



Willistown Troop 78

Website: www.tr78.org
Facebook: [Willistown Boy Scout Troop 78](https://www.facebook.com/WillistownBoyScoutTroop78)
YouTube Channel: [Troop 78](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

December 2022
Volume 39 Number 4

West Point!

Adventures at the US Military Academy



December 2022

- 1 Thursday Poinsettia sale order sort and pick up, Cabin
- 2 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM
- 6 Tuesday Board of Review 7 PM
Troop Committee 7:30PM
- 9 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM
- 11 Sunday Family event at the Brandywine River
Museum 5PM - 7PM
- 16 Friday TROOP MEETING Holiday Party, 7PM

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- Philmont
- Brandywine River Museum

West Point!

November 18, 2022 - November 20, 2022

By Caleb Fulmer and Logan Whyer

On a cold Friday evening in November, a brave group of 45 people set out to the West Point Military Academy for a 2 night camping trip. We drove for 4 hours with a gas stop and we arrived at 10 o'clock Friday night to our campsite. We unpacked the bus and set up our tents in the dark. Some of us had to share tents but nobody complained because it was cold and none of us wanted to set up 2 tents. We went to bed soon after and tried our best to stay warm.

We woke up on a cold Saturday morning and Moose Patrol made breakfast. The breakfast was French toast with bacon, and cereal. Then we got our lunches packed and headed to the bus to make our way back to the campus a few miles away.

Once on campus, we broke up into patrols and did a scavenger hunt. This consisted of walking around the campus and taking pictures with your patrols around different things around campus such as different war monuments and statues of people and things that played crucial parts in West Point's history. There wasn't really a patrol that won the scavenger hunt but the losing patrol had to do bus cleanup.

Then we grouped back up, but had a slight delay due to some scouts that decided to go to the Riverside Diner for an unscheduled food stop. Then we went to the stadium to enjoy the Army vs. UConn football game. We got to our seats with 1 hour until the game. Scouts took this time to get concessions and explore the stadium. With about 15 minutes left till kickoff the paratroopers flew in and landed on the field to thunderous applause. Then two Blackhawk helicopters did a flyover before the game. The game started fast with an Army touchdown due to a blocked punt in the first five minutes. The game was thrilling with lots of scoring by both teams, every time Army scored they shot off cannons to celebrate. It went back and forth



until the fourth quarter when Army took a commanding lead and won the game.

After the football game, the troop got in the lengthy line to get on a shuttle bus to take us to the ski slope where the troop bus was parked. When we got back to our campsite, the troop started some fires, and some scouts played capture the flag while others sat around the fire to warm up. For dinner we had spaghetti with meatballs and then we played some more games before going to bed early.

The next day the troop woke up and had oatmeal for breakfast. After breakfast, the troop quickly packed the tents and equipment in Mr. D's truck and the bus. Packing the tents was hard because it was so windy. After departing our campsite, we returned to visit the West Point Museum and Visitor Center. Then we headed home. Halfway back home, the troop had a rest stop and got food from Wawa and Burger King, then finished the ride back to the cabin. Once we got to the cabin, we unloaded everything from the truck and bus and then hung up the tents to let them dry and then went home to warm up.





First Responder Event

Wednesday November 9, 2022

Troop 78 cabin

Troop youth leadership met at the cabin for the annual First Responder training. To earn the Arrow of Light, Webelos Scouts must earn the First Responder. To do so, they must learn various aspects of first aid, draw a home evacuation plan and meet with first responders. Over 30 Webelos from local Cub Packs convened at the cabin for an evening of first aid training, fun, fellowship and a delightful snack.

Thank you to the Malvern Fire Company, William Nields, Malvern Vice Chair and long time scouter and his crew, which introduced the Webelos to the work of a first responder.



Holiday Poinsettia and Wreath Sale

Delivery Thursday December 1, 2022

These funds will pay for our scouts to attend outings and program events for the next year. With the proceeds from this sale, we will cover the costs of our monthly camping trips and other program expenses.

The sale has been a grand success, with total sales rivaling past years.

Scouts: Please pick up your orders at the cabin starting Thursday December 1st.

