



Willistown Troop 78

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April 2026

Volume 42 Number 8

From the Poconos to the Potomac



Inside this issue

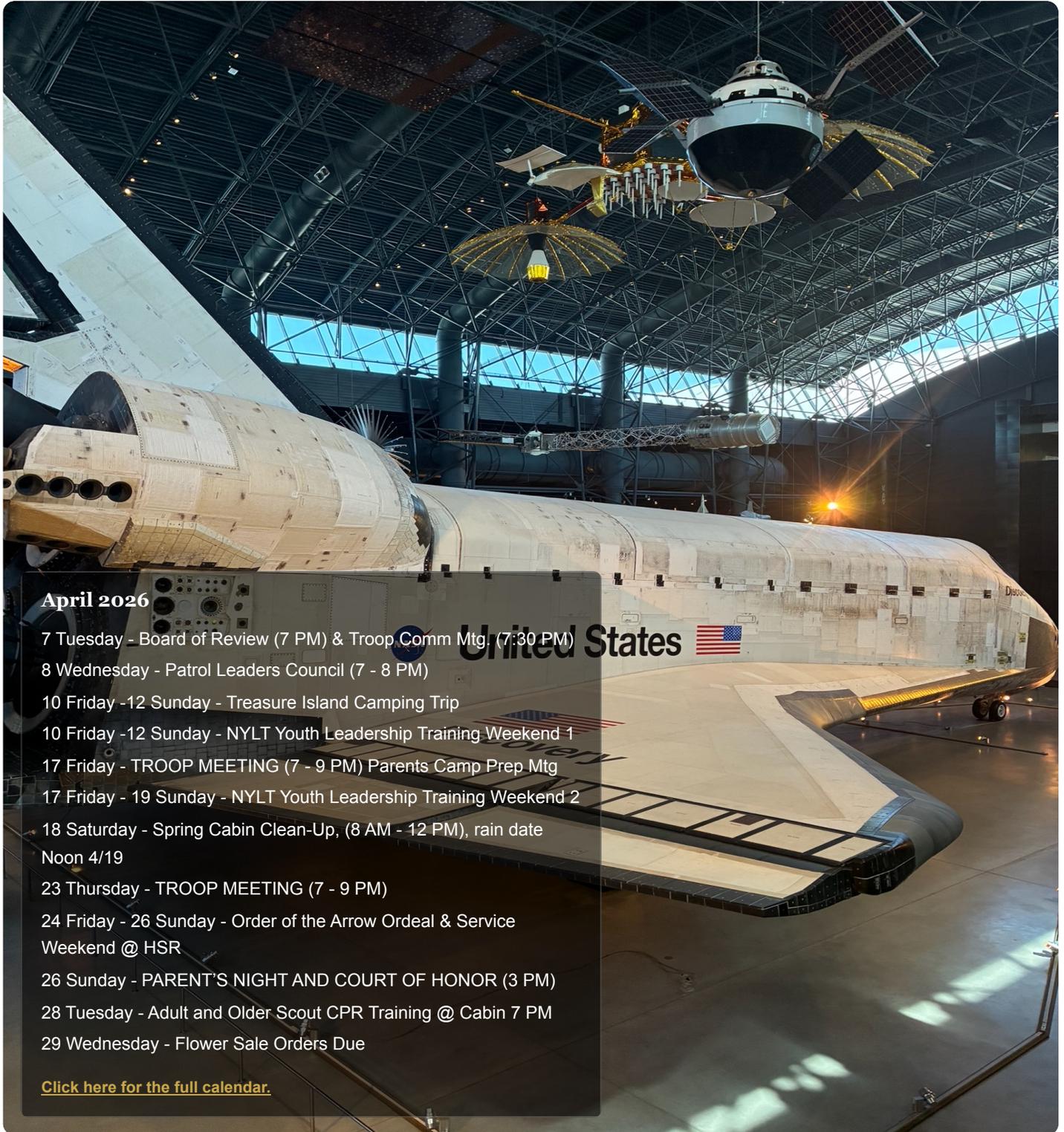
Pocono Ski Trip

Marine Corps & Air/Space Museum

Troop History - "The Troop Before the Cabin"

Flower Sale

April Campout - Treasure Island



April 2026

7 Tuesday - Board of Review (7 PM) & Troop Comm Mtg. (7:30 PM)

8 Wednesday - Patrol Leaders Council (7 - 8 PM)

10 Friday -12 Sunday - Treasure Island Camping Trip

10 Friday -12 Sunday - NYLT Youth Leadership Training Weekend 1

17 Friday - TROOP MEETING (7 - 9 PM) Parents Camp Prep Mtg

17 Friday - 19 Sunday - NYLT Youth Leadership Training Weekend 2

18 Saturday - Spring Cabin Clean-Up, (8 AM - 12 PM), rain date
Noon 4/19

23 Thursday - TROOP MEETING (7 - 9 PM)

24 Friday - 26 Sunday - Order of the Arrow Ordeal & Service
Weekend @ HSR

26 Sunday - PARENT'S NIGHT AND COURT OF HONOR (3 PM)

28 Tuesday - Adult and Older Scout CPR Training @ Cabin 7 PM

29 Wednesday - Flower Sale Orders Due

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

Pocono Ski Trip

Saturday March 1

By Alexander B.

