



Willistown Troop 78

Website: www.tr78.org

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

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

Volume 34 Number 2

October 2017

Upcoming Events

October

3 Tuesday Board of Review 7PM
Troop Committee 7:30PM

4 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council
7:30PM

6 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM
Poinsettia sale begins

7 Saturday Radnor Horse Trials
7:30 AM to 4 PM Help Needed

7 Saturday MLAR parking event
6AM - 9AM Help needed

8 Sunday Court of Honor and Family
Dinner, 3PM at the Cabin

10 Tuesday Annual Registration Due
[Click here for more information](#)

13 Friday - 15 Sunday Appalachian
Trail Backpacking Trip

20 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM

22 Sunday Training Day for the PLC

27 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM

November

1 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7:30PM

3 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM

6 Monday Friends of Troop 78,
7PM

7 Tuesday Board of Review 7PM
Troop Committee 7:30PM

8 Wednesday First Responder,
Webelos First Aid Training, 7PM

10 Friday - 12 Sunday West Point
trip, Army Tour and Football Game

[Click here for full calendar](#)

Troop 78 Scouts on the Delaware River!



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Annual Registration

Upcoming Court of
Honor

.... And More

Delaware Water Gap National Park

Friday September 15 - Sunday September 17, 2017

By Chris St. Clair

At 6:20 p.m. sharp on Friday September 15, we headed out to the Delaware Water gap for our annual 2017 canoeing trip. We arrived at our campground late in the evening Friday night. We began setting up our tents in the Dingman's camping area. After everything was set up we had a little snack of chips and lemonade (as usual).

Early the next morning, a few scouts woke up and prepared the breakfast of eggs and sausage and a few also began prepping the lunches for the long 22 mile-ish trip ahead of us. We didn't get started until after everything was cleaned up, but after a little cleaning up, we managed to head out to the river. When we reached the launch point, scouts paired up and got all the necessities for a day on the water.

The trip started out very normal, everyone was energized and couldn't wait to start. That'll be sure to change about 2 hours ahead! We hit shallow parts, we hit deep points, we even hit some small rapids and a few scouts got stuck here and there but only one boat capsized out of the 20 some boats in the water. At lunch, scouts had time to relax and enjoy a nice sandwich meal and relax by the water. After about an hour or so, we got back on the water and headed for the pickup point. A few scouts and scouters lagged behind which made the end time late afternoon. Nobody cared though and everyone had an awesome time. When we got back, dinner crew started making the tortillas and grilled chicken and what not. Scouts played and socialized the rest of the night with a great "Campfire" to end it all off.

Sunday Morning came quick and pleasant, with a nice breakfast of bagels and cereal. On the trip home, we stopped at a nature preserve and took a hike that was said to be only three miles. (I think it was longer.) Overall, we had a great trip whether or not we got wet. [Click here for more pictures and video.](#)



First Troop Meeting of the New Scout Year

Friday September 8, 2017

By Nathan Motel

After a long and fun summer the Troop was scheduled to reconvene for the first time since summer camp. Preceding our first Troop meeting of the year, this past Wednesday, the PLC met to plan the upcoming month of September and all of the fun activities and events that would take place.

On Friday September 8, I arrived at the cabin around 6:30PM with the patrol leaders and staff arriving shortly after. Tonight, in keeping with our first meeting tradition, we devoted much of the meeting to fun and games. However, with our canoe trip fast approaching, we decided to devote some time to canoe instruction, safety, and skills practice.

At 7 o'clock on the dot, "TROOP FALL-IN!" could be heard booming across the field behind the cabin. The first meeting of the year had officially begun. The scouts poured in from outside, carrying with them an air of excitement for the beginning of the scouting year. The first meeting is always unique because of its high attendance, and this year was no exception. The scouts lined the walls of the main room of the cabin from front to back, with their arms at their sides and their shoulders back, standing respectfully at attention. I began, "Troop Face the Flag", and just like that, the new scouting year had commenced. First the Pledge, then The Scout Oath and Law.

Immediately following the opening ceremony, the troop's staff dispersed around the main room of the cabin to inspect each patrol and in turn take attendance for those present at the meeting. Once each patrol had been inspected they pulled around their benches and began what was officially designated as an advancement period but knowing that it was the first meeting, and many of the patrol leaders were new to their positions, they used this time as a time to gather contact information for all of the scouts in their patrol. This contact information would then be collected and organized onto one large and increasingly accurate troop roster for future reference.

