



# Willistown Troop 78

Website: [www.tr78.org](http://www.tr78.org)

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

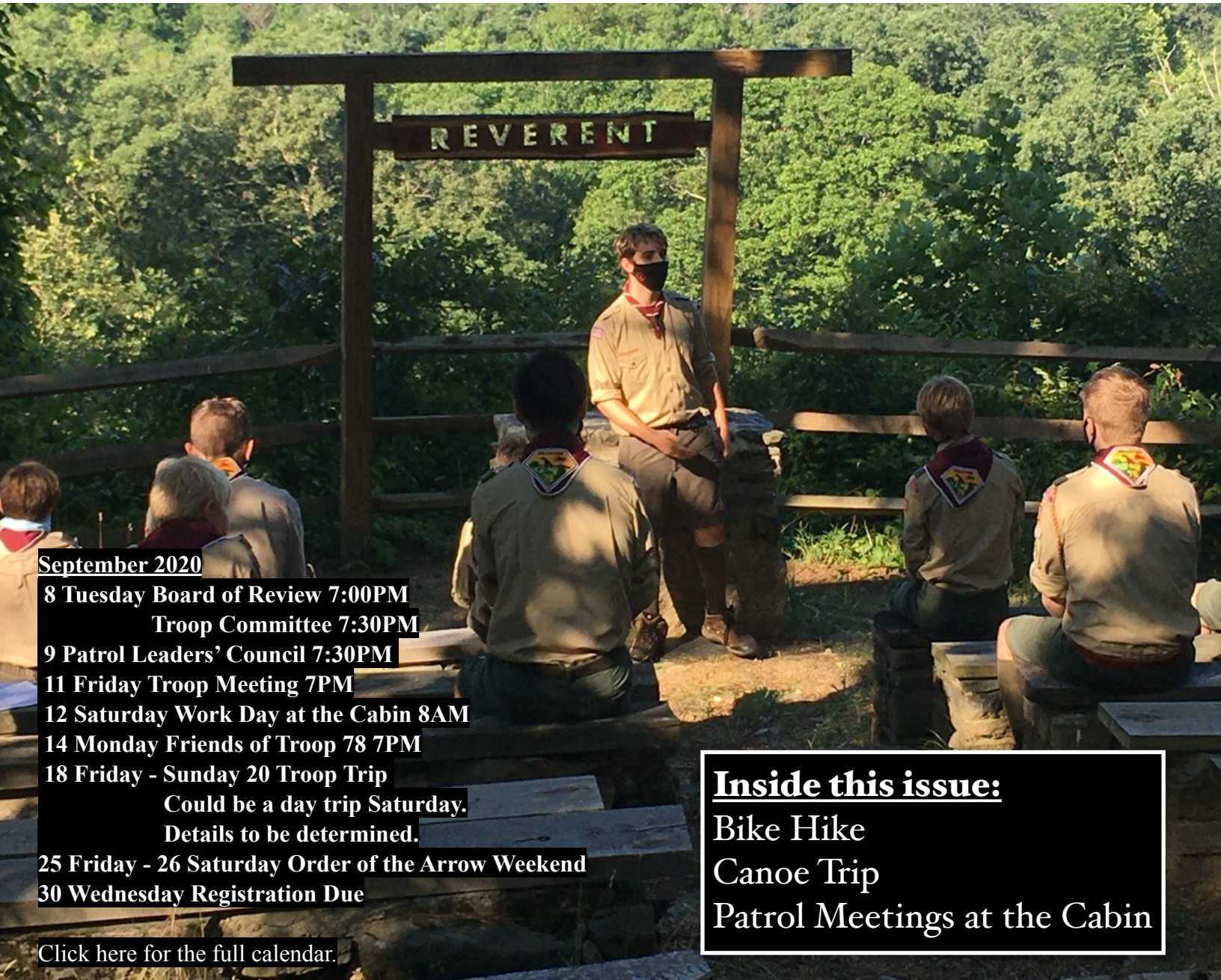
YouTube Channel: [Troop 78](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Volume 37 Number 1

