



Willistown Troop 78

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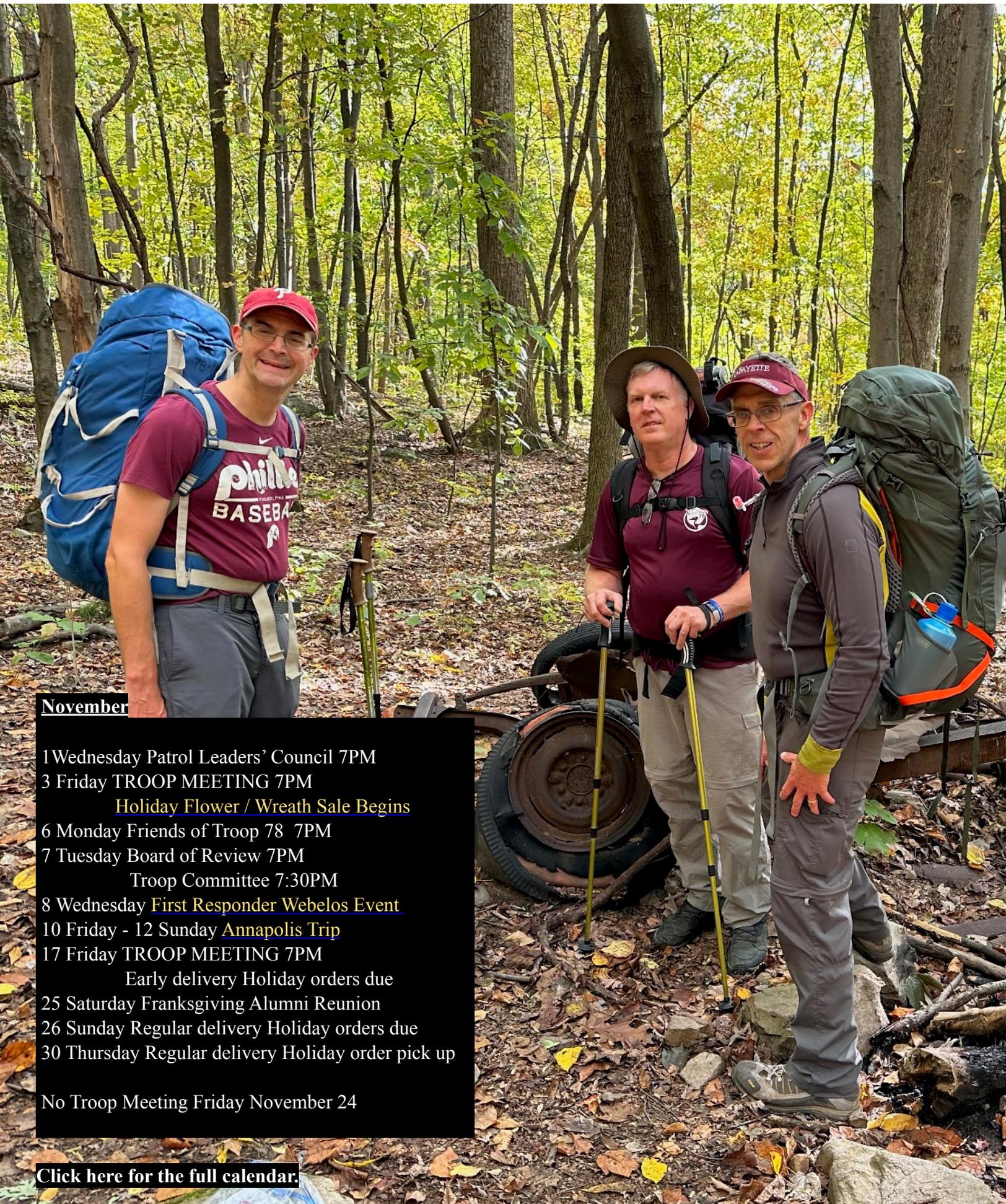
Appalachian Trail!

