

WILLISTOWN TROOP 78

FALL BACKPACKING TRIP

Harpers Ferry & Appalachian Trail
November 7 – 9, 2025

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS:

- Explore historic Harpers Ferry Lower Town, a key site in American Civil War history
- Visit the Appalachian Trail Conservancy "psychological midpoint"
- Hike a section of the legendary Appalachian Trail through Maryland
- Experience overnight backpacking on the AT
- Walk in the footsteps of John Brown's 1859 raid and Civil War soldiers
- See the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers
- Challenge yourself with town walking, flat canal walking and mountain ridge hiking

BACKPACKING ITINERARY:

SHORT TREK (for young Scouts and new backpackers)

- 2.9 mile hike from Weverton Parking to Ed Garvey Shelter on the AT
- Steep climb with 1,161 feet elevation gain but shorter distance
- Spectacular views from Weverton Cliffs overlook

LONG TREK (for senior Scouts and experienced backpackers)

- 6.5 mile hike from Harpers Ferry to Ed Garvey Shelter
- 1,940 feet elevation gain, starting with 3 miles flat along C&O Canal
- Historic route through Lower Town, crossing Potomac into Maryland

Saturday Morning

All Scouts explore historic Harpers Ferry Lower Town (9:00 AM - 11:30 AM)

Sunday Trek

All participants hike 2.9 miles from Ed Garvey Shelter to Weverton parking.

IMPORTANT: Rocky terrain on the AT. Wear hiking boots and wool or synthetic hiking socks. NO SNEAKERS ON THE TRAIL! November weather can be cold (30-55°F). See other side for packing list.

SCHEDULE:

- Participants meet at the Cabin at **6:00 PM SHARP** on **Friday evening**.
- Arrive back at the Cabin at approximately **Noon** on **Sunday**.

Notify your Patrol Leader and fill in this slip by no later than **Friday, October 31st at 7:30 PM** if you will be attending. Let your PL know if your father is attending as well. If you do not own or cannot borrow a backpack, the Troop has a few to loan, but **you must let your Patrol Leader know by Tuesday, November 4th if you will need a backpack from the Troop!**

MANDATORY PACKING MEETING ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH at 7:00 PM. Bring your gear to the Cabin in a duffel bag that evening. Bring your pack as well. See other side for details. Scouts and adults know that Friday night is in a campsite and their change of clothes for Saturday can be in a duffel bag. Backpack should have everything needed for Saturday day and night and the hike out on Sunday morning. Leaving room for food.

Registered Dads Welcome & needed!

Have your son notify his Patrol Leader (see instructions above) if you will be attending, or e-mail Jack Bilson jacbilson@gmail.com and let him know. **(\$45 meal charge for registered adults; no charge for Scouts)**

QUESTIONS? Call your Patrol Leader. **See you at Harpers Ferry!**

WILLISTOWN TROOP 78 FALL BACKPACKING TRIP -- WHAT TO BRING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH MANDATORY PACKING MEETING: For the packing meeting, bring your unpacked backpack, and bring your personal gear to the Cabin packed in a duffel bag. You will then repack your personal gear, food and patrol equipment -- including your tent -- in your backpack. If you will be using your own backpack, please bring it to the packing meeting -- but have your gear in your duffel bag for the meeting! Scouts and adults know that Friday night is in a campsite and their change of clothes for Saturday can be in a duffel bag. Backpack should have everything needed for Saturday day and night and the hike out on Sunday morning. Leaving room for food. Your pack will be left at the cabin Thursday night without exception.

REMEMBER - LESS IS BEST, KEEP IT LIGHT. IF YOU WON'T USE IT, THEN LOSE IT! The total weight of your pack (including tent and patrol gear) should not be more than be 25-30% of your total body weight. (If you weigh 100 lbs, then your pack should weigh no more than 30 lbs.) **No cotton -- bring synthetic, wicking gear.** If you do not meet the gear weight requirement items may be substituted or eliminated at leaderships discretion.

