



Willistown Troop 78

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June 2025

Volume 41 Number 10

Canoe Trip!

BEAUTIFUL DAY AT MARSH CREEK STATE PARK

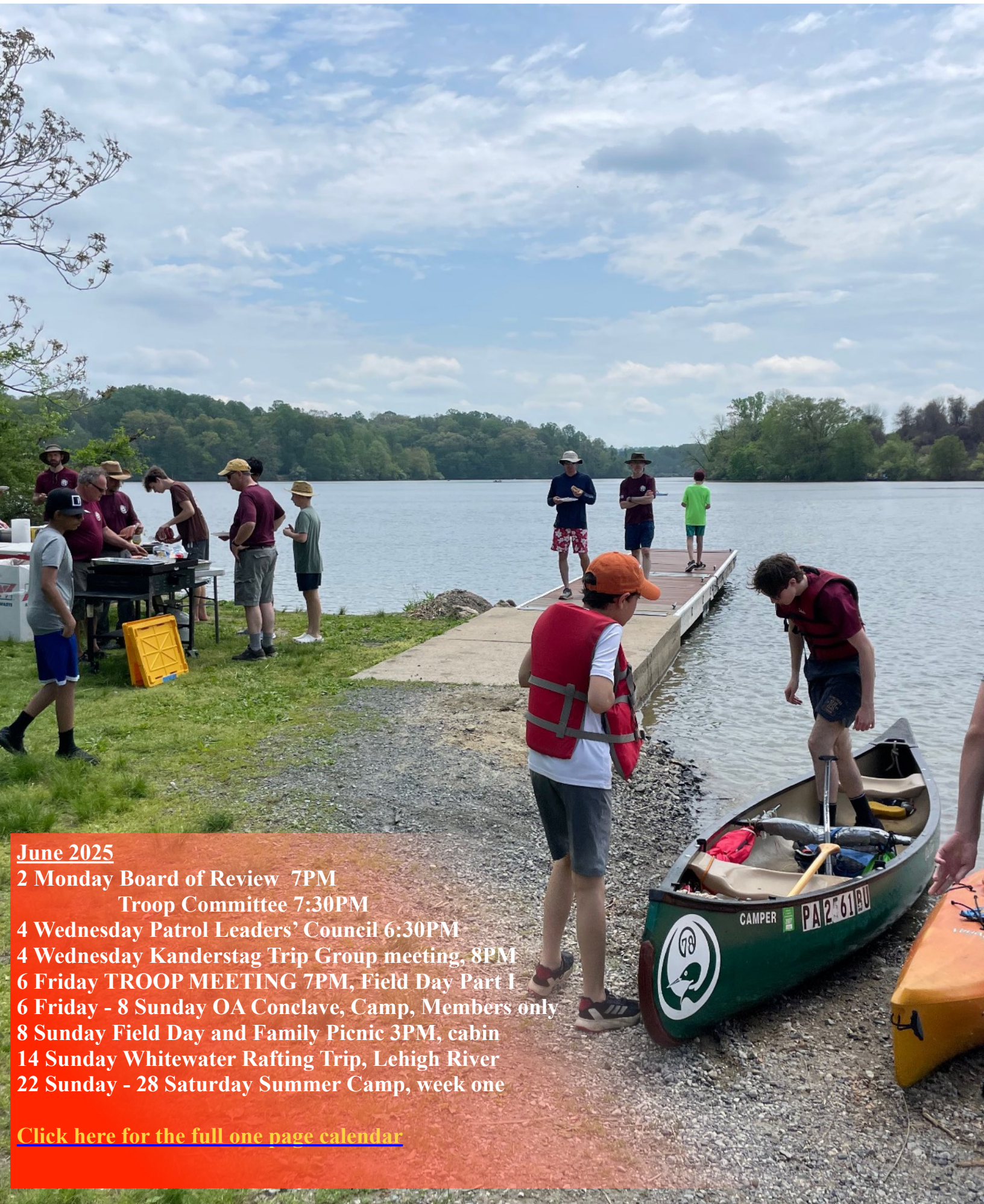


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June 2025

2 Monday Board of Review 7PM

Troop Committee 7:30PM

4 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 6:30PM

4 Wednesday Kanderstag Trip Group meeting, 8PM

6 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM, Field Day Part I

6 Friday - 8 Sunday OA Conclave, Camp, Members only

8 Sunday Field Day and Family Picnic 3PM, cabin

14 Sunday Whitewater Rafting Trip, Lehigh River

22 Sunday - 28 Saturday Summer Camp, week one

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

Canoe Trip!

Marsh Creek State Park

Saturday May 3, 2025

By Ethan S.