Scouts and Leaders Backpack the Ancient Ridge



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November

- 1 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7PM
 - 3 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM
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 - 6 Monday Friends of Troop 78 7PM
 - 7 Tuesday Board of Review 7PM
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 - 8 Wednesday [First Responder Webelos Event](#)
 - 10 Friday - 12 Sunday [Annapolis Trip](#)
 - 17 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM
Early delivery Holiday orders due
 - 25 Saturday Franksgiving Alumni Reunion
 - 26 Sunday Regular delivery Holiday orders due
 - 30 Thursday Regular delivery Holiday order pick up
- No Troop Meeting Friday November 24

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

Appalachian Trail

Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Friday October 20 - Sunday October 22, 2023

By Caleb Fulmer

On a chilly Saturday morning an eager group of scouts and leaders set out for the Appalachian Trail and an action packed weekend of hiking. It took a three and a half hour drive to get to the trailhead for the long hikers. Once they arrived, they embarked on what was supposed to be a seven and a half mile hike. This turned into an eleven and a half mile hike when there was a slight miscalculation where the campsite we would be spending the night was. It took us a few hours, but we got to the campsite within fifteen minutes of the younger scouts who had a smaller three and half mile hike which ended up being five and a half miles with the same miscalculation.

Once we got to our campsite we all got our supplies out and set up our tents in any spot we could find. Once we set up our tents and dropped off our gear, a group of guys went down to the spring to get water to cook dinner. We started boiling the water for our dehydrated meals. Once we got done with dinner, we had to fill our dishes with water and drink that water so we didn't attract any bears. Then another group of guys was sent down to the spring to collect more water for the hike back the next morning. After dinner we had a campfire but instead of



the traditional games and songs it turned into a Phillies watch party. Then everyone went to bed ready for the hike back in the morning.

Once everyone woke up, people packed up their personal gear and took the tents down. Then we had a hot breakfast of oatmeal and hot chocolate where some scouts decided to mix the two and it turned out to be delicious. Then we police-lined around where we set up our tents and we divided up the trash to take back with us. We started back down the trail at a faster pace as we wanted to get to the bus as quickly as possible. After surviving the hike back to the bus, we drove back to the cabin while resting our legs the whole way. We stopped to get food and use the bathroom at a rest stop on the way home. When we got to the cabin we unloaded all of our gear out of our packs and hung them up or put them away. Then all the scouts went home to enjoy the rest of their Sunday and to watch the Eagles game.



Beach Trip

Delaware Seashore State Park

Friday September 29 - Sunday October 1, 2023

By Caleb Fulmer

On a cool Friday night the troop bus was packed to the brim as we headed down to Delaware for the first troop trip of the new scout year. The bus ride down was about 2 hours and through the whole thing we were hearing a variety of different music playing including Christmas carols and rock and roll, from a speaker in the back of the bus. Once we made it to our campsite we had a beautiful view of the Delaware Seashore State Park bridge at night. Many scouts stopped to take pictures before getting together with their patrol and setting up tents. After this we all turned in for the night hoping for a fun day tomorrow.

In the morning, the breakfast crew made a delicious breakfast of french toast, eggs, and sausage. Then the lunch crew made our packed lunches for the day so that lunch was easy for when we returned from our hike. We boarded the bus and went to some nearby trails for a hike. We split up into three groups to make sure we did not overcrowd the trail with one group. Unfortunately a scout in the first group was injured on the hike. Luckily, all of our first aid training paid off as we were able to properly treat this scout before one of the troop adults took him to the ER. Then we went back to the campsite to eat our lunch. Once people finished their lunch they



went over to the playground that was right next to our campsite to play a game of squeeze the lemon. After everyone played for a bit then we got back to camp, got our stuff and walked over to the beach where we spent the afternoon. People brought spikeball, books, and we even started a British bulldogs game on the beach. The riptides on the beach were too strong so we weren't allowed to go in the water deeper than our ankles. We had a couple hours to ourselves before dinner so we all went to the playground for some more games. Then we had a dinner of meatball subs, and they were quite good. After this, a group of scouts made cookies for our snack with the stove top ovens which turned out pretty delicious. Then some of us packed up most of our gear the night before so it was an easy cleanup on Sunday morning.

The next morning we got up and ate a quick cold breakfast before packing up our tents and personal gear. Then we helped the adults get the kitchen tent down and we packed all the gear. After this we did a police line to make sure we didn't leave any trash or tent stakes. Then we embarked on our 2 hour bus ride home. Once we got back to the cabin we unloaded Mr. D's truck and cleaned the bus. Overall this weekend was a great trip and it was a great time as a fun first scout trip of the new year.



Eagle Court of Honor

Sunday October 8, 2023

By Nic Opielski

On October 8th the scouts and families gathered for our semiannual Court of Honor. We kicked it off with our traditional family dinner. Which was a lot closer to a late lunch, but I don't think anyone cared. As per tradition, the future Eagle Scouts and their families got their food first. They were followed closely by the rest of the scouts trying to get their food as fast as possible.

