



Willistown Troop 78

Website: www.tr78.org

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

YouTube Channel: [Troop 78](#)

Volume 34 Number 3

November 2017

Upcoming Events

Two New Troop 78 Eagle Scouts!

November

1 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council
7:30PM

3 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM
Open House!

6 Monday Friends of Troop 78, 7PM

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

8 Wednesday First Responder,
Webelos First Aid Training, 7PM

10 Friday - 12 Sunday West Point
trip, tour and football game

17 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM

21 Tuesday Poinsettia Orders Due

30 Thursday Pick up poinsettia
orders at the cabin

December

1 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM

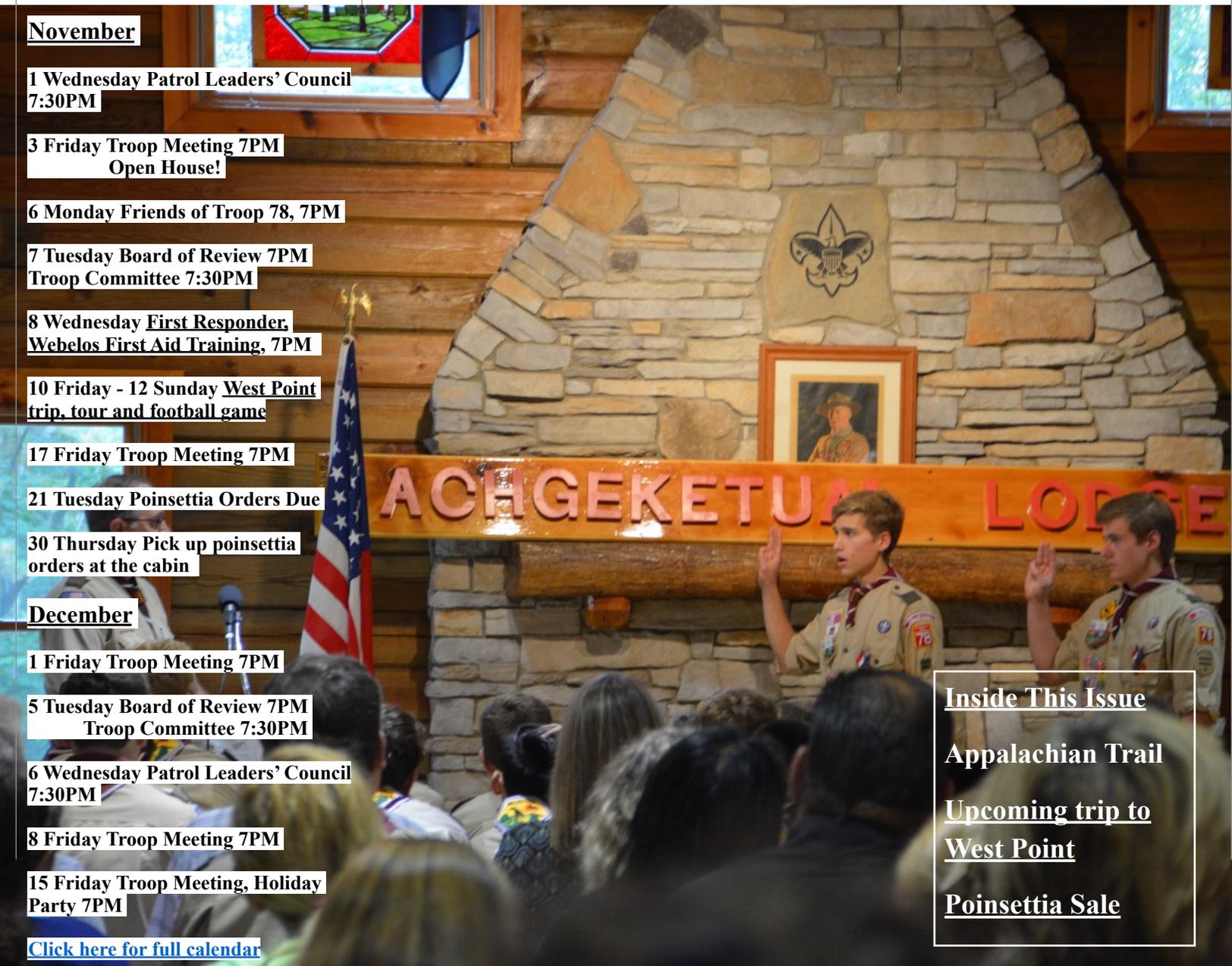
5 Tuesday Board of Review 7PM
Troop Committee 7:30PM

