



Willistown Troop 78

Website: www.tr78.org

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March 2024

Volume 40 Number 7

Matje Farm! Bradford County, PA



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March 2024

- 1 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM
- 3 Sunday Order of the Arrow Annual Banquet
- 5 Tuesday Board of Review 7PM, Troop Comm Mtg. 7:30PM
- 6 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7:00 -8:00 PM
- 8 Friday - 10 Sunday [Vermont Ski Trip](#)
- 15 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM
- 17 Parent's Night and Court of Honor, Cabin 3PM
- 23 Saturday - 30 Saturday Disney Trip

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

Matje Farm Winter Olympics Weekend!

Friday February 16 - Sunday February 18, 2024

By Ben Barsotti

This February, the troop set off on its annual trip to Matje Farm for a fun weekend of scout skills and whatever else ended up happening. We left the cabin at about 6:00, and after about 3 ¼ hours on the road, we pulled into the parking lot and everyone hurried to get their gear set up in the barn and, after a quick snack, headed to bed.

The next morning, we awoke to a fresh coating of 4 inches of powdery snow, perfect for sledding or, as we all learned, throwing at each other. After a breakfast of french toast and sausage, we started our morning competitions. We did Saw-Drill-Drop, Match Splitting, and Chariot Race during stations, then all came together to compete in Log Chopping and Knot Relay. After that was Water Boiling, which had been adapted to Big Fire Building due to the fact that we forgot cans. After our fires had cooled to embers, we made hobo packs for lunch and cooked them over our fires.

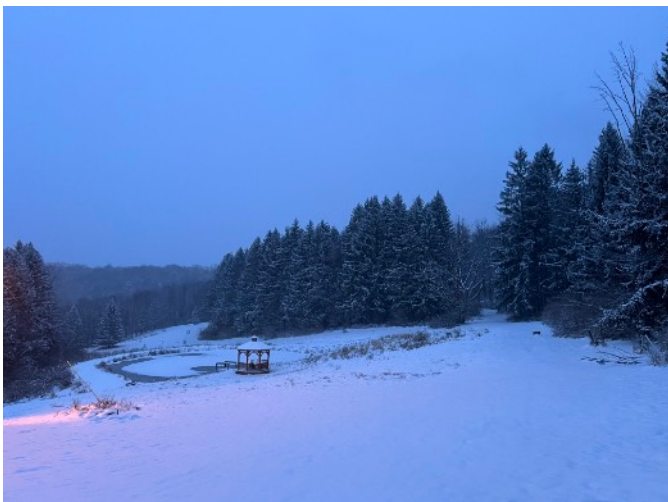
We then had a quick break and geared back up for our afternoon stations.



These were Bolt Splitting, Sled Racing, and 3-Man Ski. Our final activity was Tug-of-War. After this we had more free time, where several scouts shot shotguns, but most went for a game of backyard football. After this we had dinner, which was meatball subs.

After a snack of canned peaches, we all headed to bed for another frigid night. The next morning, after a cold (or gold) breakfast, we all packed up our gear, moved some firewood for the Matje's, and hit the road. We arrived back at the cabin around 1:30 after a stop by popular demand at Burger King.

Thanks to the Matje's for being such generous hosts!





First Aid Meet: Meet the Champions!

Saturday February 3, 2024

By Caleb Fulmer

During our Friday night meeting, every patrol packed their gear into Mr. D's truck in anticipation for the Council-wide first aid meet that was to take place the next morning. We met up the next morning at the cabin to depart for TCHS where the competition was held. Once every patrol had gotten their gear and was ushered inside, each patrol was registered and shown where to sit on the linoleum floor. After all the patrols from all the troops were checked in, we were given the registration problem which is a multiple choice test about first aid.

While every patrol had their heads together trying to complete the registration problem, judges were being assigned to floor spaces in preparation for the four first aid problems that were coming after the registration problem. Once the registration problems were all turned in, patrols prepared for the first aid problems. The first of the four problems was handed out and the event was off, as each patrol was carefully reading and treating subjects in the first of four problems that happened that day.

After the first problem, every patrol quickly cleaned up their stations as the judges rotated just before they were handed out the second problem. This process was repeated until all four problems had been completed. Then everyone was talking to members of other patrols trying to see how we all had done.