After concluding the meal, the scouts filed into the first few rows of seats to begin the Court of Honor. Scouts gave speeches summarizing the best moments since the last Court of Honor. Scouts recapped all of the trips from the Grand Canyon of PA to Camp Horseshoe. After the speeches had concluded, we watched a slide show of pictures from the trips.

We then began the awards. Scouts were recognized for all of their hard work. It was a good year for merit badges, as many people earned 5 or more, with some scouts earning up to 9 merit badges. Then ranks were awarded. People received ranks from Scout to Life. Justin Sansone won Scout of the Year... again.

Soon it was time to award the rank of Eagle. The two recipients were Braeden Happ and John Wark. Colton Marshal was unfortunately unable to attend the Court of Honor, so Doug Johnson was forced to give the Eagle speech for Braeden. Soon it was John's turn, his Eagle speech was delivered by Shreyas Sao. After both Eagles were awarded, it was time to celebrate by eating the traditional Eagle cake. After cake, it was unfortunately time to go home to conclude a day of joyous celebration.



**PATROL OF THE YEAR:
COUGAR**



NEW EAGLE SCOUT JOHN WARK



NEW EAGLE SCOUT BRAEDEN HAPP

Halloween Party

Friday October 27, 2023

By Ben Barsotti

On the 27th of October, a packed cabin of scouts in costume from George W. Bush to Craig Kimbrel to our very own Logan Duff! We started with a quick patrol period for advancement, then heard the calls for help that signaled the start of our realistic first aid, where staff, with the help of Mr. Duff, gave themselves fake injuries and let the scouts use their first aid skills to treat them. After this, we went outside for our yearly pumpkin carving competition, with designs such as pumpkin jail, the Arizona Diamondbacks logo, and the Among Us character.

After that, we went back inside to announce the winner of our costume competition, who was Caleb, with a biker costume. We all enjoyed a snack of cookies and candy, then went home with full stomachs.



Radnor Horse Trials

Saturday October 14, 2023

By Don Tyson



On Saturday, October 14th, 14 volunteers from Troop 78 braved the weather to help host the 51st Radnor Hunt Horse Trials. Since the first Radnor Hunt Horse Trials were held in 1972, Troop 78 volunteers have ensured the event's success and continue to sustain the rich heritage of the Radnor Hunt Horse Trials in our community.

Starting at 6:00 AM (in the dark), the morning crew under the masterful direction of Tom Pizzuto, skillfully parked 61 horse trailers of all shapes and sizes into the grassy Wall lot on Warren Road. Ben Gunderson, Jay Tyson, and Charles Lane parked an additional 19 trailers near the Radnor Hunt Club stables.

At about 10:30 AM, the skies opened and it rained hard for the rest of the day, soaking horses, riders and our volunteers alike. As with our other volunteer events, the constant is a state of change and there were several big changes in the event this year. The show jumping area this year was a larger area to cover and it was moved across the grounds to beyond the race tower. The pace was also quickened as they were letting in the next rider before the previous rider had finished the course, causing our volunteers on the course to be very mindful of equestrian traffic. Although quite wet, the event was a success.

Special thanks to our brave volunteers:

- Ted Diedrich
- Gina Diedrich
- Dan Easterly
- Mason Easterly
- Steph Gunderson
- Ben Gunderson
- Will Gunderson
- Charles Lane
- Tom Pizzuto
- Brian Rothberg
- Ethan Sansone
- Justin Sansone
- Jay Tyson
- Don Tyson



An extra special thanks to Charles Lane and Ethan and Justin Sansone who had the courage to fight through the rain until the event ended at 5:00 PM. All of our volunteers are eligible for a commemorative Radnor Horse Trials 50th Anniversary pins for their efforts this year. (Please see Mr. Lane to get one). (Apologies to anyone who volunteered from the Troop and did not make the list above.)



Run-a-Muck

Saturday October 21, 2023

By Steve Brown

On October 21, 2023 five (5) Scouts and Scouters volunteered to assist the Willistown Conservation Trust (WCT) with their 5K Run-A-Muck fundraising event. The intrepid five faced windy conditions on the top of rolling Chester County hills to park cars for four hours. After providing the service, we were invited to attend the BBQ and Country Fair to enjoy a meal, music, bonfire, and a mechanical bull. Willistown Troop 78 is proud of our annual partnership with WCT and to assist them in preserving precious open space in our community.

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.

