



Willistown Troop 78

Website: www.tr78.org

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October 2024

Volume 41 Number 2

Beautiful Beach Day! Fabulous Weekend at the Delaware Shore



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Appalachian Trail Hike



October 2024

- 1 Tuesday Board of Review 6:30PM
Troop Committee 7:30PM**
- 2 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7PM**
- 4 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM, Webolos Open House**
- 5 Saturday Run-a-Muck, parking event, Help needed**
- 6 Sunday Court of Honor and Family Dinner 3PM, cabin**
- 11 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM**
- 12 Saturday Radnor Horse Trials 7:30AM-4PM help needed**
- 17 Thursday PACKING MEETING, for all going on the hike, 7PM**
- 18 Friday - 20 Sunday Appalachian Trail Shenandoah Virginia**
- 25 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM Halloween Party**

Cape Henlopen Delaware

Beach Trip

Friday September 13 - Sunday September 15, 2024

By Judah C.

On a clear September evening fantastic for camping, Troop 78 met at the cabin to take a bus ride down to the Cape Henlopen for our annual beach trip and the first trip of our scouting year. The bus ride took about three hours which was spent eating dinner, playing games, and sleeping. The campsite was nestled under large pine trees with the soft sand and pine needles to pitch the tents on.



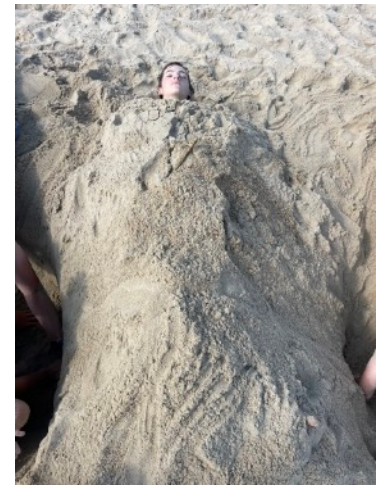
The morning broke clear and crisp with a hearty breakfast of pancakes and sausage. We started the day with a hike exploring the WWII military installations at Fort Miles. We first arrived at an observation tower where we formed the Troop 78 logo out of pine needles, cones, and branches and climbed to the top of the tower singing out the troop song echoing through the tower. As we hiked to the Fort Miles bunker, we saw several concrete storage locations buried in the ground for ammunition storage during the war. At the bunker turned museum, we were able to learn about the extraordinary effort that was made during the war to protect the Delaware bay from German attack. The artillery guns were massive and could shoot over 25 miles out to sea!

We hiked our way back to camp and enjoyed a great lunch of grilled cheese and soup. After resting for a bit, we got ready to enjoy a wonderful afternoon on the beach! Riding the bus to the beach and after making a buddy board out of our shoes, we went running into the water which felt amazing after a morning of hiking and exploring. The waves were big, but a lot of fun; even the some of the dads got in. We enjoyed the beach for the afternoon, building sandcastles, burying Carter in the sand and some intense surf tackle football.



We made our way back to camp after showering off at the beach and got ready to enjoy a filling dinner of pasta and meatballs. After dinner each patrol fought to impress the SPL with the most amazing Dutch oven dessert creations. As the evening was ending and after some exciting capture the flag games, we had a surprise guest stop by camp with ice cream from Dairy Queen! A Troop 78 dad, Gary Varney, (whose son had aged out of the troop) read in the Newsletter that we were camping in Henlopen and since he lived close by decided to treat the troop to ice cream. Just goes to show, once in Troop 78 always in Troop 78!

In the morning, we packed up our tents and troop gear and made sure we left the campsite better than when we found it. We piled into the bus and headed back to the cabin. It was a great trip to start the scouting year and many memories were made!



BAKING CONTEST

SANDY!

Family Food Festival

Friday September 20, 2024

On a beautiful evening in September scouts and families gathered at the cabin to celebrate our cultural diversity with a buffet of traditional family foods from across the globe.

