



Newsletter

Volume 28 Number 9 May 2012

COMING EVENTS

MAY 2012

- 5/1 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.
5/2 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 PM)
5/4 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
5/4-6 – Youth Leadership Training Weekend 1
5/5 – Troop Yard Sale, Flower Sale & Bake Sale (8 AM to Noon)
5/7 – Friends of Troop 78 Board Meeting
5/10 – Council-wide Roundtable
5/12 – Brandywine Canoe trip
5/11-13 - Youth Leader Training Weekend 2
5/18 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
5/19 – Radnor Races (Save This Date!)
5/20 – Radnor Races Cleanup – 8 AM

JUNE - AUGUST 2012

- 6/1-3 - Order of the Arrow Ordeal & Service Weekend @ HSR
6/4 (Mon.) – Camp Info Meeting for First Yr. Scouts (7:00 PM)
6/5 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.
6/6 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30 PM)
6/8 – TROOP MEETING - Field Day Part One
6/8-10 – OA Conclave at Hawk Mt. Scout Reservation
6/10 – **Field Day & Family Picnic (3:00 PM)**
6/14 – *Diamond Rock Roundtable*
6/15-17 – **Bike Trip**
6/22 – TROOP MEETING - Camp Preparations
6/23 – PLC to Summer Camp (meet in Dan Beard at 2:00 PM)
6/24-7/1 – **Horseshoe Summer Camp WEEK ONE**
7/1-8 – **Horseshoe Summer Camp WEEK TWO**
7/22 To 8/4 - **KISC Trip**
8/5 to 8/12 - **Algonquin Park, Ontario, Canoe trip**

NOTE: Camping Trips/Major Events shown in Bold. TROOP MEETINGS underlined in CAPITALS. Adult only meetings in Italics.



BRANDYWINE CANOE TRIP

May 12

May is a busy month for Troop 78 but not so busy that we cannot spend a day canoeing on the local Brandywine Creek. The Troop Camping (and Paddling) committee has reformulated its original plans to set up a great day trip. That will allow everyone to spend Sunday 13th (aka Mother's Day) with our moms. The trip will now begin and end at our cabin and be a single day trip on Saturday 12th, without any overnight camping. We will start in the morning, eat lunch on the water, and complete the day in time for you to eat dinner with your family.

We intend to spend about 4.5 hours on the water, starting in Chester County and ending at the Brandywine Creek State Park just over the border in Delaware. The Brandywine is a great creek for new and experienced paddlers alike. We will be utilizing all of the troop's canoes as well as our brand new kayaks (for older and very experienced boy leaders), both canoe trailers, and as always the troop bus. We are encouraging all registered Scouts to attend the trip regardless of experience as long as you meet the "Swimmer" qualifications as outlined in the Scout Handbook and, of course, like to have fun. Please contact your patrol leader if you have questions about this. We will augment the group with experienced canoe "dads" to make sure we have appropriate adult supervision; however we will also

work in newer dads who are interested in joining us for the day. The only gear you will need is a set of closed-toe shoes or sneakers that can get wet and muddy, some sunscreen, a good hat, and a small sturdy bag to carry a few personal items.

This trip will not have any cost for Scouts, and the troop will provide a bag lunch for all attendees. We will also be looking for a father with a large truck or SUV with a towing hitch to help us tow the second of our canoe trailers for the day. Additionally, if you are a dad and looking to help out on the day of the trip but not actually paddle or tow a trailer of canoes, please contact Mr. Jack Bilson (610.547.7934); we might have just the job for you! If you have your own canoe or kayak and are interested in using that for the trip please also contact Mr. Bilson.

A handout about the trip (with specific start times in the early morning) will be provided at the May 4th troop meeting, and extra copies will be available in the gray "mail slot" at the cabin. We will also post the handout on the troop website. Let your patrol leader know by Tuesday, May 7th at 7:00 PM, if you and/or your dad would like to go on the trip. Patrol leaders: get your list of attendees to SPL Nino Poidomani by Wed, May 8th. If you have questions, call your patrol leader.

