



# 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 34 Number 1

September 2017

## Upcoming Events

### September

5 Tuesday Board of Review 7PM  
Troop Committee 7:30PM

6 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council  
7:30PM

8 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM  
First Troop Meeting of the new scout  
year

9 Saturday Workday at the cabin  
8AM, rain date Sept 10 @ noon

11 Monday Friends of Troop 78 7PM

15 Friday - 17 Sunday  
Canoe trip on the Delaware River

22 Friday - 24 Sunday Order of the  
Arrow fellowship weekend at Camp  
Horseshoe

29 Troop Meeting 7PM

### October

3 Tuesday Board of Review 7PM  
Troop Committee 7:30PM

4 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council  
7:30PM

6 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM  
Poinsettia sale begins

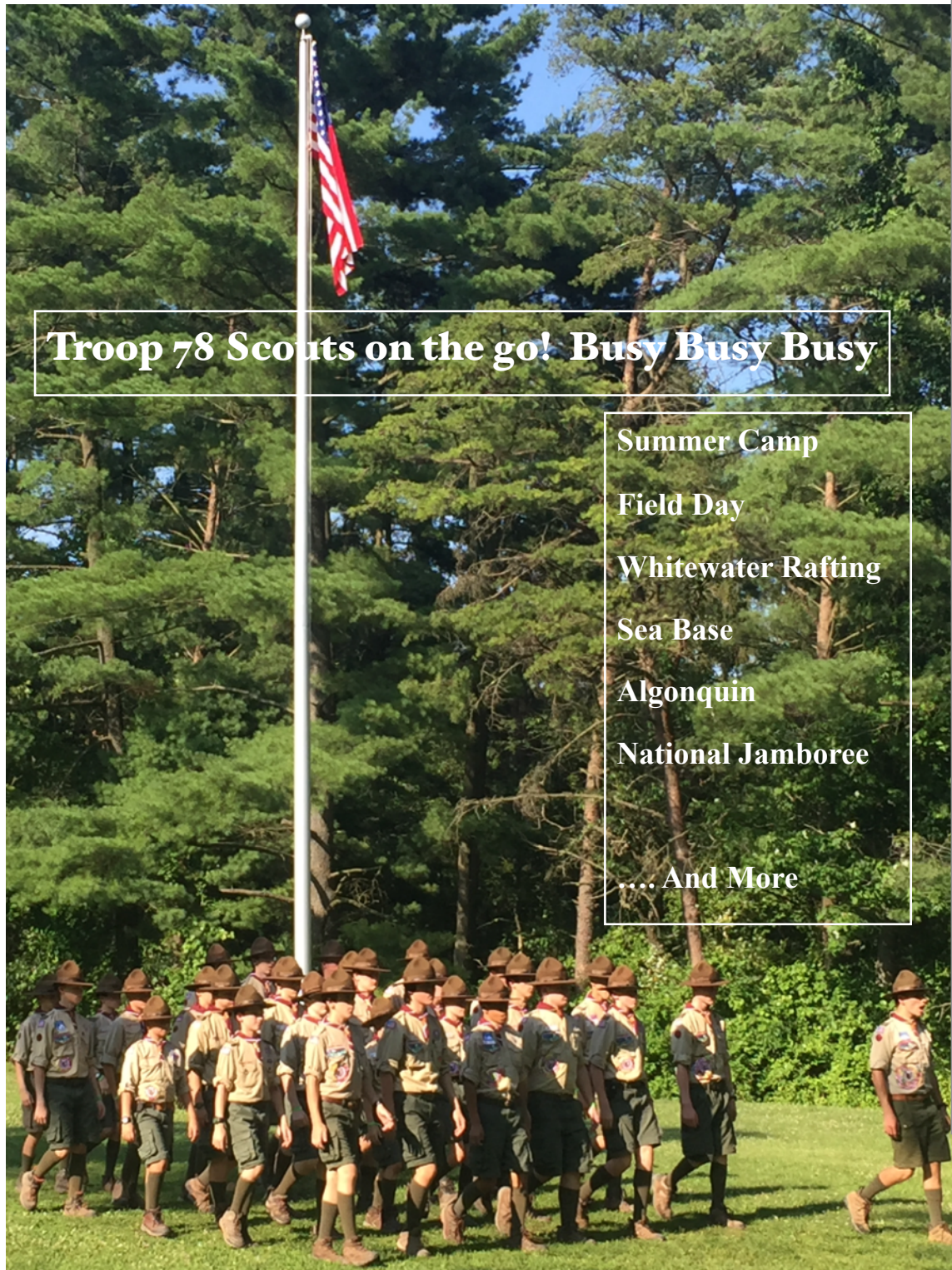
7 Saturday Radnor Horse Trials  
7:30 AM to 4 PM Help Needed