It was a packed house for our annual Food Festival, a great way to start the Scout year.

When the festivities began we had 23 selections from 11 different countries, plus a bunch of different desserts. Those represented included America, Austria, Egypt, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

Many plates were filled to overflowing and many went back for seconds and even thirds.

Looking forward to next year already!



Junior Leaders Training

Saturday September 7, 2024

Junior Leader Training

By Jay T.

This year, members of the Patrol Leaders' Council gathered for the annual Junior Leader Training. This training covers the basics of leadership for new or continuing Patrol Leaders and any other member of the PLC. It contains things like leadership responsibilities, skills, team development strategies, and patrol and troop goals.

Justin and Ethan S. ran the training this year and it was a blast, although shouting "WHAT FUTURE SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE!" did get tiring after the fourth or fifth time.

After the training we had a nice lunch of pizza before we went off to the bowling alley. This is where we can deepen our friendships and work on our own PLC development. The games ended with Ryan W. getting first overall, closely followed by Will G. All together, this was a very fun experience and I encourage and hope that all members of the PLC can participate next year.



Fall Cabin Clean-up Day

Saturday September 21, 2024

At 8 AM on Saturday September 21st, twenty four scout and adult volunteers conquered the dirt, cobwebs, and dust at the cabin by mopping, scrubbing, sweeping, and organizing. The result was a clean cabin with clean windows, an organized shed and barn, a clean bus inside and out, trimmed trees and bushes around the field and parking lot, and tents and stoves in good shape for our backpacking trip. The Tysons even took a crack at organizing Ernie's workshop for troop use on future projects. By Noon our task list was complete and we all left looking over our shoulders at our shined up meeting place.

Many thanks to those who came out to help. Scouts attending included Alexander B., Braeden H., Sully F., Judah C., John W., Alex O., Nic O., Ethan and Justin S., Will G., Ben G., Doug J., Mason E., and Jay T.

Our next clean-up day will be in the Spring on March 29th. Please mark your calendars.



First Troop Meeting of the new Scout Year

Friday September 16, 2024

On the first Friday in September Troop 78 reconvened after a busy summer to start another fantastic Scout year.

The cabin was filled with eager scouts to renew friendships and have some outdoor fun, learning and practicing scout skills.

Troop 78 has a full schedule planned for the 2024 - 25 Scout year, with exciting trips to Virginia, Vermont and one of our favorite places on Earth: Camp Horseshoe.



Order of the Arrow Octoraro Lodge 22

Order of the Arrow Weekend

Friday September 27 - Sunday September 29, 2024

By Tanay D

For us candidates, this month's OA weekend began with a check in. We handed in medical forms, got our names registered, and made sure we had a place to sleep Saturday night. After check in, the candidates were separated into clans including Turtle, which was the one I was in, Bobcat, Fox, Wolf, Bear, and a few others. Each clan had a head Elangomat and Assistant Elangomat to lead us and make sure everything went smoothly. We opened up our horseshoe rolls for them to inspect and for them to make sure we had all the gear we needed. Soon enough, after everyone showed up, we got a speech telling us about the OA and introducing some of the leaders that had prepared the weekend for us, both youth and adult. It was then that we took our first vow of silence. The Ordeal had begun, and we circled around in the dining hall for a small ceremony.

For the first task of our lengthy Ordeal, the clans each lined up in a single file line and set out on a hike throughout the camp. Each clan had a different route, but we all had 4 locations to head to. We held a rope in our left hands to keep us together and symbolize connection as we hiked across Horseshoe. Once we had all completed our routes, we met up on the wall near the parade field where it tragically began to rain. By the time we set out to our sleeping spots, we were all thoroughly soaked and the rain showed no signs of stopping. Setting up our sleeping spots in the soaked woods was unpleasant, but we pulled through. To sleep, we had to roll ourselves up in our ground tarps to avoid getting directly rained on. I doubt any of us got much sleep with how damp we all were, but the night went smoothly.