6 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council
7:30PM

8 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM

15 Friday Troop Meeting, Holiday
Party 7PM

[Click here for full calendar](#)



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Court of Honor October 2017

Sunday October 8, 2017

By Chris St. Clair

On October 8th scouts and their families gathered at the Troop 78 cabin to honor and show our respect for those scouts who earned rank advancement and merit badges at Camp Horseshoe this summer. We would also like to recognize the two newest members of the Eagle family. Congratulations to Nathan Motel and Luke Brogan!

The event started with our annual dinner buffet served outside where everyone socialized before the actual Court of Honor. The Court of Honor began with scouts talking about the Highlights of the Year and various trips such as Backpacking, Florida Disney, and Summer Camp. Then the Troop's Scoutmaster, Mr. Steve D'Antonio, began by giving out the ranks and merit badges the scouts have been working on since June. The troop would like to especially thank Mr. Ernie Heegard for his service to Troop 78 and as director at Camp Horseshoe for 29 years. In recognition of his service, the Troop cabin has been given a new name, Achgeketum Lodge. Achgeketum is the Native American Lenni Lenape word for "Teacher", which Ernie has certainly been to thousands of school students and scouts for these many decades.

The Troop then recognized the Scout-of-the-Year: Zach Fox. Congratulations Zach! Your name will be etched forever on the Scout-of-the-Year trophy. Then we recognized the Patrol of the Year: Stag Patrol, led by Zach Fox. Congratulations to all!

When all other awards were distributed, we moved onto the Eagle advancement. The two new Eagles stood up front where all could see and each had another scout sum up their scouting career from start to finish. Some parts were very serious while other parts were just downright ridiculous (BTW, a dandelion is not the same thing as a sunflower). When the speeches were done, our Scoutmaster gave them the Eagle Charge and introduction with a new family of Eagles. The Court of Honor officially ended after the words of the "Scoutmaster's Benediction".

We then enjoyed cake and gave our congrats to all who got an award. Overall, this Court of Honor was one that will never be forgotten. On behalf of all the families associated with Troop 78, we all say Congratulations and Thank You!

[Click here for more pictures and videos from the Annual Fall Court of Honor.](#)



Thank You Troop 78 !

By Ernie Heegard

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the tribute paid to me at the Court of Honor Sunday October 8th. I must say the surprise overwhelmed me. The wonderful introduction by Steve D'Antonio, the tribute by Jack Dinsmore, and the song/poem by Mark Siegle almost brought me to tears. I was speechless and unable to properly thank all who had a part in this great honor. I thought I had escaped the naming of the building when the old scout cabin was destroyed. I was feeling a bit better when the Achgekatum plaque was being placed on the porch of our cabin. It would have been hard to take credit for the entire building. All of the adults in Troop 78 work so hard and so well together that we all subscribe to the same theme which is so well described in this short poem.

BRIDGE BUILDER by Will Allen Dromgoole

An old man going a lone highway,
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast, and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fear for him;
But he turned, when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting your strength with building here;
You never again will pass this way;
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
Why build this bridge at evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head:
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followed after me today,
A youth, whose feet must pass this way.

This chasm that has been naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He too must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

Thank you again!

Ern

Appalachian Trail: West Virginia / Virginia Border

October 14 - 15, 2017

By Christian Skodny

On Friday the 13th everyone arrived unafraid at the Troop cabin for the meeting and brought with them everything they planned to bring on the hike the next day. We checked all of the equipment and packed the backpacks with our personal gear, clothes, group food, and group equipment. By the end of the meeting, all of the backpacks were ready, complete with filled water bottles for the next day's hike. On average each person's pack weighed about 30 pounds.

During the meeting we assigned hiking crews, crew leaders, and cook crews. All together 48 people signed up for the trip. Because so many people planned to go, the group would be broken into smaller hiking groups of 8 - 10, so we would not crowd other hikers on the trail.

