



Willistown Troop 78

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November 2025

Volume 42 Number 3

Eagle Court of Honor!

AN AFTERNOON OF AWARDS, HONORS, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP

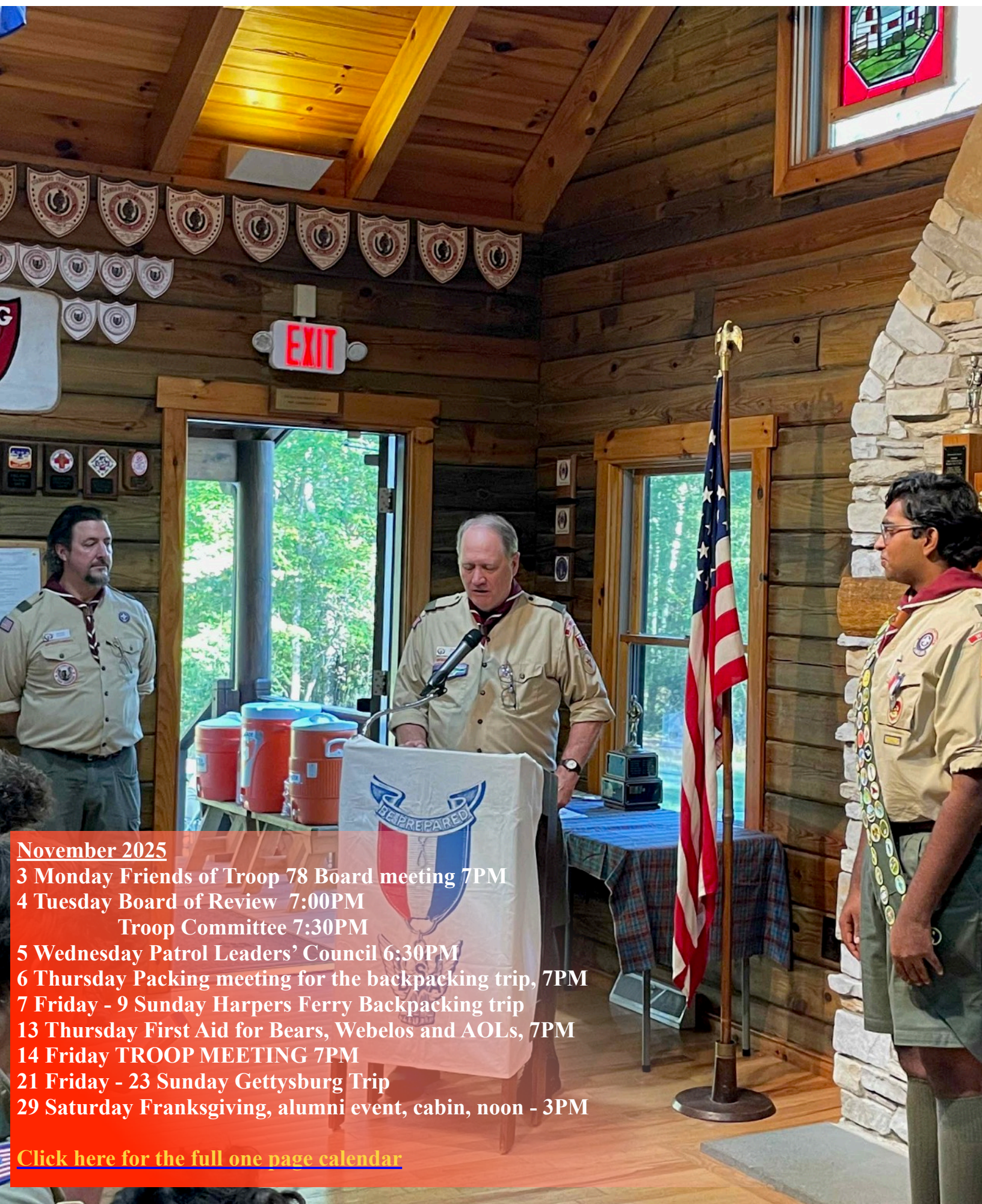


Inside this issue

Mr D's Thank You Event

Navy 250th Anniversary

Harpers Ferry Trip



November 2025

3 Monday Friends of Troop 78 Board meeting 7PM

4 Tuesday Board of Review 7:00PM

Troop Committee 7:30PM

5 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 6:30PM

6 Thursday Packing meeting for the backpacking trip, 7PM

7 Friday - 9 Sunday Harpers Ferry Backpacking trip

13 Thursday First Aid for Bears, Webelos and AOLs, 7PM

14 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM

21 Friday - 23 Sunday Gettysburg Trip

29 Saturday Franksgiving, alumni event, cabin, noon - 3PM

[Click here for the full one page calendar](#)

Court of Honor and Family Picnic

Sunday October 5, 2025

Cabin

By Jacob L.

The Court of Honor began with our traditional family dinner. As usual, the Eagle family was called up first, followed by the rest of us by table. After everyone had eaten and talked for a while, the tables were cleaned up, and the event moved inside to begin the main ceremony.

Before the awards portion, several speeches were given. The first was by Sean T, who spoke about the historic trip. Next, Alex O gave a speech on the White Water Rafting trip. Following that, we heard about summer camp. Week one was covered by Justin S, and week two was written by Ryan W and presented by Ethan S with a few “modifications”. Afterward, Jay T spoke about the Algonquin Park trip, and finally, Will G talked about the Knoebels trip.

Once all the speeches had concluded, a slideshow filled with photos from all the events was played, created by Ben B. Then came the awards portion of the ceremony, beginning with the Scout of the Year and Achgeketum Awards. Ethan S received the Scout of the Year award. The Achgeketum Award was presented to Justin and Ethan S. Next were the merit badges, with most scouts receiving badges earned at camp. Following that were the rank advancements, presented from lowest to highest, leading up to the Eagle Scout ceremony.

