



# Willistown Troop 78

Website: [www.tr78.org](http://www.tr78.org)

Facebook: [Willistown Scouting America Troop 78](#)

YouTube Channel: [Troop 78](#)

February 2026

Volume 42 Number 6

## Winter Camp!

WE FOUND OURSELVES AGAIN AT THE GREATEST PLACE ON EARTH



### **Inside this issue**

Pinewood Derby Workshop  
First Aid Meet  
Super Bowl Breakfast





## **February 2026**

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

**3 Tuesday Board of Review 7:00PM**

**Troop Committee 7:30PM**

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

**6 Friday TROOP FIRST AID MEET 7PM**

**7 Saturday First Aid Readiness Rally 7:15AM cabin**

**8 Sunday Joe Cady Memorial Super Bowl Breakfast 8-11AM cabin**

**13 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM**

**20 Friday - 22 Sunday Sunday Camp Bashore campout (in buildings)**

**27 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM**

**28 Saturday OA Banquet, OA members only**

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



# Winter Weekend at Camp Horseshoe

Friday January 9 - Sunday January 11, 2026

Camp Horseshoe

By Judah C.

On the first night of winter camp, we arrived and spent a long time arranging and rearranging bunks. Once the bus arrived, everybody got settled in. After that, we had a short snack of hotdogs and chili, then got into bed and went to sleep.

The next morning, we all got up and enjoyed a wonderful breakfast of French toast and sausages before preparing for our service project. After getting started on the first part of the scavenger hunt, we set out to begin our work. The service project was fun. We chopped wood, logged wood, and threw wood. Some kids even found hollow sticks and turned them into drumsticks, which we used to play the Star Wars Imperial March on logs while we worked. While we were working, it started to rain. It began as a drizzle, but quickly turned into harder and harder rain.

After the work was finished, we went back to work on the second part of the scavenger hunt. Following an eventful afternoon of collecting as many items as we could, it was time for dinner. After the meal, we competed in the Horseshoe High Score competition, which included events like Scouting trivia, three man ski, and bolt splitting. Then came the best part of the entire trip—watching *Moana* with buttery, salty popcorn.

In the morning, there was a lot of work to do, including putting back all the tables and bunks we had borrowed from Schramm Lodge. After everything was finished, we ate breakfast and the winners were announced. First place was a tie between Cougar and Flying Eagle, second place was Rattlesnake, and third place was the adult patrol. After a pleasant ride back, we unloaded the bus and went home.



[CLICK HERE FOR THE VIDEO](#)







# Pinewood Derby Workshop

Saturday January 17, 2026

Cabin

By Sherri Wark

On Saturday January 17th, Troop 78 hosted the 4th Annual Pinewood Derby Workshop for local Cub Scouts. Over 35 Cub Scouts along with parents and a few younger siblings attended the event throughout the day. The snowfall was more than expected so the front walk was swept many times, and the parking lot was shoveled by hand! Meanwhile inside the cabin, the sounds of saws and smell of sawdust filled the air as the Cubs' blocks of wood were transformed into racing machines. Scouts helped the Cubs with design, cutting, and sanding. Every Cub and parent was thrilled at what was accomplished during their hour.

The Pinewood Derby Workshop helps to build a relationship with Cub families across the county while providing a service. Outreach events like this continue to build long-term interest for future members of Troop 78. A number of tours were given.

Special thanks to Scouts and Scouters who were there all day: Ethan S, Justin S, Nic O, Alex O, Josh S, Mason E, Varun K, Rob Duff, Steve Wark, Sherri Wark, Brian Opielski, Kipp Happ, and Steve D'Antonio. Thanks also to the 20 or so additional Scouts and adults who were there for a portion of the event.



