



# Willistown Troop 78

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

Facebook: [Willistown Boy Scout Troop 78](https://www.facebook.com/WillistownBoyScoutTroop78)

YouTube Channel: [Troop 78](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

November 2021

Volume 38 Number 3

## Appalachian Trail! Eagles Nest



### November 2021

- 1 Monday Friends of Troop 78 7PM
- 2 Tuesday Board of Review 7:00PM  
Troop Committee 7:30PM
- 3 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7:00PM
- 5 Friday Troop Meeting Webelos Open House 7PM
- 11 Thursday Webelos First Responder 7PM
- 12 Friday - 14 Sunday **Antietam National Battlefield Campout**
- 19 Friday Troop Meeting, Poinsettia and wreath orders due, 7PM

[Click here for the full calendar.](#)

### Inside this issue:

Court of Honor  
Franks-Giving!  
Antietam Battlefield



# Backpacking on the Appalachian Trail!

Saturday October 16 - Sunday October 17, 2021

By Caleb Fulmer

Last weekend the troop went on the Appalachian trail backpacking trip. On the Friday before we left, there was a scout meeting for everybody who was going on the trip. This meeting was where we all packed our bags for the next day. The scout leaders told us to keep our backpacks at 20 percent of our weight or less. Then we all went home to get well rested for the next day. At 7:00 A.M. the next day we all went back to the cabin to pack the bus. We said goodbye to our parents and left the cabin to go to the drop off point.



We dropped off the long hikers first so that they could start their hike. Then the short hikers drove a little longer to their drop off point. The long hike was 6 miles, and the short hike was 3.5 miles. The short hike was very challenging because of all the rocks. We had to be careful not to sprain our ankles. Our lunch was granola bars and some other assorted snacks, so we could just eat on the trail. Once we got to the campsite, we had to set up our tents fast before the rain hit. We all did that and with time to hang our cooking tarps up.

When the rain hit, we all set up the inside of our tents, but the rain didn't dampen our spirits. We put our rain gear on, separated into cooking groups and made dinner. Cooking was easy because all of the food was dehydrated - all we needed was hot water. Dinner was either Mexican rice, beef stroganoff, travelers' stew, mash potatoes, chicken noodle soup or a combination of those items. After dinner we all hung out, but because of the wet conditions and no campfire, a lot of us ended up going to bed very early. Some of us were entertained by a distant Everclear concert.

The next morning, we woke up at six to pack everything up. Breakfast was oatmeal and hot chocolate. Then we packed up the cooking gear and prepared to go on the trail. Everybody would be taking the short hike back to the bus. It was a very tiring hike back, and the bus ride back to the cabin was not very loud. Once we got back to the cabin, we had to lay all of the tents out to dry after the wet trip. Then everybody left to go finish their day. That was the Appalachian backpacking trip.







# Court of Honor

Sunday October 10, 2021

By Alan Johnson

When we got to the Court of Honor, Logan, the Senior Patrol Leader, called a fall-in and inspected us. We had a picnic and then went over to the Court of Honor set up. It was raining a bit, but we kept the ceremony outside.

The Scout of the Year award went to Anish Narr and the Patrol of the Year went to Stag Patrol. After that, Luke Fox got his Eagle Rank. Congrats Luke and good luck in life. Also, then everybody got their ranks and merit badges from summer camp and the former scouting year if they weren't awarded yet. The merit badges that were handed out varied from cooking to camping to blacksmithing.

Also Mr. D got the Octoraro Lodge Lifetime Achievement award for all the work he does for the troop. He is now the longest serving Scoutmaster in Chester County.



**Patrol of the Year: Stag**

**Scout of the Year: Anish Narr**

**New Eagle Scout: Luke Fox**



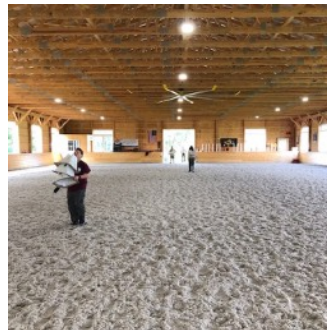
# Radnor Horse Trials

Saturday October 9, 2021

On October 9th, 20 volunteer-minded Scouts, Scouters, and family members returned to Radnor Hunt to assist with the Radnor Hunt Horse Trials. We parked horse trailers starting in the wee hours of the morning and later helped set-up and move the show jumping and dressage events. During the day we got to watch the competitors and their horses up close and enjoy breakfast, lunch, snacks and beverages provided to volunteers. At the end of the day, a few of us stayed to enjoy the hospitality of the post-event pig roast meal. Many Radnor volunteers and competitors thanked us for being there and said they couldn't complete some of the tasks without us. In total, we provided 114 hours of our time to help stage this community event! The following Scouts, Scouters, and family members volunteered:



