



Willistown Troop 78

Website: www.tr78.org

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September 2022

Volume 39 Number 1

Switzerland!

Kandersteg International Scout Centre Adventures in Switzerland

September 2022

6 Tuesday Board of Review 7PM, cabin
Troop Committee 7:30PM, cabin

7 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7:00PM

9 Friday Troop Meeting, 7PM cabin

16 Friday Troop Meeting, 7PM, **Family Food Festival**

18 Sunday Cabin Cleanup 8AM - noon

22 Thursday Troop Meeting, 7PM

23 Friday - 25 Sunday Order of the Arrow weekend, members and candidates only

30 Friday - Sunday October 2 **Campout: Boots and Paddles!**

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

[Annual Registration Now Due!](#)

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Boots and Paddles

Family Food Festival



Kandersteg International Scout Centre**Saturday July 23 - Saturday August 6, 2022****By Alex Lemheney**

The moment had finally come when the troop could make its journey across the Atlantic to the beautiful country of Switzerland. We left Philadelphia Airport the night of July 22, and after about a 7 hour flight we arrived in Switzerland early the next morning. When we arrived we made our way to the Kandersteg International Scout Centre, where we would be staying for the next two weeks. It was surrounded by beautiful mountains which gave us a great view to wake up to in the morning. After arrival, we unpacked and got ready for the best two weeks of our lives!

Every morning we would get up and have breakfast made by the troop, and then pack our lunches in our day packs for later in the day. We would then set out on our adventure for that day. The trip was full of so many activities everyday, but I am going to share with you just a few of my favorite memories that really made this trip special.

One of the cool things we did was something called canyoning. This was a “hike” through a canyon that included 10-15 foot jumps into water, climbing on rebar stuck into the side of the canyon, a zip-line that would drop you into the water, and scariest of all it started with a 100+ foot rappel from the road into the canyon. Another thing we did was take a tour of the *Cailler* Chocolate Factory. This gave us an inside look on how they make Swiss chocolate. The gift shop at the end of the tour had more chocolate than you had ever seen before.

My favorite trip was the overnight hike trip. The way this was set up, there were three groups each with different skill level. The group you were in determined where you would be hiking to and staying for the night. The group I was in took a trip to the Blumlisalp Hut which was about 9000 feet up. The trek started with a gondola ride up about a quarter of the way and then we hiked the rest of the way, it took 6 hours! When we reached the peak we checked into the hut and got our room. At dinner we met



with our guide, Hans, who would be taking us hiking on a glacier the next morning! Our group of 12 split into two groups of 6 for the glacier hike, one group that woke up at about 4 am and the other woke up at about 8 am. I was part of the early risers, we woke up and prepared for the hike by eating breakfast and getting our crampons and ice axes. When we got onto the glacier we got to see one of the most special sunrises ever, and we all thought “not many people get to say they have seen the sunrise from a glacier.” After both groups went, we made the trip back to KISC which only took four hours.

Every night after we would get back from the day’s adventures, we would eat dinner, most of the time in the dining hall, and then get the rest of the night free. This was by far my favorite part because it gave us the opportunity to meet other scouts from all over the world. I got the chance to make friends from countries like England, Ireland, Israel and many more. All in all, the trip to KISC is easily the best scouting trip I have ever been on and I encourage anyone who hasn’t been, to go when they get the chance.

**By**



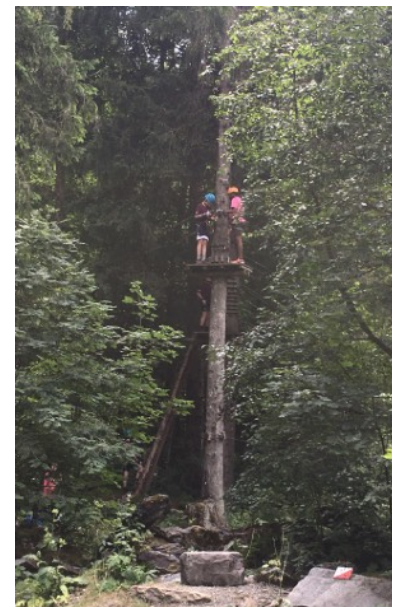
Logan Duff

After a two-year delay from the summer of 2020 due to the pandemic, the troop was finally able to return to the Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland. On July 22, the 33 attendees met at the cabin to head to the airport. After an on-time departure and the 6-7 hour flight, we arrived in Switzerland the morning of the 23rd. We took the trains and buses needed to get to Camp and the scenery along the way was shocking. There were mountains and fields with beautiful wooden houses like nothing we could imagine. The town of Kandersteg and the lodge we stayed in was nestled in a valley which gave us

a beautiful view 24/7. Each day the troop woke up bright and early and ate breakfast together outside the lodge. We then got on any combination of trains, buses, and gondolas to arrive at the daily activity.



