



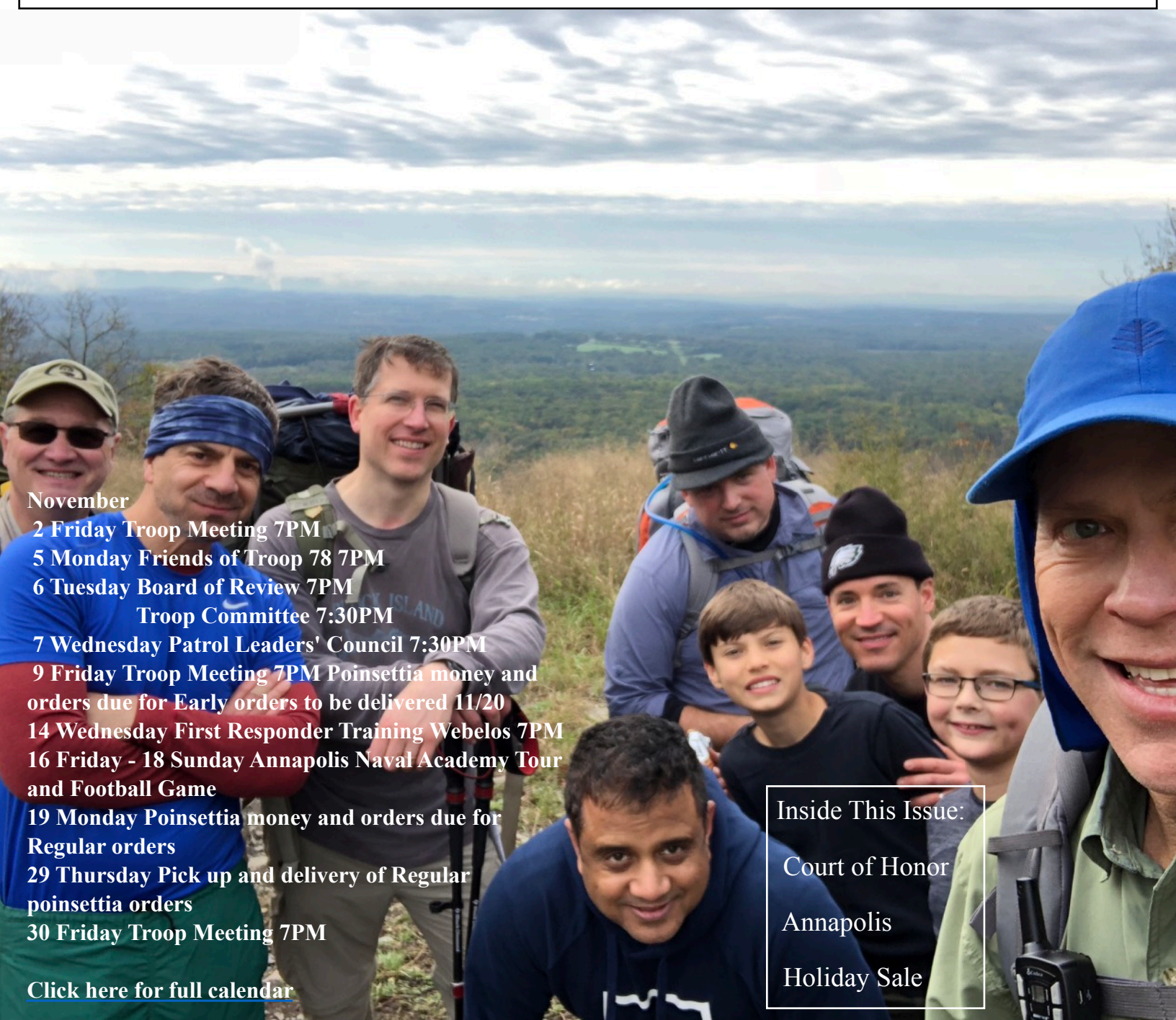
Willistown Troop 78

Website: www.tr78.org Volume 35 Number 3

Facebook: [Willistown Boy Scout Troop 78](https://www.facebook.com/WillistownBoyScoutTroop78) November 2018

YouTube Channel: [Troop 78](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Backpacking on the AT



November

- 2 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM
- 5 Monday Friends of Troop 78 7PM
- 6 Tuesday Board of Review 7PM
Troop Committee 7:30PM
- 7 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7:30PM
- 9 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM Poinsettia money and orders due for Early orders to be delivered 11/20
- 14 Wednesday First Responder Training Webelos 7PM
- 16 Friday - 18 Sunday Annapolis Naval Academy Tour and Football Game
- 19 Monday Poinsettia money and orders due for Regular orders
- 29 Thursday Pick up and delivery of Regular poinsettia orders
- 30 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM

[Click here for full calendar](#)

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Appalachian Trail

Saturday October 13 - Sunday October 14, 2018

By Shreyas Sao

Shorter Hike Group

This weekend we went to the Appalachian Trail (AT) and backpacked 12 miles, 6 on Saturday and 6 on Sunday. We saw lots of good views and we climbed a mountain to 1,461 ft. We stopped after 6 miles and set up camp, eating beef stroganoff and mashed potatoes. I tented with John, a fellow first year. We were so tired, we went to sleep at 5 PM. During the night, I woke up thinking it was Sunday when it wasn't. After that I didn't sleep well.

