



Willistown Troop 78

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March 2025

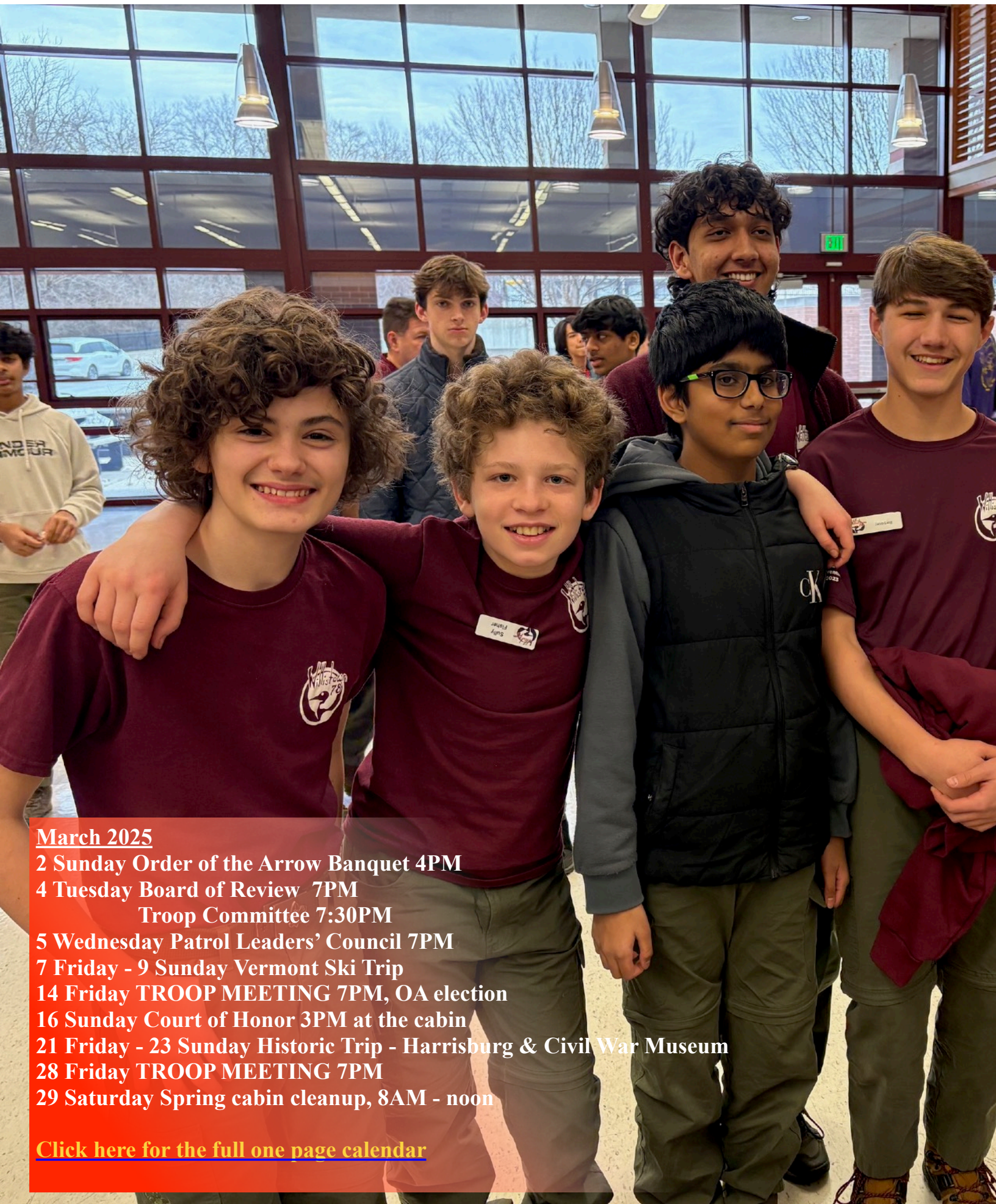
Volume 41 Number 7

Council First Aid Meet Troop 78 Sweep!

ALL TOGETHER!



Inside this issue
Matje Farm
Super Bowl Breakfast
March Ski Trip!