Waking up at 6 AM Saturday morning, our day began with a very scant breakfast in the woods where we slept. As the next part of our Ordeal, we each built small fires that we needed to light and carved ourselves arrowhead totems to wear around our necks. Once we were all ready, we packed up, headed to the wall, and began our day of cheerful service. Each clan had a different set of laborious tasks to do, and we spent the day completing them. Our clan, Turtle, did some mulching in various places around camp. Lunch lived up to the description of scant that everyone told us it would be, but after a long day of work, any food was very welcome. There was a little more work to do around camp before we met back up at the wall, but we were finally dismissed at around 4 PM. We were told to meet up behind the flags on the parade field at 5:15. We had our flag lowering ceremony and finally, we were able to eat a full meal at dinner. Our vows were not lifted just yet though, we met up at the OA lodge for some more information about the OA and for a Q&A, where we had permission to ask questions even with the vow of silence. And finally, for the last task of the day, we had our ending ceremony where we had our vows lifted. We got our sashes and were released from silence. The ceremony was intriguing, and we were involved in it, making it pretty fun.

After a good night's sleep Saturday night, we could wake up whenever we wanted as long as we were able to attend the mandatory 8 AM meeting at Goodman in full class A. The meeting was some more information about the OA, and lasted only a few minutes. Breakfast at 9 was another good meal, and we stuck around for the LLT meeting afterwards. Overall, the Ordeal was one of the most challenging camping trips I've ever been on, but something I can look back on with pride. I felt a sense of accomplishment after the Ordeal was over and my vows were lifted, and I learned to appreciate what I had more. I would recommend it to anyone who is in Scouting, it was well worth it and a gratifying experience.



NEW ORDEAL AND BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS



CLEARING THE RED TRAIL

Alumni Corner

Troop 78 Alumni Association

Thursday September 19, 2024

The Troop 78 alumni met at the cabin on Thursday September 19, to plan for upcoming events to welcome former and current troop members and families to the cabin for food and fellowship. First up will be the Franksgiving on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Saturday November 30. We had a hybrid meeting Zooming in Troop alum Ethan Bilson, with the inaugural use of the cabin's new wireless internet linked video system.

We would love to hear from you!

Please send in your updates. Where are you now? What are you up to?

[Click here to contact us with your alumni news.](#)



Troop 78 Online

YouTube Videos

[Click here for the latest Troop 78 videos.](#)

Troop Media Consent Policy

Throughout the Scout year Troop 78 will be publishing troop events on its various media platforms including this Newsletter, Facebook, Instagram, and Alumni social media platforms. All scouts and leaders understand attending troop events will result in images, videos, and written content.

[Please click here for more information.](#)

Upcoming Events

Court of Honor and Family Dinner

Sunday October 6, 2024

Please join us for the fall Court of Honor and Family Dinner at the cabin at 3PM. We will gather to recognize the scouts for their achievements at summer camp, many merit badges and ranks will be awarded. The Scout of the Year will be recognized. We will then award the highest rank in Scouting, Eagle Scout, to 6 of very own scouts.

We will share a great buffet dinner and some fellowship.

Families please bring either a salad or a side dish for the buffet.

The troop will provide meat and vegetarian lasagna, rolls, butter and beverages.

[Please click here for more information.](#)

Appalachian Trail Shenandoah Virginia

Friday October 18 - Sunday October 20, 2024

We will be venturing to the Blue Ridge mountains for a weekend of backpacking on the Appalachian Trail and camping on the Duff family property in Front Royal Virginia. Two hikes will be offered, depending on how far you want to backpack. There will be a Challenge Hike of 5 miles and a Longer Hike of 12 miles. We are expecting wonderful weekend of hiking and camping and fall colors in the valleys and mountains of the Blue Ridge.