A warm Saturday morning in May found Troop 78 at the cabin preparing to depart for our annual canoe trip. After a short bus ride we arrived at our destination, the 535-acre lake in Marsh Creek State Park. After unloading the troop canoes from their trailers, the scouts and adults listened attentively to some brief safety training and paddling tips. Soon after, we donned life vests and hit the water.



The morning was sunny with a slight breeze, perfect for canoeing. For the first hour, each scout took time to practice the different strokes as well as switching places while on the water. We then split into two groups, each paddling to one end of the lake. The first group went to the northern end of the lake and back, about a mile and a half. The second group went out to the eastern end, stopping for a snack break once we arrived. We then paddled back to the boat ramp for a total of 2.5 miles. Upon our return, we were happy to discover that we had arrived just in time for the first batch of grilled hamburgers and hotdogs. We all made sure to thank the adults for the delicious lunch.

Once everyone had finished eating, the scouts gathered on the dock for a demonstration on the proper way to right an overturned canoe. Each scout then got a chance to capsize their own canoe and practice righting it. They also learned an equally important skill - how to get back in! After another hour or so of canoeing, we returned to the ramp and loaded the canoes onto the trailers.

Unfortunately, the bus had a flat tire, so each scout called their parents or carpooled, and everyone had a ride home. This trip was a great opportunity to get to know the basics of canoeing. Each scout learned how to be safe when boating and practiced water rescue methods that are useful in all kinds of aquatic activities. It was also a chance for scouts to discover a love of canoeing (if they did, they should check out the troop's annual [trip to Algonquin!](#)). Most importantly, we all had a lot of fun, and look forward to next year's trip!





Radnor Races Weekend

Saturday May 17 and Sunday May 18, 2025

Radnor Hunt Club

By Jay T.

The morning of the Radnor Races was full of hope. I had been checking the weather all week and the forecast showed that it would not “rein”. It seemed that we had gotten lucky. The sun was shining along the beautiful white tents and green fields of Radnor Hunt and all around the c“horse” scouts were beginning to arrive at their posts to direct cars and trailers and other duties. However, our luck didn’t last “fur-long” as it rained a “bit” before clearing up. At 11:00 the first pony races began, and at 1:30 the “mane” event, the horse races. Security opened and closed the “gaits” along the track and everyone was looking good in their uniforms and yellow or orange vests. In between the races, a group of scouts presented a color guard before the Star-Spangled Banner was sung. When the lyrics “banner yet wave” were sung, the wind blew “wildly” and the color guard struggled to keep their campaign hats in place. It was great to see everyone pitch in and help out and the day went off without a “hitch”. Overall, it was a fantastic day as usual at the Radnor Hunt Races. The next day, to clean up the party, teams of scouts and adults “saddled up” to collect trash and put it in dumpsters. After 2 hours it looked like a horse pasture again. This is a great way to get the troop active and in the community besides the usual camping trips and troop meetings and I “canter” wait for next year!



Radnor Races Thank You!

By Brian Rothberg

On behalf of the Troop Committee; Don Tyson, Steve Brown and I want to thank you for your efforts at this spring's Radnor Event. The Radnor Hunt Races depends on Troop 78 to handle most of the supporting functions that make this great event possible. The Troop depends on you, its extended family, to enable us to do this.

You can choose your own cliché for Race Day this year. "Dodged a Bullet," or maybe "snatched victory from the jaws of defeat." A wet week followed by an ominous Saturday forecast left us scrambling to devise a plan that would allow us to park a bunch of cars and welcome lots of patrons with the prospect of up to 3 of our Parking areas unusable. The big day began with more rain and... The sun came out, ground drying winds picked up and we were able to execute our original plans! In this, our 35th year, the Troop faced big challenges. Pony Races were expanded again and we needed to be ready to react as things developed. But Troop 78 came through! Thanks for your flexibility, which allowed us to accomplish our tasks. You came out in great numbers on Saturday and 50(!) of us were back on Sunday for clean-up. We finished that task in well under four hours. Quite an achievement, and we unquestionably left the Radnor Hunt Club grounds in better condition than they were early Saturday morning. *Thanks so much for your fabulous effort.*

Your participation helped the Troop in one of our major fund-raising activities. Further, you helped raise money for the Brandywine Conservancy in its ongoing and crucial efforts to preserve open space in our area. We also were able to show the public the kind of great work that Boy Scouts & Troop 78 do in our Community. I hope you were able to enjoy yourself too.

This year we had a large group of newcomers to join with our veteran members and our legendary corps of "Old-Timers." Together we once again put forth the kind of effort that most groups could not even imagine; just another day at the Races for Troop 78.

