



Newsletter

Volume 29

Number 3

November 2012

COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2012

- 11/2 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
Poinsettia \$ Due for Early or Corporate Orders
- 11/5 - *Friends of Troop 78 Board Meeting*
- 11/6 - Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.
- 11/7 - Patrol Leaders Council (7:30-8:30 PM)
- 11/9 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
Poinsettia \$ Due
- 11/13 - *Pasta Night (7:00 PM)*
- 11/16-18 - **Historic Trip - NYC**
- 11/16 - Council Gala Event
- 11/24 - Poinsettia Early or Corporate Order pick-up at Cabin
- 11/29 - Readyman for 4th Grade Weblelos (help needed)
- 11/30 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)

DECEMBER 2012

- 12/4 - Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.
- 12/5 - Patrol Leaders Council (7:30-8:30 PM)
- 12/7 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
- 12/8 - Poinsettia Order pick-up at Cabin - Regular Orders
- 12/13 - *Diamond Rock Holiday Roundtable*
- 12/14 - TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)
- 12/21 - TROOP MEETING and Holiday Party (7 to 9 PM)

COMING UP 2013

- 1/4-6 - Winter Camp at Horseshoe
- 2/1-3 - Ski Trip/Matje Farm

NOTE: Camping Trips/Major Events shown in Bold. TROOP MEETINGS underlined in CAPITALS. *Adult only meetings in Italics.*

NEW DADS NEEDED!

The Troop Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 6, at 7:30 PM, at the cabin. The committee usually meets on the first Tuesday of the month to guide and discuss the operation of the troop. New dads are especially encouraged to attend.



WILLISTOWN TROOP 78 HEADING TO NEW YORK CITY

For the weekend of November 16 - 18, 2012, the troop has a rare and memorable trip planned with our colleagues from West Point Troop 23: We will be camping at Camp William Pouch in Staten Island, New York, and using the camp as a base to see some of New York City's most breathtaking, and most somber, memorials.

On Saturday, we will take the world-famous Staten Island Ferry to Manhattan in order to board boats that will take us to Ellis Island and Liberty Island. Ellis Island was the gateway to American for twelve million immigrants until it closed in 1954. The processing center has been restored as a museum and is a fascinating venue to tour.

Nearby Liberty Island is the home of the Statue of Liberty. A gift to the

United States from the people of France, Lady Liberty was dedicated in 1886 and inspired many of the immigrants as they arrived in New York Harbor.

On Sunday, we have a special opportunity to visit the new Freedom Tower and the yet-to-be-opened 9/11 Museum. Both stand as testaments to the individuals whose lives were lost in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and also serve as memorials to the brave men and women who risked - and some who sacrificed - their lives to save others that day.

A handout about the trip and accompanying packing list were distributed at our October 26th meeting and are attached to this e-mail. There is no charge for Scouts; however, any Scout that signed up and does not make the trip will have a \$25 charge to his Scout account. Adults are asked to pay a fee of \$50. Payment should be by check made out to Troop 78 and should be remitted to Jim Bennett ahead of our departure.

We have a limited number of slots available for this trip. Scouts will receive priority, along with uniformed, active adult leaders, and troop bus drivers. The signup deadline is Friday, November 2, at 8:00 PM. Sorry, we cannot accommodate late signups. Full Troop 78 uniform will be required for both Saturday and Sunday. Hope to see you in New York!

NOVEMBER PASTA NIGHT

The next pasta night is November 13, at 7:00. Come out and support the troop, meet some other friends of 78, and enjoy a good meal.



TROOP 78 BSA REGISTRATION Registration Form and Check Are Due Now

Willistown Troop 78 needs to register all Scouts and adults each year with the Boy Scouts of America.

The annual registration fee covers some of the cost of going on trips including fuel for the bus, the food on trips, a subscription to *Boys' Life* (one per household), and troop-specific uniform pieces (patches, neckerchief).

