

WILLISTOWN TROOP 78
B.S.A.



TROOP MEMBER HANDBOOK

Updated 2021

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Purpose or Mission of Scouting

The purpose of Scouting Worldwide is to provide an environment for youth which teaches good morals, positive mental attitude, and brotherhood.

Organizational Leadership Structure

Boy Scouts is organized using the "patrol method." This approach stresses youth leadership, which allows the youth to run the troop by letting them pick the trips, the dates of trips and meetings as well as run the events. The troop meets on Fridays during the school year. The role of the adults in the troop is to supervise and provide support for the boys. The adults make up what is called the Troop Committee. The committee meets on the first Tuesday of every month except July and August. All dads are also encouraged to come to the meetings and camping trips.

Boy Scout Oath

On my honor, I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

Note: The Boy Scout Oath has traditionally been considered to have three promises. The three promises of the Scout Oath are:

- Duty to God and country
- Duty to other people
- Duty to self

DUTY TO GOD AND COUNTRY: Your family and religious leaders teach you to know and serve God. By following these teachings, you do your duty to God. Men and women of the past worked to make America great, and many gave their lives for their country. By being a good family member and a good citizen, by working for your country's good and obeying its laws, you do your duty to your country. Obeying the Scout Law means living by its 12 points.

DUTY TO OTHER PEOPLE: Many people need help. A cheery smile and a helping hand make life easier for others. By doing a Good Turn daily and helping when you're needed, you prove yourself a Scout and do your part to make this a better world.

DUTY TO SELF: Keeping yourself physically strong means taking care of your body. Eat the right foods and build your strength. Staying mentally awake means learn all you can, be curious, and ask questions. Being morally straight means to live your life with honesty, to be clean in your speech and actions, and to be a person of strong character.

Scout Law

A Scout is:

- Trustworthy
- Loyal
- Helpful
- Courteous
- Kind
- Obedient
- Cheerful
- Brave
- Clean
- Reverent

How Does Boy Scouting Work?

Boy Scouts is an Outdoor Program

Outdoor adventure is the promise made to boys when they join Scouting. Boys yearn for outdoor programs that stir their imagination and interest. In the outdoors, boys have opportunities to acquire skills that make them more self-reliant. They can explore, canoe, and hike, camp, and take part in challenges they first thought were beyond their ability. Attributes of good character become part of a boy as he learns to cooperate to meet outdoor challenges that may include chores, extreme weather, difficult trails and team challenges.

Scouts plan and carry out activities with thoughtful guidance from their Scoutmaster and other adult leaders. Good youth leadership, communication, and teamwork enable them to achieve goals they have set for themselves, their patrol, and their troop. Learning by doing is a hallmark of outdoor education. The weekly Troop meetings offer information and knowledge used on outdoor adventures each month throughout the year. Scout skills are reviewed and demonstrated at meetings, but the way scouts truly learn outdoor skills is to do them on a troop outing.

Patrol Method

Scouting uses the patrol method to teach skills and values. Scouts learn quickly that by working together and sharing duties, the patrol can accomplish more than any of its members could do alone. The patrol succeeds when every member of the patrol succeeds, and scouts learn that good teamwork is the key to success.

Exercise and fitness are part of the outdoor experience. As Scouts hike, paddle, climb, bike, or ride, their muscles become toned and their aerobic capacity increases. When they work as a patrol to plan menus for their outings, they learn to purchase cost effective ingredients to prepare flavorful and nutritious meals. Service to others and good citizenship are learned through such outdoor activities as conservation projects, collecting food, building trails and shelters, and conducting community service projects that promote healthy living.

Through helping other people, scouts learn to appreciate how they can share themselves and their blessings to those in need. By giving service to benefit others, scouts gain a sense of personal satisfaction.