Throughout the week we were able to experience a variety of wonders including a mountain roller coaster, a glacier lake, Jungfrauoch (the “top of Europe”), zip lining, mountain climbing, thermal pools, a defense base built into a mountain, jet boats, canyoning, a cheese factory, a chocolate factory, and an overnight hike to a glacier hut. After our daily activity, we would return to KISC for dinner which was often in the dining hall. After dinner, we had a chance to go out into camp and talk to the hundreds of other scouts from all around the world. Many scouts traded neckerchiefs with other troops and played games before



turning in each night. The staff held a campfire with skits and songs from all the troops, an international day where each troop could display some of their culture, and a parade on Swiss Day.

My personal favorite day was canyoning day. First, the troop split into an advanced and beginning group. We met the guides and everyone got their gear like wet suits, life jackets, helmets, and water boots. The advanced group then drove out to the canyon, where we climbed over the guard rail and were lowered down a 50-100 ft cliff into the canyon. We spent the next few hours navigating through the canyon river by walking, sliding, jumping, and climbing. There was even a zip-line where you rode out and let go, falling into the refreshing water with a splash. One of the group's favorite parts about the trip was the ability to

[Click here for video of Troop 78 performing a skit at KISC.](#)

joke, laugh, and bond with people who we had never met and who are part of completely different cultures. Many scouts exchanged social media and remained able to talk to some of the great people we met on the trip. After the two weeks flew by, we all had to say goodbye to the beautiful Swiss Alps and the amazing people of KISC and fly home. It was a remarkable trip like nothing most of us had experienced before and we can't wait until Kandersteg 2026!





Summer Camp!

Sunday June 26 - Saturday July 2, 2022, Week One

Sunday July 3 - Saturday July 9, 2022, Week Two

Summer Camp Week One

By Logan Duff

This summer, the troop headed off to Horseshoe Summer Camp for 2 weeks. Due to COVID, this was many scouts' first or second year at Horseshoe and the first “normal” year since 2019. For week 1, we had Nathan Schallack leading us as Senior Patrol Leader with Peter-Paul C, Alex L, Jacob D, Shreyas S, and Jack B as the Patrol Leaders. The troop arrived on Sunday and began to set up tents in the patrol sites around Dan Beard. The rest of the day was spent with the swim test and a tour, followed by the first retreat and dinner. This was the first meal in the dining hall since the summer of 2019.

Throughout the week, scouts went all around camp to the many different department areas to complete merit badges. The first-year campers went through the Trailblazers program. The program is built to get scouts through First Class while also introducing the areas of camp. Scouts participated in activities and merit badges in



STEM, Nature, Campcraft, Handicraft, Aquatics, and Field Sports.

Every other night, there was a camp-wide game where each troop competed against each other either through patrol games or as a whole troop. A famous example of this is the Scavenger Hunt which happened Monday night and was “80s” themed. We won, of course. Also throughout the week were competitions such as the track meet, swim meet, archery shoot, and rifle/shotgun shoot where a few individuals from each troop competed in specific skills. We won some of these and places in nearly all of them.

The troop held the annual auction Tuesday night where scouts who entered items got to bid on everything from food to



camping gear to toys and historic patches. Each patrol was also responsible for a clean-up job each morning to keep the campsite clean and a patrol project to keep the camp in good condition. Our perfect scores all week in campsite cleanliness and our completion of patrol projects allowed every patrol to get the Standard Patrol Award as well as a collective Standard Troop Award at the end of the week.