March 2025

2 Sunday Order of the Arrow Banquet 4PM

4 Tuesday Board of Review 7PM

Troop Committee 7:30PM

5 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7PM

7 Friday - 9 Sunday Vermont Ski Trip

14 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM, OA election

16 Sunday Court of Honor 3PM at the cabin

21 Friday - 23 Sunday Historic Trip - Harrisburg & Civil War Museum

28 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM

29 Saturday Spring cabin cleanup, 8AM - noon

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

Chester County Council First Aid Meet

Saturday February 8, 2025

Chester County Technical College, Exton

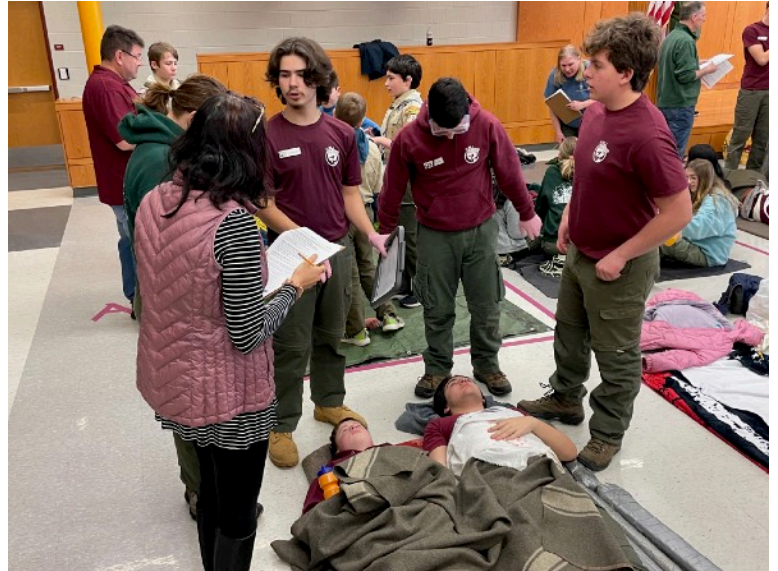
By Caleb F.

Early on a Saturday morning the bus was filled with anticipation as we were on our way to the Council Wide First Aid Meet. Once we arrived at the TCHS, we were registered by patrol and then began to set up our station.

While setting up, we worked on the registration problem which was a multiple choice quiz about basic first aid from the First Aid book and Scout handbook. This quiz would be used as a tiebreaker in the event of a tie between two patrols at the end of the competition.

Once all of the groups had finished this we were able to start on the actual first aid problems which are scenarios given to us in the form of a paragraph and we demonstrate how to treat the injuries described in the paragraph. If you show the proper way to treat the victim's particular injury you get points, and you would try to get as close to a perfect score as possible.

One of the problems we were given was about a group of scouts who got mustard gas poisoning and we had to treat it. This was by far the craziest problem and it was something that I had never seen before. Then we had to deal with a group of scouts who were cooking and someone fell in the cooking fire. They ended up with burns all up and down their back and it was a pretty routine burn problem. Then the third problem was about a biker on a trail who collided with a girl on the trail and then went careening into a bush. This problem was particularly tough because we had to be aware of spinal injuries and trauma as we were treating the victim. Then the fourth and final problem was a patrol leader problem so we had to rely on the assistant patrol leader to lead the problem. This problem mainly featured bleeding caused by a rusty nail and then an electrical burn.