Advancement

Community Service Hours and Projects

Many Scout ranks require service hours. A service hour is an hour spent doing service for the community. Star and Life ranks require both service hours and leadership (see Leadership Requirements below). Eagle rank requires a more extensive community service project planned and carried out by the Scout. One way of getting service hours is by working on another scout's project. They may call you and ask for your help or ask for volunteers at a meeting. If you need help on your Star, Life, or Eagle Project you may ask people in the troop, friends, or anyone else that you know.

Leadership Requirements

Star, Life, and Eagle ranks have leadership requirements. These may be fulfilled in one of two ways, first by holding a leadership position in the troop, such as Patrol Leader, or Senior Patrol Leader (For a complete list of leadership positions see the Leadership Requirements in the Scout Handbook). Each rank specifies an amount of time must be served while holding the position. The second way to fulfill the leadership requirement is to carry out a Scoutmaster assigned leadership project. This can include being a Den Chief for a local Cub Scout Pack (strongly encouraged) or an assigned community service such as building/maintaining of trails, landscaping, etc.

Attendance Requirements

For all ranks, a **minimum attendance of 50% for meetings and 50% for weekend trips is expected**, however this is the bare minimum. The Scoutmaster and Troop Committee reserve the right to not pass a scout on a rank if they do not maintain good attendance (Be active in your troop). Attendance records are kept for the Scout of the Year (for more details see below) and Patrol of the Year contests as well. You are awarded 50 points for each troop meeting (25 for attending and 25 for proper uniform), and 100 points for each overnight camping trip.

Scoutmaster's Conference

To complete a rank, you must first have a Scoutmaster's conference, during which the Scoutmaster will review your scout skills and discuss your goals for the next rank. If you are prepared (look over the requirements and know your knots), you can pass the Scoutmaster's Conference and then have a Board of Review. Bring your up-to-date Scout Log for Star, Life, and Eagle Scoutmaster's Conferences.

Boards of Review

Boards of Review for Tenderfoot through 1st Class are held prior to the monthly Troop Committee meetings. For these, come early to the monthly Troop Committee meeting, normally the first Tuesday of each month except July and August, check the Troop calendar.

For a Star, Life or Eagle board you must contact the rank coordinator for each rank. These boards are held at a time which is mutually convenient to you and the rank coordinator.

You must be in **complete uniform** for all Boards of Review, with your handbook.

Bring your up-to-date Scout Log for Star, Life, and Eagle boards.

Boards of Review are also needed for merit badges. These can be held anytime at a Troop meeting.

Special Troop Requirements

Troop 78 has a few additional requirements tagged on to some ranks to ensure that a scout is proficient in the outdoors. If for any reason you are unable to complete any of these requirements the Troop Committee can waive them, but it is a matter of pride for troop members to go above and beyond what is required. These requirements are often the reason that the troop performs well in competitions because of the above-and-beyond-learning that these require.

Rank Specific Requirements

- Tenderfoot- learn ten Tenderfoot Knots and their uses (see attached sheet)
- Second Class- earn Swimming Merit Badge
- First Class- earn First Aid Merit Badge
- Life- earn Pioneering (including 30 knots and 6 splices), Lifesaving, Canoeing Merit Badges

Scout Log

Keep a written log of your scouting activities, including meetings and camping trips. This log is required at rank Boards of Review after First Class.

Recognition/Court of Honors-

Most of the ranks and merit badges that you earn will be given to you either at the Family Dinner/Court of Honor (October) or the Parents Night/ Court of Honor (February). If you earn a rank or merit badge in between these you may elect to wait for a Court of Honor or have them awarded at a troop meeting.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET STARTED

Dues

Yearly dues are paid every November. Dues register you with the National Council and also provide you with a subscription to Boys Life magazine, accident insurance and help the troop to defray the cost of troop awards and insignia earned throughout the year.

Dues for new scouts are prorated when crossing over from Cub Scouts/Webelos or joining in the winter or spring.

Yearly Calendar

Each year at summer camp the Youth Leaders meet to plan the activities for the coming year. Monthly camping trips and troop meetings are scheduled, and a calendar of the year's activities is published for the scout year, September through August.

