Taylor Swift themed game. The troop scrambled to reenact



some Swift songs, draw Taylor related pictures and answer trivia. During the event a hilarious moment occurred when Logan Duff shouted, "STOP!" to an order misinterpreted by the entire troop.

On Tuesday the heat was in the air, and inside our souls as we formed up for the troop volleyball tournament. Battling furiously on the court, the winners walked off the sand way after the sun was below the horizon. Winners: staff team consisting of Alex Lemheney, Logan Duff, Luke Fox, John Wark and Shreyas Sao.... and a mysterious special guest from Devon 50, Alex Barton.

Wednesday and Thursday rolled by, with a "Boomtown" game and troop campfire respectively. A result of the Boomtown game was 78 being able to secure beloved Program Director John Porter to march with us on Friday, and have us lower the flags. When Friday occurred, this is exactly what happened. Both the flag lowering team and John Porter conducted themselves magnificently on the field, it was a sight to see.

With merit badges behind us, all that was left was the annual Water Carnival event on Saturday. Safe to say.... we did not destroy the competition like we did last week at Paul Bunyan, but 78 was able to prove we had good spirit (and good dancing skills) throughout the event.

Gathering at the Dan Beard flagpole for the last fall in, a surge of emotion went through the crowd when the SPL said the closing word, "Dismissed!"





Annual Field Day

Part I Thursday June 1, 2023

Part II Sunday June 4, 2023

By Jay Tyson

Patrol Leader, Cougar Patrol

Every year, after the Council First Aid Meet, the troop spends months practicing and preparing for Field Day. Part I was on a Thursday night while Part II was the next Sunday.

Field Day Part 1

Part I tests skills like 8-Knot, Scout's Pace, Nature Identification, Judging, Compass, and Water Boiling. First, we did Scout's Pace. The goal of this competition is to run/walk a mile in exactly 12 minutes using the 50-steps-walking-50-steps-running method. The patrol that runs/walks the mile closest to 12 minutes wins. Overall, most of the patrols came in early, with Panther patrol getting first place. The next competition involved using a compass. Most patrols didn't struggle at all with this and Flying Eagle came in first. After this was Nature Identification. Each patrol went around to marked plants and had to determine what species they were. Some patrols did much better than others at this, with Cougar winning first place. Judging is a competition about estimating certain dimensions of objects. In this competition, Rattlesnake came first. Next, the Cougar patrol came first in the 8-Knot contest and got the troop record with a time of 55.92 seconds. The last challenge of the night was Water Boiling. As soon as our SPL said go, each patrol ran into the woods to get twigs and sticks to use to build their fire. All patrols managed to make a fire with Moose patrol getting first place. At the end of the night, the Cougar patrol was tied with the Panther patrol for first place, with Flying Eagle in second and Moose right behind in third.



THE WINNERS: COUGAR PATROL!



Field Day Part II

For Field Day Part II, parents and other adults were invited to spectate and, with a few days of rest, the scouts were ready for another day of competitions. We started off with Log Chopping. The patrol with the fewest number of swings to get through their log wins. Moose patrol took first place. After Log Chopping was the Chariot Race. Each patrol lashed together sticks to make a chariot and then raced it across the field and back. Cougar won this contest. In the 9-Knot competition, two scouts from each patrol must tie 9 of the 10 Tenderfoot knots around various parts of their body. Rattlesnake got a total of 8 points in this competition because they got both first and second place! Flint and Steel is a competition where scouts compete to light a fire the fastest with only a rock and file. Rattlesnake got first with the fastest time. In between events we held our first adult Heaving Bar competition. Different adults who had had their sons teach them this skill battled out for the fastest time. Mr. Tyson won this competition. Now it was time for their sons to do Heaving Bar. The Flying Eagle patrol broke the junior scout record with a time of 20.14 seconds, with Rattlesnake getting first in the senior scout competition. Next, Cougar patrol broke the troop record for Giant Clove Hitch with a time of 6.22 seconds, getting first place. The penultimate competition of the day was String Burning. Scouts race to build a fire that can burn two strings above it. Cougar came in first. The last competition was Knot Relay where patrols have to tie 3 of the 10 Tenderfoot knots the fastest. Cougar won this competition as well. Throughout the whole day everyone had a great time and all of the patrols showed off their skills.

The final standing was Cougar in first place, Rattlesnake in second, Flying Eagle in third, Moose in fourth, Panther in fifth, and Stag in sixth. After all of the competitions we had our family picnic and a court of honor. What a great event.



Eagle Court of Honor

Sunday June 4, 2023

Immediately after the Field Day concluded, the troop scouts and families adjourned to the main room of the cabin for an Eagle Court of Honor. Alex Lemheney was awarded Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Scouting.

This past scout year Alex served as the Patrol Leader of the Rattlesnake Patrol. This summer he served as one of the SPLs at Camp Horseshoe and he will serve as the SPL this fall. Congratulations Alex!



Whitewater Rafting

Lehigh River

Saturday June 17, 2023

By Judah Campbell

On a beautiful, early summer morning in June, Troop 78 met at the Cabin to take a bus ride up to the Lehigh River for a whitewater rafting trip. The bus ride took about two hours which was spent playing games and talking. Once we got to Jim Thorpe River Adventures (the whitewater rafting outfitter), many of the scouts discovered the gift shop. The shop was selling eBikes, smoothies, trinkets, and other fun merchandise.

