



# Newsletter

Volume 30

Number 3

November 2013

## CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER 2013

- 11/1 – **TROOP MEETING** (7 to 9 PM)  
11/4 - *Friends of Troop 78 Board Meeting*  
11/5 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.  
11/6 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 - 8:30 PM)  
11/8 – **TROOP MEETING** (7 to 9 PM)  
Poinsettia \$ Due for Early or Corporate Orders, to be delivered 11/20  
11/14 – *Council-wide Roundtable*  
**11/16-17 – Backpacking Trip**  
11/20 - Poinsettia Early or Corp. Order pickup at Cabin  
11/21 - Readyman for 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Weblelos (help needed)  
11/22 - *Council Gala*  
11/22 - **TROOP MEETING** (7 to 9 PM)  
Poinsettia \$ Due for Regular Orders

### DECEMBER 2013

- 12/3 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.  
12/4 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30-8:30 PM)  
12/6 – **TROOP MEETING** (7 to 9 PM)  
12/6&7 Poinsettia Order pick-up at Cabin – Regular Orders  
12/12 – *Diamond Rock Holiday Roundtable*  
12/13 – **TROOP MEETING** (7 to 9 PM)  
12/20 – **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 October Troop Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd at 7:30 PM at the cabin. The committee meets to guide and discuss the operation of the troop. New dads are especially encouraged to attend.



### NOVEMBER 16 AND 17 BACKPACKING TRIP

We have a great backpacking trip in store for the novice and expert alike as we hit the trail with two challenging hikes – a shorter hike for those who are just starting out or prefer less of a challenge and a longer hike that will be a great training event for those interested in going to Canada or Philmont – or who just want to spend more time on the trail. Both groups will meet up at our camping location on the Appalachian Trail as we prepare a meal from a selection of backpacking favorites.

We want every Scout in the troop to join us this year. The backpacking trip is a great way to put your Scout skills to use. And the scenery on this trip will be spectacular. This trip is geared for all ability levels. If you've never backpacked, now is your chance! If you need a backpack, the troop can provide you with a "loaner." We have some experienced Scouts and Scouters who are ready, willing and able to help you enjoy this trip. The backpacking trip is one that builds confidence and camaraderie. First-time Scouts who do this trip are awarded a troop "spork."

Sign up information will be available at an upcoming troop meeting, but mark your calendar and plan to join us for this great trip.

### How To Have a Great Backpacking Experience

Keeping your pack light and packing smart are the keys to a great experience. Consider these guidelines, as you're getting ready for the trip:

**Line your pack with a contractor-grade trash bag.** There's nothing like putting on warm, dry clothes when you go to sleep at the end of your hiking day. Lining your pack with a contractor-grade trash bag will keep moisture out and help you to stay warm and dry.

**Pack your clothing in gallon-sized "zip" bags.** Use those gallon-sized food bags to pack your individual outfits. Squeeze the air out of the bags and your clothing will take up less space in your pack. And, the bags can be used to repack the damp clothes you remove when you change into your dry stuff.

**No cotton clothing!** Cotton – including jeans – 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.** Hiking is hard work (you'll hear Mr. Bravo say that "The heat's in the boots!"). 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. We've had rain, snow, cold and high temperatures on prior trips. Check the weather and make sure that you're bringing appropriate weather gear.

**Remember that...**

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. Keep it light and you'll feel right.

Leave room in your backpack for your tentage and troop gear.

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 will be in bear country. Don't be the guy who smells like chocolate and Slim Jims. We'll have enough for you to eat on this trip.

Bring at least two, and preferably three, liters of water. Remember that your water containers are for water, not for Gatorade, hot chocolate or other flavored

beverages. Don't be "bear bait." If you don't have Nalgene-type bottles, an empty energy bottle (like a Gatorade bottle) is a good substitute. Make sure you wash the bottle thoroughly before using it.

Pack smart and plan ahead, and you'll have a great trip. Don't hesitate to ask your Patrol Leader, one of the ASPLs or the SPL for guidance. We'll see you on the AT!