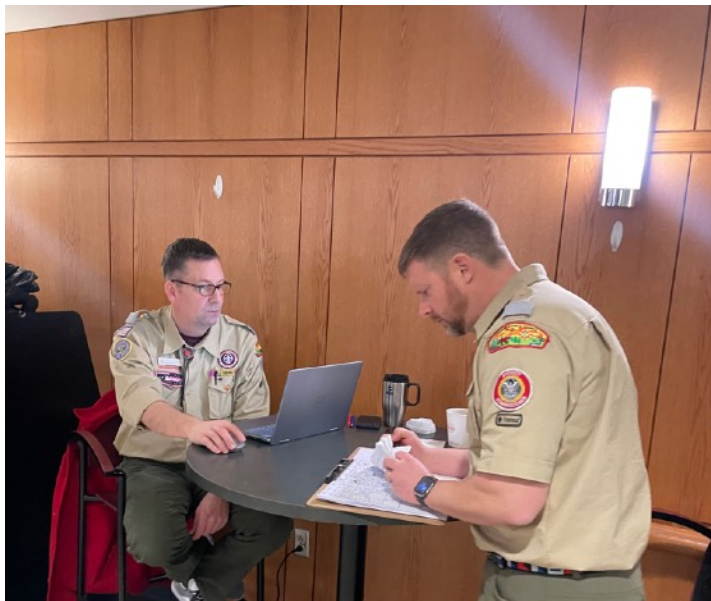


Overall, the competition was a very fun and successful experience. After the final problem, we all cleaned up our work spaces and then waited for all of the adults at the event to help calculate the numbers so we could find out the winners. The results were, in 6th place was a patrol from Devon 50, but then in 5th place was Rattlesnake patrol, 4th place was Stag patrol, 3rd place was Panther patrol, 2nd place was Moose patrol, and then the patrol that won the whole thing was Flying Eagle patrol. Needless to say that we absolutely crushed the competition and had a great time doing it. With all of our patrol gear packed up, we all gathered up at the front of the stage and got a troop picture.



This First Aid meet was definitely one to remember and it was a great time as we got to experience yet another great year of First Aid problems.

During the next troop meeting, we celebrated an amazing first aid meet win by having the picture we took on stage with the ribbons for each place put on a cake and we had that and some ice cream as a treat for a Saturday well spent.



Troop First Aid Meet!

Friday February 7, 2025

Troop Cabin

By Sushanth K.

In the months leading up to the Troop First Aid Meet, the scouts did a ton of preparation. From reading the Scout handbook to playing first aid Jeopardy! at multiple troop meetings, everyone felt ready for the culmination of their efforts. After all the preparation, Troop 78 had a very thrilling First Aid Meet.

There were four realistic first aid problems given to each patrol as well as a registration packet. The first problem was about a patrol playing laser tag, when a scout tripped on their wrist which turned black, clearly sprained. Each patrol solved it like professionals and scored well on the problem. The second problem took place at Camp Horseshoe in early July at the Handicraft part of the camp. The troop was working on making patrol plaques. A scout spilled a chemical on themselves and had an object lodged in their body. This problem was simple because it gave easily recognizable symptoms to treat. The third problem was the trickiest one, with many patrols attempting to “argue for points,” a common theme at the meet. This problem was about a patrol in the Battle of the Clouds Park waiting in a parking lot. They saw their Patrol Leader lying down in the parking lot unresponsive. They also saw a pool cleaning van leaking a foul-smelling liquid near their patrol leader with his arm twisted at an odd angle. This was challenging for every patrol, as it was the first time anyone had seen a problem with an inhaled poison. The fourth problem was a short one, with only a single person to treat. It was about a patrol going to Mount Vernon, Virginia with an adult bitten by a snake. The patrol saw that the snake had a triangular head, a sign that it was poisonous. As expected, most patrols got a near-perfect score.

In addition to the problems, patrols completed a registration packet. This was a series of multiple choice questions designed to test each patrol’s knowledge in a less stressful environment. Every patrol performed well on both the problems and the packet. The Flying Eagle Patrol won overall.

It was a fun competition that prepared the troop for the Council First Aid Meet the next day.



Matje Farm

Friday February 14 - Sunday February 16, 2025

Terry Township, Bradford County

By Ethan S.

On a cold Friday night, the troop left the cabin for our annual winter weekend at Matje Farm. After a lengthy bus ride, we arrived at the farm about thirty miles northwest of Scranton. We set up our gear in the century-old barn before heading up to the farmhouse for that night's snack of hot dogs. Soon after we decided to *hit the hay* (literally, as the barn floor is covered in it). Sure, it got pretty cold at night, but we all stayed nice and warm in our sleeping bags.

We awoke early the next morning for breakfast, which was French toast and sausage. Once we were finished, we all went outside for the log chopping competition. It can be said that some patrols did better with this than others. We then began the other morning competitions, which were three-man ski, eight knot (a standard Field Day competition), and saw-drill-drop (an event involving, well, sawing, drilling, and dropping). After these were bolt splitting (chopping a small piece of wood into equal quarters), match splitting, and a new event, snowman building. My patrol decided that a human snowman was the best idea, and I was pelted with snow for ten minutes.

We rounded out the morning with a contentious water boiling competition. Each event was scored using the Field Day patrol-based method (five points for first place, three for second, and one for third). After the first set of competitions Panther was in the lead, with the other patrols not far behind. We had some time before lunch, and luckily the pond had fully frozen for the first time in at least five years. This allowed us to play a few games of soccer on the ice, using a piece of wood as the ball. Soon afterwards we headed in for lunch.

