



Willistown Troop 78

Website: www.tr78.org

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

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January 2024

Volume 40 Number 5

Holiday Party!



Inside this issue
Brandywine River Museum Event
Picnic Tables!
Disney 2024



January 2024

- 2 Tuesday Board of Review 6:30PM, Troop Comm Mtg. 7:30PM
- 3 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7:00 -8:00 PM
- 5 Friday - 7 Sunday Winter Camp at Camp Horseshoe
- 12 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM
- 13 Saturday Pinewood Derby car workshop for cubs and Webelos
- 19 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM
- 26 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM

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

Troop 78 Holiday Party!

Friday December 15, 2023

Troop 78 Cabin

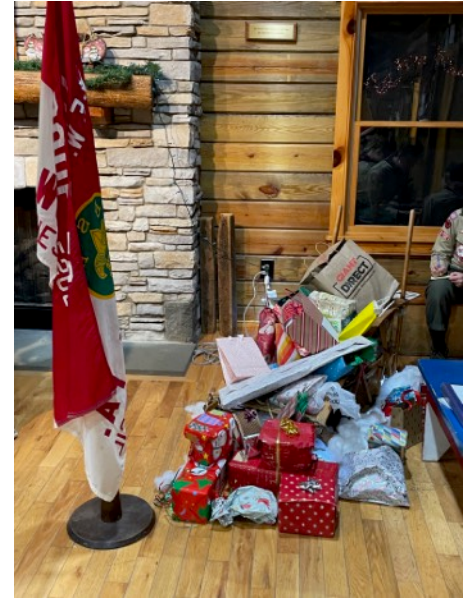
By Justin Sansone

On December 15, the scouts headed to the cabin for the annual holiday party. We started off with a brief advancement period, before heading into the first aid problem. It was based off of Home Alone, with injuries on Marv and Harry ranging from chipped teeth to an iron-shaped burn.

When the problem was over, we got ready for the game. At this meeting, we opted for a few rounds of British Bulldogs, a game similar to Sharks and Minnows.

Next, we held the gift exchange. Scouts chose from the assortment of gifts that other scouts had brought. A notable gift included a box of soda and chocolate covered pretzels. After that, it was time to

eat! This year's food included an arrangement of cookies, chips, and many more delicious snacks. When we were done, we all went home with another amazing party in the books.



Happy Holidays!



Brandywine River Museum at the Holidays

Sunday December 10, 2023

By Ethan Winkelman

On a Dark and Stormy night... Long after the Brandywine Museum of Art had closed its doors to the public... they admitted a mysterious group of uniformed individuals and their families to view the galleries, drink cider and eat Christmas treats, and enjoy time with their families. This wasn't the plot to a suspenseful horror movie, but an event that occurred on Sunday, December 10th. In return for our troops' service in events such as the Radnor Races, we were able to enter free of charge and appreciate the art from 5 to 7:00PM.

On the first floor were the snacks tables, where scouts and their families loaded up on popcorn, Christmas cookies and cider. A steady flow of people would return to this table throughout the night, for few enjoy art on an empty stomach. Near the tables was located the first gallery, New Acquisitions. Nature paintings with subtle details, an old man with red glasses and a fat pig were all sights to be discovered there.

From the first floor visitors could seamlessly transition up the stairs to the next area, which turned out to be an unexpectedly wonderful O-gauge mini train layout. Scouts marveled at the expertly crafted layout, and the humorous scenes of little people going about their daily lives. A twist not expected of the typical train layout was pedals spaced about the exhibit, which when pressed, lit up sections of the layout. From that point the rest of the museum unfolded out, scouts meandered their way through special exhibits and classic ones. One honorable mention was the picture books gallery, with original canvases showcases the artistry concealed in selected modern picture books.

The final exhibit hidden in the far flung corner of the museum was a new Andrew Wyeth exhibit, showcasing art he had kept in his studio. Overall the experience was very enjoyable, with the calm lights of the museum contrasting to the bitter rain mixing with the darkness outside. And the experience was also tasteful, the snacks table was just about empty at the end.





