

SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION WILLISTOWN TROOP 78 - 2023

Directions to Camp Horseshoe

From the North: Drive south on US Route 1 approximately 2.5 miles south of the PA/MD line. Turn right onto Red Pump Road (traffic signal), then left onto Ridge Road about three-quarters of a mile from there. Continue on Ridge Road as it winds all the way to its end at the Horseshoe Camp gate. Pass the stone house and follow the gravel road to the main parking lot. Vehicles will be greeted at the main parking lot and directed to the drop-off point for each campsite. You will enter the paved loop road past the parking lot turn right, going around the bend to the Dan Beard Campsite trail near a silver Quonset hut. All vehicles must be unloaded promptly and returned directly to the main parking lot. Driver must stay with the car while unloading. Staff members will be on hand to help move your Scouts gear to the site. ***You should pack your son's gear in trunks and duffel bags without any "loose stuff" so that it may be transported by staff to our campsite.***

Sunday Arrival and Saturday Departure

Troop 78 arrival time is 1:00 PM on Sunday. Please ignore any other arrival times that may be on the camp website. Please arrive on time so that we can get through our check-in and swim test quickly. The troop cannot begin check in until all Scouts have arrived. If your Scout will be late for any reason, please text the Scoutmaster at 484-883-1277. Camp will run from Sunday until the following Saturday after lunch around 1:00 PM . Pick up time on Saturday will be between 1:00 and 2:00 PM. Parents are welcome to attend the Campwide event on Saturday morning starting at 9:30 AM. This year, Week one will be a Paul Bunyan Field Day in the Campcraft Area, and Week two will be a Water Carnival at the Pool. Two week campers in Troop 78 will be permitted to stay through to the second week, and the troop will prepare meals in the campsite during that time. If you visit your two week camper on Saturday and need to take them home until Sunday, you should let them stay through Saturday lunch (around 1:00 PM) for awards and songs. For those staying both weeks, the troop is planning to take a tubing trip on Saturday afternoon or on Sunday morning after breakfast (weather permitting).

Special Dietary Needs

The camp would like to know about special dietary needs *three weeks in advance* of our arrival. Please provide the Special Needs Request form found on the troop website to Kipp Happ no later than June 1st.

The food service staff will prepare special meals for any vegetarians or those with medical or religious dietary concerns. Special dietary arrangements are for dietary needs, not preferences.

Troop 78 Policy regarding Cell phone use at camp:

The troop will continue its past policy on cell phone use. **All Scouts should leave cell phones at home, including the Junior Staff.** Their presence at camp is a disruption to normal activities, and in past years they have exacerbated the instances of home-sickness. Part of Scouting is to learn to live independently and to resolve problems on your own, with the assistance of your Patrol Leader when needed or if necessary an Adult leader. Calling Mom or Dad to solve small issues is counter to the goals of Scouting. Please respect the troop's decision in this regard. Adult Leaders will have phones available if needed for emergencies. *This policy worked very well for the past several years at camp and to our knowledge no Scout was harmed by not having their phone.* Phones or other electronic devices such as game systems that appear in camp in possession of a scout will be confiscated by the Scoutmaster or

an Assistant scoutmaster and stored for the remainder of the scouts stay at summer camp. Adult leaders and parents who stay and visit camp will be asked to have their phones and devices on silent, and if calls or emails need to be made, asked to leave the campsite. Wi-Fi is available at the headquarters for adults who need to do work while at camp. As always, Scouts who need support or assistance should talk to their Patrol leader, their Senior Patrol Leader, the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster. If calls or communications home are required it should be with appropriate adult notification, supervision, and consultation.