- Ben, Will, and Steph Gunderson
- Charles Lane
- Logan and Rob Duff
- Brian Rothberg
- Jacob and Sam Lang
- Tom Pizzuto
- Pete Motel
- Vinay Sao
- Braeden and Kipp Happ
- Saharsh, Shrey, and Santosh Hulage
- Anish Narr
- Brian Opielski
- Steve Brown



# Run-a-Muck

Saturday October 16, 2021

On October 16, 2021, nine (9) Scouts and Scouters braved dark skies, wind, and some rain to volunteer for the Willistown Conservation Trust Run-a-Muck 5K race. With Mark Siegle taking the lead, we quickly organized and began to park cars for the event. We continued to park cars and helped them enter and exit the narrow driveway as we watched runners and walkers navigate the hill & dale of beautiful Chester County countryside. At the end of the day, we got to join in the post-race party and have a BBQ meal, enjoyed a large bonfire, and live music. The 9 volunteers provided 32 hours of our time and the group included the following:

- Jacob and Ted Diederich
- David and Mark Siegle
- Charles Lane
- Wayne Curry
- Alex and Tim Hornickle
- Steve Brown

# Halloween Party

Friday October 29, 2021

Costume required!

The Troop started the holiday season with the first of the great holidays: Halloween. No uniform, the costumes were fun and creative. The troop meeting program was first aid, realistic injuries performed with stage make-up. The scouts did not get a written problem to use, they had to treat based on what they saw and their conversations with the patient.

After the first aid problem was finished, we had a pumpkin carving contest and then a wonderful snack of Halloween candy.



## Upcoming Events

### Antietam National Battlefield Trip

Friday November 12 - Sunday November 14, 2021

Join us for a tour of Antietam National Battlefield, site of the single bloodiest day of battle in American history. We will be staying at a nearby federal campsite Friday night. Sat AM we will begin at the visitor's center with a short 30 minute movie narrated by James Earl Jones on the battle fought that day so long ago, September 17, 1862. After the movie we will tour the visitor's center and then take a private guided tour of the battlefield in the bus. After Lunch we will hike the battlefield in patrols. Face masks will be required while on the bus, NO Class A or Class B uniform is needed for this trip. Adults must be registered with the Troop and have current Scouting YPT certification.

[Click here for more information and the permission slip.](#)





# Troop 78 is Heading Back to Walt Disney World!!!

**Saturday April 9 - Saturday April 16, 2021**

After missing the past 2 years Troop 78 is going back to Disney World! The troop has been going to Florida every Spring Break since before Disney opened. Disney World opened in 1972 and the Troop made its first trip to Disney in 1973. It has been a long 2 years of Covid, but it is time to get the tradition back up and running this year.



**When are we planning on going?** April 9th to April 16th

**What are we going to do?** Spend four days at a different park each day, we will visit each of the four theme parks (Magic Kingdom, Disney's Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom, and Epcot). During your down time you can relax and swim at the Fort Wilderness campground at any time.

## **Who can go?**

Scouts and leaders who are registered and active in the troop, Scouts must have attended (or worked) at summer camp at least one week in 2021, and Scouts who are *or will be* 13 years of age by March 17th, and who are responsible enough to visit the theme parks *on their own* with a small group of other Scouts as determined by their parents and the Scoutmaster.

**The cost to go on the trip to Disney?** \$825, plus spending money

**What do I get for the \$825 cost?** Round trip bus transportation on the luxurious troop bus, food and meals, camping fees, a Four day Disney pass, adventures of conquering all of the mountains in Disney, visit Mickey and Minnie, and create some magical memories. While doing all of this you will learn the value of money, how to read a transportation map, learn how to use public transportation, time management, and so many more life skills that you won't realize.

**How do I sign up for this awesome annual trip?** Handouts will be given out at troop meetings and information will also be posted on the troop web site.

Once you reserve a spot you will receive further instructions regarding departure times, what to pack, spending money, bus preparation etc.