On Saturday morning we arrived at the Troop cabin at 6:00AM sharp and packed the bus with all of the backpacks. After this we began the 3 hour bus ride to our put-in points on the Appalachian Trail. There would be two different hikes. The long hike began on Virginia Route 7 south of Harpers Ferry, WV, and hiked north 7.5 miles to the campsite with lots of ups and downs. The many ups and downs have been nicknamed by other hikers "The Rollercoaster". The maximum incline was 700 feet and after 4 major mountain ups, we reached the ridge. The ridge was mostly flat and we had to hike another 3 miles to the campsite. The total elevation gain was 2200ft. The Rollercoaster was a 3.5 mile hike. By the time we reached the ridge we were all very tired. The short hike began on West Virginia Route 9 with a somewhat flatter trail, and hiked south, and it was 6 miles to the campsite. After we all got to the campsite, which was in the middle of the two hikes, we set up camp and cooked a delicious freeze-dried dinner.

On Sunday we woke up early at 6AM sharp. We made oatmeal and hot chocolate for breakfast. Surprisingly we had brought more food than we needed for the trip. After breakfast and camp take-down, we began the 6 miles out to the trail exit on Route 9. The bus ride back was relaxing because we all got to sleep.



[Click here for more pictures and videos from the Appalachian Trail Hike.](#)

Pasta Dinner

Tuesday October 17, 2017

We gathered again at the Troop cabin on Tuesday October 17th for a wonderful evening of good food and good fellowship. The meal was prepared by Troop 78's own chef extraordinaire, Joe Cady. We were treated to a delightful menu of homemade chicken parmesan, penne pasta, meatballs and Italian sausage in marinara sauce, garden salad, broccoli rabe, dinner rolls, ice tea, lemonade, coffee and an enormous spread of homemade desserts.

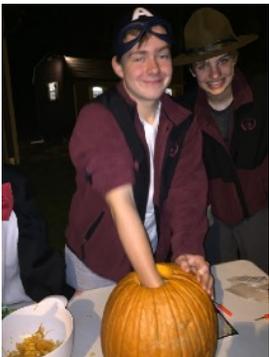
There was a great turnout of 61 paid guests, the nominal fee of \$20 per person goes toward a fund used to help scouts pay for High Adventure trips. This year's fund will be used to help scouts attend Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico on a trip planned for this coming summer, August 2 - 16, 2018. Thanks to everyone who came and hope to see you at the next Pasta Dinner, date to-be-announced! Keep your ear to the rail for the date. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. And remember: its all for the kids!



Halloween Party 2017!!!

Friday October 28, 2017

Troop 78 celebrated the first of the major Holidays at the Troop meeting on Friday October 28th with a visit from the Great Pumpkin! Scouts and leaders alike came dressed up in their best Halloween costumes. Scouts had a pumpkin carving contest, a costume contest, and games. The winner of the costume contest was Noah Greskiewicz. Noah was an Arctic Explorer, with a wonderful well done homemade costume. The pumpkin carving contest victor was Flying Eagle Patrol. After all the pumpkin guts were cleaned up, there was a super Halloween snack with enough sugar to keep everyone flying for days. Yum!



Notice of Upcoming Events

West Point Tour and Football Game: Sold Out!

US Military Academy tour, football game and camping trip: November 10 – 12, 2017

Here's hoping that you got your paperwork in for the Troop's November 10 – 12th trek to the United States Military Academy in West Point, NY. It promises to be a great trip!

We will be staying at the Frederick Lake campground on the outskirts of the West Point campus. Emphasis will be placed on setting up camp quickly, as we will rise and shine early in the morning to eat a quick breakfast, put on our Class A uniforms, and head over to the Academy. There, we will tour the grounds as we are escorted by an USMA student. This part of the trip is always fun, as the cadets come from all across the US. There are even students visiting from the other US armed service academies as part of an exchange program and in some cases we will see exchange students from the military academies of US allies around the globe.

The pageantry continues with a plethora of military-themed activities. In past visits, we have seen Army helicopters land on the parade grounds, and soldiers dressed in full battle gear have demonstrated their prowess for the crowd. Saturday of our trip will be Veterans Day, so we will likely see many high-ranking Army officers in attendance as the crowd salutes those who have served our country. All of this will be followed by the Parade of Cadets as the "Corps" marches into Michie Stadium to watch Army take on Duke. A paratrooper typically delivers the game ball to the Army football captains right at the 50 yard line. It doesn't get any better than this!