By 7:25 it was clear that all of the contact information for all of the scouts had been collected and that their overall productivity in "Advancement" was rapidly declining. "Troop Fall-In" reverberated through the main room of the cabin for the second time tonight. I introduced the plan for the rest of the meeting, explaining what stations each patrol would be participating in and who would be leading those stations. Dismissing by straightest and quietest, each patrol made its way to their designated station. Each station ran for 7 minutes exactly. Upon hearing "Rotate" the patrols rotated in a clockwise orientation to the next station. By 8:15



the station rotation had run its course and each patrol was hopefully more informed with the basics of canoeing.

For the third time, I called “Troop Fall-In”. The rest of the meeting was spent playing classic troop games like British Bulldog and Tail Tag. At 8:45, for the final time tonight, I called “Troop Fall-In”, and began the closing ceremony. Following a few announcements about the upcoming canoe trip, and some rank advancement awards, everyone joined hands for the closing Circle and Scoutmaster’s Benediction. Upon our dismissal the PLC quickly convened in the conference room to collect the scout’s contact information from the Patrol Leaders. Finally, after thanking everyone for a great first meeting, we departed from the cabin, excited for the upcoming canoe trip.



Workday at the Cabin

Saturday September 9

By Nathan Motel

Early Saturday morning September 9th, members of the Troop both younger and older flocked to the cabin to lend a helping hand in our Fall cabin clean up. We used this day to work on many projects around the cabin that were due for completion.

The first project of the day, and arguably the most important one, was the re-staining and refinishing of the outside of the cabin. It had been years since this was last done, and the sun had slowly begun to fade the walls of the cabin. The next project of the day was the replacement of the cement flagpole bases outside in the back yard. This project required the most manpower out of all of the projects for the day. Since this project was headed by Ernie, “doing it right” meant that each flagpole base was to bottom out at about three feet underground, with about 12 inches being exposed to the eye. Now, to any other group of people, this would have seemed deep for a simple flagpole base, but since everyone here had worked with Ernie in the past, they already knew his superior style of workmanship. That being said, these bases are bound to last forever. After mixing countless 80-pound bags of cement and completing the first base, we realized that the deep holes consumed much more cement than previously expected. Because of this, partway through the project, just like every good project, this one required a run to Home Depot to get a lot more 80-pound bags of cement. With the arrival of more cement, the crew was now able to finish the flagpole bases.

While we were finishing the flag pole bases, others were working on other projects around the cabin grounds. One of these projects was to spread the large pile of gravel that sat in the handicapped space, all over the surface of the parking lot. This was done to attempt to fill in where the stormwater had eroded some of



the gravel base. The other major project was to readjust the fire bricks in the ground along the edge of the back woods that are used for events such as water boiling during Field Day. The bricks were first removed from their places. Then the holes that held them were deepened and widened, then sand was added to provide a better foundation for the bricks. Finally the bricks were relaid in their original places.

The great number of volunteers that turned out allowed us to finish all of the projects before noon. These projects and a few other minor projects completed that Saturday greatly benefit the Troop and significantly improve the look of the cabin and its grounds. We are thankful for all who could come out and lend a helping hand. It is the generosity and help of people like you that allows this Troop to continue to serve our community and it's youth. [Click here for more pictures and videos.](#)

Order of the Arrow Fellowship Weekend

Friday September 22 - Sunday September 24, 2017

By Cody Carnes

The Order of the Arrow (OA) weekend was a work-filled, fun-filled fellowship weekend. The troop had a large showing, with some coming Friday night and some coming for the work on Saturday. The troop had 2 scouts, Dan Pimley and John Pimley become Ordeal members of the OA, and Mr. Curry achieved Brotherhood. On Saturday morning, all the volunteer scouts and adults met in the dining hall to eat breakfast. They served cereal, bacon and some delicious French toast casserole. After breakfast, everyone went off to do their service for the camp.

Troop 78 had the job of replacing 4 of the windowsills on the Health Lodge. We had the basic materials, but we had to use the planer which reduced the thickness, the radial arm saw which cut the length, and the table saw which cut the width. We used these machines to cut the wood into the desired size and shape. Thanks to all the scouts and adults working together, we were able to finish all four windowsills by 11. This gave us time to start painting. We were able to paint 2 of the 4 windows that had the new windowsills. Lunch was starting at 12:15, so after working on painting for a bit, our troop went to eat. For lunch, they served some great grilled chicken sandwiches and tater tots. After lunch, we went back to the Health Lodge to continue working. Thanks to everybody's hard work, we were able to finish within 30 minutes.