**1. Dates to remember for mandatory meetings and payments are:**

**2. Friday December 3rd (Troop Meeting) - \$425.00 Deposit and permission slip are due.**

**3. Sunday, February 11th (Troop Meeting)- \$400 Final Payment due**

**4. Friday March 18th, 9:00 PM (after Troop meeting) – Scout and Parent Meeting (Parent must attend with scout)**

**5. Sunday April 3rd – Bus and equipment cleaning meeting 1:00PM to 4:00PM**

**6. Friday April 8th – 7:00 PM Load your gear on the bus**

**7. Saturday April 9th – 1PM Leave for DISNEY**

**We must have at least 15 Scouts and Adults to Camp at Disney. If we do not have 15, we will have to cancel, so talk it up!**

**[Click here for more information.](#)**

# Fundraising

## Holiday Poinsettia and Wreath Sale

Delivery for early orders 11/19

Delivery for standard orders 12/2

### We need your help!

These funds will pay for our scouts to attend outings and program events for the next year. With the proceeds from this sale, we will cover the costs of our monthly camping trips and other program expenses.

We need all of the scouts and their families to help. Please consider placing an order for Holiday poinsettia plants and wreaths.

[Click here for more information.](#)



## Scout Scrip Gift Card Fundraiser

[Click here for more information.](#)

It's time to think about holiday shopping! Did you know that you can purchase gift cards for family, friends, teachers, and service providers through Troop 78?? There are hundreds of stores on the list. Additionally, think beyond holiday gifts and consider purchasing gift cards for monthly expenses such as groceries, gas, household supplies, clothing, and restaurants. Every gift card purchased through Scrips sends a rebate back to Troop 78.

You can fill out a paper order form and return to Steve or Sherri Wark or you can input your order electronically and pay by check made out to **Friends of Troop 78** or through PayPal or Venmo (ask Sherri for details on those). Please visit [shopwithscrip.com/shop](http://shopwithscrip.com/shop) for a full listing of gift card retailers available.

NEW!! You can use the RaiseRight APP! Our Troop Enrollment code is FEF118A31591L You can input your order through the app and still pay by cash/check/Venmo, or you can connect a bank account (transaction fee applied) or pay by credit card (2.6% fee added to your order at checkout). If you would like to order your gift cards online but not with the app, please contact Sherri Wark at [sherriwark@yahoo.com](mailto:sherriwark@yahoo.com). It is an easy process.

**Checks should be made out to Friends of Troop 78.** Please complete the form and return it with full payment. Bring the form and the checks to the cabin **on or before Troop Meeting December**

**10th.** Please contact us directly with any orders after that date. Cards will be distributed at the meeting on December 17. You can also pick up at an alternate time.

Check out some of these examples below – can you purchase a gift card for any of these monthly/ semi-monthly needs? Keep a few in your purse or wallet.

**For example:**

Giant \$100	\$4 rebate	Wawa \$100	\$1 rebate
Target \$100	\$ 2.50 rebate	Old Navy \$100	\$14 rebate
CVS \$100	\$6 rebate	Petsmart \$100	\$5 rebate
Dick’s Sporting \$100	\$8 rebate	Outback Steakhouse \$100	\$13 rebate

There are hundreds of stores to choose from. There are electronic options for some stores as well. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Thank you,

Sherri Wark	Steve Wark
<a href="mailto:sherriwark@yahoo.com">sherriwark@yahoo.com</a>	<a href="mailto:stevenwark@yahoo.com">stevenwark@yahoo.com</a>
484-883-9213text	610-213-5363 text

# Alumni Corner

## Troop 78 Alumni Association

**Did you know Troop 78 has an alumni association?**

**By Michael Bennett**

The troop has formed an alumni association, with several missions, primarily to bring former scouts and scouters together for fun and fellowship.

We want to make a strong alumni association in the run-up to the Troop’s 100th anniversary in 2030 only a few short years away.

“Change is the only constant,” a wise saying goes, and some changes are in the air for how Troop 78 connects with its alumni and friends. The new Troop Friends and Alumni group will be hosting its first event, “Franks-Giving”, the Saturday after Turkey Day (see article below). In addition to marking your calendars for Franks-Giving, try logging into Facebook and joining the Troop 78 Friends and Alumni page.

Moving forward, the 78 Friends and Alumni Facebook page will be a key part of the Troop’s efforts to keep in touch with past members and their families. The page will provide information on upcoming official events, and looks likely to become a forum for organizing unofficial gatherings as well. Furthermore, the page itself is a great resource for reminiscing and reconnecting. Enjoy a stroll down Memory Lane, make old friends new again, or expand your professional network.

Through it all, experience a new twist on another old maxim: “Old Scouts never die, or fade away - they become Scouting friends and alumni!”

Join us online at the Troop 78 Friends and Alumni Facebook page and help write the next chapter of the story of Scouting in Willistown. We look forward to seeing you there. So far, we have 60 members - but we may be missing you!

