



Willistown Troop 78

Website: www.tr78.org

Facebook: [Willistown Boy Scout Troop 78](#)

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Volume 36 Number 7

March 2020

Matje Farm!



March 2020

3 Tuesday Board of Review 7PM

Troop Committee 7:30PM

4 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7:30PM

6 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM

7 Saturday Order of the Arrow Banquet

8 Sunday Court of Honor, Eagle Award Ceremony 3PM

10 Tuesday Pasta Night 7PM

13 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM, Spring Flower Sale begins

20 Friday - 23 Sunday Antietam Battlefield Historic Trip

27 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM, Summer Camp payment due

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

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First Aid Meet
Ski Trip
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Matje Farm Weekend: Winter Olympics

Friday February 21 - Sunday February 23, 2020

By Joshua Simms

As we unloaded our personal gear on that frigid Friday night, it was undetermined what would be happening, and if we would freeze that night. We were all well prepared for that cold night.

We woke up early the next morning, ready to go. We had a hearty breakfast consisting of french toast with cereal that morning and we got ready for a day filled with fun! The activities we did in the morning were Chariot race, 3-man ski, Saw drill drop, and more. Before lunch, we all had some fun on the frozen pond! For lunch, we had grilled cheese with tomato soup and chicken noodle soup. The activities in the afternoon consisted of String burning, Tug of war, and more! After that, we got to shoot a few rounds of a shotgun at clays. Before dinner, we went on a short hike through the mountains and woods. Dinner was spaghetti with meatballs and bread rolls. After dinner, there was a campfire outside near the house. There was also an adult leader playing guitar and singing songs.

The next morning we ate breakfast, which was cereal, bagels, and muffins. We then packed up and went home. We are all excited to go back next year!



[Click here for video from the weekend.](#)







Chester County First Aid Meet

Saturday February 1, 2020

By Ethan Winkleman

At the crack of dawn on the first day of February, the troop assembled at the cabin for transport to the 2020 County First Aid Meet. Months of learning and practice had toughened up the troop and it would be put to the test in a fierce but friendly first aid competition. The Meet was hosted at the Technical College with a large cafeteria where 30 patrols from all over Chester County set up their supplies.

This year phones were not allowed. Christian Skodny, the Troop 78 Senior Patrol Leader, sent liaisons to collect everyone's phones. There was some delay as judges were finalized, papers were filed, and messes organized, but the wait finally ended, and the games began.

In a 1,000 degree pressure, scouts used their brains and training to go through four problems. The problems were diverse, with everything from wasp stings to hypothermia. At the end of around 4 hours, the last problem was finished and it was time for the award ceremony. After some more processing, the head honcho came out and spoke about the meaning of first aid and gave thanks to the judges and organizers.

An REI gift card went to the top three places. Troop 78 placed in 6th, 4th, 2nd and 1st place. First Place went to Stag Patrol of our very own Troop 78.

Hurrahs! were exchanged, and pictures taken as scouts packed up their gear and made the long walk to the bus. We left building with another First Aid Meet in the bag and another of scouts knowing a little more about saving lives.



the
batch



Troop First Aid Meet

Friday January 31, 2020

By Christian Skodny

On Friday night the 31st of January the troop gathered for the annual first aid meet. We spend the winter working hard on learning first aid and emergency preparedness.

We begin the event with the troop registration problem and continue with 4 more first aid problems. These problems normally relate to injuries that could occur on a scouting trip. The event continued with most patrols doing very well. Coming in first place was Flying Eagle patrol.



Skiing at Jack Frost Mountain

February 9, 2020

By Ethan Winkelman

We drove out to Jack Frost Mountain this Sunday for this year's ski trip. This time we went on a day trip, heading out at 6:30AM and returning at around 5:00PM. The way there was quiet, as everyone was tired and slowly waking up. We parked at the top of the mountain and unloaded our gear. The way the mountain was set up, the facilities, food and rentals were all at the top and there was nothing but ski lifts and outbuildings at the bottom. Everyone buddied up and headed out. The majority of scouts donned skis, however a few snowboarders could be seen. After stowing packs, renting gear and organizing infrastructure, the scouts went outside to tackle the slopes. The courses were labeled by color for difficulty level with green being easy, blue medium, and the black diamonds the hardest of all. There were also challenge and terrain courses. After half a day of speed, drifting and butt bruises (for some people) the populace peeled back into the warm heated lodge for some lunch. With their bellies full the boys finished their day breaking at 3:30. In the afternoon it began to snow a little, but not enough to hinder the skier's spirits. After a fun and athletic day on the hills, the scouts returned to the bus and headed home.