We got up at 6:30 AM Sunday morning ready to go back. Our breakfast was hot cocoa and oatmeal. After that, we packed up and hiked back to the bus on the same route we took to the campground. When we reached the bus, we met up with the longer hike crew, tired and ready to leave.

I felt proud of myself after the hike — it was worth it. But during the hike into the campsite, I felt like it stunk. I was tired and felt like collapsing. On the hike out back to the bus, I was more cheerful because I was keeping up with the group.



By Arek Connors

Longer Hike Group

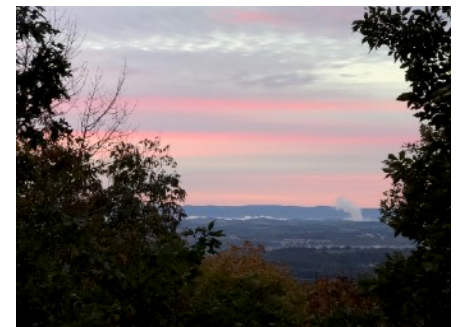
This year's backpacking trip was yet another fun trip. We woke up early Saturday morning, got up from our own beds, ate breakfast, and traveled to the cabin. We quietly got out of our cars to not wake up the neighbors and boarded the bus after picking up our lunches and making last minute changes to our packs, checking to make sure everyone was on the bus and ready to travel to Wind Gap.



Once we arrived at Wind Gap at around nine o'clock, the long hikers got off the bus, shouldered their packs and found the trail. We had a quick ascent, and then the trail leveled off a little for a short while. On our map it showed that there would be a short, but steep, incline (about a mile) and then level ground for the rest of the hike. We mistakenly thought that this short incline was the incline on the map. It wasn't. The flat section ended quickly and the real ascent began. It wasn't as steep as the first incline but it was long. I mean, a mile with no level ground long. We quickly slowed our pace to conserve energy and stay together as a group. Once we got to the top of the actual incline, it was nothing but smooth sailing. We set a pace of 2 miles per hour and made good progress on our hike. Every once in a while we stopped to get our bearings, eat a part of our lunch or use the restroom. However, we would always be quick and get back on the trail within five minutes. Somewhere along the hike, we came across a rocky ridge line that was the trail. These weren't knee high boulders, they were chest high slabs of rock jutting from the trail at different angles. Sometimes, we had to go backwards so we wouldn't slip off the cliff on the left or down the hill on the right. This section wasn't more than a mile but it still took up quite a lot of time.

After that experience, we had a very steep descent on smaller versions of those rocks, trying not to slip. From there, the rest of the hike was the same, rocky, with patches of smooth ground, but level all the way (except for a few small ups and downs). We got into camp at one o'clock in the afternoon, staying at the Kirkridge Shelter, but not in it. We looked around for tent sites for both us and the short hikers. We found some sites, and then decided to set up our tents and ready our beds. This didn't take too long, although some couldn't even start because their tent partner, who had the other part of the tent, was on the short hike. We got some of our cooking equipment ready, found a source of water, and got a fire going. The sun was finally shining and was warming us up.

At around three o'clock, the short hikers came into camp. One of these short hikers was carrying a frying pan he found on the trail. The rest of the scouts found places to set up their tents, and got ready to eat dinner. We waited a while, then started our stoves and started to boil water. We ate a delicious dinner and then cleaned up. We then sat around for a long time till we could fall asleep. The night was pretty chilly so I had on a lot of layers. The next morning, we cooked breakfast, ate it, and then took down our tents. Once we were packed, we set out on the trip that the short hikers had taken the previous day. If you didn't go backpacking this year, I highly encourage you to go next year.



Main Line Animal Rescue (MLAR) Parking Event

Saturday October 6, 2018

On Saturday October 6th, Troop 78 continued its long tradition of helping MLAR in their mission to find homes for stray cats and dogs. Of course, we help out in the way we know best: parking cars. In this case, it was for an MLAR cycling race to raise funds for the organization.