Holiday Poinsettia and Wreath Sale

By Jim Fox

Another successful poinsettia and wreath sale concluded with our selfless troop volunteers offering "many hands to make light the work." In total, 820 poinsettias and wreaths were unloaded, sorted, and distributed to brighten up the holidays. Families, neighbors, friends, and co-workers were treated to quality products that were delivered by cheerful scouts and dedicated parents. The sale proceeds funded scout camping accounts and contributed toward covering program monthly expenses for camping trips and equipment.

Our top sellers were: Shreyas Sao, Josh Simms, and Braeden Happ who were awarded gift cards for leading the effort for their troop.

A special thanks to Mark Siegle for coordinating with the grower, to Brian Rothberg and Steve Wark for driving many miles to deliver our larger corporate orders, and to Wayne Curry and Mr. D who stayed extra long hours for the distribution to ensure that orders were correctly matched. We appreciate our other volunteers who helped sort and our customers whose support is vital to the mission of Willistown Troop 78!



Picnic Tables

Saturdays December 2, 9, 16, 2023

Troop 78 Bus Barn

Troop 78 work crews fired up their power tools and their assembly line skills and set their minds on the construction of picnic tables for the new pavilion at the PARC center in Exton. We met on several successive Saturdays at the cabin for sorting of the lumber, cutting the pieces for the tables and assembling them into 10 brand new tables. The final step is the branding of the tables with “Troop 78”.

The tables were successfully delivered to their new home, the Eagle Pavilion at PARC.

Thank you to those who gave their time and talents to the construction, Mark Siegle, Rob Duff, Ernie Heegard, Dan Connors, Arek Connors, Steve D’Antonio, Pete Motel, Nate Motel, Bill Trowill, John Souder, George Gruss. The hard work and generosity of Troop 78’s devoted volunteers continues to improve the programs and facilities for scouts across Chester County.



Upcoming Events

Winter Weekend at Camp Horseshoe!

Friday January 5 - Sunday January 7, 2024

Please join us for the annual Father / Son 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.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Pine Wood Derby Workshop

Saturday January 13, 2024

Annual Pinewood Derby Fabrication Workshop on 1/13/23. During this workshop our world renowned derby car builders will be lending their time, talent and tools to help local Cubs (and parents) fabricate 5 ounces of pure Pinewood Derby greased lightening glory.

Cubs will be asked to bring their official Pinewood Derby car kit, a package of weights and ideally a sketch of their car's design. The workshop will start with all Cubs and parents learning some simple physics principles that apply to making a competitive Pinewood Derby car.



Please consider signing up to help.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Disney 2024!

Saturday March 23 - Saturday March 30, 2024



Heading to Walt Disney World with Troop 78? Reserve your spot for Spring Break 2024

When are we going? March 23- 30

What are we going to do? We will spend a morning at the Disney Imagination Campus in one of the parks. We will participate in a workshop in a Disney Park learning about the Physics of Disney's Parks. We will also spend four days Park-Hopping, we can visit any of the four theme parks (Magic Kingdom, Disney's Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom, and Epcot), or just swim and hang out at the Fort Wilderness campground at any time.

Who can go?

- 1) Scouts and leaders who are registered and active in the troop,
- 2) Scouts must have attended (or worked) at summer camp at least one week in 2023, and
- 3) Scouts who are *or will be* First Class rank by March 17th, and who are responsible enough to visit the theme parks *on their own* with a small group of other Scouts as determined by their parents and the Scoutmaster.

The cost to go on the trip to Disney? \$1,000 plus spending money

What do I get for the \$1,000 cost? Round trip bus transportation on the luxurious troop bus, food and meals, camping fees, a morning of learning about the Physics of Disney Parks, a Four day Park-Hopper Disney pass, adventures of conquering all of the mountains in Disney, visit Mickey and Minnie, and create some magical memories. During this time you will practice scout skills of reading a map, money management and time management as well as brushing up on your cooking skills.

How do I sign up for this awesome annual trip? Handouts will be given out during a troop meeting in December and they will also be posted on the troop web site.

Once you reserve a spot you will receive further instructions regarding departure times, what to pack, spending money, bus preparation etc.