The man who had organized the event went onto the podium, once all the noise died down, he announced the winners of the day. They first announced the results of the Bandaid Level, which was a beginner version of the competition. Then they announced the Blood and Guts Level which was the more advanced version of the competition and that was the level we competed in. Coming in 6th place was Panther patrol, in 5th place was Moose patrol, in 4th place was Flying Eagle patrol, in 3rd place was a patrol from Paoli 1, in 2nd place was Rattlesnake patrol, and in 1st place was Cougar patrol.

After these results were announced, quickly made our way to the stage for a group picture. Then we went outside and loaded the gear back into Mr. D's truck and departed on the bus for the cabin.

Back at the cabin, patrols unloaded their gear, put it in their patrol benches, and then headed home to enjoy the rest of their weekend.



Ice Cream and Cake Social!

Friday February 9, 2024

Reward for a job well done at the First Aid Meet.

All the scouts put in much study, training time, and meetings to master the first aid skills necessary to compete so successfully in the Council First Aid Meet. The first troop meeting after First Aid Meet, we took time off from learning scout skills to enjoy some outside time, game time, and a well-received snack of make-your-own ice cream sundaes and congratulations cake.



Super Bowl Breakfast

Sunday February 11, 2024

The cabin doors flew open to welcome family and friends to the Super Bowl Breakfast.

The kitchen crew arrived early to get cooking, all was ready to go when the first guests arrived. The delightful smells of bacon and sausage filled the air.

Everyone settled into a full breakfast of eggs made to order, breakfast meat, french toast, pancakes, toast, coffee, and hot cocoa.

Many thanks to the cook crew: Joe Cady, Scott Vercoe, Dave Dondero, and Ted Dinsmore on the outdoor grill. Also thanks go to Brian Rothberg, the head of the drinks crew and Bonnie Motel, the head of the table service crew.



Upcoming Events

Vermont Ski Weekend!

Friday March 8 - Sunday March 10, 2024

Mark your calendars for the Troop Ski Trip to Vermont, March 8 – 10, 2024. We'll stay at the Woodbridge Lodge in Dover, Vermont, about 2 miles away from Mount Snow. We will ski or board for a full day on Saturday and half-day on Sunday at Mount Snow. Lessons will be available on Saturday for first-time skiers if we have at least two youth signed up for lessons. All skiers and boarders **MUST** bring equipment on the trip, including helmets. **NO RENTALS AT THE MOUNTAIN!**

This is a great trip and we hope you'll join us.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Radnor Races 2024

Saturday May 18 and Sunday 19, 2024

SAVE the DATE

Radnor Hunt Races - May 18 & 19, 2024

PLEASE, go on over to that 2024 calendar and block out the third weekend in May to help Troop 78 at this years edition of the Radnor Hunt Races.

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

Planning is already well under way to make this an event to remember.

On Saturday, May 18 & Sunday May 19 we need your help as Troop 78 does its annual Radnor thing.

Please plan on being there!



CPR Training!

Tuesday April 30, 2024

Anthony Wiencek from **Emergency Training Partners** is coming to give us a CPR class. Training will be held at the Cabin on the night of Tuesday April 30, cost ~ \$50.

CPR training is highly suggested for all adult Scouters and needs to be renewed every 2 years.

If interested, please contact Ted Diederich at ted.diederich@gmail.com



Fundraising

Importance and Expectations of Troop Fundraising

Jack Bilson, III – Camping Chairman & Eagle Scout

What about the dues we collect every year?

Exactly \$0 goes to the Troop.

100% of the annual dues go to pay for your Scout's required fees to Chester County Council and the National organization of Boy Scouts of America. We keep none of those funds for Troop operations.

Our program operates exclusively from Troop fundraising and the support of our Charter Organization - Friends of Troop 78.

Nearly every monthly trip is free to the Scouts who attend. Trips like our Vermont Ski Trip and Whitewater Rafting that do have some fees are very heavily subsidized for our youth members. We will be touring the Baltimore Aquarium later this season and it will cost your Scout nothing to come with us. This is all incredible!

How do we do it?

Well, we have a very organized Troop Committee and Charter Organization. Our Charter Organization covers the costs of the cabin and the bus.