7 Saturday MLAR parking event  
6AM - 9AM Help needed

10 Tuesday Annual Registration Due  
[Click here for more information](#)

**Please note:** There are no Troop  
meetings September 1, 16, or 22 due  
to intervening Holidays or weekend  
scouting events.

[Click here for full calendar](#)



**Troop 78 Scouts on the go! Busy Busy Busy**

Summer Camp

Field Day

Whitewater Rafting

Sea Base

Algonquin

National Jamboree

.... And More

# Camp Horseshoe 2017

Sunday June 25 to Sunday July 9, 2017

By Jay Madarasz

## Week 1

This year I served as SPL for the final time during week one of Camp Horseshoe. This year also marked the last time I would spend at Horseshoe as a camper, a time I was hoping would never come. Being SPL, my time at Horseshoe started early on Saturday, helping get everything ready for the scouts to arrive the next day. Along with the patrol leaders and a few other helpful scouts and leaders, we got set up with just enough time for a steak dinner and a shower. The next day it seemed as though everything began to happen all at once, scouts began to arrive around 1:00 and before you know it we were in our bathing suits heading down to the pool for our swim tests.

The most unnerving part of being SPL down at summer camp is being responsible for the troop's marching performance. We had a lot of younger scouts this year so we had somewhat of a tough time starting off, but thankfully ended up winning the most times overall by the end of the week. Apart from marching we spent most of our time down at camp working on merit badges, much to the dismay of the younger scouts. This was my seventh year at camp so I have all the badges I need for Eagle and was able to take somewhat of a lighter workload. I took Chemistry merit badge down at the STEM center as well as mountain biking SIP up at COPE. Both were very fun and I learned a lot.

We competed in a ton of fun games throughout the week as well as lots of great troop activities. The auction went really well and we had a ton of great snacks for the remainder of the time at camp. Nearing the end of the week, it was time to participate in the Water Carnival down at the HSR pool. I competed in the kayak tug-of-war as

well as inner tube wrestling, taking a respectable 2<sup>nd</sup> place in both events. In addition, I was required to participate in the greased pig competition, in which all of the SPLs are required to dive in and try to grab a Vaseline covered watermelon and move it to the deck of the pool. The reason I said try to move it to the deck of the pool is quite clear since the event is next to impossible. Dr. Motel gave me some great advice: grab the watermelon and dive down below all the other competitors, swim away from the crowd and dump it on the deck. This would have been a great strategy had I only been able to keep a solid grasp on it. I grabbed it and I dove. I had it and I was about 6 feet underwater when the nasty thing slipped out of my grasp and from that point it was a lost cause. I tried my best, but troop 50 came out to be the winner in that event. At that point the Water Carnival was essentially over. Everyone got to jump in the pool for a quick swim to cool off and then returned back to their campsites.



Andrew Brown, Jay Madarasz, Nate Motel

Saturday marching was canceled unfortunately, due to some severe weather that blew through. After dinner everyone was instructed to stay in their uniforms for the closing campfire at 8:30. This is when they award the segments for SIPs completed throughout the week as well as the Silver Buckle. We lined up by number of years at camp, and headed up the loop road for our slow walk down to the campfire circle. All the scouts received their respective awards as well as Standard Troop and Patrol Awards to be hung up in the cabin. The Silver Buckle award is given out once per week to the one member of each troop that most fulfills the Scout Oath and Law. This week I was honored in receiving the Silver Buckle, something that I will cherish for the rest of my life. After a lot of clapping and a few final words we were dismissed back to our campsites where I went to bed very happy.

The next day consisted of the traditional chapel service and Sunday lunch where we receive the remainder of the awards won by the troop. We swept up that week, winning more than our fair share of blue ribbons, including the Water Carnival. Sadly, that day also marked the end of my time as SPL of Troop 78, however I was happy to end the week by entrusting my position to our next SPL and my good friend Nathan Motel.