WHAT TO BRING:

Backpack (Troop has a **limited number available** for loan -- see flyer for details. **Let your PL know by November 4th if you need to borrow** one from the Troop)
Sleeping bag (rated for 30°F or lower - November nights are cold!)
Sleeping pad
Small flashlight or headlamp, with good batteries
Two water bottles (bring them filled) -- Nalgene or other unbreakable water bottles with at least 1 QT capacity each
Plastic drinking cup
Bowl or large cup (consider a Tupperware or similar container); spoon or spork
Toilet paper (preferably a half-roll. Pack in a plastic sealed bag)
Toothbrush and toothpaste; soap (camping soap preferred)
Small bottle hand sanitizer
Pocketknife
Compass
Mole skin
Hiking boots (to be worn)
Sneakers (to wear in camp, or in the event you have problems with your boots)
Wool or synthetic socks -- wear a pair, bring two spares
Change of clothes (all quickdry)
Brimmed hat
Small container of sunscreen; Chapstick
Warm hat and gloves (IMPORTANT for November!)
Rain gear (jacket AND pants)
Warm jacket or fleece (not just a sweatshirt)
Layers (light fleece that can be removed during hike)
Bungee cords (2)
Pack cover and trashbag or 2 large trashbags

Dress in layers. The weather could turn quickly. Please Be Prepared for both cool and warm temperatures (30-55°F), and wet or dry weather. November at elevation can be COLD!

RETURN THIS PAGE!
2025 Harpers Ferry Backpacking TRIP

Please complete and return this page, all sections, including the permission slip below, with payment by check, to Mr. Bilson per terms of handout.

Scout Name: _____ Patrol: _____

Adult attendee name: _____

Emergency contact email & phone number: _____

Allergies – please indicate any food allergies, dietary restrictions (for religious, medical or social reasons) or other relevant allergies (e.g., bee stings, etc.):

Troop 78 – May 2025 Harpers Ferry Trip (the “Trip”) Permission Form

If I am signing for a Scout: I am the parent/legal guardian of the Scout/guest named above, and my signature below constitutes my permission for my son to attend the Trip. By signing this form, I represent that I have read the Troop 78 COVID-19 guidelines found [at this link](#), and commit that the person for whom I am signing this permission slip has also read, understands and will abide by those guidelines. My signature below also: (a) authorizes any registered Willistown Troop 78 leader in attendance to obtain medical treatment for my son if, in the discretion of such registered leader, such treatment is warranted; and (b) serves as my agreement, on behalf of myself, my son, his other parent/guardian, and our respective legal successors and assigns, to hold Friends of Troop 78, Inc., Willistown Troop 78, and the directors, officers, leaders and their respective successors and assigns harmless of and from any and all claims, demands and/or causes of action whatsoever, occurring on and/or in connection with the Trip. If my child cannot attend the trip for *any reason*, I promise that my son will call both his Patrol Leader and Mr. Bilson (610 547 7934) no later than 2 hours before the scheduled departure time. “No shows” will be charged the greater of: (a) fees for participation and (b) \$75, notwithstanding the reason. I authorize such funds to be deducted from my son’s Troop account and I promise to pay any unpaid portion of such fee ASAP, with the understanding that my son may be precluded from attending other Troop trips unless such amount is paid in full.

If I am an adult attendee: By signing this form, I represent that I have read the Troop 78 COVID-19 guidelines found [at this link](#), and commit that I understand and will abide by those guidelines. My signature below also: (a) authorizes any registered Willistown Troop 78 leader in attendance to obtain medical treatment for my son if, in the discretion of such registered leader, such treatment is warranted; and (b) serves as my agreement, on behalf of myself, my representative/delegates/agents, and our respective legal successors and assigns, to hold Friends of Troop 78, Inc., Willistown Troop 78, and the directors, officers, leaders and their respective successors and assigns harmless of and from any and all claims, demands and/or causes of action whatsoever, occurring on and/or in connection with the Trip. If I cannot attend the trip for *any reason*, I promise that I will call Mr Bilson (610 547 7934) no later than 12 hours before the scheduled departure time. “No shows” will be charged the greater of: (a) fees for participation and (b) \$75, notwithstanding the reason. I promise to pay any unpaid portion of such fee ASAP, with the understanding that I may be precluded from attending other Troop trips unless such amount is paid in full.

(parent signature, or signature of adult attendee if submitted by attending adult)

Date of signature: _____