August / September 2020

## Scout On!

### Scouting Continues During the Pandemic



#### **September 2020**

**8 Tuesday Board of Review 7:00PM**

**Troop Committee 7:30PM**

**9 Patrol Leaders' Council 7:30PM**

**11 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM**

**12 Saturday Work Day at the Cabin 8AM**

**14 Monday Friends of Troop 78 7PM**

**18 Friday - Sunday 20 Troop Trip**

**Could be a day trip Saturday.**

**Details to be determined.**

**25 Friday - 26 Saturday Order of the Arrow Weekend**

**30 Wednesday Registration Due**

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

#### **Inside this issue:**

Bike Hike

Canoe Trip

Patrol Meetings at the Cabin

# Troop 78 Campout at Camp Horseshoe 2020

Friday July 17 - Sunday July 19, 2020

By Jace Anderson

Arguably one of the most significant traditions in the history of our troop is the annual trip to Camp Horseshoe. Every year without fail, our troop takes the trip to Rising Sun, Maryland to experience a camp like no other, where we expand not only our knowledge in scouting but also our love for adventure and our appreciation for the brotherhood that we have created within our troop. This long-lasting tradition was threatened this year due to COVID-19, so when we received word that we would, in fact, be traveling to Horseshoe even for a short amount of time and under strict safety regulations, we were overjoyed.

Arriving at camp felt incredibly nostalgic, and even without the bustling crowds of people, with parents saying goodbye and staff hastily unloading cars, the feeling of walking down into the Dan Beard campsite was the same. Being greeted by your friends as you walk into the small town that we create in our campsite gives an immediate sense of calm. It is truly a home away from home for me and many others.

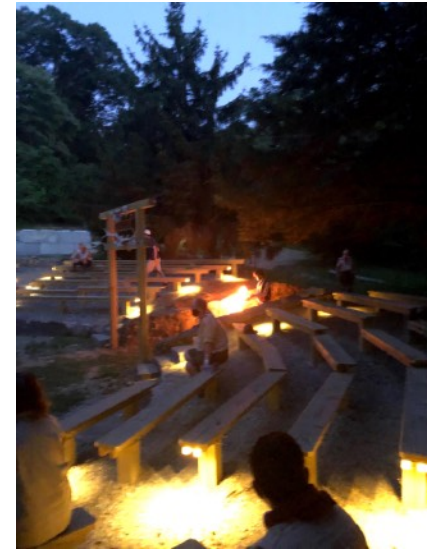
Much of the first night was spent setting up camp and preparing for the weekend. The rules were given about social distancing and always wearing masks, and scouts went along their way. Shortly after this, we had our own version of the traditional opening fire. We all gathered around the fire in our campsite as it was lit by Brandon Schallack using flint and steel and a bit of hand sanitizer. We brought out the songbooks and began with cheers reminiscent of the cheer wars in the dining hall. Slowly we transitioned into songs that just about everyone knew by heart. We then received stories from many scouts and then one from Ernie, about the importance of perseverance in life. The campfire was closed by Mr. Siegle singing a song and playing the guitar.

The next morning, everyone woke up bright and early for inspection. This is a staple of Horseshoe living that I and the rest of the patrol leaders were not going to let slip. After the inspection was breakfast, which consisted of eggs and sausage. After breakfast, we began advancements. We had multiple stations teaching different lessons and scouts could choose which lesson they wanted to attend. This was similar to the merit badge courses that normally take place



at camp. After this, it was time to do service projects, The troop was split into two groups for two different tasks.

