



Newsletter

Volume 31

Number 3

November 2014

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2014

11/3 - Friends of Troop 78 Board Meeting
11/4 - Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop
Committee Mtg.

11/5 - Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 - 8:30
PM)

11/7 - **TROOP MEETING** (7 to 9 PM)

Poinsettia \$ Due for Early or Corporate
Orders to be delivered by 11/20

11/11 - Pasta Nite (CANCELLED)

11/13 - Council-wide Roundtable

11/15-16 - Backpacking Trip

11/19 - Readyman for 4th Grade Webelos
(help needed)

11/20 - Poinsettia Early or Corp. Order
pickup at cabin

11/21 - **TROOP MEETING** (7 to 9 PM)

Poinsettia \$ Due for Regular Orders to be
delivered 12/4

DECEMBER 2014

12/2 - Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop
Committee Mtg.

12/3 - Patrol Leaders Council (7:30-8:30
PM)

12/4 - Poinsettia Regular Orders pickup at
Cabin (2-6 PM)

12/5 - **TROOP MEETING** (7 to 9 PM) Final
Pickup of remaining Poinsettias

12/11 - Diamond Rock District Holiday
Roundtable

12/12 - **TROOP MEETING** (7 to 9 PM)

12/19 - **TROOP MEETING** and Holiday
Party (7 to 9 PM)

**NOTE: Camping Trips/Major Events
shown in Bold. TROOP MEETINGS
underlined in CAPITALS. Adult only
meetings in Italics.**

NEW DADS NEEDED!

The November Troop Committee
meeting will be held on Tuesday,
November 4th, at 7:30 PM, at the
cabin. New dads are especially
encouraged to attend.



NOVEMBER 14TH AND 15TH BACKPACKING TRIP

Be There!

Once again, we've lined up a
backpacking trip that brings fun and
challenge for both the first-timer and
the experienced hiker. This year,
we will be exploring a section of the
Appalachian Trail in the Blue
Mountain region. One group will
hike from north to south, starting at
Blue Mountain Summit and
continuing on the mountain ridge to
the Allentown Shelter. That trek will
cover just over 4 miles. This is the
right hike for new scouts or those
who are getting reacquainted with
backpacking. The other group will
hike from the south to the north,
starting near Hawk Mountain and
gaining 1,000 feet before hitting the
ridge for the rendezvous with the
northbound crew at the shelter.
This crew will cover about 8.2 miles.
Both crews will eat a trail lunch
along the way. Once we've made
camp, both groups will make dinner
of some backpacking favorites and
swap stories of the day. Both
groups will also reverse the 4.1-mile
hike of the northbound crew when
we break camp and head out on
Sunday.

Our goal each year is to have every
scout in the troop join us for the
backpacking trip. Backpacking
tests all of a scout's skills and gives

each scout a tremendous sense of
accomplishment. Seasoned
veterans and novices alike will
enjoy the trip. The troop recently
invested in quality backpacks for
those who don't own one but would
like to join the fun. And we have a
cadre of experienced scouts and
scouters who are ready, willing and
able to help each participant to
experience the thrill of victory (and
sometimes, for us old guys, the
agony of "da feet") at the end of the
day. Look for the handout with
packing list at an upcoming troop
meeting, but mark your calendar
and plan to join us for this great trip.

Keys to a Great Backpacking Experience

The key to a great backpacking
experience is to pack light and pack
smart. Please reference these tips
as you prepare for the trip:

- **Line your pack with a
contractor-grade trash bag.** Don't
let a little rain spoil your day. With
that trash bag, your clothes and
sleeping back will stay dry, no
matter what the weather.

- **Pack your clothing in gallon-
sized "zip" bags.** As an added
measure of protection against
water, we recommend that you pack
your clothing in large (gallon-sized)
Ziploc food bags. If you squeeze
the air out of the bags, your clothing
will take up less space in your pack.
You can then use the bags to
repack the damp clothes you
remove when you change into your
dry stuff.

- **Avoid cotton clothing!** Cotton -
including jeans and sweatshirts -
absorbs moisture. Moisture robs
heat. Leave the cotton home.

- **Wool and synthetics mean warmth and dryness.** Synthetic materials wick moisture away from your body. They're lightweight and they dry quickly. Wool tends to wick moisture and keeps its insulating properties even when wet. Wear wool socks and a wool hat, and synthetic shirts and pants. Bring at least 3 pairs of wool or synthetic socks – wear the first on the hike, bring a second pair for bed, and have a third pair to wear for the trip home.

- **Wear hiking boots and pack a pair of lightweight sneakers.** We insist that hikers wear hiking boots, so they have good footing and ankle support when hiking. But packing a pair of sneakers means you can wear comfortable shoes in camp, and if something happens to your boots, you have an emergency pair of shoes for walking. Borrow boots from an older scout if you need to, but make sure they fit.

- **Dress in layers.** No matter how cold the day is when we start, it warms up quickly when you're hiking with a full backpack. If you dress in layers, you can remove layers as you warm up and add layers when you get cool. On this trip, it will be warmer during the mid-day but colder at night and early in the morning.

Check the weather before we leave. Each year is different. We've woken up to snow and we've had warm days as well on prior trips. Check the weather for the Allentown area before we leave, and make sure that you're bringing appropriate weather gear.

Other Reminders

- Your backpack should weigh no more than about 25% of your total body weight. Count on carrying 5 lbs. of troop gear, plus half of your tentage (your tent-mate will carry the other half) and factor that into your packing. Remember that you'll only be gone for one night. Sometimes, less is more ...

- Bring some extra gallon Ziploc bags and some bungee cords. The

bags will let you keep trash separated from gear and wet clothing separated from dry clothing.