The food was excellent, a result of the culinary expertise of Mr. Bilson and (perhaps to a lesser extent) his scout assistants. We began the afternoon with an hour of siesta, or more accurately a one-hour nap. We then competed in three more events- chariot race, knot relay, and the famous tug-of-war, which is much more interesting when done on icy ground.

After this, the final scores were announced: Flying Eagle defeated Panther by a single point, followed closely by Rattlesnake in third. We then had a few hours



of free time, which included capture the flag and shotgun shooting. We certainly had a *blast*.

Soon it was time for our pasta and meatball dinner, which was followed by a campfire, where we practiced the traditional Horseshoe songs. After this was a quick snack of peaches before we returned to our sleeping bags.

The next morning flew by as breakfast, pack up, and the traditional porch picture followed each other in quick succession. After a few hours on the bus and a lunch break, we were back at the cabin. It was clear that despite the cold, the Matje Farm trip is one of the most worthwhile experiences of the scouting year. We all appreciate the Matje family's continued support of the Troop 78 program!



Super Bowl Breakfast

Sunday February 9, 2025

On a beautiful Sunday morning in February, the Troop hosted our annual Super Bowl Breakfast. We welcomed over 90 friends and family to the Cabin for a full home-cooked breakfast of eggs any style, pancakes, french toast, sausage, bacon, home fries, and juice, coffee, and tea.

All together we downed 16 lbs of bacon, 15 lbs of sausage, 15 dozen eggs.

The day was made possible by a sizable volunteer work force.

Cook crew: Ted Dinsmore, Rob Duff, Brian Opielski, Scott Vercoe

Kitchen crew: Kate Dinsmore, Caleigh Dinsmore, Diane Dinsmore

Dining area crew: Bonnie Motel, Brian Rothberg

More adult helpers: Steve Wark, Sherri Wark, Jim Hogan, Steve D'Antonio.

Youth volunteers: Justin Sansone, Ethan Sansone, Ryan Wark, John Wark, Nic Opielski, Alex Opielski

Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success!



The Trail of the Boot Award - Historical “Foot” Note

By Judah C. , Troop Historian

If you have ever walked into the Troop 78 conference room, you might have noticed prominently on the wall is a boot with a fire poker sticking through it. At a closer look you will see names and years written in white letters on the front, back and even something on the heel of the boot. This is the Boot Award with the following inscription “The Boot. Awarded when warranted, to acknowledge conspicuous acts of clumsiness or stupidity (or both) which sometimes occur in the service of scouting”. This story captures some of the footprints left behind by the Boot.

The first step taken was in 1974 by Mr. Tom Fosnocht. It was during winter camp and the dads were sitting around a blazing fire in old stone fireplace in Browning. As the fire was stirred with an iron fire poker, the tip of the poker would get red hot. Now this poker had slight bend at the end and someone suggested they should try to straighten this poker. Mr. Fosnocht had a “brilliant” idea, he would use his boot to straight the poker while red hot. So Mr. Fosnocht got the poker glowing red and stepped on the tip with all his might; you can probably can guess what happened. Luckily Mr. Fosnocht was okay without major injures but the boot looked like it had been skewed through. To memorial this act of clumsiness and stupidity in scouting, Mr Trowill created the Boot Award.

The following year the boot would take another step with Mr. Taylor would earning his spot on the boot. While at Winter Camp again hot water was boiling on the stove and the breakfast patrol came down to start the meal preparations. Mr. Taylor was told by Ernie to make some hot chocolate for the scouts. And I guess he did but with an extra ingredient, the bag holding the hot chocolate ruining all of the hot chocolate for the scouts that morning.

Mr. Cady earned a spot on the boot in 2000 during summer camp. On Thursday after helping the boys cook dinner, Mr. Cady went to clean the picnic table with the remaining hot water from dinner. He poured the hot water across the top of the table forgetting that picnic tables have slates. Unfortunately, Mr. Cady was wearing flip flops and the hot water burned his feet and he lost the skin on the top of his feet. But amazingly he still was able to golf on Saturday.

At another stop along the trail Camp Horseshoe would try the boot on for size. In 2010 camp staff prepared all the patches for that year’s summer camp. They looked fantastic like every other year except for one part how they spelled the name, “Hosrsehoe”. But instead of fixing it and rerunning the patches, camp decided the patches were “good enough” and handed them out anyway. Earning a spot on the heel of the boot.