# Troop 78 Honor Guard

Saturday January 10, 2026

Great Valley Presbyterian Church, Malvern

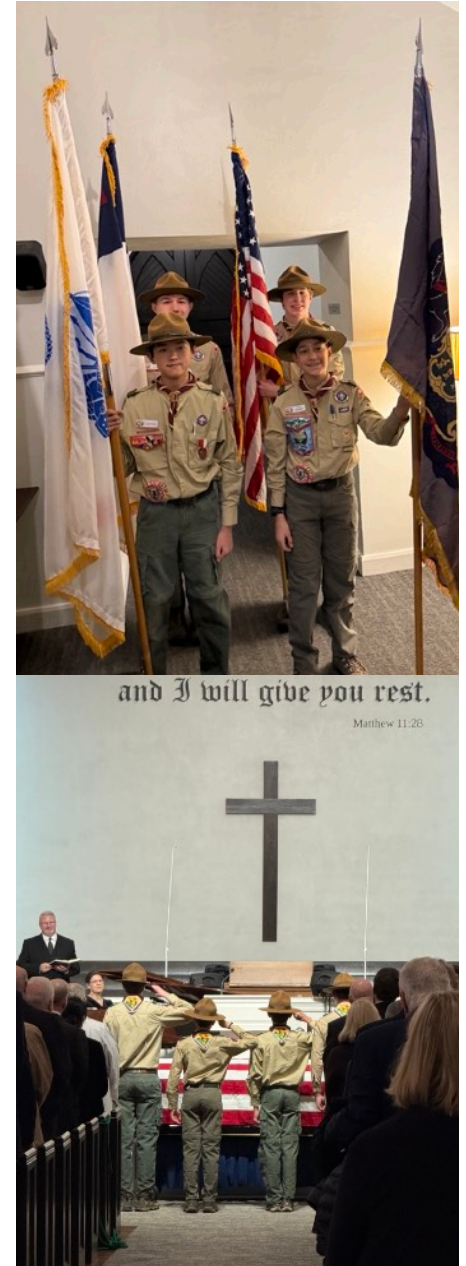
By Don Tyson

On Saturday, January 10, Sean T., Judah C., Jacob L., and Jay T. took a break from Winter Camp to serve as part of the Honor Guard for the funeral services for former Congressman Richard T. “Dick” Schulze (R-PA). Mr. Schulze had a distinguished 18-year career representing our community from 1975 to 1993.

Our scouts joined the U.S. Army’s Honor Guard, 99<sup>th</sup> Readiness Division for the service with Full Military Honors. We opened the proceedings with a procession of the flag of the United States of America, the flag of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the United States Army flag, and the Presbyterian flag accompanied by the Navy Hymn. The boys posted the colors and assembled in front of the flag-draped casket for a sharp salute and then recessed with a precise about-face.

Mr. Schulze’s widow recognized the scouts in her remarks to the congregation and noted that Mr. Schulze recited the Scout Oath and Law daily, trying to live up to the scout standard. She then recited both and the seven of us in the last pew joined her. The service concluded with a 21-gun salute. Mr. Schulze’s two sons were both in Troop 78 and thanked the boys both before and after the service, General Haake, Colonel Jahnke, and Sergeant First Class Simko for their assistance with this mission.

Many thanks to Chris Campbell and Camper Bull who also helped organize the event.



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## “Band” - Our Text Notification Platform!

Band allows 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

## Council First Aid Meet

**First Aid Readiness Rally**  
**Saturday February 7, 2026**  
**PARC, Exton**



The Annual Council First Aid Meet / First Aid Readiness Rally will take place Saturday February 7 at the Council Center in Exton. Troop 78 will gather at the troop cabin at 7:15AM for the bus ride to PARC. Patrols in the Council will gather at PARC to complete in first aid skill demonstrations.

The First Aid Readiness Rally will be a slightly different format from previous years with the patrols treating subjects in realistic scenarios crafted to mirror real-world emergencies. From bandaging wounds to assessing injuries, every station will demand quick thinking, teamwork, and solid first-aid knowledge.

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## Super Bowl Breakfast

**Sunday February 9, 2025**  
**Cabin**

Please join us for 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 8th, 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!



[Click here for more information and for the sign up page.](#)

# Winter Olympics

**Friday February 20 - Sunday February 22, 2026**

**Bashore Scout Reservation, Jonestown, PA**

The troop will venture to Camp Bashore in the foothills of Pennsylvania's Blue Mountains for a weekend of camping and outdoor activities. We will be camping in buildings.

The patrols will compete in the "Winter Olympics" of scout skill events: knot tying, two-man saw, water boiling, log chopping, chariot race, the famous sled race and many others.



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## Ski Trip

**Troop 78 Family Ski Day**

**DATE CHANGE: now SUNDAY, March 1, 2026**

**Big Boulder**

Please note the following correction to the Troop calendar: The family ski trip, which had been scheduled for Sunday, January 25, 2026 will be taking place Sunday March 1st.

We will be skiing at Big Boulder in the Poconos. Big Boulder is located at 357 Big Boulder Dr, Lake Harmony, PA 18624. The website can be found at <https://www.jfbb.com/>.

We will be providing information on pricing and logistics shortly. This trip, including the discounted pricing, is open to all family members. Stay tuned for more information.



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## Great Smoky Mountains High Adventure

**Sunday March 29 - Saturday April 4, 2026**

In the long troop tradition of high adventure trips for older scouts, Troop 78 will backpack for a week in the Great Smoky Mountains on the Appalachian Trail. This section of the AT will offer the scouts some of the AT's most fabulous vistas along its entire 2000+ miles and will take the scouts over the highest point on the AT, Mount Kuwohi at 6,643 ft.

This trip will certainly be a great adventure for scouts and leaders alike.

[Click here for more information.](#)

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## 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.](#)

# Chester County Council News

## Weekend Merit Badge Program

### Camp Horseshoe

The weekend off-season merit badge program will continue with Cooking merit badge Saturday February 28 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.](#)



## Order of the Arrow

### Annual Banquet

**Saturday February 28, 2026**

**Red Clay Room, Kennett Square**

Join us at the 2026 Octoraro Lodge Annual Banquet to celebrate our Centennial Anniversary of our Lodge. The banquet is a great opportunity to celebrate our successes from 2025 including the Vigil Class, yearly award recipients, and unit awards of excellence. This event is open to non-OA members and is a great opportunity for fellowship.