Gift Card Fundraiser

It's holiday shopping time!! Did you know that you can purchase gift cards for family, friends, teachers and service providers through Troop 78?? There are hundreds of stores on the list. Additionally, think beyond holiday gifts and consider purchasing gift cards for monthly expenses such as groceries, gas, household items, clothing, and restaurants.

You can fill out a paper order form and return to Steve or Sherri Wark or you can input your order electronically and pay by check made out to **Friends of Troop 78** or through Paypal or Venmo (ask Sherri for details on those). Please visit **raiserright.com/shop** for a full listing of gift card retailers available. A few popular retailers include Apple, Home Depot, Instacart and Starbucks!

Checks should be made out to Friends of Troop 78.

Bring the form and the checks to the cabin **on or before Troop Meeting December 9th**. Please contact us directly with any orders after that date. Cards will be distributed at the meeting on December 16. You can also pick up at an alternate time.

Every gift card purchased through Raise Right (formerly Scrips) sends a rebate back to Troop 78.

Rebates range from 1%-12%. For example:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Giant \$100 | \$4 rebate | Wawa \$100 | \$1 rebate |
| Target \$100 | \$2.50 rebate | Old Navy \$100 | \$14 rebate |
| Dick's Sporting \$100 | \$8 rebate | Outback Steakhouse \$100 | \$13 rebate |

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sherri Wark

Steve Wark

sherriwark@yahoo.com

stevenwark@yahoo.com

484-883-9213 text

610-213-5363 text

[Click here for the order form and more information.](#)

Radnor Races Thank You: More!

Brian Rothberg

This is an addendum to the Radnor Races thank you that ran in the last Newsletter. Unfortunately some names of families that helped us were inadvertently left out. I apologize for the omission.

They are: Fenimore, Simms, Wyher

Again many thanks to the entire crew who came out and helped 78!

See you all Sat. May 20, and Sun. May 21, 2023.

Upcoming Events

Brandywine River Museum Family Event

Sunday December 11, 2022

Invitation - Action Required Before Dec 5th

For many years Willistown Troop 78 has helped to support the mission of The Brandywine Conservancy in various service projects, including our annual support of the Radnor Races.

In thanks for our support and service, The Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art have created an exclusive event just for us and is inviting all of the members of Willistown Troop 78 and their families to the Brandywine Museum of Art to tour the facilities and have light refreshments.

This event is no charge.

Come see Brandywine's renowned O-gauge train layout with its 2,000 feet of track along with the special exhibition Fragile Earth that examines mankind's influence on the environment as represented by four contemporary artists.

Details:

Sunday, December 11, 2022, from 5:00 -7:00 pm.

1 Hoffman's Mill Road, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania (off Route 1).

Scouts and Scouters should be in full Class A uniform for the event.

Please RSVP by December 5th to Steve Brown at scb19382@gmail.com

Include all Family Member Names and Ages of people under 18.

It is critical to RSVP on time so the Conservancy can plan appropriately.

Some additional information about the current exhibits at the Museums are found on the sites below.

[Brandywine Railroad | Brandywine Conservancy and Museum of Art](#)

[Fragile Earth: The Naturalist Impulse in Contemporary Art | Brandywine](#)

[Conservancy and Museum of Art](#)

2024 Philmont Trip Signups

Action Required ASAP

2024 reservations for Philmont are now taking place. Are you interested in a high adventure trip during the summer of 2024? Troop 78 is targeting a late July or early August trek to the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. The trip would consist of a 2-3 day visit to Colorado Springs followed by a 7-or 9-day backpacking trip through the historic Philmont Ranch in Cimmaron, New Mexico. We are looking for at least one crew of 9 scouts and 3 adults to make this trek (additional crews could be added if interest is high). If interested, please email Steve Wark at stevenwark@yahoo.com. 2024 reservations with Philmont begin on December 1st 2022 and will be filled later that day, so **please respond asap if interested**. 1st deposits for the trip will be due in January 2023. A wilderness and learning adventure that will last your lifetime is just around the corner! Scouts must be at least 14 years old to go to Philmont.

Disney 2023!

Saturday April 1 - Saturday April 8

It is time to start planning for Spring Break in Disney



When are we going? April 1st to April 8th

What are we going to do? On Tuesday we will spend the morning at the Disney Imagination Campus in Hollywood Studio.