The last big competition of the week was the Water Carnival, where each troop battled in games like water balloon toss, tube wrestling, canoe tug-of-war, and the infamous watermelon scramble. Since the troop puts more emphasis on scouting skills required for the Paul Bunyan competition,

Summer Camp Week Two By Peter-Paul Constantine

While most scouts for week two had stayed from week one, there were also an impressive number of new arrivals. The events of Sunday consisted of getting buddy tags and swim tests completed, and then retreat followed by dinner and the opening campfire. From that day, Troop 78 had an amazing week. We



won almost every day for marching, secured our Paul Bunyan Field Day streak, and won every cheer war we participated in. We also won almost

we came in second overall for the competition.

All in all, it was a great week packed with competition, learning, laughing, and enjoying the great opportunities that Camp Horseshoe has to offer. While some scouts packed it in at the end of Week 1, most stayed for a second wonderful week.



every camp wide game and won most inter-troop events. Results wise, today was a fantastic week. Despite many cases of poor weather, the Troop persevered throughout their merit badges and patrol projects, and we all had fun along the way. Overall, it was a very successful week. While everyone had fun and took advantage of camp to achieve

more merit badges, some decided to stay at Dan Beard to help with some projects. Some notable projects are the fixing of the spare bridges, the construction of a chess board instead of a chess mat, and the replacement

of the entrance poles to Dan Beard.

Everything turned out very well and by the end of the week, everyone was happy to head back home and enjoy the rest of their summer break.





[Click here for videos from summer camp.](#)

Field Day 2022!

Thursday June 2 and Sunday June 5, 2022

By Luke Fox

Fire - Axes - Relays - Go!

This past June, Troop 78 held Field Day and the Family Picnic which combined friendly competition and family fun into one event. The patrols competed against one another in events such as heaving bar, nine knot, flint and steel, and many more. These events tested our abilities and knowledge of the skills that we have practiced for the prior six months.

This year, the winner of the Field Day was Stag patrol which included a troop record set for Heaving Bar at 15.57 seconds. Additional skills for how to perform even faster were shared by troop alumni who were visiting for the 90+2 celebration of the troop.

The Family picnic was a fun time for everyone to come together with their families and enjoy a delicious meal. At the Court of Honor, two Eagle ranks were awarded to Jack Barsotti and Peter-Paul Constantine.

Both scouts worked extremely hard for this achievement which was enjoyable to watch them receive as their fellow scouts commemorated their success with tales of leadership and wonderful adventures.



The winning patrol: Stag

[Click here for Flint and Steel video.](#)



EAGLE SCOUT JACK BARSOTTI



EAGLE SCOUT PETER-PAUL CONSTANTINE

Whitewater Rafting: Ohiopyle Rafting Trip

Friday June 17 - Sunday June 19, 2022

By Ben Barsotti

The troop set off on our trip to Ohiopyle State Park, located in Western Pennsylvania. We left at 6:00 PM for a 5 hour drive down to the campsite. On the way down, some of us got some rest. We arrived at camp about 11:30 PM, and everyone set up their tents using just headlamps. We got a partial night of sleep but woke up ready to start our trip down the water.

We started our day at about 7:00 with bacon, eggs and cereal for breakfast, thanks to 4 of our scouts who made it earlier that morning. We got ready and loaded onto the bus, prepared to be absolutely soaked. We got to the main location about 45 minutes early and waited until the other groups arrived. We had a quick demonstration on the equipment and then drove to the launch point for the white water rafting. We all got there and got everyone into their assigned boats. We then saw a brief safety instruction on how to paddle, what the hand signals were, what to do if you fell out, and much more. After this we set out in our rafts, ready to go.

On our trip, we encountered many rapids, ranging from class 1 to even 2 class 4's! We were on the water for about 4 hours, going down rapids almost constantly. Only 2 people fell in. Despite the incredible force of the rapids, nobody got hurt. Lunch was also on the water, which also gave the opportunity for scouts to jump off a massive rock into the river. We all had a lot of fun rafting and all loved our trip.

We all got back to the campsite and ate burgers and hot dogs for dinner. Many scouts stayed up sitting around the campfire and eventually everyone went to sleep. The next morning, the troop ate a cold breakfast of cereal, bagels and muffins. We then packed up and hit the road at about 9:00. We stopped for lunch at a rest stop on the way back, where many scouts got Popeyes. We arrived back at the cabin at about 2:15 and everyone left at about 2:30. It was overall a fantastic trip and all of the scouts loved it.