**By Nathan Motel**

**Week 2**

Week two began Sunday July 2 with the arrival of some new scouts and the rearranging of the Patrols. We had 37 scouts for the week, several more than for the first week and it made for a full Dan Beard Campsite, (the best campsite in Horseshoe.) The scouts and leaders quickly moved into their bunks and got ready for the week. This week included the Fourth of July, and we decorated the campsite and the Dining Hall in patriot red, white, and blue. On the night of the Fourth, we had red (cherry), white (lemon) and blue (blue raspberry, a big hit!) Rita's water-ice for a special treat!

The highlight of the week was the Paul Bunyan Field Day, on Saturday July 8th. The parents and some former Troop 78 scouts come to camp to view the troops competing in scout skill events. This is a Troop 78 specialty, which according to legend, Troop 78 has won the past 35 years in a row. Needless to say, this puts quite a bit of pressure on, but the Troop is up to the task. When the competitions are finished, we don't know for sure if we won, the results are not announced until the next day at Sunday lunch. However, we won key events, such as the String Burning, Nine Knot, Giant Clove Hitch, Heaving Bar and of course the Tug-of-War. The next day at Sunday lunch we were all on the edge of our seats as the results were announced, Troop 78 came in First Place, continuing the decades-long streak. It was a great finish to a great two weeks at Camp! Already looking forward to next year!

**Camp Awards and Honors**

**Water Carnival: First Place**

**Paul Bunyan Field Day: First Place**

**Marching: Eight victories**

**Silver Buckle, week one: Jay Madarasz**

**Silver Buckle, week two: Andrew Brown**

**[Click here for more pictures and videos](#)**



# **Field Day 2017**

Part I Thursday June 8

Part II Sunday June 11

**By Nathan Motel**

At three o'clock on a gorgeous Sunday in June all of the scouts and their families gathered at the troop cabin for what most would consider to be the premier display of scout skills throughout the scouting year, Field Day Part II. One of troop 78's long standing traditions, Field Day provides each scout and each patrol with the opportunity to showcase their knowledge of scout skills.

As Field Day Part II began Panther Patrol held a hefty lead over the other patrols and Stag Patrol soundly sat in last place based on the scores attained in Field Day Part I, which was held on Thursday night. However, by winning and or placing in the first few events of Field Day Part II, Stag Patrol, to the astonishment of everyone, was in first place. That being said, Stag Patrol's attempt to maintain their lead was going to be difficult, seeing that we had yet to compete in the fire events.

During the fire events such as Flint and Steel, String Burning, and Water Boiling the Flying Eagle Patrol proved to be exceedingly skilled, winning all three and placing themselves into first place for the first time in the competition. Flying Eagle Patrol managed to maintain their lead throughout the rest of the competition. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of all of the members of the Flying Eagle Patrol, we, for the second year in a row, took home the title of First Place in the premier scout skills competition of the year, Field Day.

While only one patrol can win first place, a good time was still had by all in attendance at the 2017 Field Day. This could be, in part, thanks to the delicious family picnic directly following the Field Day competitions. This year, just as always, scouts enjoyed a smorgasbord of grilled meats, picnic side dishes, and delicious desserts. After everyone had eaten more than their fill of food, we packed up and said goodbye, glad to have successfully completed yet another Troop 78 Field Day.

**[Click here for more pictures and videos.](#)**



## Whitewater Rafting, Lehigh River Gorge

Saturday June 17

By Chris St. Clair

On Saturday June 17, the scouts and fathers traveled up to the Lehigh River for a day of adventure and excitement. When we arrived at White Water Challengers, our drop off point, we broke up into our groups and boarded the bus that would take us to the put in area. I was lucky enough to be grouped with people that knew what they were doing (Mr. Schallack). I decided to sit toward the back of the raft thinking I wouldn't get wet there. I was terribly mistaken. Once we were in the water, the fun quickly began. Members of our troop and another group started a water war. Unlike the other rafts, we hung behind to enjoy nature (not really...). About a quarter of the way through, the raft I was in hit the side of a concrete wall along the river bank and popped, causing a huge gash in the side of the raft, and I ended up in the water and rapids. Unfortunately, the gash was bad on my side and I was "deported" from my group of experienced rafters to another raft. However, I was happily welcomed on the other raft. The down side: It was a boat of all adults?!? My luck did turn around though. When we stopped for lunch, our lovely guides managed to get another raft to replace the popped one. I was welcomed back aboard a raft of both scouts AND adults.