There was one Eagle Scout was recognized, Varun K, who was introduced by Jay T. After the Eagle ceremony concluded, the cake was cut, and everyone enjoyed a slice to wrap up the evening. This marked the end of our October Court of Honor.



Mr D Retires!

The Torch is Passed to the next Scoutmaster: Rob Duff
Saturday October 18, 2025
Cabin

By Ethan S.

On a beautiful October afternoon, more than 150 troop alumni, families, and friends gathered at the cabin to honor our longtime Scoutmaster, Mr. D. After leaving a message in the guest book, attendees enjoyed a slideshow from the past 31 years of Mr. D's leadership. Once everyone was seated outside, the opening ceremony began, followed by a few welcoming speeches. Afterward, we enjoyed a delicious barbecue lunch. Most of us happily went back for seconds.

Once the meal concluded, the formal program began with a tribute from the scouts delivered by Ethan and Justin S., Troop 78 Eagles scouts and SPLs. At the end of these remarks, they presented Mr. D with a handsome wooden box filled with personal notes of appreciation from every youth member of the troop. The Council Scout Executive, Jake Segal, then spoke, presenting several recognitions from the governments of Pennsylvania and Willistown Township. Next, Mr. D's sons, Greg and Brett, shared stories about his dedication and care for the troop. Mrs. D'Antonio was also recognized for her selfless support. The keynote address was delivered by Dave Benedict, Troop 78 Eagle Scout and a Scoutmaster himself and longtime friend of Mr. D. He entertained the audience with stories from their time together in Camp Horseshoe's Maintenance department.

Finally, Mr. D himself addressed the crowd. He began by thanking the many people in attendance who had contributed to the troop in various ways. He then reflected on his experience as Scoutmaster. One of his most impactful stories was from his very first meeting in the role. Ernie handed him a briefcase, saying it contained the secrets to being a successful Scoutmaster. When Mr. D later opened it, he found it empty. As he explained it, the briefcase symbolized that the only way to learn leadership is to practice it.