As the bus finished its hour-long drive and pulled into Spring Mountain's parking lot, the scouts stepped out, ready for a full day on the slopes. Everyone lined up to get their lift tickets, talking and laughing as the excitement built.

At the start of the day, some of the younger scouts headed over to take lessons, where they learned the basics and built confidence before joining the rest of the troop.

Soon enough, we all made our way out of the lodge and into the bright snow and clear skies. One by one, we got on the lifts with our friends, feeling that mix of anticipation and excitement that always comes with the first run of the day. We spent the morning exploring different trails, going down the mountain again and again. Whether you were experienced or still learning, everyone improved and had a great time skiing with their group.

After a few hours, the troop made its way back into the lodge to warm up and eat. The break was well-earned, and everyone enjoyed the food (especially the funnel fries) while relaxing for a bit.

Then it was back out for a few final runs before heading home. By the end of the day, there was a little bit of sadness knowing the trip was almost over, but it didn't stop us from laughing and talking about our favorite moments. We left Spring Mountain tired, happy, and already looking forward to the next trip.



78ers on the mountain



Lunch in the lodge



Scouts ready to ski

Marine Corps & Air/Space Museum

Friday March 20 - Sunday March 22

By Judah C.

On Friday, March 20th, at 6:00 PM, Troop 78 left the cabin, headed to a campsite south of Washington, D.C. The goal was to arrive at the campsite before it was too dark. After a long 4-hour drive, the Troop finally arrived and settled in. Tents were pitched, and everyone settled in for what would turn out to be, unfortunately, a very wet night. The weather was not in our favor, and it rained all night. Thankfully, the rain passed through, and we were able to enjoy a dry day on Saturday.

In the morning, after a splendid breakfast of sausages and pancakes, the Troop headed out to the Marine Corps Museum. There were lots of displays and interesting exhibits, including giant planes at the entrance of the museum. The Troop spent a few hours looking at the different displays of the wars the Marines have supported and been in.

After eating lunch, the Troop went to the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum, which had many cool planes. Many members of the troop especially enjoyed seeing the X-Wing and Dusty Crophopper. Some members were even able to sit in the cockpit of one of the planes on display.



At the Marine Corps Museum

All the planes were amazing. The gift shop, on the other hand, was very overpriced (\$5 for a soda!). Lastly, after exploring the aircraft, the Troop went up to the observation tower that gave us a stunning view of the world around us.

The trip to the Air and Space Center was followed by a quick siesta and a dinner of chicken tacos and leftover lunch. After dinner, the real fun started—we all started preparing our skits, and after many fun skits like the tent, tapper, and pencils, we all went to bed.

The next morning, the Troop went on a really enjoyable morning hike. After the hike, it was time to pack up and head home. The Troop had a quick breakfast of muffins, bagels, and cereal. Once we were all packed up and fed, we started the drive home and made it back without incident.



Exploring the Air and Space Museum



Bus overflow car convoy



Waiting to depart



Exploring the Air and Space Museum



Breakfast at the campsite



Air and Space Museum



Breakfast at the campsite

Pinewood Derby - Diamond Rock District

Saturday March 30th

The Troop 78 cabin recently hosted this year's annual Diamond Rock District Pinewood Derby on March 28th. We had a great turnout, with dozens of excited racers participating in the event.

The top five finishers have been invited to the Chester County Council Grand Championship race on May 13th. The Troop 78 Pinewood Derby crew will be manning that event as well.



Pinewood Derby winners



Watching the races

Field Day Practice

Troop 78 scouts have been hard at work, preparing for this year's Field Day competition. Troop meetings between now and the end of the year will be packed with Field Day event practice giving scouts more opportunities to learn and perfect new skills. Skills such as fire building, flint and steel, log chopping, knot tying, and compass navigation are integral teachings of the Scouting program and essential for rank advancement. Patrols that guide their scouts to perfect these skills will be well prepared to compete in Field Day this June.



String burning - fires lit



String burning - before the action



Flint and steel practice

The Troop Before the Cabin

By Ethan S.

For almost 100 years, Troop 78 has proudly called Willistown Township home. However, our current cabin has been in use for less than three decades. Over the years, the troop has met in three different locations. But why did we move, and what makes today's cabin so special?

Troop 78 was chartered in 1930 and originally met in the basement of the Green Tree Consolidated School. The school's parent-teacher association served as our first sponsoring organization. But in the late 1940s, a severe fire made clear that we needed our own dedicated meeting place.

In 1947, the troop moved into a former summer home owned by VFW Post 5203, which had become our sponsor three years earlier. This cabin offered outdoor space for competitions, precipitating the first Field Day in 1951. While it lacked parking and running water, the cabin served the troop well for decades. By the late 1990s, however, the Veterans Way development up the hill revealed that the troop had outgrown the once-spacious grounds.