Thankfully we all made it to the end of the rafting portion. When I got on the bus to go back to the rafting center, I was bushed. It was hard to believe it could get any worse, but of course with my luck it got worse. About 20 minutes before we got back to the center, the bus's airbrakes locked up and the bus was stuck there in the middle of the road. After waiting on the bus for about 45 minutes, crowded with other rafters, another bus finally came for us. This hold up really set us behind schedule and we raced to get changed and prepared for the long bus ride home.

## Sea Base, Islamorada Florida

Sea Base Scuba Diving Adventure

Sunday July 16 - Sunday July 23

By James Connors

Sea Base is a high adventure camp based in the Florida Keys which offers many programs such as sailing, kayaking, and scuba



diving. We participated in the scuba adventure program.

On Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, our crew met at the Philadelphia International Airport, where we went through the security check without major incidents, and departed on time. After our flight, we picked up our travel bags and headed to the shuttle which took us to Sea Base. We arrived around 10:00PM. After a quick check-in, we went to the dorm that would be our home for the rest of the fabulous time we had at Sea Base.

The next day we woke up around at 7:30AM only to find out that our adult leaders were already ready for the 7:45AM raising of the colors. We followed their example and quickly dressed up.

After morning ceremony, we met Alec, our divemaster. Shortly after the raising of the colors, each crew sent one member to participate in the game that would determine which crew will be the lucky one to eat breakfast first. Sadly we were not the lucky ones that morning. Breakfast was served buffet style, but you could not get seconds until a staff member rang a bell.

With full bellies we went for a short tour of Sea Base. After our formal check-in and some paperwork corrections, we changed into swimsuits and took the swim test. Our crew passed with red, white and blue colors. Our next step was to put together and test scuba diving gear, which we would use for the rest of the week. By the time we finished a scuba diving refresher in the pool, it was already lunchtime.

In the afternoon we were finally heading out with our gear to the dock. On the boat we were greeted by Ian, who would be our captain for the remaining time of our stay at Sea Base. We soon learned that Ian has very good sense of humor. He was nice and always smiling. There was not a dull moment while he was on board. He loved to listen to music so loud that we could hear it while diving underwater!

That afternoon was my first dive in the ocean. We stayed underwater for about 55 minutes. I was amazed at the abundance of colorful fish and other sea life. After we docked back at the marina, and cleaned our gear, we had plenty of time to relax before dinner.

The following days were very similar: morning colors, breakfast, a day at the sea, afternoon free time, dinner, and lowering of the colors. To the “disappointment” of our crew from Troop 78, there was no marching during the evening ceremony. Knowing that we would win the competition anyway, we focused on gaining a new appreciation of sea life by attending an 8:15 PM educational program about ocean biodiversity and coral reef conservation.

We had plenty of free time to relax and unwind each afternoon. We would usually spend that time in the recreation room, located under our dorm, where we would play ping pong, “Connect Four” game, or interact with other crews. Each day before breakfast and dinner, we would send one victim from our crew to play a game selected by the Sea Base staff member. The winning crew was the first to dine in the mess hall for that meal. Even if your crew was the last, you did not go hungry for the rest of the day. Food at Sea Base was delicious, fresh, and a lot of it.

The most memorable however was the time we spent underwater. We completed a total of 12 dives (11 day dives and one night dive). We explored many beautiful reefs, saw many different fish and sea life. We swam with nurse sharks and looked barracudas in the eye. We drifted along with sea turtles in the strong underwater current until it was time to swim back to the boat. It was amazing to experience this totally different world.

The last day was the hardest because we realized that our adventure in Florida Keys was over. It is true what they say: time flies when you’re having fun. The crew got along great and by the end of the week we had become closely linked by the experiences we shared. I believe that we all created memories that will last a lifetime.

**[Click here for more pictures.](#)**

## National Jamboree, Summit Bechtel Reserve, West Virginia

Wednesday July 19 - Friday July 28

By Arek Connors

On the evening of July 18th, one area of the parking lot in front of the East Brandywine Township building began to fill with blue duffel bags and red daypacks. Troop 1426, one of the three troops that represented the Chester County Council at the National Scout Jamboree (Jamboree) was getting ready to depart to the Summit Bechtel Reserve. Scouts were filling out health surveys and placing canned goods in bags to be delivered to the West Virginia food bank. Parents and siblings said their last goodbyes and then took photos of the whole troop. Around 9PM we packed the bus and departed from the parking lot to begin the journey to the National Scout Jamboree.