This year's event marked a new focus as the Conservancy tries to solidify the future of the Races. In this, our 33rd year, the Troop faced big challenges. We were the "veterans" as a new team was managing the Races themselves. Pony Races were greatly expanded 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. Race Day weather was drizzly, but we were prepared! You came out in great numbers on Saturday and on Sunday when we had a wonderful crew for clean-up. We finished that task in well under three hours. Quite an achievement, and we unquestionably left the Radnor Hunt Club in better condition than it was early Saturday morning. ***Thanks so much for your fabulous efforts.***

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 wonderful 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

These are the families who came out and worked with the Troop. If you could not make it this year, we look forward to seeing you next May.

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Altemose | Dinsmore* | Johnson | Opielski | Sreemanbhat |
| Badgley | Duff | Jonalla | Orlow* | ha |
| Barsotti | Esterly | Kartick | Pizzuto* | Stergiades |
| Bilson* | Fenimore* | Kunde | Riley* | Stevens* |
| Bilson* | Flipse* | Kuppireddi | Rothberg* | Sugzdinis |
| Bravo* | Fox | Lane | Rubino* | Sura |
| Brown* | Fulmer | Lang* | Rule | Tang |
| Campbell | Gillespie | Lang | Sansone | Teran |
| Capelli | Gruss* | Lemheney | Saraswat | Tyson |
| Christaldi | Gunderson | Marshall | Schallack | Vercoe* |
| Cronauer | Happ | McGuinan | Scott | Wark |
| Curry* | Heegard* | Meenakashi | Shay* | Wyher |
| Curtin | Hogan* | Miller* | Siegle* | Xiao |
| D'Antonio* | Hornickle* | Motel | Simms | Yan |
| Diederich | Jarrett | Narr | Souder* | Yi |

The names followed by * are people and families that came out and helped Troop 78 in spite of the fact that they no longer have (and in some cases never had) an active boy in the troop. **Thank you!** You are a wonderful example of the spirit of our Troop and its extended family!

Annual Registration Due Now

[Click here for more information.](#)

Fundraising

Holiday Poinsettia and Wreath Sale

Starts Friday November 3, 2023

Early Delivery Orders Due November 17

Early Delivery November 21

Regular Order Due November 26

Regular Delivery December 1

We need your help in the fall fundraiser!

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.](#)



Upcoming Events

First Responder Webelos Event

Wednesday November 8, 2023

Willistown Troop 78 is having their **Annual Webelos I (4th grade) First Responder Adventure Event** next **Wednesday, 11/8/23 from 6:30-8:30PM** at our Cabin located at 15 Mill Rd in Malvern PA. You can sign up to attend by either scanning the QR code on the attached flyer, visiting our website at www.TR78.org or visiting the sign up directly at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B48ACA72DA7F94-45181690-first>

Please RSVP so we can prepare appropriately. This is a very popular Webelos I event.

This event is **open to all Webelos I Scouts**. Webelos that participate will satisfy the requirements for both the *Webelos I First Responder Adventure* and the *Troop visit* in one fun filled evening. As in previous years, the event will kick off with a visit from one of our local fire companies. Webelos will be able to ask them questions about being a First Responder as well as get an up close tour of the equipment that they use.

Parents that attend can meet with the many Troop 78 adult leaders that will be on-hand to give tours of our property and answer any questions you may have about either our Troop or what continuing on to Scouts BSA in general has to offer your son or daughter.

Naval Academy Tour and Football Game

Friday November 10 - Sunday November 12, 2023

Join us for this Troop 78 Trifecta! From Friday, November 10 through Sunday, November 12, the Troop will be camping at the Kinder Farm Park campgrounds in Maryland. That Saturday, we will visit the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland for both a Campus tour and a football game featuring Navy vs. University of Alabama – Birmingham. If you've never been to the Naval Academy, you are in for a treat! Tour the institution that educated US Sen. John McCain (AND his father, AND his grandfather!), NFL great Roger Staubach, and astronauts Alan Shepard, Wally Schirra and Jim Lovell. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Brigade of Midshipmen as they march into Navy-Marines Corps Stadium. Tickets are limited! Only 40 tickets available. Scouts have preference, followed by bus drivers, uniformed leaders and registered adults that are military veterans. The handout will be available in hard copy at the Friday, November 3rd Troop meeting, and can be found at the following link: Cost – Free for Scouts and visiting Webelos; \$75 for adults.



[Click here for more information.](#)

What Does Active Participation Mean? Is Your Scout Active?