**2013 POINSETTIA SALE**

This year's Poinsettia Sale is now in full swing! Hopefully by now you have started your sales campaign and are well on your way to becoming this year's top seller! If not, it's not too late to get started. New for this year, to help you with your sales, we have a high-quality picture post card available for you to show potential customers photo examples of the each of the varieties we are offering. You can pick up these durable, high-gloss, laminated photo cards at the cabin. We plan to reuse these every year so please return them with your orders. You can also get the e-file of this presentation on line at the troop website.

If you are looking for some tips into becoming a top-selling fundraiser, here are a few suggestions to the kinds of customers you may want to contact and see if you can sell them holiday poinsettias:

- School – your teacher
- Classmates and their families
- Mom and Dad's work
- Your neighbors
- Corporate offices
- Office building owners
- Churches and Temples
- Medical offices (your doctors, dentists, veterinarian)
- Professional offices (your lawyer, accountant, financial advisers)

- Restaurants
- Gym's, Spas and Recreation Centers
- Small businesses
- Auto dealers
- Golf and racquet clubs

This year the pressure to have a successful sale is greater than ever. The cost from BSA National for annual registration has gone up this year almost 40%. Our troop has decided to help offset some of this increase to each individual with money from our own budget, which means that fundraising from poinsettia and hoagie sales has to make up the gap. That's why it is more important than ever that every Scout makes his best effort. If every Scout sells just 10 plants, we can set a new record for troop fundraising! Your help is greatly needed and appreciated

We've kept the prices the same as the last few years: \$10/ea for 6-1/2" singles and \$20/ea for 8-1/2" triple plants. **For individual customer orders of \$200.00 or more we will offer a discount** of \$1.25/plant for singles and \$2.50/plant for triples. The larger orders for businesses and organizations can be delivered shortly before Thanksgiving. You and your customers can choose from the traditional red and white, and also marble and pink varieties. We will take orders and payments for early and corporate sales up until Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. You will still be able to order additional plants directly or from a Scout for a later delivery on December 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. Later orders are to be dropped off with your money at the cabin during the troop meeting of Friday, November 22.

Standard procedure is for you to pick up you orders at the cabin on the given dates and deliver them to your customer. If you have a customer or customers with very large orders and no means for delivering, let us know and we will help you out. Please give us fair warning as early as you can so we can make the necessary arrangements.

Please make checks payable to:  
Willistown Troop 78 BSA.

Good luck with your sales and thank  
you for helping to support the great  
tradition of Willistown Troop 78!!!



## TROOP 78 REGISTRATION

### Registration Form and Check Are Due Now

Willistown Troop 78 needs to  
register all Scouts and adults each  
year with the Boy Scouts of  
America. **Registration fees have  
increased \$5 per person to cover  
increased BSA registration fees.**

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).

### 2012 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

**All new and existing registered  
adults must complete Youth  
Protection Training every 2 years  
or you will be automatically  
dropped from the BSA.**

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 select I am New...

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 is attached to this  
e-mail. For questions, please  
contact Dave Schertz at 610-687-  
0366

## OCTOBER COURT OF HONOR

By Jay Madarasz,  
Rattlesnake Patrol

On Sunday afternoon, the sun was  
shining and we all gathered outside  
for inspection and the flag salute.  
Our families were seated under the  
canopies waiting for the lasagna  
dinner. As always there were many  
delicious salads and side dishes  
prepared by the moms and dads.

When we got seated indoors, the  
junior leaders were introduced. I am  
one of the new quartermasters.  
There were great stories, funny  
asides and slide shows describing  
summer camping trips. Ethan  
Bilson beat me out by a slim 75  
points, winning Scout of the Year.  
Congratulations, Ethan!

Afterwards Mr. D began announcing  
merit badges. Most people  
received 3 or 4, but there was one  
person who received a whopping 8  
badges: "Mr. Overachiever," David  
Finkleston.

Finally the big finale, Kevin  
DeStefano received the honor of his  
Eagle Scout rank. He was praised  
for all of his accomplishments,  
followed by a delicious cake.