Meetings

Troop meetings are held Fridays during the school year from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the troop cabin. The address is: 15 Mill Road, Malvern, PA. Activities at the meetings include scout skill instruction, outdoor Leave-No-Trace training, rank advancement, and games.

Staying Informed of Activities

Troop Newsletter- The troop newsletter is published monthly, except July and August. It is a key part of communicating what is going on in the troop to parents and scouts. Many of your questions can be answered by reading the newsletter. The newsletter is open for article submission. Submitting an article is one of the items on the neckerchief checklist to earn the neckerchief patch.

Troop Website - The Troop maintains a website at www.tr78.org with up-to-date information on meetings, events, trips and all activities of the Troop.

Troop Remind – The troop uses the “Remind” text application for communicating time sensitive messages such as trip or meeting schedule changes. To subscribe for notifications, register on the troop website or text @willistown to 81010.

Troop Uniform

Troop 78 members wear a complete scout uniform consisting of:

- scout shirt: *long sleeve* cotton (not nylon) shirt, worn with sleeves rolled up in summer, also purchase forest-green shoulder loops
- scout pants: canvas convertibles (not nylon) with zip-off legs for warm weather
- troop-issued neckerchief and troop 78 neckerchief slide
- scout crew socks for winter and scout knee socks for summer
- hiking boots or brown shoes.
- pen in shirt pocket
- scout web belt or Camp Horseshoe belt

Each scout is responsible for purchasing their own uniform.

The troop provides the troop insignia, which includes:

- number patch (78) sewn on the uniform shirt left shoulder
- community strip (Willistown) sewn on the uniform shirt left shoulder
- patrol emblem (after your son is placed into a patrol) to be sewn on uniform shirt right shoulder

Before purchasing a uniform you will want to check to see if the troop Uniform Exchange has a uniform in the size you need. When your son grows out of a uniform, consider donating it to the exchange for other scouts.

Equipment for camping

Equipment the Troop Purchases

The troop has a goal of making camping affordable and fun. Troop 78 has ample camping and outdoor equipment available:

- tents
- backpacking equipment
- cooking gear
- propane cooking stoves
- canoes, kayaks, paddles, PFDs
- Troop bus

Equipment the Scout Purchases

There are some items you will need to purchase on your own:

- a sleeping bag
- a foam pad or air mattress
- flashlight or headlamp
- duffel bag or other bag to pack in
- backpack (optional)- many scouts have them, but the troop has plenty which you may borrow

If you are unsure if an item is needed, have your son check with his patrol leader or ask any of the adult leaders for recommendations.

Scout Log Book

The troop requires that a written log or journal be kept. The log contains an entry for every troop meeting and trip that a scout attends. Although the log will only be checked at Star, Life, and Eagle Scoutmaster conferences and Boards of Review, entries for everything a scout attends before these ranks are required.

SUMMER CAMP

HISTORY OF CAMP HORSESHOE

Chester County Council troops have been using Horseshoe Scout Reservation since 1928, the year in which a remarkable tract of land with old farm buildings was purchased from the Reynolds family. Located at the southwestern corner of Chester County and the northern edge of Cecil County, MD, Horseshoe is named for the great horseshoe-shaped bend in the Octoraro Creek.

Purpose and Importance- Scout camp at Camp Horseshoe is the most important two weeks of the year for Troop 78. A scout can opt to stay for 1 or 2 weeks. The first week is usually the last week of June into July and the second week follows right after that.

All scouts should attend camp for at least one week. It is very important for advancement and learning. Camp is the best place for a scout to earn certain merit badges and where most of the requirements for Tenderfoot through First Class Ranks can be earned. Most of a scout's merit badges will be earned at camp.

Summer Camp Activities- Camp Horseshoe, located on the Mason Dixon line, is just an hour from home. It is complete with an enthusiastic staff (many of whom are 78 Scouts), program areas, sleeping areas, dining hall, and an Olympic size pool.