The program and trips are largely paid for by just three Troop fundraisers. The fundraisers are organized by the Troop Committee and all setup for you; all you must do is show up to help with Radnor Race Weekend with as many people as you can muster. The other two fundraisers are the fall Poinsettia & Wreath Sale (which has just passed) and the spring Flower Sale (which is about to start).

To be considered an active Scout, a Scout must attend 50% of all meetings and 50% of all trips. We also hold the expectation that **every scout and scout family, should have some participation in all three of our fundraisers**. To further incentivize this, all three fundraisers provide some funds back to your Scout in their individual Scouting Camping Account, based on that Scout's family's contribution to the fundraiser itself. These funds are yours, and can be used to cover costs for trips that are not 100% covered by the troop, or help to cover Summer Camp, Florida, or High Adventure Scout Trips like Canada, Philmont, SeaBase or Switzerland. Your son's participation in fundraisers also allows for a way to get scholarship funds for high adventure trips like some of the ones just mentioned.

In our last fundraiser, the fall Poinsettia and Wreath Sale, we missed our budget target by about \$1,000. This was in part, because only about 50% of our Scouts and their families participated in the fundraiser. The Committee could have made up the deficit by simply not contributing funds to the Scouts that did participate, but voted to accept a deficit and support the scouts who did make sales.

What does this mean?

Well, we have 2 fundraisers coming up and your participation is 100% needed for both; and with the spring flower sale in particular. A great deal of work has gone into creating the online store to allow easy ordering and sales; making it easy for scouts and their families to participate in the Flower Sale. We need every single scouting family to participate and to do so strongly. Without selling significantly past our previous sales goals with the Flower Sale, we will not be able to properly cover costs for the remainder of the normal camping season before Summer Camp.

Participation in fundraising is one of the ways to be connected and to contribute to the Troop and help Scouts grow and mature. Many of our families talk about how their Scout's participation in fundraisers allowed them to go on trips that they otherwise would never have been able to go on. Troop 78 runs the premier Scouting outdoor program in Chester County hands down, and at a cost well below anything anyone else does for the individual Scout. We also participate in more centralized Boy Scouts of America High Adventure Programs like Philmont and Sea Base with our own crews and run our own annual high adventure trip in Canada (the most affordable trip anywhere) and every four years an international trip to Switzerland.

Fundraising is key to all of this, not just for the program, or to help your family with the costs, but to assist in the development of your Scout in understanding personal participation, responsibility, and ownership. When I was in the Troop in my youth, and my son in his; we both got to go on trips because of our individual hard work (yes folks, even in the 1980's we had scout camping accounts). Fundraising is part of the program, and we work hard to have good products and provide great service.

Please help the Troop and your Scout by heavily participating in the Flower Sale and of course Radnor Races. Send as many people as you can to help us on Race Day and sell **very** hard on the Flower Sale. With you and your Scout's hard work, I know we will be able to complete this camping season on budget.

As always, if cost is a factor for your Scout's participation in our 'in season' camping program or Summer Camp please contact me or our Scoutmaster Mr. D. Scholarship funds are available.

Also, if you or your family is interested in donating funds beyond your participation in our fundraisers, please contact Mr D (willistown78@gmail.com) or our Committee Chairman David Dondero (dondero.d@gmail.com).

Personalized Brick at the Cabin Walkway

The cabin entrance has a beautiful walkway with names of scouts, scouters and friends, both past and present, engraved into the brick pavers.

For a fee of \$350 each, you can include the name of your scout, your family or the name of any supporter of scouting.

Order forms can be found on the troop website.

[Click here for more information.](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jim Hogan at jim.hogan@foxroach.com.



Alumni Corner

Where Are They Now!?

Seth Hoffritz

Troop 78 Eagle Scout 2019, Seth Hoffritz, completed his Bachelors Degree at Bucknell University, and is now a member of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.



Chester County Council News

Important Council Wide Survey

Your Input is Needed. Please help us.

Chester County Council has initiated a first of its kind Omnibus survey to help better understand the shopping and banking preferences of all Scouting families. This is being done primarily to help improve fundraising efforts outside of the direct “Scouting family”. This is also critical to better solicit donations from regional and national businesses to help keep Scouting affordable and available in Chester County. As you can imagine when Chester County Council is soliciting for donations from say the Regional Giving Manager of a National Bank or Grocery Store; one of the first questions they have is: How many of your members are our customers? Today the Council cannot even start to answer that, after the survey they can, and at scale. Thus, the importance of this survey to fundraising efforts outside of the immediate Scouting community is simply paramount.