- Leave your snacks at home. We'll have enough for you to eat on this trip. "Smellables" like candy, gum and treats entice critters.

- Remember to bring enough water from home. You will drink about two liters on the hike in. We can purify water to refill empty bottles once we get to camp but finding water on the trail is hit or miss. We recommend that you carry at least two, and preferably three, liters of water. Nalgene-type bottles are preferred, but an empty Gatorade bottle is a good substitute. Make sure you wash the bottle thoroughly before using it.

See you on the trail!



KANDERSTEG 2016 TRIP UPDATE AND RECRUITING

The troop's trip to Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) in the summer of 2016 is starting to shape up. The planning committee has been meeting and has set the date, established the budget and is looking for more interested scouts and scouters to join the trip. **An important meeting will be held on November 10, at 7 PM, in the troop cabin to discuss the details of the trip.** Scouts and their parents who are interested in the trip are urged to attend. Also attending will be those already planning to be a part of the adventure.

In brief, here is key information to be aware of ahead of the meeting:

- Trip dates – July 23, 2016, depart for Switzerland, stay at KISC from July 24 to August 5 and leave August 6 for home

- Cost - \$2,800 for scouts and \$3,300 for scouters
- First payment due on November 21, 2014 (\$250 per person for those who have paid the \$75 "intent" fee and \$325 per person for those who did not)
- Scouts must be a minimum of 13 years old, have attained the rank of First Class and actively participate in the troop's meetings, camping trips, volunteering and fundraising

Also to be covered at the November 10th meeting, in addition to those four bullet points, will be:

- Review of activities and the establishment of a scout committee to help plan them
- Participation requirements for scouts and scouters
- Code of conduct
- Paperwork that will be required
- Information on how to help pay for the trip

If you have questions ahead of the meeting, please contact Steve Brown at stevencharlesbrown@yahoo.com or talk to Mr. D. You can also talk to other families that have already been to KISC including the Urbans, Dinsmores and Lemhenneys.



TROOP 78 REGISTRATION

Troop 78 registration fees are now due. Willistown Troop 78 needs to register all scouts and adults each year with the Boy Scouts of America.

The annual registration fee covers some of the cost of going on trips including fuel for the bus, the food

on trips, a subscription to Boys' Life (one per household), and troop specific uniform pieces (patches, neckerchief).

2014 Troop 78 Registration Fees

- First Scout \$80
- Each additional Scout in a family \$70
- Venture Crew \$40
- Adults \$55
- 1st Year Dads \$40
- Seniors (age 65+) \$40

New this year, all registered adults must complete Youth Protection Training every calendar year.

Youth protection training can be completed online as follows:

1. Go to <http://myscouting.org>
2. Existing users enter your user name and password
3. New users, create an account. If you know your ID number (found on your Boy Scout ID card) enter it; otherwise, call me for your ID number.
4. If prompted for council name, enter Chester County Council #539
5. Select Training tab, Select E-Learning
6. Select Take or Retake Course for Youth Protection Training

Dads, please show your support for your son and the Boy Scout program by registering as an adult. Registration also helps the troop by making you eligible for attending any scout camping trip and for serving as a merit badge counselor where you can share your experiences and knowledge with the boys in the troop.

Registration form and check are now due. For a form or questions, please contact Dave Schertz at 610-687-0366.

RANGER'S CHALLENGE

Nathan Motel, Flying Eagle Patrol

Around 6 o'clock on Friday afternoon about 20 scouts and 12 adults set out from the troop cabin. We took a one-and-a-half-hour drive down to Camp Horseshoe. There were no hiccups on the drive down and we all made it there safely. Once at Camp Horseshoe we all got off the bus and helped unload all of the gear from Mr. D's truck and the bus. After all of the gear was off of the bus we went into the campsite and set up our tents. Around 10 o'clock when we finished setting up our tents most people went to bed. Around 11 o'clock a troop tenting in the Kit Carson site decided to show up and make a ton of noise setting up the campsite.

In the morning we woke up to the smell of French toast and sausage. After breakfast we gathered up our gear and went to our first station for the day. My patrol (Flying Eagle) had its first station down at the boat docks where we were to hit pumpkins with paintballs. An hour later we walked to our second station, which was Jamboree on the Air. The station taught us about radio communication. Our next station was in the Trailblazers area and tested our lashing skills and helter-building skills. After that we returned to the campsite to start cooking a delicious lunch of grilled cheese, bacon, and tomato soup. By the end of lunch we probably cooked more than 100 sandwiches.

After lunch we went to our fourth activity, which was a history scavenger hunt where we had to go around the entire camp and find clues. Our fifth activity had to do with the leave-no-trace principles and a Spiderweb challenge. The challenge was that we had to get everybody through a spider web of strings without touching them. After that we went to the athletic field to fly the kites that we made during lunch in a competition. After the kite-flying competition we went up to the campsite and started cooking stew in our Dutch Ovens. About an hour-and-a-half later our stew had finally finished cooking and we ate it. Once we finished cleaning up dinner we all gathered our jackets and walked to the dining hall for an awesome movie and some delicious popcorn and cake. At around 10 we all came back from the movie and entered the campsite to the smell of some delicious chili and hot dogs. We all went to bed around 10:30.

In the morning we woke up and had a delicious cold breakfast. After that we packed up our tents and all the gear. Once everything was in the bus or in Mr. D's truck we police-lined the entire campsite and made sure there was no trash. Then we walked to the parade field to receive the award for the winning patrol. Stag Patrol won the Ranger challenge. Then all the scouts got on the bus and we drove back to the troop cabin. Once back to the troop cabin we packed all of the gear and went home. Because there was no rain we did not have to hang the tents. This was a great trip and I am looking forward to it in the future.