After a full night of traveling, all three troops from the Chester County Council contingent stopped at an IHOP close to the Jamboree. We ate breakfast and hopped back on the bus to finish our journey. We arrived at the Summit almost 12 hours after we left the township building. Although we were already at the Summit, we still had to drive for about an hour before we reached our base camp (A4) (from the outskirts of camp). We got to the base camp, unpacked the bus, checked in, and then were shown to our plot of land we were we would set up our camp. We broke open the large crates and found the 22 tents that were our home for the next 10 days. After we set up our campsite, and ate lunch, we went to explore the enormous size of the Summit: 14,000 acres, (Horseshoe and Ware combined are only 1,200 acres). This was definitely a highlight of my experience at the Jamboree. I finally got to see the program areas and how much equipment each one uses. For the challenge course (the upper level of COPE [Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience]) two medium catering tents were set up for the safety harnesses, day packs, and helmets. There was also a designated overflow sitting area, where Jamboree



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participants could wait for their turn do the challenge course.

The Jamboree was a ten day experience, with every day being jam-packed with activities and patrol duties. Because describing each day would take too long, I will simply write a day in the life of a Jamboree participant.

At 5 am I woke up to wake up the rest of my patrol. Before we could prepare our breakfast and to-go lunch, we had to pick up the food. Two members of our troop would take a metal wagon and go to our base camp “supermarket”. Despite being at the market 5 minutes early, a long line had already developed. The supermarket consisted of pallet upon pallet of non-perishable food and a walk in fridge with pre-cooked frozen foods and milk. We used our phones to scan labels and watched as each item slowly began to scratch away at our point budget for the day.

The Summit is truly massive. It took a group of five scouts, all walking fast, an hour to reach the larger of the two mountain bike areas. But once we got there, it was a blast. We got to ride on fast, smooth, and flowy trails in addition to rocky, and steep technical trails. The uphill were not as fun as the downhill, but in order to go down, you must go up. My friends and I spent an hour and a half riding, until we finally decided we should go to experience other activities. The Ropes was nearest to our current location so we went there.

The Ropes, a vast forest with intermittent telephone poles with platforms on them, is just like the challenge course except significantly larger. Each telephone pole was connected to another with a guide wire and some sort of obstacle, whether it be a loosely spinning log or a singular metal wire with logs on it.

During one part of this vast course, the metal cable that you are standing on goes right through two crossing trees. You have to lift yourself over the crossing trees so that you can continue without your safety line getting caught on the trees. The Ropes was a great and fun







place to spend the hot afternoon. Wait, we have to be back for dinner by 5PM. It's 4:30, time to run! As we ran back to the camp, we saw other scouts walking the opposite direction. I guess they didn't have to be at dinner by 5. We barely made it back in time, but just in time before it started to rain.

As we ate our dinner, I noticed that the food at Horseshoe Camp is better than food at Jamboree. This was not due the lack of troop cooking skills, but rather the food itself. I understand why, it would be far too expensive to purchase filling and turkey for over 40,000 people. But food is part of the experience, finding ways to make the food taste better and laughing about the ridiculous things you tried. For example, I tried to make breakfast burritos a little more appealing by convincing a staff member to let us use some of his hot sauce, under supervision though. Everyone liked spicy burritos

except for the staff member who lost half of the bottle of his favorite sauce.

Stadium shows were fun, but sometimes they were also a hassle. We would have to leave early in order to get a seat in the middle (300-400 ft from the stage). One scout from an Alaskan troop said they arrived 2 hours before the show to get front row seats. During the final stadium show, there was loud music from 1969 (Born to be Wild) to 2009 (I Gotta Feeling). A laser show and fireworks followed the beat of the song. A new wave of fireworks came as the base dropped. The lasers danced on the hills behind us as they moved and flashed with the with the song's rhythm (I guess the squirrels didn't like our celebration). Everyone was in a good mood even though we would have to go home the following day. Every stadium show was long and corny, but every time you thought that was the limit, the staff found a creative way to be more corny (for example having a guy come out onto stage on a motorcycle, then on a horse during the next show).