During the ceremony, it was announced that the current Field Day trophy would be replaced with one named in Mr. D's honor. Mr. Siegle also presented Mr. D with a certificate for a well-deserved vacation for him and Mrs. D'Antonio. Our current Scoutmaster, Mr. Duff, closed the program by expressing his appreciation for Mr. D's guidance and addressing the importance of teamwork in building a successful troop.

It was a wonderful way to honor an outstanding Scoutmaster who has made an impact on generations of Troop 78 scouts.





Navy 250th Anniversary

Sunday October 12, 2025

Philadelphia

By Henry S.

Like the trip to Knoebels, the Navy 250th trip was sadly converted to a day trip. Thankfully, the bus was working this time. The first ship we had the privilege of going on was the USS *Billings*, a freedom class combat ship. We were given a tour of the active duty ship and got to meet its staff. We were able to see the guns, loading area, and mess hall of the ship. The *Billings* was docked next to the museum ship, the USS *New Jersey*, which we explored. The *New Jersey* was huge compared to the *Billings*, and we were able to see more of the ship. On the *Billings* we were of course told not to touch anything. On the *New Jersey* we could touch *some* things.



They had a lot of fake phones on the bridge but it turned out one wasn't. Two scouts accidentally called the museum headquarters and the staff quickly made an announcement not to do that. After a lunch of turkey and cheese or peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and CapriSuns, we were on our way to the next ship the USS *Lassen*, an *Arleigh-Burke class* destroyer. This ship was not next to the *New Jersey* but was right next to the Walt Whitman Bridge, south of the previous ships. On this ship we were able to go the bow of the ship as well as see all of the mechanics and commands of the bridge.

This trip will never be forgotten by myself and my fellow scouts as the day we boarded active duty US Navy ships.

Run A Muck

On October 4th, 12 intrepid Troop 78 volunteers braved brilliant sunshine, blazing bright blue skies, temperatures in the low 70s, and the beautiful rolling Willistown Township countryside to assist the Willistown Conservation Trust (WCT) with their annual Run A Muck cross-country race & Country Fair. The event is a fundraiser to help preserve local open spaces and farmland. We developed a parking plan, executed it to perfection using our “tools of the trade” (ropes, stakes, cones, vests, flags, and a smile) and parked a record number of racers, walkers, and fair goers that arrived in close to 300 vehicles. After making sure the later arrivals were safely parked, we walked over to the hillside where we enjoyed the Country Fair complete with Jimmy’s BBQ, live music, a bonfire, and fun activities like a mechanical bull.

Radnor Hunt Horse Trials

Troop 78 was back at it doing a “good turn” in the dark & early hours the next Saturday, October 11th, at Radnor Hunt Club for the Radnor Hunt Horse Trials (RHHT). 19 volunteers helped throughout the drizzly day as we parked horse trailers, assisted with the jumping, and taking down of the dressage rings. While the Troop has been assisting with the RHHT for roughly 30 years, this year brought new leadership to the event and that meant changes. The events were all held in new locations and most important for us, the trailer parking location changed to the field where we park cars in the spring for the Radnor Races. Getting trailers to turn into the Pony Club entrance off Providence Road, shepherd them down the winding driveways, beagles and into a gate at the top of the hill, guiding them down a hill to the parking location down near the Races homestretch was not an easy feat at 5:45 a.m. The Troop provided our trademark cheerful service and were especially prompt and cheerful for the chili and sandwich lunch that was provided for us. Special thanks go out to Constable Bilson, Wayne Curry, and Gina Diederich for handling the trailer parking like they’d done it in the dark all their lives and to our “pooper scoopers” at the jumping ring who performed the task without a question!



Troop 78 Photo & Media Archive

We are inviting members of the Troop 78 family to contribute their favorite Scout-related photos and videos using the link below. Whether it is campout adventures, service projects, ceremonies, or other troop activities, we'd love to include your memories in the troop's collection.

