



Willistown Troop 78

Website: www.tr78.org

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May 2026

- 4 Monday Friends of Troop 78 Board Meeting
- 5 Tuesday Board of Review
- 5 Tuesday Troop Committee
- 6 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council
- 8 Friday Troop Meeting
- 15 Friday Troop Meeting
- 16 Saturday Radnor Races
- 17 Sunday Radnor Races Cleanup
- 22 Friday No Troop Meeting
- 28 Thursday Troop Meeting Field Day Part I
- 31 Sunday Annual Field Day and Picnic

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

Great Smoky Mountains

March 28th - April 4th

By Sebastian B.

Day 1: On Sunday morning, we left the cabin at 9:00, already having eaten breakfast and still mentally preparing for the big trip ahead. During the first few hours of the ride, we either finished organizing our gear or were on our phones resting for the long week. As the journey continued, we played card games and chatted with friends until lunchtime, when we stopped at Popeye's. After fueling up with chicken and a bathroom break, we returned to the bus to play more card games and many rounds of Imposter. Upon arrival at the Virginia campground, we used the vans they lent us to drive our gear to the site before setting up our sleeping bags. Once we were ready, we cooked dinner, cleaned up, and went to bed.

Day 2: When we got up on Monday, we made breakfast and cleaned up before heading off to the Appalachian Trail. After a long bus ride, we arrived at the visitor center, where we learned that we could not follow our original plan. After a lunch of PB&J at the center, we decided to get back on the bus. Afterwards, we quickly improvised and headed out to an available campsite nearby. We drove for a bit before we saw elk and got off the bus for a better

look. We split into two groups, which would stay at separate campsites, and then headed up the trail and hiked a few miles before we arrived at our campsite and set up camp. After setting up camp, we made a delicious Mountain House dinner before cleaning up and exploring the surroundings for a bit. After a while, we headed off to bed, ready for the exciting backpacking trip ahead.

Day 3: When we woke up in the morning, we packed up our tents and ate breakfast. We then raced leaves and bark in the stream while we waited for the other group to arrive at our site. After a while, the older group finally arrived, and we set out for the bus. We drove to a Native American Museum, where we bought tickets and explored the history of native Americans in the area. After we finished the museum, we went out to get ice cream. We drove for a while to a campground to eat lunch and go to the bathroom before we started the drive back. We drove back and backpacked to our original campsite before we set up our tents and started making dinner. We ate and cleaned up the meal before heading off to bed, tired from the day's hikes.

Day 4: On Wednesday, we woke up early and ate breakfast before we headed out for the highest peak in the Smoky Mountains. We played imposter and many card games on the bus ride down before we arrived at the site. We drove to the gate and waited for an hour before deciding to hike up. After the road opened, the bus caught up, and we rode it to the top of the mountain. We climbed to the lookout, where the clouds cleared for a few seconds before going down to the visitor's center. After a while, we headed down and started our drive to Camp Powhatan, while we ate lunch on the bus. When we arrived, we unloaded our gear and rested before playing volleyball. The ball "accidentally" landed in the lake a few times before the better team eventually ended up winning. We headed back up to camp and made dinner before taking a shower. After dinner, most scouts were in an Adirondack playing Black Magic and 6 Hearts Telepathy before heading off to bed.

Day 5: We got up early and made a Mountain House breakfast before we headed out to tour camp. We compared Horseshoe to this camp and saw the staff city, the lake, and the nature lodge before we arrived at Cope. We practiced trust falls there as a group before eating a light lunch of energy bars and Bloks on a bridge. After following a recommendation from the ranger, we hiked up a trail to the highest point in camp, which had amazing views. We hiked back down the mountain and went back to camp to rest and start dinner. After dinner, we played manhunt over a substantial part of the camp, where players had to yell out their locations to make it easier. After we were exhausted from a few rounds, we took showers and headed off to bed.