That's the end of only one of my days during this trip. My whole experience at the Jamboree was almost all positive, or positive enough that I could still laugh at some of the things I did while I was there. The Jamboree was definitely unique and every scout should experience it. Luckily I was able to experience it. I plan on going to the World Jamboree in 2019, either as a participant or as a staff member.



# Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario Canada

## Canoeing in Algonquin

Saturday August 5 - Saturday August 12

By Jace Anderson

We left the cabin in the early morning on Saturday to drive up to Algonquin Provincial Park. Our group included four of us: Mr. Siegle, our leader, Mr. Hornickle, Alex Hornickle and myself. It was a long 9-hour drive. Once we got there we had dinner at a restaurant in the town outside of the park. We couldn't get the permit to enter the park until the next day, so we camped out in an open field by the park entrance. We weren't really supposed to camp there, but we did and we were not noticed. Sunday, we woke up, got our canoes down off the rack and got out onto the water.

Algonquin is a park with thousands (literally) of small lakes and rivers with 2000 km of canoeing trails. We would canoe for a long time on a lake and then once we got to a point where the lake ended or we needed to go to a different lake, we would get out of the canoe, pull them up on shore. We would then take all the gear out of the canoes, including all the paddles and our packs. The hike to the next canoeing point would be split evenly between the two canoe partners. One person would take canoe halfway to the next point on the trail, while the other person would carry their pack all the way to the next point. Then the first person would go back to the starting point, get their pack, and bring it all the way, while the second person would come back and pick up the canoe and carry it to the end-point. This was usually the way we carried out our portages, with a few exceptions, depending on how long the portage was. One of my favorite parts of the trip was when we



stopped on an island to camp. We had the island completely to ourselves the entire time. The island was full things to do, places to explore...and snakes! There was one side of the island that was a rock face. We climbed it, we jumped off of it - it was about 15-20 feet high - into the water. It was so much fun. On Wednesday, we had our first encounter with some small rapids. As we approached the rushing water, we got off the seats of the canoe and onto our knees. We started paddling as quickly as possible. As soon as we got to the rapids, there were twists and turns where we had to use all of our skills to make sure we did not capsize. Eventually, we got a little wet, but we made it!

I learned a lot about cooking during the trip. The food was actually pretty good, especially the cake that Alex and I baked on Wednesday. We ate 90% of the cake ourselves, except for the one slice we left for Mr. Siegle.

The trip was very difficult at certain times, but we pushed through it and in the end had a great time.

**[Click here for more pictures.](#)**

## Troop 78 scout in the Adirondacks

By Bill Purcell

Hello, my name is Bill Purcell. I am Francis's brother. I joined troop 78 in the spring of 2016. Staying consistent with scouts has been difficult because I happen to go to a boarding school. This means I can only go to meetings over breaks.

My school is called North country school (NCS). NCS is located in the heart of the Adirondack park in Lake placid, a former Olympic town. My school teaches the importance of being in the outdoors and staying healthy. One example of this would be the fact we grow 80% of our school's food.

Here's where this is related to scouting. We go on a lot of trips through the school. Including long backpacking trips, climbing trips, skiing trips, and many more outdoor activities. I feel like troop 78 really prepared me to go outdoors and actually enjoy it and be safe. Sometimes on a trip somebody will get a cut or touch some poison ivy, then I think about when we practice first aid, and I help that person with the first aid knowledge that I inquired from the troop.

Another thing that really stuck with me from the limited time I've spent at scouts, is how to work collaboratively with a group of like minded individuals. I always help other people, sort of like a patrol leader's job.

In conclusion, I think that scouting really has a lasting effect on people and reflects in society. I look forward to returning to camp Horseshoe where I learned a lot about being in the backcountry from the trailblazers program. This summer I hope to get four merit badges, hopefully one in nature. This is one type of trip we take I take up at school, and I look forward to a similar type of thing with Troop 78.



## Notice of Upcoming Events

### Order of the Arrow Weekend

Friday September 22 - Sunday Sunday 24, 2017

Members of the Order of the Arrow and Candidates for membership: We will gather at Camp Horseshoe the third weekend in September for a weekend of fellowship, friendship, good food, and service to Camp Horseshoe, all good things! Please plan to join us and help welcome the newest members of the Troop into the OA.