Jack Bilson, III

Troop Committee Member - Camping Chairman and Eagle Scout

Understanding the expectations of any institution, group, place of employment, place of worship, neighborhood, or school is key to be able to be successful and have meaningful membership within that group. Scouting and Troop 78 makes it pretty easy to know what to expect with an adherence to the Scout Oath and Law, in addition to an active, well-published calendar of meetings, trips, and events; all within a well-oiled but ever-evolving program. BSA also mandates that individual units set the parameters and definition of what “active in your troop” means. Traditionally that has been set at 50% of participation. However, the pandemic years also meant we changed and modified what active participation meant - and for some very understandable reasons at that time. However, at the end of last season, the Troop Committee voted to return and reiterate what the formal definition of Active Participation means for our scouts. Simply defined, it means a minimum attendance of 50% at all meetings AND 50% of all trips are required for a Scout to be considered active. If your Scout received a score below a 50% in math for the marking period, chances are, you and your Scout would not be very happy. Thus, the 50% threshold is considered both fair and achievable; while leaving room for other family, religious, school, and other obligations. Our Troop calendar is produced very early in the season and will only ever get slight modifications along the way, allowing for scouts and their families sufficient ability to plan ahead for the Troop’s events.

The only requirements of 100% participation that our troop has are 1) participation in every fundraiser and 2) our big day of service at Radnor Races (which, this year, is on May 18th). One of the reasons for these requirements is our legacy of service to our community with Radnor Races, where much of the day’s proceeds goes towards open space preservation in our region, as well as that day also assisting with our Troop’s funding. Something that many families don’t realize is that out of the dues you pay to Troop 78 for your Scout’s membership, exactly \$0 goes to the Troop itself. That is right, 100% of those fees go to Council and National exclusively. Thus, our program exists solely from funding from our charter organization, donations, and fundraisers. Your Scout pays very little to nothing for our trips (this year being a slight exception where skiing and whitewater rafting will both have fees but be heavily subsidized for scouts, and scholarships and their own camping accounts are available to help). It is important to know that Troop 78 also implemented one of the first fundraising programs of its kind in Chester County, where scouts participating get some funds of their own to help subsidize their own camping (like the trips just mentioned) and of course, summer camp. This is all why fundraising is so important.

It is important to attend trips, and certainly while I am biased (as I take the lead on planning and managing those “in season” trips for the Troop), they are also always the most notable experiences of our scouts. We know this based on the feedback we receive after our scouts ‘age out’ of the program, and as you will hear in many of the boys’ own presentations at family nights, courts of honor, and Eagle Award ceremonies. Most of **Scouting** is Outing, and the leadership, life skills, fun, adventure, and challenges of our trips are a large part of our program and legacy. No Troop in Chester County will do as much outdoors as we do, and we are proud of that. It is one of the key features of our program and our success.

And yes, a requirement of rank advancement for Star, Life and Eagle is for the scout to “Be Active in your Troop” for a set amount of time, and this 50% participation definition for trips AND

meetings is what is and will continue to be used. However, it's important to remember that; in order for all Scouts to really get the most of our program and to be in sync with their patrols and each other, it's the proper threshold needed to achieve success.

We hope you will support your scout's full participation with our program, encouraging him to come on nearly every trip, and attend most every meeting (even when it's cold outside), while remembering that no family with a scout in our troop should ever let cost be a factor in your scout's participation. Families may reach out to the Scoutmaster (or for in season trips, myself) and be assured they will get the help they need to support their Scout in a completely confidential matter for all Troop activities and membership.

Being active in Troop 78 can be one of the most meaningful experiences of your child's life, and I know I have a lot of company within the Troop Committee when I say thank you for supporting our Troop and your Scout's involvement in our program. I know that all of us within the program, especially the youth leadership, will do the very best to support your Scout within the tenants of Scouting and our legacy of over 90 years of service to the youth of Chester County.

Troop Alumni Corner

Save the Dates!

Franksgiving III: We invite Troop members, alumni, family and friends to join us at the Cabin on Saturday, November 25, 2023 for our Third Annual Franksgiving, from Noon till 3 PM. As usual, we'll have food and fun for the family. Mark your calendar now and look for the details in the November Newsletter.

Holiday Gathering (pay as you go): Those 21 and over should also save the evening of Wednesday, December 27, 2023, when we'll gather at a local establishment TBD to toast the end of 2023 and look ahead to the New Year. Again, mark the date on your calendar, and look for the details in the December Newsletter.



[Click here for the Order of the Arrow Newsletter](#)

[Click here for the Chester County Council Newsletter](#)

Please print this Newsletter for all in your family to see!