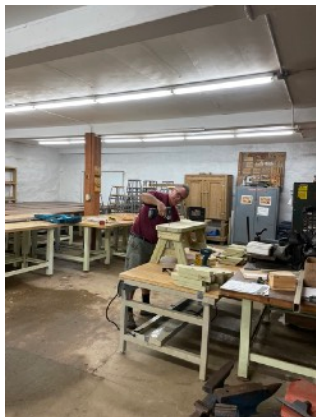


Order of the Arrow Service Weekend

Friday June 10 - Sunday June 12, 2022

Order of the Arrow members and candidates for membership reported to Camp Horseshoe for a service weekend to continue preparations for the summer camp season.

Troop 78 had volunteers helping run the Ordeal induction and working on the building of new benches for the camp.



Renovations and Upgrades continue at the Fire Circle

Saturday June 18, 2022

A volunteer crew from Troop 78 went to camp on the first Saturday in June after the Order of the Arrow weekend. The crew put sod in the Fire Circle. This is the final planned upgrade of the fire circle.

And it turned out great!



Vigil Honor Induction

Friday July 15 - Saturday July 16, 2022

The newest members of the Vigil Honor were inducted on a weekend in July, including Troop 78s latest new Vigil member, Nathan Motel.



Upcoming Events

Annual Registration Due

Sunday October 9, 2022

All forms and payment due by October 9.

All scouts and scouters must re-register every year.

[Please click here for re-registration information.](#)

For more information contact: [Mike Simms.](#)

First Meeting of the New Scout Year!

Friday September 9, 2022

The Scout year begins fresh on what we expect to be a glorious evening on the second Friday in September. We will greet each other at the start of another year of adventures.

Family Food Festival

Friday September 16, 2022

Please join us for an evening of cultural exchange, fun, and food. Scouts are asked to bring a dish, either a main course or a dessert, which would be served at a gathering of their family and represents their ancestral culture. [Click here for more information.](#)

Cabin Cleanup

Sunday September 18, 2022, 8AM - noon

Please join us for the fall clean up at the troop cabin and grounds. We have a large number chores inside and outside. We plan to clean up the bus, the cabin, the parking lot area, the play field and all the planting beds. It will be a very productive day.

Campout: Boots and Paddles!

Friday September 30 - Sunday October 2, 2022

Join Troop 78 for Boots and Paddles Backpacking/Canoeing Trip

Please join us for our inaugural “Boots and Paddles” camping trip from Friday, September 30th to Sunday, October 2nd, 2022. As always, Scout’s dads/male guardians and visiting Webelos accompanied by a father or male guardian are welcome to join us.

Plans, which are still being finalized as we go to press with the Newsletter, call for the Troop to camp at the AMC Mohican Outdoor Center (<https://www.outdoors.org/destinations/new-jersey-and-new-york/mohican-outdoor-center/>) in Blairstown, New Jersey on Friday evening. The Center is right off the Appalachian Trail. On Saturday morning, we will backpack from the Center to Worthington State Forest (<https://nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/parks/worthingtonstateforest.html>) in Columbia, New Jersey. To get to Worthington, we are planning hikes along the AT of two different lengths – a shorter challenge hike for younger and less-experienced backpackers, and a longer hike for more the more experienced crew. Both hikes will feature great views and wonderful vistas, and will culminate with a trek around Sunfish Pond (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunfish_Pond), which is a scenic, spring-fed glacial lake close to our Saturday evening campsite.

On Sunday, we will stash our packs on the Troop bus and canoe from our campsite at the Delaware Water Gap down the Delaware River for a great half-day of paddling. When we reach our takeout point, we will stow the canoes on our trailer and head back to the Cabin.

Typically, the Troop does not pair our backpacking trip with a canoe trip. But if you've ever considered going on our Canada canoeing trip, "Boots and Paddles" will give you a taste of the great adventure that awaits you in Algonquin Provincial Park. A handout and permission slip will be available at an upcoming meeting but **mark your calendars now** for this "Don't miss" adventure with Troop 78. After the trip, there will only be two kinds of Scouts in the Troop: Those who did the trip and are happy they did; and those who missed the trip and wished that they hadn't! Which group will YOU be in?

Alumni Corner

Troop 78 90th Birthday Party, More Planned, Cabin Fever!

