



Willistown Troop 78

Website: www.tr78.org

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

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December 2024

Volume 41 Number 4

Appalachian Trail! Shenandoah Front Royal Virginia

READY FOR THE HIKE!



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Troop Committee 7:30PM
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6 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM
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20 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM, Holiday Party, Algonquin deposits due
[Click here for the full one page calendar](#)

Appalachian Trail Backpacking Trip

November Friday 22 - Sunday 24, 2024

By: Caleb F.

The long awaited backpacking trip that had been postponed from October finally arrived, and an adventurous group of scouts and scouters prepared for a trek through the Appalachian mountains. Everyone gathered at the cabin the night before to pack their backpacks, figure out tent partners, and make sure that we would be comfortable during their 4 or 10 mile hikes. Each backpack should weigh about a fourth of a scout's body weight at most, so we weighed our packs to make sure that they weren't too heavy. We arrived back at the cabin on Friday night and departed at 5:30PM for a 4 hour trip to Mr. Duff's property in Virginia. Once we arrived, we set up our sleeping pads and bags in Mr. Duff's pole barn before heading to bed, hoping to be well-rested for the hikes ahead the next day. Once everyone was awake, the adults began cooking a breakfast of eggs and sausage that we made into a breakfast sandwich. After a hearty breakfast everyone loaded their packs under the bus and then we drove to the drop off spot for the long hikers. Once we arrived everyone in the long hike began their 10 mile trek to the campsite. Then the short hikers went back to Mr. Duff's property so that they could start the shorter hike from there. The long hikers set out at a brisk pace and the first two miles were easy as we hiked through the paved



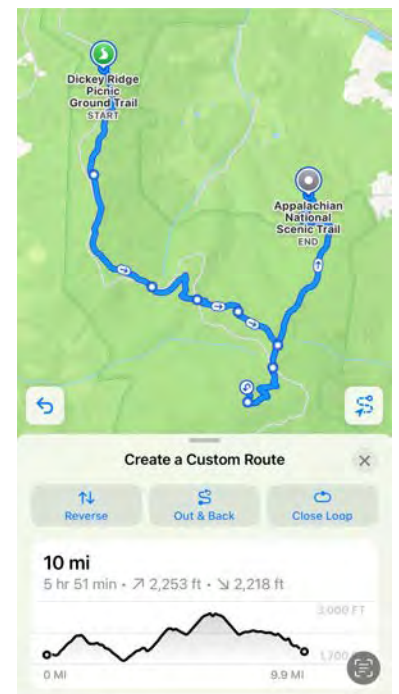
state park trail, up into the woods, and hiked up our first hill. The first hilltop view was impressive but we would have many more to come so we started our descent down. Once we reached the bottom of the hill we stopped to have some lunch which consisted of a variety of bars from our packs. Then we hiked up the first mountain of the trip which proved to be a tough ascent. There was not a clear view from the top of this mountain but we did stop for a break near the top. Our next climb was the hardest of the trip as now our packs started to dig into our sides and it was getting harder and harder to keep a steady pace up the mountain. We took many breaks along the way for this ascent and once we made it to the top we were able to get to a pretty level section of the trail that we hiked for about a mile. Then we came to a fork in the trail. Left would send us to our campsite,



however right would send us up another mountain with the coolest view of the trip. So we left our packs at the fork and chose the path to the right to Mount Compton. This was easily the best decision of the trip, as the ascent was much easier without our packs, and the view from the top was absolutely amazing. We did have to traverse some rocky terrain including a very cool rock staircase we got to go up. Once we got to the top we rested for about 20 minutes as we were all able to enjoy this awesome view. There were many pictures taken as we were on this cliff overlooking the entire valley and it was by far the best part of the trip. Then we quickly went down the mountain, made it back to our packs and continued to our campsite. Once we were about a mile away we met up with some of the short hikers and they led us down to the campsite which they had already partially set up. In the campsite we all had to find a spot to set up our tents. This was harder for some (especially me) and we ended up staying a good bit down the mountain from the other campsites. Everyone got their tents set up and each patrol began to cook dinner. We set up our stoves and then began boiling water as that was the key ingredient in our dehydrated meals that we had for dinner. After dinner each patrol sent someone down to the small spring halfway down the mountain. I was a part of that crew and we had to use the water pumps to filter the water into our bottles. Once this was done we hiked back up the mountain. It was dark by this point but everyone made it back to the campsite. Then everyone went to bed with a full stomach and got about 10-12 hours of sleep to recharge



them for the next day. The wake up time for the next day was not clearly stated, so some of us woke up earlier than the rest. However this allowed them (Garrett and I) to clean up our tents, pack our personal gear, take down our tent, and start to boil water before the rest of our patrol met us for breakfast. We made a breakfast of oatmeal and hot chocolate. Some of our patrol even decided to mix the two and it was delicious. Then we all cleaned up the campsite and proceeded to hike back to the bus. The hike back was pretty easy at first as we just had to hike down the mountain we camped on. The hike got slightly more difficult back to Mr. Duff's property because we had to bushwhack through a trail under some power lines. However, everyone made it through and then we connected with the trail behind his house and made it back to his barn. Before leaving we took a picture of everyone outside the bus and then said thank you to Mr. Duff before starting the four hour ride back to the cabin. About halfway through we stopped for some lunch and we had the choice between Burger King, Popeyes, or Arby's. While it is an unspoken tradition to get a



Whopper on the way back from a camping trip, I went with a chicken sandwich from Popeyes- don't tell Mr. D.