We had to report at 5:30 AM, so we mustered a crew of early risers — 5 adults and 6 youth. We arrived at the MLAR property in Kimberton with headlamps and flashlights, ready to go. When it was all said and done, we parked about 450 cars. Another successful event!



Court of Honor

Sunday October 7, 2018

By PJ Cronauer

This was a rare Court of Honor, because there were no Eagle Scouts! There were a lot of interesting speeches about events that happened in the last six months, included with the usual rewards, ranks, merit badges, and food. The speeches consisted of the Vermont ski trip, Summer Camp, Algonquin, and many other trips. James Connors' speech was the most notable with a very descriptive telling of adventures at Sea Base, Northern Tier, and Summit. His goal is to get the Triple Crown award, meaning he wants to travel to three of the four Scouting High Adventures bases.

Many merit badges were handed out, with scouts earning more than usual, but also many earning Trailblazer cards, neckerchief patches, and ranks. It was finally time for the big awards. The Achgekatum Award for outstanding youth leadership went to Nathan Motel. The Scout of the Year was awarded to Zach Fox. Overall, it was a great time to show all the Troop's achievements.



Open House 2018

Friday October 19, 2018

By Chris St. Clair



On October 19, the troop held the year's first Webelos Scout open house meeting. The meeting consisted of fun stations like emergency carries, scout memorabilia, and the troop's very own interpretive dance team! Did I mention that there was food? Well, there was. There were also games at the end of the meeting like a relay and Jump the Shark. When all was done and our scoutmaster closed with the Scoutmaster's Benediction, everyone went home with a smile on their face and an idea of what troop to join to continue their Scouting Career.

Pasta Night!

Tuesday October 23, 2018

The Troop 78 family met again for a wonderful evening of good food and fellowship, another successful Pasta Night! Over 100 people attended a dinner of steak, pasta, salad, rolls, vegetables, and a full table of excellent homemade deserts. Everyone gathered at around 6:30 for appetizers and then took seats for dinner. It was a terrific evening and we are already looking forward to the next one!



Halloween Party

Friday October 26, 2018

The evening was a lot of fun with some scout skills mixed in. Scouts love this annual tradition! What's not to love?

No uniforms, costumes only, games, a pumpkin carving contest, fun, and a huge treat table!



Notice of Upcoming Events

Life to Eagle Seminar

Tuesday November 13, 2018

Life Scouts: the annual Life-to-Eagle seminar is coming up Tuesday November 13, 2018, 7:30 pm (registration at 7:00) at Stetson Middle School off route 202 just south of West Chester. Any Scout that expects to be working on the Eagle Scout rank in the next 18 months should attend. They will learn about the requirements, process, and paperwork required at this seminar. It is open to all scouts in the council. Not only scouts and their parents, but Scoutmasters, Eagle Project Coaches, and Eagle Advisers are encouraged to attend.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details and directions.

Naval Academy Tour and Football game, Annapolis

Friday November 16 - Sunday November 18, 2018

Troop 78 is taking a road trip to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, the third weekend in November to catch a football game and take a tour of the Academy. We will meet at the cabin Friday night for a bus ride to Camp Wright in Stevensville, Maryland. Saturday morning we will ride to the Naval Academy in Annapolis for the tour in the morning and then settle in for an afternoon of Navy football.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Poinsettia Holiday Sale is Underway

Early Delivery Tuesday November 20

Regular Delivery Thursday November 29

[Click here for more information.](#)

Disney 2019

Friday April 12, 2019 - Saturday April 20, 2019

I am Heading to Walt Disney World with Troop 78 in just over 150 days. Are You?

What are we going to do? Spend five 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 five visits to Disney Quest, 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?

Scouts and leaders who are registered and active in the troop,

Scouts must have attended (or worked) at summer camp at least one week in 2018, and

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? \$600 plus spending money

What do I get for the \$600 cost? Round trip bus transportation on the luxurious troop bus, food and meals, camping fees, a Five day Park-Hopper Disney pass, the opportunity to conquer 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 7th (Winter Camp) - \$300.00 Deposit and permission slip are due**
- 2. Sunday, February 3rd (Super Bowl Sunday Pancake Breakfast)- \$300 Final Payment due**
- 3. Friday March 8th, 9:00 PM (after Troop meeting) – Scout and Parent Meeting (Parent must attend with scout)**
- 4. Sunday April 7th – Bus and equipment cleaning meeting 1:00PM to 4:00PM**
- 5. Thursday April 11th – 6:30 PM Load your gear on the bus**
- 6. Friday April 12th – 1PM Leave for DISNEY**

We MUST have at least 20 Scouts and Adults to Camp at Disney.

[Please click here for more information.](#)



Please print out this Newsletter and post a copy at home for everyone to see.