Speaking of our veterans: Please remember to thank those you know who have worked so hard to keep our country safe through their military service. We are honored to have many military veterans associated with Troop 78. Mr. Jim Donnelly, the Secretary of our Troop Committee and our longest-tenured Troop member, served on a destroyer during World War II. Scoutmaster *emeritus* Ernie Heegard is a US Army vet. We are pleased to note that Mr. Robert Matje, Sr., a US Army veteran who served our country in Vietnam (and took courses at West Point), Mr. Jake Schallack, US Navy vet who was part of Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield, and Dr. Pete Motel, US Air Force veteran, will be with us on the West Point trip.

Be at the Cabin on time Friday night November 10th for a 6:00 PM departure and be prepared for a great weekend at the "Point." Please check the Troop website to review the packing list for this trip, and by all means, please remember to bring your full Class A uniform and (if you have it) your Troop fleece or jacket.

[Click here for more on the West Point trip and the what-to-bring-list.](#)

Webelos Events

We are planning several events to welcome Webelos to Troop 78.

Open House

Friday November 3rd

We have an open house scheduled for Friday November 3rd at 7PM at the cabin. At the open house there will stations of scout skill demonstrations, fire building, a monkey bridge, food, and much much more.

First Responder

Wednesday November 8th

Troop 78 will hold a First Responder training on Wednesday November 8th at 7PM at the Troop 78 cabin. That evening the scouts and leaders of Troop 78 will run stations to train Webelos in the First Responder requirements for the Arrow of Light.

West Point Weekend

Friday November 10 - Sunday November 12

Troop 78 welcomes Webelos to join us for our weekend trip to West Point. We plan a tour of the Academy and to attend a football game to watch Army play Duke on the gridiron. This will be a powerful weekend to be at West Point as Saturday November 11 is Veterans Day. Hope to see you all there!

[Click here for more details on all of the Webelos events.](#)

Poinsettia Sale

Delivery date: Thursday November 30th.

The Troop 78 annual Holiday poinsettia sale is underway!!!

Please plan to get your Holiday poinsettias and greenery, wreaths and swags, from Troop 78.

We sell only the finest florist grade plants and greenery. You will be delighted to use these poinsettia plants and greenery decorate your home and office and give these as gifts to your friends and colleagues.

We accept all major credit cards and PayPal.

Shop from the comfort of your own home!

[Click here for the online store.](#)

Annual Registration

The Troop needs to re-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.

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

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

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

Vermont Ski Trip

March 9 - 11, 2018

Have You Heard the News? Troop 78 Will Be Skiing in Vermont!

Wax up your skis or snowboard and fluff up that down jacket, because Troop 78 is heading to Vermont in March!

With the arrival of our new bus this Scouting year, the Troop has been able to travel farther in comfort. So this year we are teaming up with the Buck Ridge Ski Club, a local ski club that has its own lodge a mile from Mount Snow, Vermont. Buck Ridge will be renting the lodge to Troop 78 for the weekend of March 9 – 11, 2018.

The Lodge has three separate bunk rooms, two full kitchens, a large dining room, and multiple bathrooms. There is a large common area with a propane-fueled fireplace. We will have plenty of room to enjoy our meals and prepare for our runs on Mount Snow. Mt. Snow has a peak height of 3,600 feet and a vertical drop of 1,700 feet. The mountain has trails for experts, intermediates and beginners alike. We will be arranging for lift tickets and ski/board packages for any attendees who need to get gear to enjoy the slopes.

The best part of this trip is that each father who comes on the trip will get a family membership in the Buck Ridge Ski Club. Membership benefits are outlined on the Club's website, but one of the big perks is that members can use the lodge year-round for a modest overnight fee. The lodge backs up to Vermont's Long Trail, so it's ideal for hikers. It's a 2 minute drive to Mount Snow and it's close to other ski areas in southern Vermont as well.

For any adult over the age of 18 who would like to get the Buck Ridge Ski Club membership now, please download the membership form from the Club's website and mail the form and payment to the address noted at the Club website. Then, when we have sign-ups for the trip, simply include a copy of your membership and we will apply the membership fee against the charges you would otherwise be required to pay for the ski trip.

Think Snow! It's not too early. Mount Snow will be open by Thanksgiving, so get your family membership to Buck Ridge Ski Club now! The membership offer is open to all Troop 78 members and their friends.

[Click here for the application to join the Buck Ridge Ski Club.](#)

[Click here for the Buck Ridge Ski Club website.](#)

[Click here for the Mount Snow website.](#)