In 1999, a fund was created to build a new cabin. A two-acre property leased from Willistown Township was chosen as the site. Two years later, Friends of Troop 78 was established to support the troop's facilities and program, becoming our new sponsoring organization. Construction began in 2001, and the cabin was officially dedicated in 2002.

One of the cabin's greatest features is its natural surroundings: to the north of the property lies a township-owned park, while the south and west are bordered by private residences protected by conservation easements. These agreements permanently safeguard the land from development, ensuring that our cabin and grounds will continue to support Troop 78's outdoor program for generations to come.



Troop 78's first cabin



The Green Tree School

The Green Tree school was later converted into an office building that remains in use today; it can be seen behind Greentree Park. The old cabin sat unused for a decade before it was demolished by Willistown Township in 2012. Its former site—now just a small clearing—can be found along Grubb Road, a quarter mile south of Mill Road.

The troop has had several meeting places over the years, but our current cabin is one we should all be proud of. One thing is clear — we are fortunate to have such an amazing Scouting facility.

Troop Recognized by Buck Ridge Ski Club

The Troop recently received notice that the Buck Ridge ski club, our preferred lodging for the Vermont ski trips, has recognized us for our work to help maintain the lodge.



April Campout

Treasure Island

We are headed to historic Treasure Island — the birthplace of the Order of the Arrow — for a weekend camping trip.

Find the full details in the [trip handout](#).

- Trip dates: Friday, April 10 – Sunday, April 12, 2026
- Arrive at the Cabin: Friday, April 10 at 6:00 PM SHARP
- ALL Scouts and Adults must arrive in FULL CLASS A UNIFORM with hiking boots
- ALL gear must be packed in a FRAME PACK — no duffle bags or suitcases
- Troop loaner frame packs available on a first-come, first-served basis

⚠ MANDATORY PACKING MEETING: Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 PM at the Cabin. Required for all confirmed attendees.

Scouts will be hauling their own gear and troop gear from a barge across the island to our campsite.

Permission slips due by April 7th at 7:30 PM at the Cabin or emailed to JackBilson@gmail.com.

Spring Flower Sale

Troop 78's Annual Spring Flower Sale is officially underway! If you'd like to support the Troop from the comfort of your home, orders can be placed anytime through our online shop at <https://shop.tr78.org>.

Every purchase is secure and directly supports the scouts and the Troop 78 program. Our high quality garden plants, herbs, flats, hanging baskets, and a potted plants are desired every year by our supporters. Remember - we offer more than 78 types of plants! Order by April 30th for delivery by May 9th - just in time for Mother's Day!



Parent's Night and Court of Honor

Sunday, April 26, 2026 3:00PM at the Cabin

Join us for our annual Parent's Night and Court of Honor.

Families welcome!

Find more information in [the handout](#).



Projects around Camp

Pavilion, picnic tables, and a Dan Beard Adirondack

Members of the 78 community have been busy putting their skills to good use on a few projects around Camp Horseshoe.

Staff City Pavilion: the Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association (HSRAA) has begun work on a new pavilion in Staff City. Updates and pictures to come in next month's newsletter.

Picnic tables: Troop 78 is building 40 new picnic tables to replace some of the aging tables around Camp.



Assembling the frames



The finished frames



Assembling the tables



The finished tables

Dan Beard Adirondack: The 78 work crews assembled down at Camp this past weekend to start work on Dan Beard's second Adirondack.



Adirondack roof gets all new support structure



Assessing the damage



Demo-ing the damaged roof

Chester County Council News

Volunteer Recognition Banquet

On the evening of Thursday, March 19th, volunteers from across Chester County gathered at the PARC headquarters facility in Exton for the annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet. Guests enjoyed a delicious dinner from Mission BBQ as the council came together to celebrate the dedication and service of its volunteers.

A special congratulations to Dave Seace, who was honored with the Volunteer of the Year award. Dave's commitment to Scouting exemplifies the spirit of service that makes our council strong. Thank you to everyone who attended, and to all of our volunteers — your time and effort make a difference every single day.



Dave Seace (center), recognized for his commitment to Chester County Council by Jake Segal (left) and Connor Martin (right)

Eagle Recognition Dinner

April 19, 2026

Join us on Sunday, April 19th as we celebrate the 140 young men and women that earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2025. [More information and the link to register.](#)

Date: 04/19/2026

Time: 5:00 - 7:00PM

Location: [Malvern Retreat House](#)



Order of the Arrow · Octoraro Lodge 22

April Service Weekend - April 24-26

Registration is open for the April Service Weekend! **April 24 - 26**
at **Camp Horseshoe!**

Register [here!](#)

Early bird discount until 4/14!



Please feel free to forward. Print this Newsletter for all to read.

www.tr78.org | [Facebook: Willistown Boy Scout Troop 78](#) | [YouTube: Willistown Troop 78](#)

Throughout the Scout year Willistown Troop 78 publishes troop events on its various media platforms including this Newsletter, Facebook, Instagram, and Alumni social media platforms. Attending troop events will result in images, videos, and written content being published. [Click here for more information.](#)