Super Bowl Sunday Breakfast

Sunday February 2, 2020

By Joe Cady

We had a tremendous turn out for our Super Bowl Breakfast, we served 92 meals in three hours! The pitch: You will be cooking for people later, let us cook breakfast for you.

Lots of families took us up on it!

The kitchen crew, (Dondero, Bravo, Matje, Skodny, and Cady), apologize for the somewhat slow service. Of the guests 92 served, 62 arrived between 9 and 9:30! Needless to say, service became backed up.

Despite all that, everyone had a great breakfast and a great time was had by all. We will work on better service model for next year. Hope to see you all then!



Okehocking Preserve: Day of Service

Monday February 17, 2020

By Steve Brown

Troop 78 had a great turnout for our MLK postponed day-of-service in the Okehocking Preserve. We had 11 volunteers who put in a total of 28 person-hours of time. Our crew re-routed a trail, cut vines from trees, did some maintenance work on recently planted trees, removed weeds, took off old deer guards, and did some mulching. All together a great day!



Achgekatum Campfire Circle: Camp Horseshoe

The campfire circle at Horseshoe is under construction!

Thanks to the generous donations of many friends of scouting, the Campfire Circle at camp is getting a much needed update / renovation. All of the benches have been removed, the entire circle has been regraded to correct for drainage issues and new benches are being installed. The wonderful weather has allowed this project to go ahead now, instead of needing to wait for spring. We are going to have a great new ceremonial fire circle just in time for summer camp.



Adult Training

By Mike Simms, Troop 78 Training Coordinator

If you are a registered Troop Committee member and have not completed the training, please do so promptly.

Completing the training is important for a few reasons:

1. Trained troop committee members are better able to support our youth Scouts on their path to Eagle.
2. Trained troop committee members understand their roles and responsibilities within the troop.
3. Trained troop committee members will best deliver the promise of Scouting.
4. Troop 78 would like to achieve Journey To Excellence Gold status. Today our percent of trained troop committee members prevents us from reaching that goal.

I will be reporting completion percentages at the monthly troop committee meetings. Please complete the Troop Committee training before Monday, March 2nd.

There is a link ([Process for Adult Training](#)) on the Troop website under the [Adult Training](#) section. It points to a step-by-step guide on how to log into the my.Scouting training portal and navigate to the respective training courses. If you need any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at my email address: msimmsscouter@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Parents Night and Eagle Court of Honor

Sunday March 8, 2020

Please join us for our annual spring Award Ceremony and Eagle Court of Honor. This event is open to all scouts and families. At this ceremony we will announce the Recruit of the Year, we will award Eagle, Scouting's highest rank and we will also call out new scouts to join the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's honor service organization. Come out to help us recognize the achievements of our scouts!

[Click here for more information.](#)

Antietam National Historical Park: Campout

Friday March 20 - Sunday March 22, 2020

In March we will venture to western Maryland for a tour of Antietam National Battlefield. Antietam is the site of the bloodiest day in American military history, with 23,000 killed or wounded in a single day, September 17, 1862. This battle was a prelude to Gettysburg, which took place July 1 - 3, 1863.

A professional tour guide will join us on the Troop bus and we will take a driving tour through the ups and downs of this epic battle between the North and South. Then we will take a walking tour of the battlefield, to get a close up look at the ground where the sides had their standoff.

This weekend will likely prove to be one of the highlights of our year.

Diamond Rock Pinewood Derby

Saturday March 28, 2020

Are you looking to fill service hours? If you are, Troop 78 has been given the opportunity to fill 6 volunteer positions at the the annual Diamond Rock District Pinewood Derby being held on the morning of March 28th from 8:00AM to 1:00 PM at Covenant Presbyterian in Malvern. This will arguably be one of the most fun, exciting, helpful, climate controlled volunteer opportunities of the year.

Volunteers will help with the following positions:

-Gathering - Demonstrate scout skills to attendees. This is a great opportunity to hone your Den Chief skills.