The group that I was a part of was tasked with clearing overgrown parts of the boat docks trail. We went at it with clippers and saws, and when we finished, the trail looked fantastic. After this, it was time for lunch. Hungry scouts lined up for PB&J and Ham and cheese sandwiches and siesta began shortly after. After everyone took a much-needed rest, it was time for a hike to Camp Ware. The whole troop hiked down the freshly cleared trail and across the bridge to Ware. The main attraction at Ware was the open trading post with wonderful air conditioning. Scouts stocked up on ice-cold drinks and snacks for the remainder of the weekend and we began the hike back to camp. We all got into uniform for retreat. We marched out onto the parade field for a quick retreat and hurried back to camp for dinner. Normally, almost every night at Horseshoe, there is a camp-wide game. Clearly this couldn't happen, so we created our own game. The troop was once again split into two for a scavenger hunt where scouts were tasked with grabbing items from around camp as well as doing things such as reciting the lyrics to American Pie by Don McLean in its entirety. After the game, the whole troop as well as some other troops staying at camp journeyed down to the newly restored fire circle for the pageant. Black 2020 segments were given out to all who attended and we all went back to camp for water ice and a good night's sleep.



In the morning we rose once again, this time putting on a full uniform for the walk to chapel hill where a musical non-denominational service was held. It was a spectacular ending to our fantastic little slice of Horseshoe living that we were able to enjoy that weekend. Soon after we all packed up and one by one we left, eager to return once again next summer.

### **By Doug Johnson**

This year at Troop 78's Horseshoe trip it wasn't the full experience. Normally we would go for two weeks, or one at least, but this time we only went for a weekend due to Covid 19. Fortunately, the staff crammed as many activities into the weekend as possible. Some of the activities included marching practice, marching on the parade field, tent inspection, taking a hike to Camp Ware, a scavenger hunt, and an awards ceremony at Achgekatum Fire Circle.

We had lots of fun and the troop leaders surprised us with Rita's water ice on Saturday night after the awards ceremony. As we woke up on Sunday morning we started getting packed up, ate breakfast, and went to chapel out on Chapel Hill. After chapel we went back to camp and got are duffle bags and we all headed home.

In the end it's safe to say the troop had a great time!

[Click here for more pictures and videos from the weekend at Horseshoe.](#)

# Troop 78 Bike Hike

Saturday May 23, 2020

By Colton Marshall

The boys of 78 met at the Schuylkill Trail with their bikes and helmets on. The boys started practicing social distancing as they began riding their bikes. We stayed in a single file line so other bikers and runners on the trail had room. It was hot, so it was a good thing the pretty trees gave us shade and was nice to just look at it. The trail was nice and smooth until we had to avoid the

construction, but the adults took us on a safe detour. We also had plenty of water breaks. The number of people that came (27) was amazing. There was a point in the trail where we split up into



two groups. One group went 26mi and the others went back and did a total of 15.5mi. When we got back we all said goodbye and see you on the next trip. We all had so much fun.

# Troop Canoe Trip on the Schuylkill

Saturday July 25, 2020

By Logan Duff

On Saturday July 25th, our troop went on a day trip canoeing along the Schuylkill canal and river. This trip is the third one we have done while going through COVID, and was our last gathering as a troop before our summer break. We started at the put-in point near Port Providence where the troop met. All were wearing masks and stayed 6-feet apart. At about 10:15AM we put our canoes in and started down the canal. It was a beautiful sunny day. Many scouts went on this trip as their first or one of their first canoeing trips. The canal was a quiet without a strong current.



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At Lock 60, we pulled out our boats and stopped for lunch before portaging to the river. We enjoyed the packed lunch we brought as well as a whole watermelon that Arek Connors brought and cut up for the group. After we had taken our break and were ready to go, we headed back to the

parking lot using the river. We saw fewer people and many personal docks on the shores of the river, and the current was faster. We were blessed with no rain and only light clouds. There were some shallow parts of the river and very light rapids. The scenery was very pretty. There were a lot of overhanging trees and the water was glistening and smooth. The canal side of the trip took about an hour to an hour and a half. Then the river side took 30-45 minutes because of the current.