**[For details click here.](#)**



## Annual Registration

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

Troop 78 Registration Fees - Same rate as last year First Scout \$85

Each additional scout in a family \$70

College Scouters age 18 -20 years old \$45

Adults \$60

1st Year Dads \$45 Seniors (age 65+) \$45

To ensure continuity with the scouting program we need your registration form, and check by October 10, 2017.

All registered adults must also complete online Youth Protection Training (YPT) every calendar year at:

<http://my.scouting.org>.

Please complete your YPT by October 10, 2017.

**[Click here for the registration form.](#)**

## West Point Tour and Football Game

**Army Football/US Military Academy Tour and Camping Trip: November 10 – 12, 2017**

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for a weekend of camping, football and history, as we visit the United States Military Academy. This is a trip not to be missed!

The weekend starts with our arrival Friday evening at West Point's Lake Frederick campgrounds. On Saturday, we will go to the Academy for a variety of activities, including parachute demonstrations by Army specialists, a tour of the West Point Academy and the Parade of Cadets into historic Michie Stadium. Sitting 325 feet above sea level overlooking the Hudson River, Michie Stadium was voted by Sports Illustrated as one of the Top Ten sporting venues in the world. We will watch a Division 1 football matchup featuring the Black Knights of Army against the Blue Devils of Duke University. All Scouts attending the game will receive a commemorative Army Football patch. After the game, we will return to our Lake Frederick campground, and enjoy an evening of relaxation.

West Point is the Nation's oldest military academy and is considered by many to be the world's premier institution of leader development. One of the famous expressions on the West Point campus is that "much of the history we teach was made by people we taught". To walk the West Point campus is to retrace the footsteps of some of America's greatest leaders. Grant, Pershing, McArthur, Patton, Bradley, and Eisenhower were all members of the Long Gray Line. Confederate president Jefferson Davis and general Robert E. Lee went to West Point. Business scion Henry DuPont was an alumnus, and astronaut Buzz Aldrin is an USMA graduate.

We are promoting this trip early because we have to reserve our tickets for the game NOW. We need a list of attendees by the September 29<sup>th</sup> Troop meeting. There is no charge for Scouts; however, any Scout that signs up and does not make the trip will have a \$35 charge to his Scout account. Adults are required to

pay a fee of \$65. Payment should be by check made out to Willistown Troop 78 and should be remitted to Jim Bennett ahead of our departure.

In order to attend the West Point trip, you **MUST** notify your Patrol Leader by 7:00 PM on Friday, September 29, 2017 that you are going. If your father is attending, please let your PL know that as well. Don't be left out – make your reservations now! Fathers – payment can be sent directly to Jim Bennett in the form of a check made payable to Willistown Troop 78. You can mail payments so that they are received at 1116 Signal Hill Lane, Berwyn, PA 19312 by Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

If last year's trip to the Naval Academy was any indication, the West Point trip will be one of the best – and in high demand. Don't delay – let your PL know that you're attending today!

## **Philmont: Summer 2018**

**So you want to go to Philmont? 2018 is your opportunity! Time-sensitive – Sign up NOW!**

We are pleased to announce that Troop 78 has made reservations for up to two crews to attend Philmont Scout Ranch this summer.

Philmont is the BSA's premier high adventure facility. Located in the high desert of New Mexico, Philmont is comprised of over 140,000 acres of pristine back country wilderness. About 1 million Scouts have completed treks at the ranch since it opened in 1939.

Our trek will leave from Philadelphia on August 2, 2018 and return on August 16, 2018. We will spend the first two days in Colorado Springs, where we will do some hiking to acclimate to the altitude, and we will visit the US Air Force Academy before taking a chartered bus to Philmont. Trekkers will select a backpacking itinerary that suits their particular interests. Treks are 12 days long and cover between 50 and 100 miles.

Accompanying this article you will find a list of "Frequently Asked Questions" about Philmont. Please review the FAQ carefully. Interested trekkers **MUST** attend a meeting on Friday, September 8, 2017 at 6:15 PM. This meeting will precede our regular Troop meeting that evening. At the information session, those interested in attending **MUST** submit a \$100 deposit and **MUST** submit the signed, completed Expression of Interest form included with the FAQ document.

**[Click here for the Philmont FAQ.](#)**

Philmont is a tremendous Scouting experience. We want to encourage all eligible Scouts to consider attending. Please read the FAQ and plan on attending the meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing you there!