[Please click here for more information.](#)

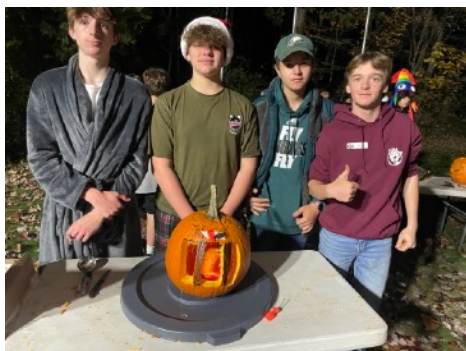
Halloween Party

Friday October 25, 2024

At the regular Troop Meeting on the last Friday in October we will celebrate Halloween with a party of costumes and treats.

All Scouts and adults are encouraged to dress in the costume of their choice. No scout uniforms please!

After the meeting program concludes, we will have festive buffet of Halloween treats!



Volunteer Opportunities!

By Steve Brown

The new Scouting year is underway and in full swing! That means the Troop is looking for help with our two annual Fall volunteer events/opportunities. Those opportunities are as follows:

Willistown Conservation Trust (WCT) Run-a-Muck

Saturday October 5, 2024

This is a short event that takes place in the afternoon. We arrive to set-up ropes and cones at noon, park cars till the race starts, and then take down the ropes & cones after people start leaving. Like the Horse Trials, they invite us for the BBQ, music, and bonfire at the end of the day, which is typically 5 p.m. A mix of adults and Scouts is needed. This event requires 12 volunteers from Noon - 5 p.m.

Radnor Horse Trials

Saturday October 12, 2024

This is an all day event for the Troop where parking help is needed from 6 a.m. until about 11 a.m. (Total volunteers needed - 12, need adults and older Scouts primarily), help at the jumping ring starting at 10 a.m. and lasting till it ends around 2:30 p.m. (Total volunteers needed - 10, this is a good job for any Scout), and then we also help tear down the dressage ring after that event ends. We need to make sure there are about 10-12 volunteers available from 1 p.m. till the end of the day, which is usually between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.

In the past, the Horse Trials have kindly fed us throughout the day and at a pig roast at the end.

Please let Steve Brown know if you are able to help this year. Also please ask your friends in the Troop and newer Scouts as well. Please contact Mr. Brown at stevencharlesbrown@yahoo.com or text him at 610 476-4903 (if you are a Scout, please make sure to include another adult to comply with Youth Protection Training standards).



Thank you for considering helping the Troop and your community with these events!

Chester County Council News

Council Off-Season Merit Badge Program at Camp

The Council launched a merit badge program at Camp during the off-season.

First up was Kayaking merit badge on Saturday September 14. It was a glorious day at Camp to welcome the first class of off-season scouts to merit badge training.

Twelve scouts and three merit badge counselors took to the river for a day of kayaking practice, swamping, and rescue. The day was capped off by a paddle from the Camp Ware swinging bridge all the way around the loop to the Horseshoe Athletic Field.



[Click here for more information.](#)

Off-season Merit Badge schedule:

- Shotgun October 12
- Metalwork November 16
- Electronics and Electricity Dec 21
- Cooking January 18
- Wood Carving February 1
- Welding April 12
- Fishing May 10

Vista Leadership Megastars

Thursday October 17, 2024
PARC - 1 Scouting Way, Exton, PA

Celebrate the Class of 2024 Megastars with us on Thursday October 17, 2024! The BSA VISTA Leadership Megastars event recognizes Chester County leaders who are shaping the county's future through their character, service, vision, courage, passion, and humility.



CLASS OF 2023

Meet the Class of 2024!

Sporting Clays

Friday October 4, 2024

Join us for the Council's most fun fundraiser on Friday October 4. We will gather at the Sporting Clays course in the Lehigh Valley for an afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship. Teams of sporting clay shooters will be issued a golf cart to ride around the course, stations positioned around a quarry lake on the woods of the Lehigh Valley. After the course, there will be awards and a barbecue buffet.



Please feel free to forward.

Print this Newsletter for all of your family and friends to see!