We will participate in an Academic Workshop in Disney's Hollywood Studios learning about the Physics of Disney's Parks. We will also spend four days Park-Hopping, we can visit any of the four theme parks (Magic Kingdom, Disney's Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom, and Epcot), and we can use our ticket for up to four visits to miniature golf (Fantasia Gardens and Fairways or Winter Summerland Miniature Golf Courses), or the water parks (Typhoon Lagoon, Blizzard Beach), or just swim and hang out at the Fort Wilderness campground at any time.

Who can go?

- 1) Scouts and leaders who are registered and active in the troop,
- 2) Scouts must have attended (or worked) at summer camp at least one week in 2022, and
- 3) Scouts who are *or will be* First Class rank by March 17th, and who are responsible enough to visit the theme parks *on their own* with a small group of other Scouts as determined by their parents and the Scoutmaster.

The cost to go on the trip to Disney? \$825 plus spending money

What do I get for the \$825 cost? Round trip bus transportation on the luxurious troop bus, food and meals, camping fees, a morning of learning about the Physics of Disney Parks, a Four day Park-Hopper Disney pass, adventures of conquering all of the mountains in Disney, visit Mickey and Minnie, and create some magical memories.

How do I sign up for this awesome annual trip? Handouts will be given out during a troop meeting in December and they will also be posted on the troop web site.

Once you reserve a spot you will receive further instructions regarding departure times, what to pack, spending money, bus preparation etc.

Dates to remember for mandatory meetings and payments are:

1. **Sunday January 8th (Winter Camp) - \$425.00 Deposit and permission slip are due**
2. **Sunday, February 12th (Super Bowl Sunday Pancake Breakfast)- \$400 Final Payment due**
3. **Friday March 10th, 9:00 PM (after Troop meeting) – Scout and Parent Meeting (Parent must attend with scout)**
4. **Sunday March 26th – Bus and equipment cleaning meeting 1:00PM to 4:00PM**
5. **Friday March 31st – 6:30 PM Load your gear on the bus**
6. **Saturday April 1st – 1PM Leave for DISNEY**



We must have at least 15 Scouts and Adults to Camp at Disney.

Winter Weekend at Camp Horseshoe

Friday January 6 - Sunday January 8, 2023

Please join us for the annual Father / Son Weekend at Camp Horseshoe. We will be staying indoors in cabins heated by wood stoves, sleeping on bunks with mattresses, eating a delicious menu of home cooked food, and generally living large. The Troop will do a service project for the camp: collecting and splitting firewood for the camp, then we will work on individual scout advancement, play games, compete in a round robin of scout skill events and all around have fun.

Come see Camp Horseshoe in winter.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Troop 78 Pinewood Derby Workshop

Saturday January 14, 2023

Brian Opielski

It is a well kept secret that Troop 78 has in its ranks some world renowned Pinewood Derby car builders. In keeping with the Scout slogan of “Do a Good Turn daily”, these graphite gurus have eagerly agreed that it is time to pass on their “need for speed” to the next generation of pinewood prodigies. As a result, Troop 78 would like to officially announce its 1st Annual Pinewood Derby Fabrication Workshop on 1/14/23. During this workshop our world renowned derby car builders will be lending their time, talent and tools to help local Cubs (and parents) fabricate 5 ounces of pure Pinewood Derby greased lightening glory.

Cubs will be asked to bring their official Pinewood Derby car kit, a package of weights and ideally a sketch of their car’s design. The workshop will start with all Cubs and parents learning some simple physics principles that apply to making a competitive Pinewood Derby car. After learning some basic science, parents and Cubs (based on their rank) will progress through a series of workstations manned by our Scouts and qualified adults that will take them from conceptual design to a car that is ready for final sanding, polishing and painting at home with their parents.

Please note our Scouts will not be permitted to use power tools.....only hand tools. Only qualified adults with proper personal protection equipment will be permitted to operate power tools. Additionally, all fabrication steps will follow Chester County Council’s official Pinewood Derby rules.

As always, many hands make light work. We need both equipment and qualified adults and Scouts to make this workshop a success. Please contact Brian Opielski at bopielski@verizon.net

[Click here for the workshop flyer.](#)



Alumni Corner

Franks-giving!