THANKS AGAIN!

Very sincerely,
Brian Rothberg



Flower Sale!

Spring Flower Sale 2025

By Jim Fox

Our Troop Flower Sale was successful this year bringing in the much needed funds for our troop and filling scout camping accounts for high adventure trips. We had an eager crew of volunteers help with sorting 1900 plants sorted in under four hours. These plants were then distributed to to 50 scouts for their supporters and customers! The troop online website also got a technology upgrade with single page checkout and a new Venmo payment option.

The Panther patrol came in with the highest sales by patrol. There were five families that had over \$1000 in sales. These are: Braeden Happ, Joshua Simms, John / Ryan Wark, Caleb Fulmer, and Jay Tyson.

We would like the thank the following adult volunteers who assisted in the unloading and sorting: Brian Rothberg, Steve D'Antonio, Steven Wark, Dawn Happ, Jeannine Simms, Jim Hogan, Jessica Larkin, Wayne Curry, Mark Siegle, Miles Stevens, David Dondero, and Jim Fox.

We are always looking for volunteers like plants and who don't mind a little dirt to help with the sorting and distribution. By volunteering you can learn all sorts of things about plants and enjoy getting to know some other parents in the troop!



Willistown Troop 78 – Memorial Day Service

Monday May 26, 2025

Old Charlestown Presbyterian Cemetery

By Sebastian B.

On the 26th of May, four scouts of Troop 78 drove to the Charlestown cemetery to take part in the Memorial Day commemorative service where they raised the stars and stripes of the American Flag. When the youth first arrived, they put on the campaign hats given to them by the senior patrol leader and walked to the flagpole. Then the scouts started practicing for the ceremony before the spectators arrived. They raised and lowered the flag multiple times and assigned parts in preparation for the flag raising. After practicing, the youth stood in line while listening to the introduction.

After the introduction speech was said, the youth ‘briskly’ raised the flag while others watched. After the flag was raised the scouts listened to the national anthem played on guitar. The people at the service then stated the Pledge of Allegiance before a speech about the history of the cemetery. The people learned many interesting facts about the cemetery and Charlestown township before the conclusion

occurred. The scouts then slowly lowered the flag and folded it up into a triangle before the viewers were dismissed to reflect on the ceremony or wander around the cemetery taking a self-guided tour.

After most of the people left the scouts returned their campaign hats and walked around the cemetery talking and reflecting on the service that just took place. When the scouts finally left, they had more knowledge about the township and its history. They also had completed a ‘good turn’ for the day and were ready to reflect on this reverent and kind act.



By Don Tyson

At 10 AM on a beautiful Memorial Day, 4 scouts from Troop 78 participated in the Memorial Day ceremony at the Old Charlestown Presbyterian Cemetery located at 2475 Charlestown Road in Phoenixville. Memorial Day, observed on the last Monday in May, is a national day of remembrance to honor and mourn those who have died in service to the United States, both during wartime and in peacetime. It's a time to reflect on their sacrifices and acknowledge the debt of gratitude owed to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Scouts Sebastian B, Ethan S, Justin S, and Jay T served as color guard and performed the flag services throughout the ceremony.

The cemetery is associated with the Charlestown Presbyterian Church, which was founded in 1743. The Old Charleston Cemetery was located halfway between the Valley Forge winter encampment and the Yellow Springs Hospital. Within the walls of cemetery lie buried several scores of Revolutionary War soldiers. Injured and diseased Revolutionary War soldiers were taken from the encampment to the hospital for care. Those that did not survive were often hastily buried in large unmarked graves at the cemetery to avoid the spread of disease.

Also buried here was Dr. Samuel Kennedy, a Surgeon to the 4th Battalion PA Troops who, being infected with an attack of camp fever, died on the 18th of June 1778. It is thought his death occurred while he was serving as a Continental Army physician at Valley Forge. Several soldiers of the War of 1812 are also buried in this cemetery.

This is the second year that Willistown Troop 78 has honored our fallen veterans at the Memorial Day ceremony at the Old Charlestown Presbyterian Cemetery.



Mr. D

By David Dondero

Steve D'Antonio, known as Mr. D to most Troop 78 members, has served as scoutmaster since 1994. He will be stepping down this coming September-- but don't worry, he will continue to assist our new scoutmaster, Rob Duff.

Steve exemplifies the concept of 'Servant Leader': One who prioritizes the needs of others, particularly those whom they lead, over their own. Steve focuses on fostering growth, development, and well-being within the Troop and in his daily life.

Thank you Steve D'Antonio. Thank you for the positive impact and example you set for the thousands of Scouts you help. Thank you for guiding the adult volunteers and fellow leaders in their service to Scouting. Thank you for upholding the ideals of the Scout Oath and Law.