-Pinewood race car shuttle - Shuttle the race cars from the finish line to the on-deck table. Manage the on-deck table.

-Troop 78 recruitment table - A benefit of being the Troop responsible for the volunteers is having a table to show off some reasons why Webelos would want to visit our Troop.

-Setup and tear down - Setup the chairs for the audience and concession tables.

If you are interested in this opportunity, reach out to Mike Simms (msimmsscouter@gmail.com).



Radnor Races - Save the Date

Saturday May 16 & Sunday May 17, 2020

Tired of winter already? Well, it's not ending soon, BUT...

Think Spring! and grab your brand-new 2020 calendar to reserve the third weekend in May to help Troop 78 at the Radnor Hunt Races.

Expect a warm, sunny time in the beautiful Chester County countryside, as the Troop spends another weekend at the Races.

On Saturday May 16 & Sunday May 17 we need your help as Troop 78 does its annual Radnor thing. To sign up please contact [Brian Rothburg](#).



Summer Camp 2020

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW UNDERWAY!

Winter is ending and summer camp registration is underway! There are only 16 weeks or 112 days left until Troop 78 will arrive at the Dan Beard Campsite at Camp Horseshoe for two weeks:

- Week One starts on Sunday, June 21st and ends on June 28th
- Week Two begins on Sunday, June 28th and ends on July 5th

Deposits were due in February, but there is still time to sign up. **Final discounted payment is due March 27th!**

The cost this year is \$420.00 per week if paid in full by March 27th (\$475 per week after March 27th).

Please include final payment slip with payment (Final Payment Form is available on the Troop website).

Do not forget about the Multi-Scout Family Discount. Families with more than one scout attending camp with the troop pays the entire fee for Scout one; the entire fee less \$50 for each additional scout per week.

Health/Medical forms are due May 15th.

The health/medical form is on the troop website and must be less than one calendar year old for the entire time you are at camp.

The BSA has updated the Health/Medical Form this year, so make sure to download the most recent form from the Troop 78 website or from the Camp Horseshoe website. Please make sure the completed health/medical form includes parts A, B & C with a front and back copy of your medical insurance card.



If your scout has special dietary needs or needs to take medication while at camp, a Special Dietary Form and Medication Form are also required to be submitted with the health/medical form by May 15th (forms are available on the Troop website).

You will receive a free troop T-shirt if you pay in full by March 27th and turn in your completed medical form to the troop by May 15th. Troop 78 Scouts learn many skills for rank advancement, hundreds of merit badges, and display their teamwork, skills, and Scout spirit in the many games and contests at camp. The basis for our Scouting program is camping, and this two-week period is always the highlight of our Scouting year.

Your troop committee and leadership would like to have 100% of the troop in camp this summer. We are encouraging 2nd year and up campers to stay for two weeks.

Reminder: All KISC attendees under 18 must attend at least one-week of summer camp.



Key Dates – Summer Camp 2020	
Camp Deposit Due	2/14/2020
Full Payment Due <i>(After this date, rate is \$470/week)</i>	3/27/2020
Health/Medical Forms Due <i>(Parts A,B,C with Copy of Insurance Card; also Special Dietary Needs and Medication forms if applicable)</i>	5/15/2020
Camp Horseshoe Weeks	Week One: 6/21/2020 – 6/28/2020 Week Two: 6/28/2020 – 7/05/2020

If you have any questions, please contact Tim Hornickle at thornickle@msn.com or call at (610) 742-1560.

Adult Leaders: PA Background Check Renewals

Background check clearances are good for 5 years. The current background check rules were put in place 5 years ago. So that means, if you did your background checks when these rules were first instituted, you must renew your clearances this year.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Community Service Opportunities

Please join Troop 78 as we serve our community. The Troop continues its longstanding tradition of helping make our community a better place. There are many opportunities in the coming months.

Saturday March 28: [Diamond Rock District Pinewood Derby](#), contact [Mike Simms](#)

Saturday April 25, Main Line Animal Rescue. For more information contact [Steve Brown](#)

Saturday May 16 and Sunday May 17: [Radnor Races](#), contact [Brian Rothberg](#)

Please print out this Newsletter and post a copy at home for everyone to see.