Once we got back we unloaded all of the gear and everyone left their borrowed backpacks and sleeping bags at the cabin, and left to enjoy the rest of their Sunday after a fun but tiring weekend!



When Pigs Fly Camporee

Friday November 1 - Sunday November 3, 2024

By: Caleb F.

On the first of November the scouts of 78 proceeded to the bus to head to Camp Horseshoe for the When Pigs Fly Camporee. However, before embarking on this fun and exciting trip, we had to gather at the cabin the night before to pack our backpacks. This way, upon arrival, we could immediately hike down to the Athletic Field in our Class A uniforms, looking polished and prepared.

Once we arrived at our campsite on the Athletic Field, we began setting up our tents in the designated area, arranging them in a straight line so they looked neat and organized. A group of 78 scouts arrived earlier that day so that we had a head start on setup. By the time we arrived there was already a gateway made entirely from lashings, and the ground tarps were already in the spots to set up our tents. Once everyone got their tents and patrol kitchens set up that night, we all went to bed looking forward to a fun day of camp action tomorrow.

The next morning we started by making a breakfast of pancakes with bacon and cereal. Then after cleanup, each patrol gathered together with their flags and supplies to head to the different events and competitions during the morning. The main events of the morning were the shotgun range and the chariot race competitions however there were other areas of camp open such as the dining hall for patch trading. Once everyone completed the competitions we headed back to camp to make lunch. We had grilled ham and cheese sandwiches with tomato soup. Each patrol made sure that their patrol kitchen was clean, we had a little bit more time before the afternoon activities. Once each patrol was ready, we all proceeded to the different program areas for our afternoon activities. The big highlights of the afternoon were the COPE area competitions which were speed climb and zip lining. They also had a first aid problem competition, which



was a breeze as we had already been practicing first aid during Friday night meetings.

Once we had visited all of the competition areas for the afternoon the patrols went back to our kitchens so that we could start making our dinner of dutch oven pork loin, potatoes, and salad, with a dessert of Wegmans O's. While the pork loin was cooking, our troop and Troop 76 started a football game out on the path between campsites and it was a very active game of two hand touch. Ultimately, there was some debate over who won, but everyone had a great time. The pork was absolutely delicious and we washed it down with lemonade from the crystal light packets which are a Troop 78 staple. Then everyone had some free time to warm up before we all had to head to the evening campfire. This gave our troop time to think up a skit for the



campfire and to play some fun games around the campsite. We went to the campfire and everyone huddled together to keep warm during the other troops' skits. Then during the awards portion of the campfire, we were presented with the award for best gateway, we received second place for the most pigs found, and we achieved the best possible ranking at the camporee which earned us a trophy and a prize bag filled with candy and even more pigs. We achieved this by attending all the competitions throughout the day, cooking all our own meals, having a gateway, and making a camp gadget.

The campfire concluded, we all went back to our tents to get a warm night's sleep before departing the next morning. We all woke up to a very chilled air and we saw frost on everything including our tents. Then we packed up all of our personal gear and had breakfast before we went to the non-denominational chapel service that was organized by Troop 19. It was a very quick chapel service with one prayer and then a group discussion about the things we liked about the camporee. The chapel service was truly unique, to say the least. Then everyone cleared up their tents and got all of the troop gear packed into Mr. D's truck.

Although it was a fun trip there was definitely a joyous presence in the air as we were hiking back to the bus and on the ride back to the cabin. Once we got to the cabin we were able to unload the truck and clean out our packs. Once all of the cleanup was done everyone went home to enjoy the rest of their Sunday.



First Aid Adventure: Webelos Event

Thursday November 7, 2024

Troop 78 scouts took visiting Webelos through their First Aid Adventure, required for Arrow of Light. The troop scouts ran 6 stations, at each station a different first aid skill was taught and the Webelos demonstrated their proficiency. Malvern Fire Company brought a fire truck to the cabin and met with the Webelos to discuss the job of a first responder.



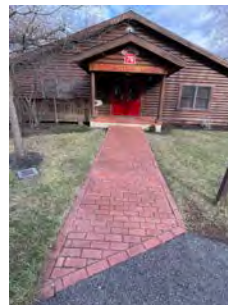
Cabin Pathway Brick Sale

Are you looking for a Holiday gift for the scout, scouter, or friend of Troop 78? Why not a brick with their name on it? When walking into the cabin there is a beautiful brick walkway with names of scouts, scouters and friends, both past and present, engraved into the brick pavers. Consider buying a brick for them to have their name be a visible part of Troop. Troop 78 is re-launching the engraved brick purchasing program, where you have the opportunity to purchase an engraved brick which will be added to the front walkway.