This archive and all of the media you share will be held on a secure, in-house storage system.

Things to keep in mind before you add to the collection:

- This is a shared drive. Content uploaded to this drive may be visible to other troop members.
- Please only upload scouting-appropriate, troop-related content.

Please use the following link to upload your memories today!

<https://willistowntroop78.quickconnect.to/mo/request/9PANIK7xo>

Feel free to share this invitation with other members of the Troop 78 family.
Thank you for helping us preserve and share our troop's amazing memories

“Band” - Our New Text Notification Platform!

Long story short: The Troop 78 text notification platform “Remind” has changed its rules and no longer allows non-profits other than schools.

We are adopting a new platform called “Band.”

Band will offer Troop 78 access to an expanded set of communication and group / event management services. This will allow us to provide improved instant communications and a better membership experience for scouts, scouters and parents.



Please download the Band app on your smartphone and join our group, “Willistown Troop 78” using the following link.

[Click this link to join the Troop 78 group on our new system.](#)

Upcoming Events

Harper's Ferry Backpacking Trip

Friday November 7 - Sunday November 9, 2025

Please join us for our annual backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail. We will be hiking the AT through Harper's Ferry West Virginia, a key site in the American Civil War. Harper's Ferry is found at the junction of Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. We will explore Harper's Ferry and visit the Headquarters of the AT Conservancy, which is in Harper's Ferry. We will hike a section of the AT in Maryland. We are expecting wonderful weekend of hiking and camping and fall colors in the valleys and mountains of the Shenandoah.

[Click here or more information.](#)

Gettysburg National Historic Park Trip

Friday November 21 - Sunday November 23, 2025

Please join us for a legendary trip through Gettysburg, PA one of the most important sites in the Civil War. We will be camping at a nearby Scout camp and visit the brand new visitor's center at Gettysburg National Park, then take a guided tour through the park.

Franksgiving

Saturday November 29, 2024

Cabin

We invite Troop members, alumni, family and friends to join us at the Cabin on Saturday, November 29, 2025 for our Annual Franksgiving, from Noon till 3 PM. As usual, we'll have food and fun for the whole family. Please mark your calendar now.

Disney 2026!

Saturday March 28 - Saturday April 4, 2026



Heading to Walt Disney World with Troop 78?

Reserve your spot for Spring Break 2026

When are we going? March 28 – April 4

What are we going to do? We will spend a morning at the Disney Imagination Campus in one of the parks. We will participate in a workshop in a Disney Park 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), or just swim and explore Fort Wilderness campground during your downtime.

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 2025, 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? \$1,100 plus spending money

What do I get for the \$1,100 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-Disney pass, adventures of conquering all of the mountains in Disney, visit Mickey and Minnie, and create some magical memories. During this time you will practice scout skills of reading a map, money management and time management as well as brushing up on your cooking skills.

How do I sign up for this awesome annual trip? Handouts will be given out during the troop Holiday Party 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 December 19th – \$600 and permission slip handed in
2. Sunday, February 8th (Super Bowl Sunday Pancake Breakfast)- \$500 Final Payment due
4. Friday March 6th, 9:00 PM (after Troop meeting) – Scout and Parent Meeting (Parent must attend with scout)
5. Sunday March 15th – Bus and equipment cleaning meeting 1:00PM to 4:00PM
6. Friday March 27th – 7:00 PM Load your gear on the bus
7. Saturday March 28rd – noon Leave for DISNEY

We must have at least 15 Scouts to participate in the Educational Workshop. If we do not have 15, we will have to cancel, so talk it up!

Fundraising

Holiday Poinsettia and Wreath Sale

Key dates:

Starts Friday November 7

Early Delivery Orders Due November 16

Early Delivery November 21

Regular Order Due November 26

Regular Delivery December 5

We need your help in the fall fundraiser! 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. We need all of the scouts and their families to help.

Please consider placing an order for Holiday poinsettia plants and wreaths.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Gift Cards

Troop 78 is running the gift card service again for the holidays!