Day 6: After a good night's sleep at the Virginia campground, we made breakfast, packed our bags, cleaned up, and got on the bus. We played Imposter and many card games before we stopped for lunch. Eventually, we arrived at Mr. Duff's campground, where we set up our sleeping gear and toured the property. After seeing the property and the trails, we went back to the barn to rest. After a little while, we went up to the building site where Mr. Duff was



building a house. At the site, we followed JoJo, Mr. D's dog, up the mountain before turning back for dinner. When we arrived back, we rested and played Mao before eating chili and ice cream for dinner. After dinner, we built a large bonfire with branches, tree stumps, and gas to help the wood burn. We ignited the bonfire and sang songs before having our first-ever troop rap battle. We roasted marshmallows on the fire before putting it out and heading off to bed.

Day 7: On the last day of the trip, we woke up early and packed our bags. After cleaning up the site and saying our goodbyes, we hopped onto the bus ready to go home. For the first few hours of the ride home, we played Imposter and rested, thinking about the fun time we had on the trip. After a little while, we arrived at the cabin and hung up the tents to dry. We also cleaned up the bus before heading home with our gear, tired yet content.



Treasure Island Campout

April 10th - 12th

By Ethan S.

Our trip to Treasure Island began with a short bus ride to a parking area alongside the Delaware River. The historic island, once a Scout camp and the birthplace of the Order of the Arrow in 1915, would be our home for the weekend. Once we arrived, we carried our gear to the dock along a path illuminated by tiki torches. It took two barge trips to ferry all our scouts and equipment across the river. A short hike brought us to our campsite, perched on the edge of the island overlooking the water. After a quick snack of peaches, we turned in for the night.

We woke to a stunning view of the sunrise reflecting off the river. After cooking a breakfast of scrambled eggs and oatmeal in patrols, we gathered for the morning flag raising ceremony. We then took on one of the camp's challenges: building a gateway using wooden poles and rope. Every scout helped lash together an impressive structure, complete with the troop and



American flags and even a working turnstile. We finished just in time for scouts to attend the morning program activities of their choice, which included Fingerprinting and Scouting Heritage merit badges, nature requirements for scout ranks, and a presentation featuring artifacts from the island's original Lenape inhabitants.



After a patrol-cooked lunch of grilled cheese and soup, we began the afternoon program. Scouts practiced navigation at the orienteering course, explored the island on a self-guided tour, and visited the Goodman-Edson Museum, the second largest Scouting museum in the country. We capped off the afternoon with a troop volleyball tournament — Moose patrol won, but every scout had a great time. Back in camp, we enjoyed a dinner of hot dogs and chips before evening colors at the parade field. As night fell, we walked along a torch-lit path to the ceremonial grounds for a campfire with skits and songs from troops and camp staff. The evening ended with plenty of s'mores back at our campsite.

The next morning, we were up early to have breakfast and take down our tents. After morning colors, we attended the non-denominational chapel service hosted by the camp staff, then returned to our campsite to pack up and head to the dock. After two final barge trips, we were back at the parking lot and soon on our way home from this once-in-a-lifetime experience.





NYLT Weekends

April 10th - 12th, April 17th - 19th

By Logan W.

On April 10th, members of Troop 78, Dan C., Sebastian B. and Logan W., set off for Camp John H. Ware to participate in the National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) course. Upon arrival, they quickly checked in, joined their assigned patrols, and met their Troop Guides. Each day featured morning and evening assemblies where the NYLT SPL outlined the upcoming events, setting the stage for a weekend focused on growth and teamwork. The participants did various team-building activities, attended presentations on stepping up into leadership roles, and bonded through camp songs and late-night games.

By the end of the first weekend, the group was eager for more, and the second half of the course arrived quickly. This follow-up session dove deeper into the core principles of leadership, ensuring every day was packed with high-energy games and instructional presentations. The experience ended in a formal graduation ceremony where all participants earned their NYLT certificates and strips. These three scouts of Troop 78 returned from the course as a more confident leaders, fully prepared to take on higher roles within the Troop.

Spring Cabin Cleanup

April 18th

On the morning of April 18th, a dedicated group of about 20 Scouts and leaders converged on the 78 Cabin for our annual Spring clean up. Kipp Happ led a crew that cleaned and polished the troop bus to perfection both inside and out. Chris Campbell led a housecleaning crew that vacuumed, dusted, mopped and scrubbed the cabin squeaky clean. The Sansone's crew reorganized and cleaned the bus barn, while the Tysons tried to make Ern's workshop more usable for troop and Eagle Scout projects. Outside, branches were trimmed, wood split and porches scrubbed. It felt great to see our cabin and facilities in good order. Many thanks to those Scouts and leaders who took the time to come out and help clean and maintain our troop home. Next cleanup is in the Fall. Hope you can join the fun!