Dates to remember for mandatory meetings and payments are:

1. **Sunday January 7th (Winter Camp) - \$500.00 Deposit and permission slip are due**
2. **Sunday, February 11th (Super Bowl Sunday Pancake Breakfast)- \$500 Final Payment due**
3. **Friday March 1st, 9:00 PM (after Troop meeting) – Scout and Parent Meeting (Parent must attend with scout)**
4. **Saturday March 16th – Bus and equipment cleaning meeting 1:00PM to 4:00PM**
5. **Friday March 22nd – 7:00 PM Load your gear on the bus**
6. **Saturday March 23rd – noon Leave for DISNEY**

We must have at least 16 Scouts and Adults to Camp at Disney.



Fundraising

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. Please consider adding your name or the name of a friend or family member to a brick in the walkway.

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 Alums and Chums in the News

Coming soon: Troop 78 Alums and Chums News: Did you just get married? Has there been a birth in the family? Did you become a grandparent? We want to hear about it!

Send us your family update and we'll put it in the Newsletter.

"Troop 78 Alums and Chums News" will be a feature of the Newsletter, starting in the New Year. We'd like to let the members of your Troop 78 extended family know what's going on in your life or the lives of your more immediate family. Share your

FOLLOW TROOP 78'S ALUMNI ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



TROOP 78 ALUMNI



TROOP 78 FRIENDS AND ALUMNI



@78ALUMNI

WE'RE LOOKING FOR FEATURES!
PLEASE SEND ANY PHOTOS AND VIDEOS TO
TROOP78ALUMNI@GMAIL.COM
ALONG WITH THEIR STORY

news on graduations, engagements, weddings, relocations, bereavement notifications and other life events.

Send your news to Dr. Pete at petemote@aol.com by the 20th of the month and we'll do our best to get it in the upcoming Newsletter.

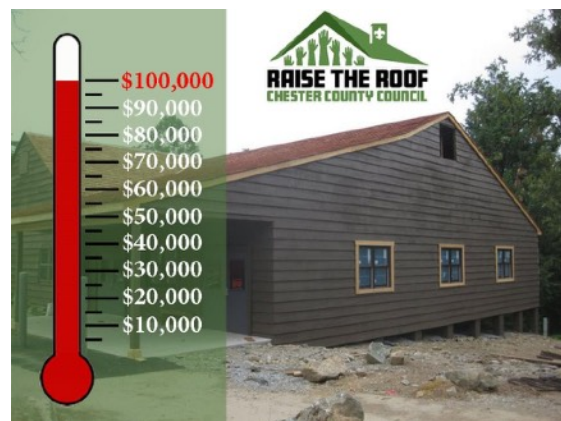
Chester County Council News

Raise the Roof

The Camp Horseshoe dining hall is getting an upgrade! We achieved our goal of raising \$100,000, and then some. Thanks to all to donated to this extremely important project!

As many of you know who have recently been in the dining hall, the roof is in need of replacement. This need has become critical as the roof in the kitchen area is now failing. The entire roof structure needs to be replaced.

As the hub of activity in Camp Horseshoe, the dining hall is part of what makes camp so special. With this project, we are protecting one of Camp Horseshoe's most precious assets, a place where we have all enjoyed the camaraderie of good company, spirited singing and cheering, and many happy memories. Stay tuned for updates as the project progresses.



New Fleur-de-lis at the PARC center

New Signage Installed! Thanks to a generous donor, PARC recently had two, back-lit BSA Fleur-De-Lis installed; one on each end of the building. The thousands of vehicles that travel Rt. 30 each day will now be reminded that Scouting is thriving in Chester County!



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

Order of the Arrow Octoraro Lodge 22

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>

"Super Sunday" – January 7, 2024

No, the Super Bowl is not the real Super Sunday. In Octoraro Lodge 22 Super Sunday is Sunday, **January 7, 2023**. On this day we have our first LLT meeting of the year and swear in our new officers. On top of this we have our Vigil Selection Meeting and Awards Selection Meeting. All lodge members are invited to the LLT Meeting. The LLT meeting is at 2:00 pm at PARC. Vigil selection meeting (Vigil Honor members only) is at 3:00 pm. Mark your calendars!

Pay to Play

Registrations for Pay to Play will open on **January 1, 2024**. A Pay to Play registration allows you to pay for all 3 service weekends and the lodge banquet at one time!

[Click here for the National Order of the Arrow Newsletter.](#)

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