



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...)

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December 2016

Upcoming Events

December

Thursday 1
Regular poinsettia orders for
pick up at cabin 3PM to 6PM
[Click here for more details](#)

Friday 2
Troop Meeting 7PM

Tuesday 6
Board of Review 7PM
Troop Committee 7:30PM

Wednesday 7
Patrol Leaders' Council 7:30PM

Friday 9 Troop Meeting 7PM

Friday 16 Troop Meeting 7PM
Holiday Party!!

Please note:
There are no troop meetings
December 23 or 30.

January

Tuesday 3 Board of Review 7PM
Troop Committee 7:30 PM

Wednesday 4 Patrol Leaders'
Council 7:30PM

Friday 6 to Sunday 8
Winter Camp at Horseshoe
Fathers and scout-aged guests
invited

[Click here for full calendar](#)

Hope you have great Holidays!

U.S. Naval Academy Tour and Football Game

November 11, 12, and 13, 2016

By: Alex Hornickle

For most scouts, the trip started on Friday the 11th when we met at the cabin. But for some of us, it began on Thursday night, the 10th of November. The Quartermasters all met at the cabin, with the help of some adults, and we gathered all the gear needed for the trip. This trip was slightly different because of the large amount of people going. We used every tent we had, including the special tents for the Canada trips. We also brought almost all of the troop gear, which all had to be inspected and then packed in Mr. D's truck. We had a huge group of Webelos Scouts coming on this trip, along with their dads.

All arrived at the cabin by 6:15 PM Friday. Excitement was in the air. The weather was beautiful and the forecast looked to be good for the weekend, No Rain! After loading the food and personal gear on the bus, we had a brief meeting to discuss the schedule and weekend plans and then loaded onto the bus. The bus was jammed full of kids, we had to sit 3 to a seat. The ride to Camp Rodney in Maryland was louder than usual.



[Click here for more pictures / video](#)



Upon arrival at Camp Rodney, we checked in and found our campsite, but the bus was not able to make it to the campsite and had to park in the parking lot a short distance from the campsite. We unloaded the personal gear from the bus and then hiked down to the campsite and put our personal gear down and helped unload Mr. D's truck. Setting up tents in the dark is a scout skill that all 78 scouts learn quickly and this trip was no different. After all the tents and gear were set up, we settled in for a good night sleep in the chilly weather.

On Saturday morning, we woke up at 5:15 AM for an early breakfast of cereal, oatmeal and muffins. We piled back on the bus by 6:15 AM and we were on the road to Annapolis by 6:30 AM. We arrived in Annapolis at the US Naval Academy by 8:30 AM, checked in and broke up into 2 groups for the guided tour of the Naval Academy. On the tour we visited the Midshipmen's Dormitory, the field house, Lejeune Hall, Bancroft Hall and Rotunda, the Academy Chapel, the Grave of John Paul Jones and lastly the statue of Tecumseh, which is decorated by the Midshipmen before every football game. After the tour, we thanked our guides who provided many interesting facts about the Academy, Tecumseh, John Paul Jones and life at the Naval Academy. We then regrouped to distribute and eat our bag lunches. We ate while the Midshipmen assembled for the march to the stadium and we followed them to the stadium to watch the football game.

The game was Navy vs. Tulsa. Navy won 42-40. It was an exciting and close game. We sat across from the Midshipmen and watched them cheer and do push-ups every time Navy scored. Before the game ended some of the adults left early to go back and start dinner. We all went back to the bus and tried to leave, but traffic was bad and it took forever to just leave the parking lot. We got back to the campsite by 6:30 PM. Thanks to the adults who left early, the hungry group of tired scouts had a meal of spaghetti and meatballs with a lovely salad ready and waiting! After cleanup, there was a snack and bonfire. Several scouts went to bed early since it had been such a long day. Another good night of sleep with one of the brightest moons you can imagine.

On Sunday morning we woke up by 7:30 am. The patrols cooked a breakfast of pancakes and sausage. After clean up, the troop gear was packed up and put back in Mr. D's truck and personal gear was prepared to go back on the bus. Francis, our Troop Chaplain, gave a sermon and we ended by singing the national anthem. Once the bus was packed, we set off for a brisk 3-mile hike around Camp Rodney. My favorite part of the hike was our little adventure on the beach of the Chesapeake Bay. Several scouts hunted for sea glass and other treasures on the beach. We assembled for a group picture on the beach, before heading back to the bus. We left Camp Rodney for a restful ride home and arrived at the cabin by 1PM. Great weekend!



First Responder Webelos Event

By Jim Fox

Lights, camera, first aid! On Wednesday, November 16th, thirty eight (yes, 38!) Webelos from local Cub Scout packs arrived at the Troop 78 cabin to participate in First Responder Training which is required for the Webelos Arrow of Light Award.

With a full house of energetic scouts, Troop 78 patrol leaders and youth staff talked with the Webelos scouts about what to do if an accident occurs. The Webelos practiced what to say when making a 911 call and learned how to help a person who is choking. Being active boys, the Webelos learned how to treat a number of other common ailments such as scratches, burns, blisters, and sunburn which they are likely to often encounter. Our very own First Responder, Jake Schallack, was on hand from the Goshen Fire Company to talk to the Webelos about how first responders use their life saving skills in our community. Each of the Webelos gained some new first aid skills and received a certificate for their participation. The Webelos parents who attended got a chance to watch Troop 78 in action and dialoged with current Troop 78 leaders about how their sons could continue on into Boy Scouts.