Grab some holiday gifts for family, friends, teachers, plan ahead for Valentine's Day or for those winter vacations! Or grab some grocery store gift cards for personal use or to donate to a local food bank.

Choose from hundreds of gift card brands and pay full face value. The troop gets a rebate back and that money is split between the selling scout and the troop. Win-win! (Rebate varies by store - some are over 10%!)

Order form available. You may also sign up and order online. Please email sherriwark@yahoo.com so she can send you the troop's earnings code. RaiseRight can also be used as an app and you can order gift cards instantly at the restaurant or store where you are.

Orders are due by Friday December 12th to the Cabin or by Sunday the 14th to Steve/Sherri Wark. Pickup will be December 19th during the Holiday Party meeting or by pick-up from the Wark's house.

Please review the letter about Raiseright and check out the website raiseright.com.

Questions? Email sherriwark@yahoo.com

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

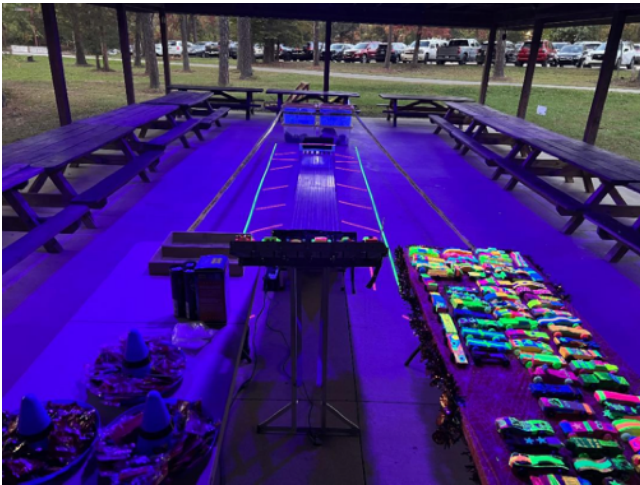
Chester County Council News

Spookoree

The cub scouts of Chester County Council had an amazingly frightful fun weekend at the annual Spook-O-Ree this year at HSR, with so many activities for the cubs to enjoy and participate in!

Troop 78, scouts and scouters were there to staff and run some of the activities for the cubs to enjoy. All culminating in the main event on Saturday night with the Glow in the Dark Pinewood Derby track runs in the Goodman Pavilion which is always a big hit.

Troop 78 has been hosting this Pinewood Derby event for the past 4 years and we have grown to over 100 cars participating this year at both Spook-O-Ree weekends. Many thanks to the 78'ers that helped out these past 2 October weekends.



Weekend Merit Badge Program

Camp Horseshoe

The weekend off-season merit badge program will continue with Cooking merit badge Saturday November 15 at Camp Horseshoe.

Please consider signing up for one of these exciting merit badges and an opportunity to visit camp during the off-season.

Here is the complete list of merit badges offerings for this year:

Kayaking, Shotgun, Plumbing, Cooking, Electricity/Electronics, Communication, Geology, Welding, Fishing.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Chester County Council Annual Gala

Friday November 14, 2025

The Fox Barn at Twenty9

16 Great Valley Parkway, Malvern

Please join us for an evening to celebrate the spirit and legacy of scouting in Chester County. This festive event is open to all adults in the scouting community and promises to be a joyful mix of laughter, stories and reconnection to friends and families. This is a non-uniform event.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Veteran's Breakfast

Tuesday November 11, 2025, 7:30 - 9:00AM

Desmond Hotel

Please join us for an opportunity to thank our nation's Veterans. We will open with a Scout honor guard, then enjoy a delicious buffet breakfast. The program we will hear from a scout, their thoughts on those who served in our armed forces. Then we will hear from retired Major General Wesley E. Craig, the guest speaker. This is always an inspiring event.

[Click here for more information.](#)

[Click here for the Chester County Council Newsletter](#)

Print this Newsletter for all of your family and friends to see!