Here scouts can earn merit badges and work on ranks in various departments including Trailblazer (first year scouts), Campcraft, Handicraft, Aquatics, Handicraft, Boating, Nature, and many more. The camp has a trading post with both merchandise and snacks. Scouts attend merit badge classes during the day. At the retreat ceremony before dinner, all of the troops march in a competition (78 always does well).

After dinner, there is free time then usually a game or campfire. On Saturdays parents can come to camp to visit their sons and, depending on the week, watch either Paul Bunyan Field Day or the Water Carnival. Saturday night there is a campfire where the scouts will receive their Camp Horseshoe patch and year segment. Scouts staying one week will be picked up the following afternoon on Sunday, scouts staying a second week will stay. Each year a detailed letter about camp and what to bring is sent to each scout family.

How We Fund Our Program

Fundraising

Troop 78 is always on the go. In order to keep the cost of dues down, the troop relies on several fundraising events. Fundraising includes a fall poinsettia sale, a spring flower sale, helping at the Radnor Races (October and May) and selling Scrips cards. Funds earned from these fundraising events benefit both the larger troop and the scout working at these events.

Poinsettia and Spring Flower Sale

The troop sells florist grade poinsettias and wreaths at a winter sale and garden plants at a spring sale to help scouts develop skills in customer interactions, responsibility, and an opportunity to earn their own way toward more exciting trips. Parent help is always appreciated for the sorting, distribution, and delivery of the products.

Scrips cards

These cards for local retail stores are pre-purchased and provide a percentage back to the troop.

Camping accounts

To reward participation in these activities, a significant portion of the troop's fundraising revenue is allocated to each Scout's individual **Camping Account**. The "Camping Account" is a Troop sponsored program where scouts participate in various Troop fundraising and community service events to earn individual credit dollars to be used toward certain camping events beyond the weekend events of the annual program of activities. Weekend camping events during the course of the scout's annual planned program and their costs are covered by the scout's annual registration fees and available to all registered scouts at no additional costs.

Camping Account Funds Usage

"Camping Account" Scout earned funds CAN BE USED to offset costs for the following camping activities: Summer Camp, Disney World, high adventure events such as Algonquin Canada Canoe Trip, Sea Base, Philmont, Northern Tier, events at Summit Bechtel National Scout Reserve, National Jamborees, Kandersteg Switzerland and any similar type of extended destination and special trips. The Camping Account can also be used if there is a charge to Scouts for weekend trips such as ski trips, or whitewater rafting.

The "Camping Account" is NOT intended for use for the following events, activities, and expenses: uniforms, non-scouting related costs, camping equipment, dues and subscriptions, cost for extracurricular activities or spending money during scouting events, Eagle projects, OA events, or travel expenses.

Mr. Joe Cady maintains the Scout Camping Account balances, recording deposits and withdrawals. Deposits are recorded and are available at some point after the fundraising events. Credit from Radnor Races is posted after the Troop receives their contribution, usually in the early Fall. When a Scout wants to use funds for a qualified trip, or if he wants to know his balance, he can call or email Mr. Cady at: 610-647-4037 or jcadyjr@gmail.com.

Special Matching Funds

Friends of Troop 78, Inc., the troop's sponsoring organization, encourages camping for every Scout, and has established several special funds to promote camping and assure that every Scout has a chance to go to summer camp and on High Adventure trips.

High Adventure Fund

The High Adventure Fund will match up to \$300 in Camping Account funds earned by a Scout in the two years prior to a High Adventure trip. The Scout Scholarship Fund is available for Scouts who need assistance with camping fees and dues. All requests to utilize the Scholarship fund are confidential and should be sent to the Scoutmaster or Committee Chair.

Eagle Leadership Fund

To assist with the cost of Eagle Leadership projects, the Eagle Leadership fund is available to reimburse funds needed for materials needed to complete an Eagle project (up to \$500).