2012 Troop 78 Registration Fees

- **First Scout \$75**
- **Each additional Scout in a family \$65**
- Venture Crew \$35
- Adults \$50
- 1st Year Dads \$35
- Seniors (age 65+) \$35

All new and existing registered adults must complete Youth Protection Training every 2 years or you will be automatically dropped from the BSA.

Youth protection training can be completed online as follows:

1. Go to <http://myscouting.org>
2. Existing users enter your user name and password
3. New users, create an account. If you know your ID number (found on your Boy Scout ID card) enter it. Otherwise select I am New...
4. If prompted for council name enter Chester County Council #539
5. Select E-Learning
6. Select Take or Retake Course for Youth Protection Training

Dads, please show your support for your son and the Boy Scout program by registering as an adult. Registration also helps the troop by making you eligible for attending any

Scout camping trip and for serving as a merit badge counselor where you can share your experiences and knowledge with the boys in the troop.

For a form or questions, please contact Dave Schertz at 610-687-0366 or e-mail me at Registrar@willistown78.org

WE NEED YOUR HELP

As you know, Troop 78 is a "boy run" troop. Under the guidance and oversight of Mr. D, the boy leaders plan the year's program, set the agenda for the weekly meetings and select the year's trips and activities. The role of the Troop Committee is essentially to support the Scoutmaster and the boys. Part of that support is financial. In that role, last month the Troop Committee finalized the budget for the year, and fully 82% of the expenses are directly program related. The remainder covers maintenance of the bus, cabin utilities and administrative costs.

As has been our driving principle for many years, we strive to run the program, provide patches and awards, upkeep the cabin, maintain the bus, etc., without additional cost to the Scouts beyond the dues. And as you may have noticed, the dues remain at \$75, the same as last year. Simply put, dues aren't enough. BSA takes a total of \$30 of the dues for registration and *Boys' Life*. We use the remaining \$45, but that represents less than 25% of our necessary revenue. Let's remind ourselves, beyond use of this wonderful cabin and the beloved bus, last year's program included the fall beach trip, backpacking trip, West Point, Matje Farm, winter camp, 2 canoe trips, and a biking trip. This year there will be more of the same, including the much-anticipated trip to Ground Zero.

Here's the rub. Our fundraisers generate the lion's share of the money needed to keep the program running. At the urging of the boy leaders, we have dropped the unpopular (but very profitable) popcorn sale. This year, we have only two major fundraisers: first, the hoagie sale in the spring, and the second is the poinsettia sale, which is underway now. We need

your help. We urge all of you, parents, Scouters and Scouts, to work diligently and support these two fundraisers.

Thank you,
The Troop Committee



2012 POINSETTIA SALE

On Friday, October 12th, we kicked off our 2012 Poinsettia Sale. The good news that everyone should be spreading is that the prices for our beautiful, florist-grade poinsettias remain the same as previous years! Same great plants, same great price. With one less fundraiser (popcorn) this year, it's more important than ever that we put that extra effort into our poinsettia and hoagie sales. These sales make it possible for the troop to go on all the cool trips and fun things we do throughout the year. Without them, mom and dad would be forking out the doe-re-me every time you wanted to go somewhere (not cool). So here are some pointers to make this a successful sale and you, the best salesman of the year:

- Tell your customers that these are "Florist-grade Poinsettias," not the cheap-oes you get from Lowes, Home Depot or Acme. They are bigger, fuller and last longer because they are hand-raised and pruned.
- Remind them that the price is the same as last year.
- Sell to "BIG" customers like stores, shopping centers, restaurants, nursing homes, doctor, dentist and law offices, your mom and/or dad's work, corporate office buildings (find and talk to the building manager – soon), churches, temples, hospitals and any place with a waiting room.

- Collect customer information like telephone numbers and e-mail addresses so you can correspond with your customers to keep them up to date on sales and deliveries. You will also have this information for the next sale to make things even easier for you to be successful!
- Follow up with your customers who are having difficulty deciding.
- Use e-mail, Facebook and Twitter to let your friends and relatives know you are selling flowers for the holidays.
- Be responsive: make sure your customers know how to get hold of you, and get back to them right away when they try to contact you.

