



Newsletter

Volume 29

Number 11

July-August 2013

CALENDAR

JULY-AUGUST 2013

6/30 - 7/7 - Horseshoe Summer Camp

WEEK TWO

8/3 - 8/11 - Algonquin Park, Ont. Canoe Trip

8/18 - 8/25 - Florida Sea Base Trip

NOTE: Camping Trips/Major Events shown in Bold. TROOP MEETINGS underlined in CAPITALS. Adult only meetings in Italics.

FIELD DAY, FAMILY PICNIC, AND COURT OF HONOR

Ethan Bilson, Stag Patrol

Troop 78's day of fun started out with Field Day, which is traditionally one of the favorite events on the troop calendar. As usual, it was a blast, and all the Scouts had an awesome time. Everybody had a fun time participating in the events, and all went well. Even the rainstorm that week could not put a damper on any of the fire-based competitions. There was much enthusiasm amongst the mob of cheering Scouts, and all patrols tried their best. In the end however, Flying Eagle Patrol came out on top for the third year in a row. Congratulations to Flying Eagle, and good luck to the rest of the patrols on next year's competitions. The day continued with a brief Court of Honor in which four Scouts were presented their Eagle Rank. Congratulations to Grant LePard, Collin Evans, Matt Hogan, and Gabe McDonald. After the last of the Eagle speeches were over and Mr. D presented the Eagle Challenge, we all exited the building for the best part of the day, the Family Picnic. All the food tasted great and everybody enjoyed the time. While the Scouts burnt off their energy on the volleyball court, scouting families got a chance to socialize and talk with each other.

Thanks to all the parents who kindly brought food in for the picnic, and all the adult leaders that toiled over the grill and the preparations that are involved with this event.

CAVING AND RAFTING TRIP

By Ian Riley, Rattlesnake Patrol

On Friday the June 14th, Troop 78 set out on a camping extravaganza. We started off with a five-hour bus ride to Ohiopyle on the Youghiogeny River. The ride was marked with much singing and a cheer battle between the Scouts and the adults. We arrived around midnight and set up our tents before settling in and going to sleep.

We awoke the next morning and made breakfast by patrol, some made eggs, others made French toast, and of course, it wouldn't be a caving trip without a whole lot of bacon. Once we were all cleaned up we got dressed and went out to begin our whitewater adventure. We arrived and got onto another bus, sporting our helmets, PFDs and paddles. We had been assigned our boats and after a quick briefing got into the water to start our seven-and-a-half-mile journey down "The Lower Yough." After a few Scouts became more acquainted with the river on the first rapids, we all more or less got the hang of the river. There were some great rapids on this stretch, including a couple of fours! No one flipped, but a few more Scouts fell into the river. We got back to camp and began cooking dinner, which consisted of delicious (and not burnt) burritos. We explored the camp for a while, had a snack of cookies and fruit, and then went to bed.

The next morning we had a light breakfast, enjoyed a brief church

service, and cleaned up the campsite. We set out to Laurel Caverns. They are the largest caves in Pennsylvania. The older Scouts went down to the lower caves, and the younger Scouts went into the upper caves. We spent about 3 hours exploring the caves, including some narrow crawls and a chimney climb. After we left the caves, we drove back, featuring a marvelous detour exploring the backcountry of western Pennsylvania. We eventually got back to the cabin around 6:30, having just experienced the trip of a lifetime.

TROOP 21 HURRICANE SANDY SERVICE PROJECT WRAPS UP

Troop 78's second Hurricane Sandy relief project has been completed. Recently, a shipment of new tents, a canopy tent, tables, camp dining ware and water jugs were purchased from Campmor and shipped to Troop 21 in Seaside Heights, NJ. Scoutmaster for Troop 21, Diane Bond, was very appreciative of our efforts to help her troop get camping again. Troop 21 also received a check for a new troop flag and a few camping items that could not be purchased at Campmor. Finally, an American flag, pole and base that we were not using, were shipped to our friends in New Jersey.

It is the hope of both troops that we can meet and camp together someday soon. One such opportunity could be on a beach trip at the beginning of the Scout year in September or October.

Thank you to those who contributed financially to this project and to Friends of Troop 78 who also made a donation. These funds have done a wonderful thing and helped a troop that lost everything in the storm.