Eagle Scout Recognition Banquet

April 19th

Malvern Retreat House

The banquet hall was packed with family and friends when the newest Eagle Scouts filed in to rousing applause. Everyone was gathered to honor those who most recently earned Eagle, the highest rank in Scouting.

Each Eagle Scout was introduced to the crowd and greeted by Jake Segal, Chester County Council CEO and our own Jim Bennett, Council President.

Each scout gave a brief description of their Eagle Scout project. Many hours of work were donated to countless parks, churches, and schools. In 2025 over 25,000 hours of community service time was put in completing projects all over the county.



*National Outstanding Eagle Scout Award recipients:
Andrew Coe and Mr D.*

One of the highlights of the evening was recognizing our own Steve D'Antonio with the **National Outstanding Eagle Scout Award**.

The National Outstanding Eagle Scout Award is one of the most distinguished honors presented by Scouting America. It recognizes Eagle Scouts who have gone on to achieve extraordinary success and make a lasting impact in their profession and community.



Honoring our Eagle Scouts

Recipients of this award are nominated by their local Council and approved by National Scouting America.

Those honored with the National Outstanding Eagle Scout Award stand among a select group whose accomplishments bring distinction not only to themselves, but to all of Scouting. Their achievements serve as an inspiration to every person in Scouting, showing what is possible when the lessons learned as a Scout are carried forward into a lifetime of purpose and leadership.

Congratulations Steve!

Court of Honor & Parent's Night

April 26th

By Jack G.

The spring Court of Honor is here! On Sunday April 26th the Court of Honor took place from 3pm to 5pm where scouts from Troop 78 gathered to celebrate scout advancement. Give the recruit of the year award. Speak about important fundraisers that help the troop. Review the trips Troop 78 went on over the year. Do the OA tap out and most importantly to honor the new Eagle Scouts Nishant Saraswat and Colton Marshall.

To begin the ceremony some scouts shared the trips the troop had throughout the year with some trips including Harpers Ferry, The Marine Corps, the Air and Space museums, and Treasure Island. Next Ben Barsotti did the video slideshow which unfortunately had a technology issue midway through, postponing it to the end of the Court of Honor. Next multiple scouters talked about some fundraisers including the flower sale, a subscription to scouting, and Radnor Races. After that the OA tap out occurred where multiple scouts joined the order of the arrow. Next Gavin won the recruit of year award. And finally everyone who got a rank or merit badge since the last court of honor got their badge or rank.



New Eagle Scouts: Nishant S and Colton M

The most important part of any Court of Honor is the new Eagle Scouts who have each made their own unique path through scouting and have reached Scouting's most prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. They now move into another part of life where they can use their scout skills to assist them. This Court of Honor had two new Eagle Scouts Nishant S. and Colton M. Congratulations to Nishant and Colton! May we all wish you good luck in life.



Recruit of the Year, Gavin L



Compass Award recipient, Jay T





Order of the Arrow Weekend

April 24th - 25th

By Kipp Happ

Braved Weather During April OA Weekend!

Anyone who has spent a weekend camping knows that foul weather can quickly derail even the best-laid plans. While some events can be postponed or cancelled, others demand perseverance. Such was the case at Octoraro Lodge's spring Ordeal this past weekend, where a steady light rain threatened to dampen the experience. Rather than give in, the Arrowmen of Octoraro came together in brotherhood and carried on, upholding a tradition a century old.

The weekend began on Friday night under light rain as new Ordeal candidates and returning members arrived. Lodge leadership chose to proceed as planned. By approximately 6 a.m. Saturday, the skies cleared, giving way to a full day of demanding work. Candidates and Arrowman built new picnic tables, cleared and repaired camp trails, repaired campsite tent platforms, cleaned the pool and surrounding area, removed fallen tree debris, and split some firewood.

In an event where comfort is never expected, the added challenge of persistent rain showers made the accomplishment even more meaningful. Despite the conditions, the Arrowmen persevered, demonstrating that their resolve is stronger than the elements. Their efforts not only improved the camp but also reinforced the values and traditions of the lodge.