After we reached our take out stop, which no one missed, we pulled out our boats as a team and brought them back to the original parking lot to be loaded onto the trailer. We thank our drivers, Mr. D and Mr. Duff, as well as Mr. Bilson for planning and leading. The trip was a lot of fun and a good way to get out of the house and meet with the troop during this confusing time. We had great weather and many scouts got to experience their first canoe trip. No one fell into the water, no one lost a phone, and everyone returned happy and excited for when we return in the fall.



## Patrol Meetings at the Cabin

Throughout the months of June and July the patrols have been meeting at the cabin with two or three patrols on any given evening for an evening of fun and scout skill training. Everyone followed appropriate CDC recommended precautions.

All of the patrols participated in these evenings several times over the course of the past 8 - 10 weeks.



# Order of the Arrow Service and Induction Weekend

Friday August 7 - Saturday August 8, 2020

An OA weekend was held Friday August 7th to Saturday August 8th, 2020 at Camp John H. Ware 3rd. The Ordeal weekend started Friday night at 6 pm and concluded at 4 pm Saturday after the induction ceremony finished. In accordance with local and BSA guidelines, all COVID-19 precautions including social distancing and wearing of face masks were followed.

Members performed various service projects throughout the camp on Saturday morning, including the refurbishing of benches in the Ware ceremonial fire circle. The Ordeal weekend saw 25 new members inducted in a beautiful daytime ceremony with the Octoraro in the background.

Another OA weekend is being planned for a date yet to be determined in the future. More details to follow in future lodge communications.

## 2020 Annual Registration

Troop 78 registration fees are now due. Willistown Troop 78 needs to register all scouts and adults each year with the Boy Scouts of America.

BSA fees assessed on each troop member have **increased significantly**. The troop 78 committee is raising the registration fees a very modest \$10/person to partially cover this expense and subsidizing the remainder using funds from previously cancelled activities. Registration fees will need to increase again in the future to help close the funding gap.

### 2020 Troop 78 Registration Fees:

Your registration category	Your registration fee	Troop provided subsidy	Troop owes BSA
First Scout	\$100	\$44	\$144
Each Additional Scout in a Family	\$85	\$27	\$112
College Scouters Age 18-20	\$55	\$23	\$78
Adults	\$75	\$3	\$78
1st Year Dads	\$55	\$23	\$78
Seniors Age 65+	\$55	\$23	\$78

To ensure continuity with the scouting program we need your registration form and check by September 30, 2020.

All registered adults must also complete online Youth Protection Training (YPT) every calendar year at <http://my.scouting.org>. It is highly recommended you use Google Chrome browser. Please complete your YPT by September 30, 2020.

As a reminder, background checks are valid for 5 years. All registered adults need to renew their PA State Police and PA Child Welfare background checks before they expire. Detailed instructions for required PA background checks are found at <https://www.cccbsa.org/resources/pa-background-checks/>

[Click here for more information.](#)

# New Scouts B.S.A. Training

By Mike Simms

The new online/facilitated version of the Scouts BSA training is available as of August 3rd. Because of a change in the Learning Management System (LMS) any modules you started but did not complete by August 3rd, you will have to restart using the new learning plans and modules. The change to the Learning Plans will affect the following positions – Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, Committee Member and Merit Badge Counselor. The new online learning combines content, resulting in fewer modules and streamlined courses to help reduce the total time it takes to complete the training. The new facilitated course uses offline versions of the learning modules to facilitate maintenance on any future changes – thus the online and facilitated content are simultaneously updated to ensure consistency.

Please note: Completion of the appropriate portion of the Scouts BSA training will meet the requirements for.

- Scoutmaster & Assistant Scoutmaster: S24 Scoutmaster Specific Training
- Merit Badge Counselor: D76 Merit Badge Counselor Orientation Training
- Troop Committee Chair & Committee: WS10 Troop Committee Challenge

[Click here for the link to the Adult Training page on the troop website.](#)

## Where?

Answer to last month's contest:

Ridley Creek State Park



Please vote on this location:

Hint: site of a recent Troop campout

[Click here to vote.](#)



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