For those of us who have gained so much from Steve's leadership, I believe the best thing we all can do to honor him is to uphold the standard he has set in his service to the Scouts and Scouting.

David Dondero

Chairman, Troop 78 Committee

President, Friends of Troop 78, Inc.

CPR Training!

Thursday May 1, 2025

By Ted Diederich

Cabin

On a beautiful Spring night we had 9 Adults and 1 Scout choose to spend their time indoors to complete their CPR Training. Anthony Wiencek of Emergency Training Partners once again delivered life saving information to our Troop. Anthony is a fellow Scout and a premier 1st responder trainer. We are lucky to have him as part of our extended 78 family.

Highlights of the night include receiving points of the heart for correctly answering questions and hearing a few stories from the group about their 1st Aid encounters. Being prepared with good training matters! A big thank you to all that participated.



Upcoming Events

Field Day / Family Picnic and Eagle Court of Honor

Sunday June 8, 3PM

Cabin

Please plan to join us for the troop annual Field Day and Family Picnic.

We will start with the scouts competing by patrol in various outdoor scout skills, including flint and steel, fire building, knot tying, giant clove hitch, and heaving bar.

After the competitions, we will have an Eagle Court of Honor, awarding Scouting's highest rank.

Lastly, we will gather for the family picnic, hamburgers, hot dogs, various side dishes and cake for dessert. We request each family bring a salad or a side dish to be shared at the picnic.

See you Sunday June 8th at the cabin!

[Click here for more information.](#)

Whitewater Rafting Trip

Saturday June 14

Lehigh River

Please join us for a day of fun and adventure on the Lehigh River in the Poconos.

This is a family event, open the all in the troop family.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Summer Camp

Week one: Sunday June 22 - Saturday June 28

Week two: Sunday June 29 - Saturday July 5

Drop off is 1:00 PM Sunday

Pick up is 11:00 AM Saturday

Summer Camp Coordinator: Kipp Happ For any additional information please review the Summer Camp page on the troop website. See you at camp!

[Click here for more information.](#)

Algonquin Canoe Trip

Friday August 8 - Saturday August 16, 2025

A week of adventure and fun awaits in the lakes and streams of Canada.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Order of the Arrow

Octoraro Lodge 22 Ordeal and Service Weekend

Friday May 30 - Sunday June 1, 2025

Camp Horseshoe

By Daniel C.

Friday night, scouts from all over Chester County rushed in faster than the storm brewing in the south. Ambition and anxiety rattled the camp as the members prepared themselves for the work ahead of them, or for the candidates, the unknown waiting in a couple of hours. Ordeal candidates all gathered in Kindness Center to be checked in and their bags checked. Candidates were put into crews and enjoyed their last moments of conversation before their vow of silence was enacted upon them. Afterwards they were led around camp in the rain to meet members of the lodge who would give them words of wisdom. That night they prepared to sleep in the cold and rainy weather, a challenge that they must overcome. The day before them would be even harder.



The next day the ordeal candidates woke up to the chilly morning and headed off into their jobs. Before leaving they were given little amounts of food to challenge their strength once more. Some crews went to set up tents, and others went to other parts of camp to complete other jobs. That evening they all went to break their fasting and enjoy their meal in silence. Afterwards they had the ending meeting, where all would obtain their sash and the vow of silence was lifted. They had all completed their joyful service to the benefit of camp and others.

Sunday morning included a few more meetings of the lodge and information about how to get involved in the organization. They were all sent off with the task of joyful service and brotherhood.



Chester County Council News

Camp Horseshoe Dining Hall Repairs

Restoration at the dining hall continued over the past several weeks. The removal of the old dis-used fireplace and repair to the floor, wall and porch are now complete.

With the kitchen restoration and the dining hall seating area repairs done, the Dining Hall is ready for summer!



New Scout Executive

Chester County Council Names New Leader

The Chester County Council Scout Executive Search Committee concluded the search for our new Scout Executive/CEO. We are pleased to announce that Mr. Jacob (Jake) Segal was selected, effective May 16, 2025.

Jake brings a wealth of experience and energy to the Council, serving successfully in a variety of roles for over a decade. Jake is an Eagle Scout from Troop 158, Kimberton, and a former Octoraro Lodge #22 Lodge Chief and Section Chief. He served on summer camp staff at the Horseshoe Scout Reservation from 2006-2013.

In 2013, he began his professional career as a District Executive in the former Lenni Lenape District, then as Camping and Facilities Director, Director of Support Services, and Assistant Scout Executive. He has most recently served as the Interim Scout Executive.



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