By Michael Bennett

On Sunday, June 5th, Willistown Troop 78 kicked off a summer of Scouting by hosting its 90th birthday bonanza after a two-year delay due to COVID-19. A fabulous time was had by all the Scouts, Scouters, families, and alumni who attended. First, the Scouts partook in a thrilling Field Day Part II contest. Next, the Troop held a brief Court of Honor during which two Scouts received their Eagle rank. Finally, attendees feasted at a sumptuous banquet, the highlight of which was a roasted pig. A special commemorative program was also issued to mark the occasion.

One could easily be forgiven for thinking that the Troop alumni board wasn't sure how to top an exciting summer that included two victorious weeks at Camp Horseshoe and two equally fantastic weeks at Kandersteg International Scout Center. However, one would then be wrong! This fall, the alumni board is planning its second annual "Franks-Giving" event for the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

This year, though, "Franks-Giving" will have a cool new twist. As some may know, the fall of 2022 will mark the 20th birthday of the Troop 78 cabin. The building, known as the "New Cabin" when it opened in the fall of 2002, has since been renamed Achgekatum Lodge in honor of longtime Troop 78 Scouter Ernie Heegard. The event will also commemorate the 10th anniversary of the demolition of the "Old Cabin", the Troop's longtime home on Grubb Road.

The honored guests at this year's "Franks-Giving" will be the Scouts who were in the Troop in 2002. As at past events sponsored by the alumni board, the extended Troop 78 family is welcome.

RSVP to troop78alumni@gmail.com to avoid missing out!

[Click here for the Troop Alumni Association Facebook Page.](#)

Chester County Council News

Order of the Arrow Octoraro Lodge 22

For more information contact Kipp Happ, Diamond Rock District OA Chair

- Order of the Arrow Service Weekend, Friday September 23 - Sunday September 25, 2022

We encourage all OA members to attend. This weekend of service projects is essential to help get the camp ready for the upcoming summer season. [Click here for more information.](#)

National Territory Training

PARC

Saturday August 26, 2022

As a result of the National bankruptcy, Scouting reorganized its administrative structure, combining Areas and Sections into Territories. Now Scouting is organized into: Units, Councils, Territories, National.

Chester County Council is one of 16 Councils in a Territory which includes the eastern half of Pennsylvania and almost all of New Jersey. It turns out our very own PARC center in Exton is roughly at the geographic center of the new Territory.

On Saturday August 26 representatives of the Councils in the newly formed Territory met at PARC for their annual Leadership Lab training. Scouters came from as far away as Williamsport and Cape May. Sessions were held on Unit Service, new members, alumni and alumni associations, etc. A fabulous day of sharing, learning and fellowship.



National Jamboree

Wednesday July 19 - Friday July 28, 2023

Chester County Council is looking to take a group of 54 scouts / 6 Leaders to the 2023 Jamboree as part of our Council Contingent. The National Jamboree is only held every four years, so don't miss out.

The 2023 National Jamboree runs for ten days from Wednesday, July 19 to Friday, July 28 at the Bechtel Summit Reserve in West Virginia. It is open to all scouts that are at least 12 years of age by the first day of the Jamboree but have not reached 21 by the last day. The cost is \$1,875 for scouts and \$1,285 for Leaders and includes all National fees, chartered bus transportation to and from the event, and all meals. Participants will stay two per tent which is also provided.

For those of you not familiar with a Jamboree, the National Jamboree is more than a destination. It's the adventure of a lifetime, and there is simply nothing else like it on the planet. What's a Jamboree? It's not just camp. The National Jamboree is 360-degrees of fun, friends, and fellowship with hands-on adventure that takes you places you never thought you'd go and challenges you to try things you never thought you could. The National Jamboree is 30,000 scouts from across the nation coming together to do all things scouting including shooting sports, biking, whitewater rafting, rock climbing, skateboarding, zip-lining, canopy tours, aquatics, just to name a few.

Registration is completed in two parts. You will need to register as a participant through the National Jamboree site at <https://jamboree.scouting.org/>. You will also need to register and pay your deposit through the Chester County Council site at <https://www.cccbsa.org/programs/high-adventure/2023-national-jamboree/>. Additional details are also available at these two sites.

Print this Newsletter for everyone in your family to see.