Family Events

Family Dinner and Court of Honor - Each Fall around the end of September or in early October, the family dinner and Court of Honor is held. This is a chance for the parents to meet and for the scouts to be publicly recognized for their achievements over the summer months, especially advancement earned at summer camp. The Scout of the Year and Patrol of the Year awards are presented at this event.

Parents Night and Court of Honor (February) - This is another opportunity for parents to see their scouts in action, hear about their trips, and for the presentation of advancement and awards. The Recruit of the Year award is presented at this event, and an Order of the Arrow call-out ceremony is held.

Field Day and Family Picnic (May/June) - Every year in early June after weeks of practice, the troop's patrols compete in an afternoon of Scout Skill events at the annual Troop Field Day, after which the troop holds the annual picnic. Here scouts and their families enjoy conversation, outdoor recreation and great food. The Achgekatum award is presented at this event (see details below).

High Adventure Trips

Aside from monthly weekend and day trips that are for the most part free of cost to the scouts, the troop takes two other trips for older scouts (at least 1st Class).

Florida Trip- During "Spring Break" the troop takes a trip to Disney World, staying at Fort Wilderness in Disney. Here they have access to all theme and water parks as well as access to all Disney Resorts.

Canada Canoe Trip - In August the troop takes a trip to Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada. They stay for 7-10 days, canoe and camp in the wilderness of the park. This trip is for older scouts because of the difficulty of paddling, portaging and backpacking. For younger scouts, this trip is definitely something to look forward to.

Council High Adventure Trips –Scouts may also sign up to attend National BSA High Adventure camps such as Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. You can also join a Council contingent to attend National and International Jamborees, usually held every four years at the Summit in West Virginia.

Troop High Adventure Trip to Kandersteg Switzerland – Every four years the Troop travels to the Kandersteg International Scout Centre for two weeks of fun and exciting outdoor adventures. The Troop spends days hiking, climbing, swimming, and touring throughout the Alps in Switzerland and Italy. This is a once in a lifetime trip all Troop 78 scouts look forward to.

Troop Awards

Scout of the Year- Throughout the year, September to August, points are awarded to each scout for attending meetings and trips, advancement and service hours. Points for everything will be recorded. At the end of the scout year, the points are totaled and the winning scout will receive the Scout of the Year Award, at the Troop Family Dinner/Court of Honor. The recipient has their name engraved on the trophy, receives a silver medal (to be worn on their uniform during special occasions), and a free week at summer camp.

Patrol of the Year- The Patrol of the Year award is given to the patrol amassing the most points per scout. It is calculated by averaging the points of each individual patrol member from scout of the year, plus points awarded for contests. It is awarded in the Fall at the Troop Family Dinner/Court of Honor.

Recruit of the Year- The Recruit of the Year award is named after George and Harriet Bellgrau, who supported the Troop for many years. Mr. Bellgrau was Troop Committee Chairman for 30 years. A Scout is eligible only once for the award. Attendance, rank, and scout spirit are all taken into consideration. The youth leaders (SPL & PL's etc.) vote for the recipient. Recruit of the Year is awarded annually at the February Troop Parents Night/Court of Honor. The winner's name is engraved on a plaque that hangs in the cabin and is given a bronze medal. The recipient also is awarded a free week at summer camp.

Achgeketem Award- The Achgeketem Award is given to the outstanding boy leader of the year. It is named after G. Ernest Heegard (Ernie), Troop 78 Scoutmaster for 39 years, Camp Director at Horseshoe for 29 years, and Order of the Arrow Lodge Advisor for over 20 years and a local legend in scouting. His Order of the Arrow Vigil name, "Achgeketem," means teacher. The award winner is chosen by the troop adult leaders, and is awarded at the Troop Family Picnic after Field Day. The recipient is awarded two free weeks at summer camp, and has his name engraved on a trophy displayed in the cabin.