The recent rainfall means the water should be higher and make for a great trip. We look forward to seeing you all on the water.

NEW DADS NEEDED!

The troop committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 1, at 7:30 PM, at the cabin. The committee usually

meets on the first Tuesday of the month to guide and discuss the operation of the troop. New dads are especially encouraged to attend.

SKI AND HIKING TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

By David Finkelston, Stag Patrol

In March, Troop 78 went on its annual ski trip; however, it was different than previous years. The troop didn't go to Matje Farm. Instead, we had a day trip to Jack Frost. It all started when we woke up and got our gear ready and headed to the cabin. Mr. Bravo drove us to Jack Frost Big Boulder. When we got there, we had to wait in the lodge because the resort was not officially open. As soon as the slopes opened, we all got our skis on and headed down the slopes. We went down blacks, blues, and greens, and we all had a good time. It was nice that we were probably the only people there, so we didn't have to wait in the lines for the ski lifts. After check in, almost all of us took off our ski jackets. It was so hot that the ice melted. When we got to the bottom, where the lifts were, there was a big puddle of water. After a day of exhilarating runs on all the slopes, we went to the bus. It was a very fun trip. Thanks to Mr. Bennett for setting up this trip!

2012 FIRST AID MEET

By Ethan Bilson

This year, the troop did a great job at the first aid meet. Flying Eagle Patrol tied for 2nd place overall, and many other Troop 78 patrols received awards on specific problems. The troop improved a lot since last year's meet. As far as I know, no patrol received less than an 80 on any problem. Specifically, I think that my patrol, Stag, improved from last year. We scored an 85 on the "Tie Breaker" and a 92, 93, 81, and 100 on the other four problems. What is really important to remember in events like this is good leadership in the patrol. The whole troop could do better in that aspect, but it was clear that everyone was working hard and we all had a fun time.

This year's "PL switch-up" problem was very interesting. I would have

expected it to be difficult to work with somebody new, but it actually wasn't hard. We learned to be open to an opinion that was different from one we were used to, but everybody had good knowledge to bring to the table. This was the problem where Stag scored a 100. However, another important thing for this type of event is knowledge. For example, on the "PL switch-up" problem, Grant, the patrol leader of Stag, got a 65 with a patrol from a different troop that had a lot of younger Scouts in it. For next year, everybody study up and set a good example for others to follow. With these steps, Troop 78 is guaranteed to succeed.

APRIL ADVANCEMENT

Merit Badges:

Chris Medaglia: Citizenship in the Community

Sean Tredinnick: Family Life

Colin Evans: Personal Management & Citizenship in the Community

Ranks:

Jay Madarasz: Second Class

Kevin DeStefano: Star



PERSONAL MANAGEMENT MERIT BADGE

The next Personal Management Merit Badge classes will start on May 4th at 6 PM in the boardroom at the cabin. We will continue with 2 more classes on May 18th and June 1st. We should be able to complete all requirements during this time if work is done at home.

Scouts will need to download and print the workbook that they will need for all sessions at the following site:

http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Personal_Management.

The workbook is at 2a. The plan is to go over items 1-4 the first session. In order to do this, each Scout should come prepared and have read over all items 1-4c, and bring his workbook and a pen.

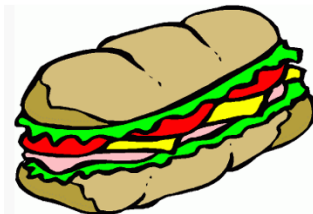
We are not sure how many of you need this merit badge or can make the classes, so please e-mail me (james.hogan@siemens.com) to let me know. We look forward to working with the each of you on this merit badge. -- Mr. Hogan and Mr. Compton

LOWE'S NATIONAL EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT GRANT

Home improvement retailer Lowe's has partnered with BSA to provide grants to candidates working on their Eagle Scout projects, thanks to a generous contribution from the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation. Grants are administered by local councils and consist of a \$100 prepaid gift card from Lowe's to be used toward Eagle Scout service projects. To learn more about this grant, to qualify, or complete and submit a Lowe's grant application, go to www.scouting.org/trailtoeagle.