If the increase in retail sales figures is any indicator of peoples' willingness to spend money on the holidays this year, then you and the troop should do very well selling poinsettias. With these pointers and a little effort on your part, you could very easily be a top salesman!

New for this year – more prizes!!! In addition to the top prizes offered last year there will be prizes for best salesman by rank, best salesman in a patrol, best selling patrol and anyone who sells over 20 plants! There will also be a CASH prize or choice of a free week of Horseshoe, Canada or Florida camping for the top salesman of the year for all fundraisers! Good luck to everyone!



Camporee Gateway

WEBELOS WOODS EXTREME WEEKEND

By Harry Tredinnick, Cougar Patrol

On October 19 a few Scouts and 3 Webelos left on the bus for Nottingham Park. We were off to Webelos Woods Camporee. The bus left at 6:00 p.m. and it was less than a one-hour drive. We arrived at the campsite and unloaded the bus and the truck. We had brought along many poles to construct a gateway. Just as we had all the gear stored and everyone's tents were set up, we had to go under hardcover. There was lightning and it started to rain. Chris Duncan and Mr. D got everyone onto the bus before it started to rain too heavily. After about 20 minutes of sitting on the bus, we were told that we had to report to a pavilion, which apparently was better protection than our bus. So we wound up driving over to the pavilion and parked next to it. The hardcover lasted for about an hour or so and then we were allowed to go back to our campsite. We returned to our tents to find them still in place, and that our stuff was not soaking wet. We then had a light snack and went to bed.

We woke up the next morning and a breakfast of French toast and sausage. Immediately after breakfast Mr. D had us start on the gateway. Chris Duncan had us sort out the poles we would need and told us the basic design. We then put our lashing skills to the test and began constructing our gateway. The Webelos watched us and took note on what we were doing, and assisted us as best as they could. At 9:00, the Webelos left us to go to activities, and we were left alone to keep on lashing. After about 2 hours we realized that nobody else had even begun to build their gateways, so we were feeling pretty good about our chances of winning the competition. We had worked diligently all morning and had a lunch of grilled cheese, tomato soup, and chicken noodle soup. We were given until 2:00 to complete our gateways, and ours was looking pretty good. We had flags lining the border of our site on either side of the gateway. On top of the gateway we had tied on the troop flag and international Scouting logo flag. By

the time we had finished the gateway, we had ladders to climb up and sit on top. We also had a swing hanging down that people could sit on. The Webelos were the judges and they all loved climbing and swinging on our gateway. The rest of the afternoon was very relaxed as we just sat around the campsite and took turns climbing on our creation. For dinner we had burritos. After dinner there was a campfire that each patrol/den was supposed to have a skit and/or song for. The campfire had only a few good skits but we had to stay for the awards at the end. We wound up winning the gateway building competition and got a ribbon for it. That night we went to bed after having a snack of cookies and got ready for the canoeing trip the next day.

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CANOE TRIP ON THE OCTORARO

By Dan Brown, Cougar patrol

At around 8:00 AM the bus with canoeing Scouts arrived at the campsite at Nottingham Park, and we quickly loaded the bus with the Webelos Weekend gear so we could get going. We arrived at our put-in area where the canoes were already lined up, and we chose our partners and got ready. We waited for about 30 minutes before we could go. After we all put in, we started our journey. My partner was Colin, and he was in the back until lunch. For lunch we all had peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, apples, granola bars, cheese sticks

and rice crispy treats/Oreos. After lunch I took a turn in the back. We fell into the cold water only twice. We paddled for about a total of 4 hours. At the end we passed the Ware Bridge,

boat docks, and Taylor Beach at Camp Horseshoe. We got out right after the O/A Bridge at the Athletic field, where we put our canoes on the

racks and our paddles and life jackets away. We all piled back onto the bus after a tiring journey and headed back to the cabin. It was a fun trip.



Newsletter

Willistown Troop 78
Chester County Council, B.S.A.
Steve D'Antonio, Scoutmaster
Barry Evans, Editor
Email: newsletter@willistown78.org
Cabin: 610 644 8702