[Please visit and complete the survey by clicking here.](#)

Or paste this in your browser:

<https://sprw.io/stt-3oC2DnTszjJDJp6vwcSJ9C>

And remember your answers are anonymous (only our unit will be tracked for statistical and contest purposes)

Additionally, there is a contest to encourage participation. Scout Units direct participation with the survey can earn money for Troop 78. The Scout unit with the highest percentage of participation of registered families in the survey will earn \$300 for their unit, with second and third place earning \$200 and \$100 respectively and all will be featured in the Council-wide monthly newsletter. As our Scouts regularly dominate and win every Council event, we hope you don’t let your Scouts down and make sure we ‘place’ in this Council-wide event. If you have further questions or any concerns about this survey, you can contact our own Jack Bilson (jackbilson@gmail.com) who assists Chester County Council with general fund fundraising and is the architect of this particular initiative.

Gala! Night of Stars

Thursday March 21, 2024

Chester County Historical Society

Once again, this spring, we will be hosting our **Annual Gala & Auction**. This year's theme is A Night of Stars. This in-person event, celebrating the stars of scouting, will take place on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at the Chester County Historical Society to raise funds for all of our scouting programs. We will be awarding several special honors that evening.

The **Distinguished Citizen Award**, which honors an individual who shares Scouting's belief in leadership, determination, and values, and have contributed significantly to the growth and vitality of our community. This award will go to Richard (Dick) Kunsch Sr., retired longtime president and CEO of Phoenixville Federal Bank & Trust. Past recipients of the Distinguished Citizen Award have included our very own Joe Rubino and Ernie Heegard.

The **Lifetime Service Award** will be given to Delores Hagerstrom, she served in many positions for Chester County Council including as Council President. She was the first woman to serve as a Council President in the entire United States.

This event is open to all members of the community and all are welcome.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Council Training Palooza

Saturday March 16, 2024

Camp Ware

Chester County Council will host a day of training for adults and youth on Saturday March 16 at Camp Ware.

For adults there will be Wilderness First Aid, Chainsaw Safety, CPR, Mental Health First Aid for Youth, and many more.

For youth there will be ILST (Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops). This is a prerequisite requirement before taking NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training).

[Click here for more information.](#)

[Click here for the Diamond Rock District Newsletter.](#)

[Click here for the Chester County Council Newsletter.](#)

Order of the Arrow Octoraro Lodge 22



OCTORARO LODGE
ORDER OF THE ARROW

2024 Annual Lodge Banquet Sunday March 3, 2024

The Annual Lodge Banquet and Recognition Dinner will be held **Sunday March 3, 2024** at the Red Clay Room in Kennett Square from 4 PM - 8 PM. The annual banquet is a time to reflect on the previous year, get excited for the year ahead, have some great food, commiserate with Octoraro 22 Brothers, and honor those who have served their lodge. In addition to a keynote speaker, we will have door prizes, a silent auction (see below for more information), and the presentation of awards including the Vigil Honor call-out ceremony.

You can register for the banquet two different ways:

- 1) as an individual event
- 2) or as part of **Pay to Play** which registers you for the 3 service weekends (in April, June, and September) and the banquet (and allows you to save some money).

Registration for the banquet and Pay-to-Play closes on February 17th, so make sure you register before the deadline!

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Dues for 2024

If you did not pay the “early bird” dues earlier this fall, regular 2024 dues are now due. Information for payment is on the Lodge Website (<https://scoutingevent.com/539-lodgedues2024>). Payment of your dues are very important for rechartering and performing the many service projects and events, such as the Cub Scout Camporee. The Lodge also owes fees to national when it recharterers. Thank you for your support!

NOAC 2024

July 29 to August 3, 2024!

The National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) is the premier event of the Order of the Arrow and is Scouting's second-largest national event. Arrowmen from across our nation gather for an inspirational and unforgettable experience full of fellowship, training, adventure, and fun!

Location: University of Colorado Boulder

<https://scoutingevent.com/539-77690>

Please feel free to forward and/or print this Newsletter for all of your family and friends to see!