Saturday November 26, 2022

Troop 78 cabin

By Michael Bennett

Troop 78 Marks Two Decades in Achgeketum Lodge

On Saturday, November 26th, the greater Willistown 78 family of Scouts, Scouters, parents, alumni, and friends turned out at noon to celebrate the 20th birthday of the Troop's home, Achgeketum Lodge (formerly the New Cabin). The lodge opened in the fall of 2002 and replaced the now-demolished Old Cabin, where the Troop had been meeting for over half a century. A slideshow of photos from the construction of Achgeketum Lodge in 2001-02 showed every step in the building process, from tree-clearing to dedication. Scoutmaster Steve D'Antonio and Troop Committee Chair Dave Dondero both delivered remarks to commemorate the 20-year anniversary of the opening of Achgeketum Lodge and recognized those members of the Lodge Building Committee who were in attendance. Members of the Building Committee who have, in Scouting terms, gone home since 2002 were also honored with a moment of silence. Overall, the anniversary ceremony was succinct, eloquent, and tasteful. All attendees agreed with the hope, well-stated by Mr. Dondero, that Achgeketum Lodge would have many more such anniversaries ahead.

The rest of the afternoon was spent enjoying food, friendship, and fine weather. Under clear autumn skies, the many generations of the Troop 78 family in attendance feasted on sausages and hot dogs, which they washed down with lemonade and iced tea. The pleasantly warm late-fall weather gave everyone the opportunity to socialize outside. Many attendees enjoyed games of cornhole, Connect Four, and giant chess. Just as many caught up with old friends and made new ones, whether around the firepit, at tables, or on the back porch of Achgeketum Lodge. Highlights of the afternoon included a 50-50 raffle, a silent auction, and, for dessert, a delicious cake decorated with a beautiful illustration of Achgeketum Lodge based on a work by Troop 78 artist-in-residence Win Reber.

The merriment made the early afternoon fly by, and all were dismayed when the festivities drew to a close just before 3 PM. Yet everyone remained eager for the next event (TBD) hosted by and for the greater Troop 78 family. We hope to see you there!

troop78alumni@gmail.com

[Click here for the Troop 78 Alumni Facebook page.](#)



Fundraiser for the Cabin Endowment

Announcing a limited offering of reproduction prints of a watercolor painted 20 years ago of the "new" cabin done by Win Reber. Win was longtime member of the Troop committee, as well as an original member of the Friends of Troop 78 board. He was also the chair of the Radnor School District art department.

He designed the Troop loon logo as well the patch used on the Troop neckerchief.

Full scale reproduction of the painting measures 22" x 15", half-scale is 15" x 11".

Limited edition: ten full scale prints offered at \$195.00 each, twenty half-scale prints at \$95.00 each.

Proceeds go to the cabin endowment fund.

More information will be announced on the troop website and at the Franks-giving in November.



Chester County Council News

Annual Gala

Friday November 18, 2022

The Council held its annual gala at the Loch Aerie Mansion in Malvern on Friday November 18. It was an evening of good food and fellowship, music and conversation. Funds were raised to benefit program throughout Chester County Council. The evening included a silent and live auction.

During the event the Council made a request for free-will donations to the Council Campership fund. Camperships help scouts who might not otherwise, afford summer camp. Unit leaders make requests and the Council funds half of the camper fee. Last year the Council awarded about 60 camperships. At this year's gala over \$16,000 was raised for the Campership fund!

An additional \$50,000 was raised to support the Scouting program in Chester County! Thanks to all who made this wonderful result possible, including our own Troop 78er Sam Lemheney who chaired the event.



Veterans Breakfast

Friday November 11, 2022

Desmond Hotel, Malvern

Scouts, scouters, families, and friends gathered at this wonderful event open to all, to honor our veterans on Veterans Day. The event was opened by a Troop 78 Color Guard, which led the group in the Pledge and the Scout Oath and Law.

Keynote Speaker Sergeant Major Mott Garrison, current Commandant at Valley Forge Military Academy and College, discussed his career in the British Army and spoke about his work for the British Royal family.

The highlight of the event was an address from Troop 78 Eagle Scout Logan Duff. Logan spoke about scouting and the positive difference it has made in his life, and learning about a life of servant leadership.

[Click here to read Logan's remarks.](#)



[Click here for the current issue of the Chester County Council's newsletter the Trailblazer.](#)

Print this Newsletter for everyone in your family to see.