The evening was a grand success! We plan to continue this training annually for the Webelos. See you all again next November! [Click here for more pictures.](#)



The Troop Has a New Bus!

By Jim Bennett

Troop 78 Acquires New Bus; Seeks Help From Members

This year, 2016, marks the 50th anniversary of bus ownership for Willistown Troop 78. Having our own bus has enabled the Troop to make treks to many distant locations, including to Algonquin Provincial Park for our canoe expeditions, and to our annual Florida pilgrimage to Disney World. We've taken the bus to visit two U.S. service academies; to tour our nation's capital; and see Civil War historic sites and battlefields in three different states. The bus has taken us to both the September 11th Memorial in New York City and to the Flight 93 Memorial in western Pennsylvania. Also trips caving, whitewater rafting, hikes on the Appalachian Trail – all have been enabled because we've had safe, dependable transportation for a half-century. In short, the bus is a Troop 78 hallmark. It has been a source of pride for our Troop, and is a key driver (if you'll pardon the pun) to our success.

But as time has passed, the Troop's transportation needs have evolved. "Old Yeller," our current bus, has served us well, but it's now been in the Troop's service for 13 years. Repairs have grown in frequency, scope and expenses. Concerns about reliability, and the fact that the bus doesn't have air conditioning (and therefore no windshield defroster), mean that some of the trips we'd like to take – like summer trips to explore the western U.S. and its national parks - cannot be accomplished with the current bus.

The good news is that our sponsoring organization, Friends of Troop 78, Inc., has recently purchased a gently used replacement bus that will hopefully serve the Troop for years to come. The "new to us" bus is air-conditioned; has under-storage space that runs the entire length of the bus; comes with a video system; and has individual high-back seats, each with a safety belt. We thank Friends for their generosity and support of the Troop. A special "thank you" goes out to Joe Rubino, Bill Trowill, Joe Cady, and all of the spaghetti dinner attendees whose contributions over the years have gone so far to make this acquisition possible.

While Friends has managed to cover the costs to obtain the replacement bus, the new coach needs some repairs, modifications, and general TLC. For example, we would like to retrofit this bus to accommodate tables. We need to build out some internal equipment storage space. The driver's seat must be replaced, and the bus needs painting. Given that the bus is newer than the one we're replacing, our insurance costs will increase for the foreseeable future.

We are looking for assistance from our Troop 78 family to help underwrite these additional expenses. Accordingly, we'd like you to become a Willistown Troop 78 "Bus Backer." As you look at your charitable contributions for 2016, please consider making a donation to Friends of Troop 78, Inc., a 501(c)(3) entity and the Troop's sponsoring organization, to assist with us with these expenses.

We also ask that you look into whether your place of work makes matching contributions to your charities of choice. Keep in mind that no contribution is too small, and every contribution will be greatly appreciated – and put to great use.

Please be part of the next 50 years of Troop 78’s journey to adventure. Become a Bus Backer. Send your check, made payable to “Friends of Troop 78, Inc.,” to Chip Lewis, the Treasurer of Friends of Troop 78, Inc., at 41 Bryan Avenue, Malvern, PA, 19355. Or, drop your check off with Mr. D. at any Troop meeting or event. Simply write “Bus Backer” on the memo line of the check. We’ll send you a letter on Friends letterhead, thanking you for your contribution and acknowledging the amount of your gift. We’d like to get all of the contributions in-house by January 31, 2017. But consider making your contribution now, as you sit reading this article. And don’t forget to check on whether your place of work has a matching program.

On behalf of a half-century of Scouts and Scouters who have enjoyed safe and dependable transportation to countless events, thanks for helping the Troop to “get on the bus.”



Pasta Night

On Tuesday November 8th, the adults of Troop 78 gathered for a wonderful evening of good food and conversation at the first of several Pasta Nights scheduled for this scout year. Courtesy of the excellent cooking of Joe Cady, a delightful meal of lasagna, meatballs and all the fixings was served to over 100 members of the Troop 78 family all for the nominal charge of \$20 per person.

All proceeds benefit the Troop 78 bus fund.

Please consider joining us for the next Pasta Night scheduled for March, date to be determined. Stay tuned for more information.

All adults connected in any way to Troop 78 and/or scouting are welcome to attend. Please join us!

Notice of Upcoming Events

Winter Weekend at Camp Horseshoe

Troop 78 Winter weekend at Camp Horseshoe is coming on fast! We will be back at our favorite stomping ground: Camp Horseshoe Friday January 6th through Sunday January 8th. All scouts, dads, Webelos and scout-aged friends are welcome. Please mark your calendars.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Disney Trip 2017

I am heading to Walt Disney World with Troop 78 in just over 100 days!
Are you?



When are we going? April 7th – April 15th 2017

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 2016, and
Scouts who are *or will be* First Class rank by March 27th, 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. You can use your Scout account \$.

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, 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. Friday February 3rd - \$300 Deposit and permission slip are due**
- 2. Friday, March 3rd - \$300 Final Payment is due**
- 3. Friday March 10th, 9:00 PM (after Troop meeting) – Scout and Parent Meeting (Parent must attend with Scout)**
- 4. Sunday April 2nd – Bus and equipment cleaning meeting 1:00 PM to about 4:00 PM**

We must have at least 20 Scouts and Adults to Camp at Disney.
[Click here for more information on the upcoming 2017 Disney Trip](#)

Annual Registration: Due Now

[Click here for annual registration information and forms.](#)



Troop 78 at Camp Rodney on the Chesapeake