This weekend, we welcomed 50 new Ordeal members and 34 brothers who sealed their membership with Brotherhood. We look forward to returning in June to assist the camp staff at Horseshoe in preparing for another great summer camp season.

Staff City Pavilion Project Update

April 11th & 18th

Camp Horseshoe

On two Saturdays in April—April 11 and 18—a dedicated work crew from Troop 78 returned to Camp Horseshoe to continue progress on the new Staff City pavilion.

The team, including Wayne Curry, Dan Conners, James Conners, Arek Conners, Mark Siegle, Nate Motel, and Pete Motel, spent both days making significant strides by installing the deck joists and completing the decking.

With the platform now in place, the next phase of the project will focus on installing the roof trusses, followed by the installation of the railings. The goal is to have the pavilion completed in time for the start of the summer camp season.

This project is a great example of the impact of volunteer service. Thank you to everyone who has contributed their time, effort, and financial support—your work will help create a more comfortable and enjoyable space for camp staff all summer long.





Picnic Table Project Update

April 25th

Camp Horseshoe

On a cold and blustery Saturday at Camp Horseshoe, a dedicated work crew gathered once again—this time with a clear goal: complete all 40 picnic tables in time for summer camp.

Volunteers including Steve D., Camper Bull, Rob Duff, Arek Conners, Alex B., Dan Esterly, Mason E., Pete Motel, and at least six additional helpers from other troops worked steadily throughout the day. The operation ran like an assembly line, with four active stations: tabletop assembly, leg unit installation, bench installation, and final finishing with corner cutting and edge planing.

Thanks to the strong foundation laid during previous workdays—when all components were cut, legs assembled, and 15 tables completed—the team was able to assemble the remaining 25 tables. Only four tables remain unfinished due to a shortage of lumber for the benches.

One final workday will wrap up those last pieces, and it's clear the project will be completed in time for camp.

A sincere thank you to everyone who contributed their time, effort and financial support. Your work will be appreciated by Scouts, leaders and staff alike.



Radnor Races!

Saturday and Sunday May 16-17

📣 TROOP 78 – RADNOR RACES WEEKEND

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 16–17, 2026

Radnor Races weekend is just around the corner and it's one of the most important weekends of the year for Troop 78!

We need as many volunteers as possible, for as many hours as you can give — especially ADULTS!

Saturday, May 16:

Work hours: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Most critical time: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Sunday, May 17:

Cleanup from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

To sign-up, please contact **Brian Rothberg** at bricycle@verizon.net

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- ✔ Supports Troop 78 fundraising
- ✔ Helps Brandywine Open Land Conservancy protect open space
- ✔ Earns credit in your Scout's Camping account
- ✔ Fulfills our major public service project

After your shift, stick around and enjoy the amazing Radnor Races event!

If you haven't signed up yet — please let us know as soon as possible.

If your schedule has opened up, we'd love to have you for extra time.

Every helping hand matters — moms and all friends and family included! 🍷

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

SATURDAY, MAY 16 & SUNDAY, MAY 17

Spring Flower Sale

Spring is here! Flowers and plants grow, as do camping accounts for all scouts who participate in our annual fundraising sale! Scouts who sold plants entered their orders on the troop shop website, and will pickup their orders at the cabin on May 7th from 3-7pm.

We always welcome the help of parents and alumni volunteers to unload/sort plants at the cabin Wednesday, May 6th (11am - 2pm) or verify orders during the cabin pickup on May 7th.

Volunteers can contact Steve Wark or Jim Fox or [signup on our website](#). Even if you can help for a short time, we appreciate it.

Scouts deliver plants by Saturday, May 9th just in time for Mother's Day - when we honor our moms for all they are and do as they see their children grow.

Chester County Council News

Council Newsletter

Click here to view the latest edition of the [Chester County Council Newsletter, the Trailblazer](#), for more information about Scouting in Chester County.

Council Calendar

Click here to view the full [Council events Calendar](#).

Order of the Arrow • Octoraro Lodge 22

June Service Weekend - June 5th - 7th

Registration is open for the June Service Week

end! **June 5th - 7th at Camp Horseshoe!**

Register [here!](#)



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.](#)