The scouts were given numbers, lifejackets, and paddles. From there we made our way to another bus to be driven to the launching point. We all remembered to apply our sunscreen.

We launched and the first bit of the rafting trip had some rapids and a photographer was there taking our pictures. Thankfully, no one fell out of the boats, well at least at that point. When the rapids died down, the whitewater rafts quickly turned into “pirate” boats and the water fights began. Scouts used water cannons and buckets to attack each other. Most of us were soaking wet when we reached our lunch destination.

We had packed lunches and luckily they stayed dry! The place where we had lunch was a beautiful clearing on the side of the river. We tried to dry off while eating lunch. There may or may not have been a small prank played on the patrol leaders’ boat. Let’s just say it took on a little bit of water.

The last leg of the journey was the best part in my opinion. It had the most intense rapids of the entire rafting trip. It was thrilling to go through this amazing section of the river.

As we were making our way to the end of the river trip, it started pouring cats and dogs. We got back on the Jim Thorpe River Adventure bus that took us back to our bus. We couldn’t leave without visiting that store we had spotted earlier and getting some delicious treats.

It was a great adventure and many memories were made!



Upcoming Events

First Troop Meeting of the New Scout Year!

Friday September 8, 2023

The Scout year begins fresh on what we expect to be a glorious evening on the second Friday in September. We will greet each other at the start of another year of adventures.

Family Food Festival

Friday September 15, 2023

Please join us for an evening of cultural exchange, fun, and food. Scouts are asked to bring a dish, either a main course or a dessert, which would be served at a gathering of their family and represents their ancestral culture.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Order of the Arrow Service Weekend

Friday September 22 - Sunday September 24, 2023

Octoraro Lodge 22 Fellowship & Vigil weekend will be Friday, September 22nd thru Sunday, September 24th.

The youth officers have lots of great fellowship events planned like the return of the Amazing Race Challenge.

The weekend will focus heavily on fellowship rather than service projects. Please sign up today <https://scoutingevent.com/539-64634>.

Delaware Seashore State Park Trip

Friday September 29 - Sunday October 1, 2023

Save the Date!

We plan to spend the day lounging on the beach and enjoying the surf.

More on this as we get closer to the date.

Chester County Council News

Vista Leadership Awards

Wednesday September 20, 2023

The Leadership Megastars event recognizes 12 Chester County Leaders who are shaping the county's future through their character, service, vision, courage, passion and humility. This event in partnership with VISTA Today was created in 2021.

We are excited to celebrate these recipients who embody the 12 Principles of the Scout Law — and therefore serve as an exemplary role model for young people.

Details of this year's recipients is attached and sponsorship information can be found here: [BSA Vista Leadership Megastars - Chester County Council \(cccbsa.org\)](#)

Special Supplement

In Memoriam -

Christian Skodny - Eagle Scout and former SPL

Back in late March of this year, our community was shocked to learn of the unexpected death of Christian J. Skodny, age 21.

Christian, his younger brother Cameron, and his father Paul all joined the Troop not long after moving here from Ohio. Christian was born on February 20, 2002 in Westlake, Ohio. He was a joint graduate of Great Valley High School and the Chester County Technical College High School with Honors in Engineering and Industrial Technologies. While in the Troop, he served in many leadership positions, but most notably was our Senior Patrol Leader during the 2019/2020 season. Christian would go on to earn his Eagle in March of 2020 and also received the Achgekatum Award for Outstanding Junior Leader that year as well. Christian was remarkable in many ways in and outside of our program. For the Troop, he is maybe best remembered for being a very supportive young man, who as he grew older, really took the time and energy to show a great deal of empathy and support of his fellow troop members. His casual supportive style of leadership while SPL served as a valuable model for our young scouts to experience and grow.



Christian was active in so many of our trips, and also attended a trip to the Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland with his father and brother. Within the Troop, and on his own, he continued to enjoy the outdoors, hiking, camping, mountain biking, and traveling. Since graduation he undertook several coast-to-coast driving trips, camping and exploring nature along the way. He was drawn to the beauty of the Arizona Mesas and the California sunshine. He loved Los Angeles. He loved spending time with his family. Most recently, he was studying college level accounting while supporting himself, working at Davey Tree Company back in Ohio.

Survivors include his father, Paul (Kristie); mother, Jackie (Ray) Lambert; brother, Cameron; paternal grandmother, Helen Skodny; and many additional loved family members.

His father continues to serve in the Troop as an adult leader, helping in many areas including trip planning and is one of our certified Bus Drivers. His younger brother Cameron earned his own Eagle in June of 2021, has graduated Great Valley High School, and remains in the Commonwealth studying at the University of Pittsburgh.

The level of shock and devastation of his loss for his family and for our Troop is and continues to be exceptionally difficult to accept and express. While the Troop has known loss before, this particular loss has impacted many of us in deep and unprecedented ways.

The family wishes that any memorial contributions in Christian's name can be sent to a mental health organization of choice.

All former and current Troop members and their families, especially if they knew Christian in any way, are welcome to email any thoughts, memories, pictures to his father, brother and the rest of his family at ChristianSkodnyTroopThoughts@gmail.com.



ROHOBOTH BEACH



THERMAL POOL IN ICELAND



FIRST TIME ON A HORSE!