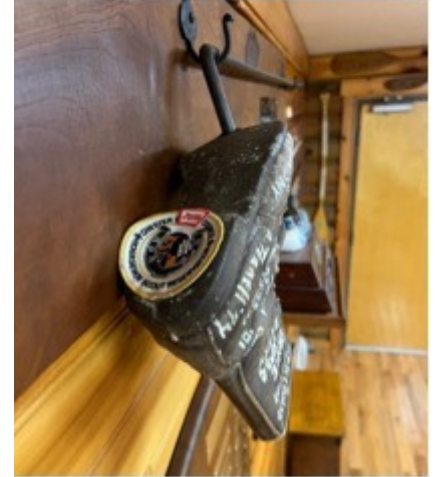


Mr. Skodny was the most recent member of the troop to step into the boot. In 2020, the troop prepared for the First Aid meet and another victorious year. Mr. Skodny as bus driver was meticulous checking everything was in order on the new Troop 78 bus, making sure it was safe and ready to go. Leaving the cabin and driving on the highway, a strange thing began to happen, and bus wasn't driving right. Mr. Skodny pulled over and realized he forgot to check one important item, the level of the gas tank. The bus had run out of gas. Luckily the troop had loyal and devoted parents who came to rescue driving the troop the rest of the way.

The Boot has left many footprints throughout our troop's history. It reminds us of the happy and fun experience we share in scouting even with conspicuous acts of clumsiness or stupidly. The Boot award is important because history teaches us lessons how we can improve and builds strong community of Troop 78 scouts that span the decades even to this day!

Here is the list of the names and years (as best as they can be read) on the Boot. If you know any of the history of these stories, please email Mr. Motel (petemote@aol.com) with the stories so we can record our history!

- T. Fosnocht '74
- J. Taylor '75
- R. D'Antonio '76
- R. Spencer '77
- Fry, Bitter, D' Antonio '78
- T. Spranger '79
- B. Balmat '80
- Mr Matje & Mr Dunlop '81 (Winter Camp)
- Ernie + Betsy '84
- Mr. Matje + Mr. Reber '91 (Canada)
- Ernie '92, '96
- Craige Laird '93
- A. Terrell '94
- J. Parker '97
- J. Cady 2000
- Camp Horseshoe 2010
- P. Skodny 2020



50-50-100

Troop 78 Scout Participation Guidelines: Building Commitment and Community

Jack Bilson – Camping Chairman

Scouting is more than just a weekend activity—it's a journey of growth, learning, and camaraderie that requires consistent participation to truly benefit each Scout. Troop 78 has established clear participation expectations designed to balance the demands of busy family schedules while ensuring every Scout can fully experience the program.

The 50-50-100 Minimum Expectation

Troop 78 follows what I call the "50-50-100 Minimum" participation guideline:

The Troop Committee and our chartering organization has established the minimum participation guidelines to be 50% of all Meetings, 50% of all Trips, and 100% of all Troop fund raising activities. We also encourage a much higher level of participation, with trips and meetings, in order to fully benefit from our program. Over the decades, we have observed that Scouts with the highest level of participation often success more as they continue to grow into adults.

So the "50-50-100 Minimum" participation guideline is:

50% of Troop Meetings: Regular attendance at troop meetings provides Scouts with essential skill instruction, advancement opportunities, and patrol bonding time.

50% of Trips: The outdoor program is where classroom learning transforms into practical experience. Whether it's camping, hiking, or special outings, these adventures form the core of the Scouting experience.

100% Participation in Fundraising: Full participation in troop fundraisers ensures we can provide quality program materials, subsidize trips, and maintain equipment for everyone's benefit.

The Truth About Dues and Troop Funding

Many Scouts and parents often forget an important financial reality of our annual dues, exactly \$0 goes to the operation of the Troop. The entirety of the dues collected just cover the fees to Chester County Council and National Scouting America. The Troop retains not a single cent of the dues collected for membership.

This means our troop's actual operational budget—covering equipment, special programs, training materials, and other essential resources—mostly comes from our fundraising activities. With the remainder given from our charter organization Friends of 78 and individual donors. When Scouts participate in troop fundraisers, they're not just fulfilling an obligation; they're directly fueling the programs they enjoy throughout the year while often earning funds for their own Scouting adventures as well, via their Scout Camping Accounts. Participation in fundraising is as important as knowing how to tie a square knot, pitch a tent, or help a fellow scout in need.