## ADVANCEMENT

### Tenderfoot

Jacob Fenimore  
Bryce Elliott  
Chris StClair  
Nathan Motel  
Luke Phayre

### Second Class

Zachary Fox  
Seth Hoffritz  
Andrew Lotz  
Liam Palmer  
Luke Phayre  
Ryan Small  
Jacob Fenimore

### First Class

Zachary Fox  
Seth Hoffritz  
Luke Lasure  
Luke Phayre  
Liam Belleville

### Star

John Dinsmore  
Jack Hemphill

### Life

Dwight Lasure  
Lee Neves  
Michael Orlow

### Eagle

Kevin DeStefano

## RICKETTS GLEN TRIP

### By Ethan Bilson, Stag Patrol

This past month, Troop 78 drove up  
to Ricketts Glen State Park to  
experience one of the most  
waterfall-filled hikes in its history.  
On Friday night, we took the lengthy  
drive there and began unpacking  
gear and assembling patrol cooking  
areas and tents. Although there  
were some technical difficulties with  
patrol cooking tarps and tables, we  
all managed to go to bed on time.  
The next morning, quite a few of us  
in Site 2 were wakened to George's  
"Doctor Who" soundtrack alarm.  
After preparing breakfasts including  
French toast, sausage, bacon,

pancakes and eggs, we divided up for our two hikes. I can speak from personal experience and say that the long hike was awesome. There were dozens of waterfalls of varying heights. Although there was a plethora of picture stopping, Eli somehow managed to sprint ahead on the straightaways. Due to incoming weather fronts, the long group (of mostly patrol leaders) turned back to begin cooking and beat the storm by literal seconds. Dinners for the evening included Colin's Italian buffet with garlic bread, Robert's "Sir Loin" with his Sir-Loin tip stew, Billy's Mac n' cheese with hot dogs, Chip's Sloppy Joe's and my beef tacos and Spanish rice. After dinner, it was time to make dessert for the patrol bake-off. Though there was no "official conclusion," it has been said that the best dessert was either Robert's monkey bread or my Halloween cookie cake. After a campfire to beat out the cold, we all went to bed and actually got our 8-hours of sleep on the trip. The next morning, we woke up, ate a cold breakfast, packed and left for the cabin in Malvern. Thanks to all the adults that made this trip happen.

### **COOKING MERIT BADGE BECOMES EAGLE REQUIRED ON JANUARY 1, 2014**

All potential Eagle Scouts must be aware of the timing of the Cooking merit badge becoming an Eagle requirement. This is particularly critical for Scouts who are close to finishing their Eagle requirements.

The critical date is the BSA Local Council Certification date of the Eagle Scout Application. If the

council registrar has certified the completed Eagle Scout Application before January 1, the Scout does not have to earn the Cooking merit badge.

If a Scout has anything yet to complete for Eagle Scout after January 1, he will then be required to have earned the Cooking merit badge to become an Eagle Scout.

The requirements for the Cooking merit badge are being revised, but any Scout who has earned the present version of the merit badge will automatically fulfill the Eagle requirement for the Cooking merit badge after January 1, 2014.



### **HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF ONE YEAR LATER**

One year ago, Hurricane Sandy roared ashore near Atlantic City, New Jersey, and caused damage like most of us had never seen. The northern New Jersey coastal towns and New York City suffered the most destruction. Many in those communities lost everything, including Troop 21 in Seaside Heights.

Seaside Heights is the town where the boardwalk was destroyed and

the roller coaster ended up in the Atlantic Ocean, which became an iconic image of the storm's fury. Also destroyed was the town's American Legion, which also housed all of Troop 21's equipment and camping gear. As New Jersey and New York struggled to recover from the storm, Troop 21 pitched in and handed out cleaning supplies weekend after weekend. But Troop 21 needed someone to lend them a helping hand. That's where Troop 78 came in. We conducted a fundraising campaign that brought in nearly \$1,000 and Friends of Troop 78 also made a financial contribution. Campmor provided a discount on the price, and we purchased six 3-person tents, water coolers, tables, cooking equipment and other items needed for Troop 21 to re-establish its camping program. We also kicked in an American flag, pole with an eagle top and base, which they needed for their meetings.

Our hurricane relief effort did not stop with the assistance to Troop 21. In March of this year, approximately 20 Scouts and Scouters traveled to the Citta Scout Reservation to help with the clean-up effort from the storm. The camp had lost hundreds of trees, which needed to be cut and removed. Troop 78 pitched in and even helped clean out their fire pits.

Community service is an integral part of the Scouting experience. Scouts helping Scouts was a perfect way to put that value into action. Thanks to everyone in Troop 78 who participated in one or both of these efforts!