Letters, Phone Calls and Emails

Letters generally take at least 3-4 days to reach camp from eastern Chester County, so plan accordingly. Address your letters as follows:

Camp Horseshoe
[Scout's Name], Troop 78
Dan Beard Campsite
1286 Ridge Road
Rising Sun, MD 21911

Camp has one public pay phone line and one business line. Because of the size of the camp and the varied schedule of each Scout, there is no practical way to hold an incoming call. If urgency demands, we will attempt to locate Scouts quickly; otherwise, a message will be delivered to the Scoutmaster who will have your son call as soon as possible. Camp requests that incoming calls be limited to emergencies or urgent matters. The number of the camp business phone is (717) 548-2525. Steve D'Antonio's cell number is 484-883-1277. Scouts may receive (but not respond to) emails through the Camp website.

Trading Post

The Trading Post offers merit badge materials, craft supplies, souvenirs, sodas and snacks, and a good selection of Scouting gear. It is open Monday thru Saturday during merit badge times, and evenings after dinner from 7:30 to 8:30 PM. ***Sugary snacks and sodas are only sold during afternoon and evening hours.***

Ton-Ca-Coo Belt Branding

In the Mohawk language, ton-ca-coo means —little deeds. One of Horseshoe's most enduring and popular traditions is the recognition of the many little deeds accomplished at camp by a system of different brands that can be applied to a leather belt. There are approximately 30 brands that Scouts and leaders can earn while spending a week in camp. Belt kits are available from the Trading Post and help in assembling and branding the belts is available from the Handicraft staff. Cost is approximately \$26. **We encourage Scouts in Troop 78 to purchase and brand a Horseshoe belt. A tradition begun and maintained for over 60 years by our past Scoutmaster and former Camp Director of many years, Ernie Heegard.**

Trailblazers (First Year Program)

The Trailblazer First Year Camper Experience is an intensive program designed for Camp Horseshoe's first-year campers with their special needs in mind. As a Trailblazer, the Scout will not only learn most of the outdoor skills for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class, but also have the opportunity to participate in each and every one of the exciting program areas at Camp Horseshoe. The Trailblazer Scout, as a result, will be able to advance in rank and experience summer camp to its fullest, encouraging him to remain in Scouting and return to camp next year.

The Trailblazer program runs from 10:00 am to noon and from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm each weekday. At 2:00 pm, Scouts are encouraged to take swimming merit badge. For that they will need a long sleeve shirt and long pants to complete one of the requirements. Scouts who attend all sessions and the Outpost will be rewarded with a Trailblazer segment for their Horseshoe patch.

All of the outdoor skill requirements for Tenderfoot through First Class are covered throughout the week. With a little practice back in camp, Scouts should be able to have most of these requirements signed off by their Patrol leaders during the week or shortly after camp. Patrol

Leaders are expected to review the material with each Scout prior to signing off on requirements in the handbook.

The Trailblazer Outpost will be Thursday night, departing from the Trailblazer area at 7:30 pm sharp. Scouts will play games, participate in a campfire, and go on an astronomy hike (clear skies permitting). Trailblazers need only bring a sleeping bag, ground pad or cloth, pillow, flashlight and water bottle. Leaders are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

Adult Leaders and Dads at Camp

Adult leaders attending camp for a week or more should inform Kipp Happ, our Camp Registrar, or sign up on the Adult Sign up chart at the cabin. Camp requires that you must be a Registered adult leader to stay overnight, and you must also provide a BSA medical form signed by a doctor within the past year if you are staying more than six hours. Registered leaders staying for less than a week should also sign up on the form at the cabin so we know how many are in camp at any given time.

Because the cost to the troop for adult meals has increased significantly in the past few years, we are asking leaders and Dads who are financially able, to donate towards their meal cost of \$50 per day per person, or \$300 per week. Please make checks payable to Willistown Troop 78.

Personal Conduct

The Scout Oath and Law are the camp rules of personal conduct for Scouts, leaders, and staff. Please note that the following items are prohibited in camp and will be confiscated immediately: fireworks, water balloon launchers, skateboards, mini-bikes, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, pets, and firearms. Additional action, including expulsion from camp, may accompany confiscation.

DO NOT BRING: water guns, candles, fireworks or valuable electrical devices. These items are forbidden, may be confiscated by your leaders or staff, and in the case of fireworks will result in your being asked to leave camp.