Why These Guidelines Matter

These expectations serve multiple purposes beyond simply tracking attendance. They help Scouts develop responsibility, commitment, and time management skills—valuable traits that extend far beyond their Scouting years. The 50/50 guideline also serves as the official minimum measurement for being an 'Active Scout' which is a requirement of ranks above 1st Class.

For the troop as a whole, consistent participation creates the stable environment needed for effective patrol method implementation, advancement planning, and community building. When Scouts attend regularly, they develop stronger relationships with their peers and youth leaders.

Supporting Scout Success

We understand that school, sports, family obligations, religious observations and other activities compete for time. That's why we've set these thresholds at manageable levels that allow for balance while still ensuring meaningful involvement. The 50/50 minimum rule extends the whole season, so a Scout can play a sport or attend a religious retreat or a family vacation and not fall outside of the guidelines. Scouts is an important component to youth development, but it's only a part, but should also be a priority.

Parents can help by reviewing the troop calendar well in advance, published mostly unchanged at the start of every season, communicating expected absences to troop youth leadership, and prioritizing key scouting events whenever possible.

Remember that these guidelines represent minimum expectations. Many Scouts exceed these levels and consequently advance more quickly and develop stronger connections within the troop.

By maintaining the 50-50-100 minimum standard, Troop 78 continues its tradition of delivering a high-quality Scouting program that develops character, citizenship, and leadership in every Scout who walks through our doors, on our bus, and into their own future.

Upcoming Events

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!

Historic Trip

Harrisburg Capitol and Civil War Museum

Friday March 21 - Sunday March 23, 2025

Troop 78 is excited to announce our upcoming adventure to Pennsylvania's capital city! This spring, scouts will embark on a journey through history as we explore Harrisburg's most significant landmarks and institutions.

Our itinerary includes a visit to the Commonwealth Museum, where scouts will discover Pennsylvania's rich heritage through interactive exhibits and historical artifacts. We'll also enjoy a guided tour of the Capital Building, getting an insider's look at the heart of our state government and its magnificent architecture. And finally, The Civil War Museum will provide scouts with a deeper understanding of this pivotal period in American history, with displays of weapons, uniforms, and personal items that bring the past to life.

We will be camping on the grounds of the Army College just outside Harrisburg, providing a unique opportunity to experience military grounds. Transportation will be provided exclusively by our Troop bus, making the journey comfortable and convenient for all participants.

This trip offers scouts a perfect blend of educational experiences and outdoor adventure, reinforcing both historical knowledge and camping skills in a memorable setting.

More specific details about times, costs for adults (free for Scouts), and packing requirements will be distributed to scouts and parents in about a week. Keep an eye on your email and our troop website for this important information.



NATIONAL CIVIL WAR MUSEUM



CAPITOL BUILDING IN HARRISBURG

Troop 78 Member Survey - Coming Soon

We are launching a Member Satisfaction Survey to better understand your journey to our troop.

This brief online survey will explore what brought you to Troop 78, what keeps you engaged, and how we can enhance your scouting experience.

Why This Matters

Your feedback will help us understand:

- Why families choose Troop 78 over other options
- What aspects of our program resonate most with you
- How we can better serve current scouts and attract new families

Quick Details

- **For Scouts:** A short, youth-friendly online survey
- **For Parents:** A separate questionnaire also exploring your family's scouting journey
- **Distribution:** Coming to your email soon, with many text reminders and signs
- **Privacy:** All responses will be anonymous

The survey results will directly influence our program planning and recruitment efforts. We're excited to learn about your unique path to Troop 78 and how we can make that journey even better for future scouts.

Thank you for helping strengthen our Troop community!

CPR Training!

Thursday May 1, 2025

Cabin

Once again Anthony Wiencek of Emergency Training Partners is coming to the cabin to give CPR Training.. Anthony is a fellow Scout and a great trainer. This will be held Thursday May 1st, 7pm. Cost: ~\$50. If interested please RSVP to Ted Diederich (ted.diederich@gmail.com).



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!

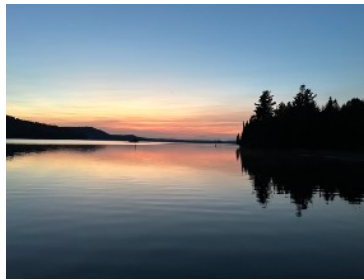


Algonquin Canoe Trip

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:

Welding April 12

Fishing May 10



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

Please feel free to forward.

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