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 at <https://www.tr78.org/>.

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



Alumni Corner

Troop 78 Alumni Association Franks-giving!

Saturday November 30, 2024

Scouts and scouters of the Troop 78 family gathered at the cabin on a sunny Saturday afternoon to reconnect, catch up and enjoy the company of old friends. Thanks to all who helped coordinate yet another successful reunion. More pictures and info in the next Newsletter.



We would love to hear from you!

Please send in your updates. Where are you now? What are you up to?

[Click here to contact us with your alumni news.](#)

Upcoming Events

Brandywine River Museum Open House

Sunday December 8, 2024

5:00 -7:00PM

The Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art welcomes members of Willistown Troop 78 and their families to the Brandywine Museum of Art for a special holiday evening on Sunday, December 8, 2024, 5PM – 7PM. The Brandywine Conservancy graciously offers this event to the Troop families as a way to thank us for our efforts at the Radnor Races.

The museum will be open to Troop families only, including all permanent and current exhibitions including Up East: Andrew Wyeth in Maine; The Crafted World of Wharton Esherick; and The Wonderful World of Wyeth Miniatures. Also see the Museum’s renowned Brandywine Railroad O-gauge train layout with over 2,000 feet of track and 1,000 pieces and enjoy light refreshments provided by Radnor Hunt Races staff.

Please RSVP to Steve Brown at stevencharlesbrown@yahoo.com if you are going (or not) by Wednesday, December 4th at 4pm for this exclusive family event for our troop.

Scouts and Scouters should be in Class A uniform.

The Museum will be open to the Troop from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 8, 2024 and is located at 1 Hoffman’s Mill Road, Chadds Ford, PA (just off of Route 1).



Horseshoe Winter Weekend

Friday January 3 - Sunday January 5, 2025

Please join us for the annual Winter Weekend at Camp Horseshoe. We will be staying indoors in cabins heated by wood stoves, sleeping on bunks with mattresses, eating a delicious menu of home cooked food, and generally living large.

The Troop will do a service project for the camp: collecting and splitting firewood for the camp, then we will work on individual scout advancement, play games, compete in a round robin of scout skill events and all around have fun.



Disney

Troop 78 is going back to Disney World!!

Saturday April 12 - Saturday April 19, 2025

Join us this spring (during your spring break) for another exciting trip to the most magical place on Earth. Troop 78 home away from home: Disney!

[Click here for more information.](#)

[Click here for the sign up forms.](#)



Horseshoe Work Day

Saturday December 14, 2024

All are welcome!

Members of the Troop 78 community are organizing a work day Saturday December 14 to complete several facilities improvement projects around Camp Horseshoe. Our volunteer work crews will be on the job from 8am - 4pm. Projects include: completing minor dining hall renovations (featured in last month's Newsletter), improving staff living accommodations, and brush management around buildings. If you are looking for service hours or are just looking for something to do that Saturday, please consider joining us down at Camp Horseshoe.



Gift Card Program

Use gift cards for your everyday purchases and also as Holiday gifts. The troop receives a premium for every gift card purchase, this does not change the value of the card, so it is a win-win.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Algonquin Canoe Trip

Saturday August 9 - Saturday August 16, 2025

Deposits due December 20, 2024.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Chester County Council News

Giving Tuesday to Benefit Camp Horseshoe

Two great causes to benefit from your generosity!

[Please click here to see how to help the camp!](#)



Council Off-Season Merit Badge Program at Camp

The Council off-season merit badge program at Camp continues!

[Click here for more information.](#)

Off-season Merit Badge schedule:

- Electronics and Electricity Dec 21
- Cooking January 18
- Wood Carving February 1
- Welding April 12
- Fishing May 10



Veterans Breakfast

Monday November 11, 2024
Desmond Hotel, Malvern

CCC annual Veterans recognition breakfast was held Monday November 11, 2024 at the Desmond. As always, it was a packed house, standing room only for a program to honor the dedication of all of our Veterans.

Thank you to all of the sponsors, speakers, Scouts and Scouters who came out to honor our Veterans!



Order of the Arrow Octoraro Lodge 22

Brotherhood Blitz

Saturday, December 14, 2024

Ordeal members of the Order of the Arrow: please join us for a session to achieve your Brotherhood in the OA.



[Click here for more information.](#)

Troop 78 Online

YouTube Videos

[Click here for the latest Troop 78 videos.](#)

Troop Media Consent Policy

Throughout the Scout year Troop 78 will be publishing troop events on its various media platforms including this Newsletter, Facebook, Instagram, and Alumni social media platforms. All scouts and leaders understand attending troop events will result in images, videos, and written content.

[Please click here for more information.](#)

[Click here for the latest news from Chester County Council.](#)

Please feel free to forward.

Print this Newsletter for all of your family and friends to see!