After we were done the windowsills, Buzz the Beard was on the horizon. Buzz the Beard was a fundraising event for planting trees in the camp, and was planned to raise about \$5,000. Instead, the fundraiser got over \$25,000. At 2, the actual event took place, and it was very entertaining. We watched Tom Murphy get his beard, which has not been shaved for over 40 years, cut off completely to the enjoyment of the crowd. Then, as the crowd wanted the mustache off as well, they passed around a hat to collect money to "Shave the 'Stache". The deed was done, and it was just as great to watch the mustache get shaved as the beard. Once again, Troop 78 had a strong representation at the OA weekend in service, and personal achievements.

[Click here for more pictures and videos.](#)



OA Weekend footnotes by Pete Motel

We gathered again at our favorite place on Earth: Camp Horseshoe, for a weekend of fun, fellowship, good food, good work, and good conversation. Troop 78 continued its strong tradition of work supporting Order of the Arrow Octoraro Lodge 22 and Camp Horseshoe.

This was a special weekend at Camp, the afternoon was spent in various fun, fellowship activities, including a barbecue in the CampCraft area, Carnival Games, Big Bounce attractions, the culmination of the "Buzz the Beard" campaign. Chief Camp Ranger Tom Murphy, agreed to have his beard of 44 years shaved off, if in exchange, people would donate to raise funds to plant trees in Camp. (Many trees have recently died due to Bark Beetle infestation.) As Cody noted in his article (above) a phenomenal \$25,000 was raised!!!

Three new oak trees were planted in the Picnic Grove to kick off the re-planting of Camp Horseshoe and Camp Ware.

Already looking forward to the next OA weekend, April 27 - 29, 2018!



Notice of Upcoming Events

Court of Honor and Family Dinner

Sunday October 8th, 3PM

Please join us for an afternoon of awards and honors recognizing the scouts for their achievements since last Spring including all rank and merit badges earned at Camp Horseshoe this past summer.

We will gather at the Troop 78 cabin at 3:00PM on Sunday October 8 for food and fellowship.

All are welcome! [Click here for more information.](#)

Appalachian Trail Backpacking Trip

Saturday October 14 - Sunday October 15

We will tackle another stretch of the famed Appalachian Trail on the weekend of October 14 - 15, 2017.

Please join us for a hike along the top of the ridge which is the State line between Virginia and West Virginia south of Harpers Ferry. [Click here for more details.](#)

Junior Leadership Training

Sunday October 22

PLC required to attend.

The morning will be spent training the Troop youth leadership in various aspects of teamwork and patrol method leadership skills and the afternoon will be spent in a fun activity of their choosing. Past fun events have included: bowling, rock climbing, go-carts, etc.

Annual Registration

Troop 78 registration fees are now due. The Troop needs to register all scouts and adults each year with the Boy Scouts of America.

Troop 78 Registration Fees - Same rate as last year First Scout \$85

Each additional scout in a family \$70

College Scouters age 18 -20 years old \$45

Adults \$60

1st Year Dads \$45 Seniors (age 65+) \$45

To ensure continuity with the scouting program we need your registration form, and check by October 10, 2017.

All registered adults must also complete online Youth Protection Training (YPT) every calendar year at:

<http://my.scouting.org>.

Please complete your YPT by October 10, 2017.

[Click here for the registration form.](#)

West Point Tour and Football Game

Army Football/US Military Academy Tour and Camping Trip: November 10 – 12, 2017

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for a weekend of camping, football and history, as we visit the United States Military Academy. This is a trip not to be missed!

The weekend starts with our arrival Friday evening at West Point's Lake Frederick campgrounds. On Saturday, we will go to the Academy for a variety of activities, including parachute demonstrations by Army specialists, a tour of the West Point Academy and the Parade of Cadets into historic Michie Stadium. Sitting 325 feet above sea level overlooking the Hudson River, Michie Stadium was voted by Sports Illustrated as one of the Top Ten sporting venues in the world. We will watch a Division 1 football matchup featuring the Black Knights of Army against the Blue Devils of Duke University. All Scouts attending the game will receive a commemorative Army Football patch. After the game, we will return to our Lake Frederick campground, and enjoy an evening of relaxation.

West Point is the Nation's oldest military academy and is considered by many to be the world's premier institution of leader development. One of the famous expressions on the West Point campus is that "much of the history we teach was made by people we taught". To walk the West Point campus is to retrace the footsteps of some of America's greatest leaders. Grant, Pershing, McArthur, Patton, Bradley, and Eisenhower were all members of the Long

Gray Line. Confederate president Jefferson Davis and general Robert E. Lee went to West Point. Business scion Henry DuPont was an alumnus, and astronaut Buzz Aldrin is an USMA graduate.

We are promoting this trip early because we have to reserve our tickets for the game NOW.

We need a list of attendees by the October 13th Troop meeting.