Order of the Arrow

Order of the Arrow- The Order of the Arrow is a service organization for Honor Campers who are at least First Class and have 15 or more nights camping (7 can be nights at summer camp). The OA has 3 service weekends each year, in April, June, and September. The OA consists of three degrees: Ordeal, Brotherhood, and Vigil. Being elected into the OA is an honor. Every February the troop holds an election to choose new members for the OA. The newly elected candidates will be called-out at the Troop Parents Night. Once elected they will have to attend one of the weekends to undergo an Ordeal to gain membership into the lodge. Once you are in the lodge you attend the service weekends, to get Camp Horseshoe ready for the summer, and take the camp down in the fall.

HISTORY OF THE ORDER OF THE ARROW

During the summer of 1915, Dr. E. Urner Goodman, Camp Director of the Philadelphia Council's Treasure Island Camp, wanted to find some means of recognition for those scouts who best lived up to the spirit of the Scout Oath and Law. From this desire and from the rich Native American traditions of the area, Dr. Goodman and his assistant, Carroll A. Edson, developed that we now know as the Order of the Arrow. This organization grew during the following years and has since spread to a worldwide organization. We are lucky to live in the area where this great organization began.

Ahtaquaoweh Native American Dance Team

The troop has a Native American Dance Team. The team is always looking for new members and anyone is welcome to join. The team learns about Native American culture, dress, and dance. The team performs for various Cub Scout packs and other groups and organizations.

Earn Your Troop Neckerchief Patch - When you joined the troop you received a blank maroon neckerchief with white trim. In order to earn a full neckerchief complete with a full color patch on the back, you must complete 10 of the various requirements that can be found on the "Attached Sheet" section found in the back of this handbook.

Troop Neckerchief Requirements (updated 3/21)

Scout's Name: _____

Date: / / __

Instructions: To qualify for the troop neckerchief patch, each scout must accomplish ten (10) of the items from the list below. Either item #7 or # 8 required. Once completed, bring this form to the Scoutmaster for approval.

Date Completed	Approved (Initial)	Goal
		1. Advance one rank since September.
		2. Sell \$300 in Flowers or 15 Poinsettias in one sale.
		3. Participate in a Council First Aid Meet.
		4. Participate in a patrol that places 1st in a Troop Field Day or Troop First Aid meet.
		5. Attend ten troop activities (meetings and trips) in a row.
		6. Attend Father/Son Winter camp.
		7. *Attend one troop backpacking trip.
		8. *Attend one troop canoe trip.
		9. Participate in a patrol that places in the top 3 in a District or Council event.
		10. Qualify for advancement (ranks or merit badges) at 3 boards of review in a row.
		11. Camp with the troop for at least one week at summer camp.
		12. Camp with the troop for two weeks at summer camp
		13. Serve on the staff of a Cub Scout or Webelos day camp
		14. Participate in 4 out of 6 camp outs in a row.
		15. Pay troop dues on time.
		16. Perform 6 hours of troop or community service.
		17. Attend four Patrol meetings.
		18. Attend Webelos Woods to assist the troop.
		19. Assist at a troop run First Responder session for Webelos.
		20. Write an article for the troop newsletter.
		21. Advance from Tenderfoot to First Class in one year.
		22. Perform 8 hours of work at the Radnor Races event.
		23. Volunteer to work at the spring cabin cleanup.
		24. Attend a Troop Dinner or Parents Night.
		25. Assist with a special project as designated by the Scoutmaster

Scoutmaster Approval: _____ Date: ____/____/____ Date Awarded: ____/____/____

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

1. Consult this Handbook
2. Check the latest Newsletter or the web site (tr78.org).
3. Call Your Patrol Leader
4. Call your Senior Patrol Leader
5. Call the Scoutmaster

TENDERFOOT KNOTS

WILLISTOWN TROOP 78

1.

**Reef
(Square) Knot**



2.

Clove Hitch



3.

Bowline



4.



**Round Turn &
Two Half Hitches**

5.

Taut Line Hitch



6.

Timber Hitch



7.

Sheepshank



8.

Sheet Bend



9.

**Double
Fisherman's**



10.

SLIP KNOT