A SCOUT IS THRIFTY

If you are a "thrifty" Scout, you may want to take advantage of the sale that I stumbled upon on at the Valley Forge Scout Shop. Now until June 1st you can receive 10% discount when you spend \$60 or more. You can save 20% if you purchase \$100 or more. If you are buying a uniform, you will reach the minimum to save. You can even go in with some other Scouts and buy a dozen pair of socks and save 20%. You will need a couple pairs for summer camp and if you are going to KISC, you will need them, too. Dads going to KISC and needing a uniform, this is a good deal, and you should take advantage of it ASAP.



HOAGIES AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT

Another successful Hoagie Sale fundraiser is in the books. With the help of many Scout parents, friends and a few Scouts, 880 hoagies were assembled, wrapped and packed in one hour.

This year's top 3 sellers are:

Robert Varney sold 58

Michael Giandonato sold 54

Jack Dinsmore sold 38

These 3 Scouts will be going after big fish in Stone Harbor, NJ, in June on Mr. Matje's boat.

Thanks to all the parents who helped in this large project! Special thanks to the veteran meat-slicing crew for the 11,000+ slices of meat and cheese, along with the pepper crew who prepared 1,000 pepper cups. A special thank-you to Jim and Claire Hogan who year in and year out are a tremendous help in this endeavor!

The annual hoagie sale has been a traditional troop fundraiser for more than 30 years, and a very profitable one. It is one of three very important fundraisers that the troop depends on with Radnor Hunt and Poinsettias being the other two. The sale raises money that helps support one of the top Scout programs in the country. At the same time, it provides funds to a Scout's personal account to help him reduce the cost of troop-sponsored trips. This program, which gives the Scout both the ability and the responsibility for saving money for himself as well as his parents, is unique to Troop 78. It alleviates the need for the parents to pay 100% of a Scout trip, which is common practice in most troops. However, a program such as this takes time and volunteers to operate successfully.

For many years the hoagie sale advertising, planning and preparation has been performed by the same 10-12 individuals. Many of them have not had a son in the troop for decades. To insure the long-term success of the hoagie sale, new volunteers must step forward! This could be one individual or a group, mothers and/or fathers. The plan would be to have new help pitch in on some of the tasks for next year's sale to see how things are done, and then take over the program in 2014.

If you're interested in helping with this very important fundraiser, please contact Scott Vercoe at groutguy66@aol.com or call 610-659-3344.



Attention all 78ers! Don't forget the Friends of Troop 78 yard sale on May 5th from 8 AM to Noon. The remaining drop-off dates are May 3rd and May 4th. All the drop-off dates are from 7-9 PM. Keep your eyes peeled for an additional "mystery" drop-off date as well (hint: Sunday, April 29th, would be a great time to drop off items when you're picking up your Scout from the West Point trip). Remind your family, grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles, friends and your neighbors to bring their treasures to

the one of the remaining drop-off dates. Clean out your stash to make the troop some cash!

If you have questions or need to volunteer to help, let Steve and Jeanne Brown know at stevencharlesbrown@yahoo.com.

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME FOR ADULTS

Our Reading Phillies are playing the Altoona Curve on Thursday, June 7, at 7:05 PM. We could get great seats in the third base picnic grove, an all-you-can-eat buffet, and cover fuel for the bus and beverages for the trip for under \$40 per person. We would leave from the cabin around 5:30 or so that evening.

If you've never been to Reading's stadium, it's a great place to see a game: only 9,000 seats and lots of fun besides great baseball. AA ball is terrific and lots of Phils' players are Reading alums. Mike Schmidt, Larry Bowa, Ryan Howard and Jimmy Rollins, just to name a few, have played for the RPhils. Come see the next generation of Phillies players, and maybe even a current Phillie or two making a rehab visit to Reading.

If you're willing to commit, please send me a note. Seating is limited: first come, first serve. Take a look at your calendars and let's plan to have a great evening for the adults who work to make Troop 78 a great organization! I look forward to hearing from you. —Jim Bennett



Newsletter

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