There is no charge for Scouts; however, any Scout that signs up and does not make the trip will have a \$35 charge to his Scout account. Adults are required to pay a fee of \$65. Payment should be by check made out to Willistown Troop 78 and should be remitted to Jim Bennett ahead of our departure.

In order to attend the West Point trip, you MUST notify your Patrol Leader by 7:00 PM on Friday, October 13, 2017 that you are going. If your father is attending, please let your PL know that as well. Don't be left out – make your reservations now! Fathers – payment can be sent directly to Jim Bennett in the form of a check made payable to Willistown Troop 78. You can mail payments so that they are received at 1116 Signal Hill Lane, Berwyn, PA 19312 by Friday, October 13th.

If last year's trip to the Naval Academy was any indication, the West Point trip will be one of the best – and in high demand. Don't delay – let your PL know that you're attending today!

Philmont: Summer 2018

August 2 - 16, 2018

We are pleased to announce that Troop 78 has made reservations for three crews to attend Philmont Scout Ranch this summer 2018.

Philmont is the BSA's premier high adventure facility. Located in the high desert of New Mexico, Philmont is comprised of over 140,000 acres of pristine back country wilderness. About 1 million Scouts have completed treks at the ranch since it opened in 1939.

Our trek will leave from Philadelphia on August 2, 2018 and return on August 16, 2018. We will spend the first two days in Colorado Springs, where we will do some hiking to acclimate to the altitude, and we will visit the US Air Force Academy before taking a chartered bus to Philmont. Trekkers will select a backpacking itinerary that suits their particular interests. Treks are 12 days long and cover between 50 and 100 miles.

Accompanying this note you will find a list of "Frequently Asked Questions" about Philmont. Please review the FAQ carefully.

[Click here for the Philmont FAQ.](#)

All those who intend to go to Philmont with Troop 78 this coming summer 2018 are expected to attend the upcoming Appalachian Trail backpacking trip October 14 and 15. [Click here for more details on the mandatory AT hike.](#)

Adult Leader Volunteers and Troop Committee: 2017

Troop Committee Chair: David Dondero

Vice Chair: Joe Cady

Secretary: Jim Donnelly

Troop Treasurer: Scott Vercoe

Friends Treasurer: Brian Miller

Registration: Dave Schertz

Camping: Jack Bilson

Scout Accounts: Joe Cady

Recruiting: Jim Fox and Jim Elliott

Advancement: Tom Shay

Star Board Coordinator: Mark Siegle

Life Board Coordinator: Tom Shay

Eagle Board Coordinator: Jon Duncan

Summer Camp Registration: Tim Hornickle

Email lists: Jack Bilson

Newsletter, Website, Facebook: Pete Motel

Order of the Arrow Rep: Pete Motel

High Adventure:

Algonquin Park Trip: Mark Siegle

Sea Base: Eric Meltzer and Ted Dinsmore

Philmont: Ted Dinsmore and Jim Bennett

Kandersteg: Paul Skodny, Bob Urban, and Sam Lemheney

Disney Trip: Jim Hogan

Community Service:

Radnor Races: Bob Matje, Brian Rothberg, Steve Brown, Don Tyson

Radnor Horse Trials: Steve Brown

Main Line Animal Rescue: Steve Brown and Pete Motel

Fundraising:

Poinsettia Sale: Mark Siegle and Jon Duncan

Hoagie Sale: Kathi and Jake Schallack

Spring Flower Sale: Jeanette and Jim Fox

Pasta Night: Joe Cady

Friends of Scouting (FOS): Jim Bennett

Scoutmaster's Staff: 2017

Scoutmaster: Steve D'Antonio

Assistant Scoutmasters:

Ernie Heegard
Steve Brown
Jon Duncan
Jack Bilson
Tim Hornickle
Rob Duff
Jim Fox
Phil Cronauer
Wayne Curry
Pete Motel
Jake Schallack
Miles Stevens
Chris Carnes

Youth Leadership Staff: 2017

Senior Patrol Leader: Nathan Motel

Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders:

Jay Madarasz
AJ Stacy
Luke Lasure
Andrew Brown
Seth Fox
Jake Fenimore
J. T. Schallack

Troop Quartermaster: Cameron Skodny, Thomas Pizzutto

Chaplain's Aid: Francis Purcell

Patrol Leaders:

Zach Fox – Stag
Christian Curry – Moose
Arek Conners - Panther
Ryan Small - Rattlesnake
Chris St. Clair – Flying Eagle

Assistant Patrol Leaders

Bryce Elliott – Stag
Cody Carnes - Moose
John Pimley - Panther
Branden Schallack - Rattlesnake
Dan Pimley – Flying Eagle