[Click here for more information.](#)



# CCC Training Opportunities

## National Youth Leadership Training

**Friday April 10 – Sunday April 12**

**Friday April 17 – Sunday April 19**

NYLT is a youth-led conference that focuses on providing youth leaders with the skills to run successful youth-led units. The NYLT skills are also lifelong leadership skills that will distinguish participants from their peers.

The event fee includes meals, lodging, and materials for the event.

By April 1, scout participants must:

be at least 13 years of age and at least of First Class rank and have completed 8th grade and have already completed the [Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops/Crew \(ILST/C\)](#)



WHEN: Friday, April 10 – Sunday, April 12 & Friday, April 17 – Sunday, April 19

This event includes TWO full weekends. Both weekends need to be attended to complete the course.

Arrival/drop-off on Friday each weekend is from 5:00-5:30 pm.

Please remember to EAT BEFORE ARRIVING on Friday.

Departure/pick-up is approximately 3:00 pm on Sunday.

NOTE: Registrations WILL NOT be accepted for participants who cannot attend both weekends in their entirety.

WHERE: Camp John H. Ware 3rd, 239 Jubilee Road, Peach Bottom, PA 17563

CONTACT EMAIL: [nylt@cccbsa.org](mailto:nylt@cccbsa.org)

Register here: <https://scoutingevent.com/539-NYLT2026>

## Chainsaw Safety Training

Friday March 13 - Saturday March 14, 2026

At Winter Camp did you see all the chainsaws running and think to yourself, I want to do that! The first step is getting certified. March 13-14 at Camp Ware is your chance. Open to those age 21 and up. **This course is required for anyone operating a chainsaw on scout property.**

The Chainsaw Safety Course offered by the Chester County Council is designed to refresh and instruct participants on safe chainsaw practices, to be enforced on CCC properties at all times in accordance with the National Scouting America guidelines.

Throughout the duration of this course, all Scouting America and Chester County Council practices, standards, and regulations will be followed at all times. All training material is sourced directly from the Scouting America Chainsaw Basic Facilitator Guide.

This is an interactive training; all participants should come prepared for work that may be physically demanding. At any time, if a participant needs to rest or see the assigned health officer, they are encouraged to do so. All aspects of participant safety will be the utmost priority at all times.

[Register now Online on Councils Website.](#)

## Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills

Saturday March 20 - Sunday March 21, 2026

Attention Adults! Want to become an Assistant Scout Master? Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) is coming up on March 20-21, at Paoli 1's Cabin.

The Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) course builds and expands on the concepts and themes introduced in Scoutmaster Position-Specific Training and Varsity Coach Position-Specific Training and provides Scouters with the confidence to take youth into the outdoors. Specifically, this hands-on program gives adult leaders a practical introduction to the patrol method of a Scout-led troop by teaching many of the practical outdoor skills they need to lead Scouts in the out-of-doors. In addition, the teaching methods, activities, and games model the variety of teaching used in effective and engaging Scouting programs.

[Register now Online on Councils website.](#)



# Wilderness First Aid Training

Thursday February 12, 7-9PM

Saturday February 14, 8AM-5PM

Thursday February 19, 7-10PM

Saturday February 21, 8AM-5PM

[Chester County Public Safety Training Campus](#)

Coatesville, PA

Wilderness environments create special situations not usually encountered in an urban or suburban environment. With Wilderness First Aid certification, first aid providers in a remote outdoor setting will be better prepared to respond with wilderness first aid training when faced with limited resources, longer times to care for someone, and decisions about when and how fast to evacuate an ill or injured person. This comprehensive 16-hour wilderness first aid course meets or exceeds the Boy Scouts of America Wilderness First Aid Curriculum.

This training is required for adult leaders on high adventure trips.

[Click here for more information.](#)

# Wood Badge: Adult Training

Registration for Wood Badge 2026 is OPEN!

Wood Badge is an advanced, national leadership course open only to Scouting volunteers and professionals. Why do you want to go?

1. You want to participate in a Wood Badge course because of things you will learn and do. Here are some of the benefits:
2. Stronger units. You will make your Scouting unit — and your sons' and daughters' units — stronger.
3. What and why of Scouting. You will have a deeper understanding of what Scouting is and why we do it.
4. Experience. You will learn and experience things that will stay with you in Scouting and the rest of your life.
5. Fun. You will have fun and you will meet interesting people.
6. Other groups. You will make your other groups, like work, church, even family, stronger.

COST: \$320.00 (early bird rate - register by 4/15/26), \$400.00 (registration after 4/15/26)

Register here: <https://scoutingevent.com/539-104910>

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

[Print this Newsletter for all of your family and friends to see!](#)