[Click here for the alumni association’s Facebook page.](#)



# Franks-Giving !

**Saturday November 27, 2021, Noon-3PM**

**Alumni of Troop 78 to Hold “Franks-Giving” Get-Together at the Cabin**

In a first of its kind event, Troop 78 is hosting a post-Thanksgiving get-together for friends, parents and alumni of the Troop. The extravaganza, which the organizers have dubbed “Franks-Giving,” will take place at the Troop 78 Cabin on Saturday, November 27, 2021 from Noon till 3:00 PM. We will be serving a Scout-style lunch of hot dogs (thus, the name of the event!), iced tea, lemonade and treats.

“The idea for Franks-Giving comes from our desire to reunite Troop 78 alumni for networking and fellowship,” said event coordinator and 78 alum Michael Bennett. “Ernie Heegard encouraged us to put an event together as a kick-off for the formation of a more formal Troop 78 Alumni Association. Franks-Giving is that first step. We have a Facebook page ([click here for the link to the Facebook page](#)) where we’ll be sharing news of other events, and where alums can exchange contact information and swap stories.” Bennett continued that “Alumni and friends of Troop 78 are as much a part of the fabric of the Troop as are our current Scouts and their families.” He added, “This will be a great way for people to get back in touch with one another. We’re starting simple and we will build momentum based on turnout at Franks-Giving and future events.”

In addition to the hot dog lunch, which will be served from Noon till 1 PM, Franks-Giving will feature historical displays of Troop and Scouting memorabilia; opportunities for people to try their hand at traditional Troop 78 skills like knot-tying and flint-and-steel fire starting; games for children; and stories regaling notable Troop 78 accomplishments and bloopers. It will be a great day and all are invited. Simply [click here to register](#) to let us know that you will be attending. **Having an accurate attendance count will enable us to have sufficient food for all attendees so register today, please!**

Current Troop 78 Scouts are needed to staff events. Service hours will be awarded. Please see Mr. D and let him know if you will be able to assist.

There is no charge for Franks-Giving. While we will gladly accept donations, what we really want is to see all the members – new, old and future – of our 78 family come together and enjoy one another’s company.

## Greetings from Troop Alum Connor Richie

### Why Should I Earn Eagle Scout?

It goes without saying that scouts constantly hear from troop leaders about how important it is to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. As a young scout in the troop, it can be difficult to fully understand the importance of earning Eagle. You may think that it is just simply the end-goal of being a scout or that it is just something that is expected of you. So, the big question is: Why—why should I earn the rank of Eagle Scout?

I suggest that it is important to earn the rank of Eagle Scout because it helps you learn life skills that develop virtue and character. This can be something difficult for young scouts to understand in the way that older scouts and adult troop leaders do. I sure did not understand what skills scouting offered to teach me during my time in the troop, just ask Mr. D or any one of the senior troop leaders who knew me! Regardless, the troop leaders wanted me and all scouts to learn these life skills. Wanting to

impart such skills on younger generations is why many adult leaders participate in the troop and why many still participate even after their children have left the troop.

From my experience, it is typical that scouts do not realize what skills they had developed during their time in the troop until they begin college or enter a trade. We may say that these skills include leadership, event organizing, community involvement, strong work ethic, self-discipline, etc. The list goes on. Any number of events or activities when you are a young adult who is deciding upon a possible career path requires that you put these skills to use. Furthermore, you will likely start to realize that some of the skills you developed as a scout can provide an edge or put you ahead.

Inevitably, the skills you learn while on the path to earning Eagle will enable you to do activities well because they develop good character. As you learn skills, you do not merely learn “to do things,” such as tie knots or start fires, you are beginning to understand how to do things well. All adult leaders promise that you will develop character and virtue that will follow you into your adult life if you take the goal of earning Eagle seriously as you learn how to be a good scout. It is written, spoken, and lived in the scout code of honor. Those who take the task of earning Eagle seriously will have great opportunities before them in life.

As someone who did not earn the rank of Eagle Scout, I encourage all young scouts to take the privilege and honor of earning Eagle seriously. It is difficult to truly understand what doors scouting will unlock for you when you are a young scout. We must imagine and trust that scouting will provide us great possibilities throughout our lives.

## Chester County Council News

### **PARC Grand Opening**

**Friday October 15, 2021**

**1 Scouting Way, Exton, PA**

On a beautiful Friday afternoon in October, the Chester County Council staff welcomed scout and community leaders to the new PARC center.

We heard from many supporters of Scouting, including Coach Vermeil, a long time supporter of scouting in Chester County. The PARC is a wonderful new resource for scouts and scouters, right in Exton, with conference room, large meeting rooms, a scout shop and outdoor areas.

When you have a chance, take some time and stop out for a visit. [Click here for more information.](#)

