



Newsletter

Volume 31

Number 1

September 2014

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2014

- 9/2 – Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.
9/3 - Patrol Leaders Council (7:30-8:30 PM)
9/5 – **TROOP MEETING** (7 to 9 PM)
9/8 – Friends of Troop 78 Board Meeting
9/11 – Diamond Rock District Steak-o-ree (& Roundtable)
9/12-14 – Beach Trip
9/19- **TROOP MEETING** (7 to 9 PM)
9/26-28 – Order of the Arrow Ordeal & Fellowship Weekend

OCTOBER 2014

- 10/1 (Wed.) – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30-8:30 PM)
10/3 - **TROOP MEETING** (7 to 9 PM)
10/5- **Annual Troop Dinner & COURT OF HONOR (3PM)**
10/7– Board of Review (7:00 PM) & Troop Committee Mtg.
10/9 – Diamond Rock District Roundtable
10/10 - **TROOP MEETING** (7 to 9 PM) - Begin Poinsettia sale
10/11 – Radnor Horse Trials (7:30 AM to 4 PM) – Help needed
10/11 – Den Chief Training (9AM to Noon)
10/11-12 – Intro. to Outdoor Leader Skills (Adult training)
10/11 – Troop 78 Jr. Leader Training – APLs, PLs, ASPLs, SPL
10/14 - Friends of 78 Pasta Nite 7 PM @ cabin
10/17-19 – Ranger's Challenge @ Camp Horseshoe
10/24 – **TROOP MEETING** (7 to 9 PM)
10/24-26 – Youth Leadership Training Weekend 1
10/31 – **TROOP MEETING** (7 to 9 PM)
10/31-11/2 – Youth Leadership Training Weekend 2

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



BEACH TRIP!

The first trip of the season will be a beach trip to New Jersey, always a scout favorite trip.

All scouts and fathers attending the trip should arrive at the cabin at 6 PM, Friday, September 12. From the cabin we will board the troop bus to NJ.

We will stay at Citta Scout Reservation, where members of Troop 78 and other Chester Country scouts and scouters assisted in cleanup operations from Super Storm Sandy. We will be staying at the campsite using the troop's tents and gear.

After a hardy breakfast at Citta, made by the boys, we will drive to Island Beach Park where we can hike and beach and swim. Shaped by storm and tides, Island Beach State Park is a barrier island stretching for about 10 miles between the Atlantic Ocean and the Barnegat Bay. Island Beach is one of New Jersey's last significant remnants of a barrier island ecosystem that once existed along much of the coastal NJ. It is also

one of the few remaining undeveloped barrier beaches on the north Atlantic coast. The scouts will enjoy the 10 miles of pure, white sand beach, and we will also have opportunities for some nature hikes as well. We will eat a big BBQ lunch and a small dinner at the park provided by the troop.

Never content to only do one thing on a trip, we will depart the Island Beach Park and end the evening at the boardwalk at Seaside Heights where we might be luckily enough to see the end of Clownfest (the 33rd anniversary of this epic event), people watch, hit the family friendly rides, and eat some more food. Make sure you bring some spending money for rides, food, postcards for mom, and saltwater taffy.

After a late night on the boards, we hope to return Sunday around noon back at the cabin after a restful sleep back at Citta Scout Reservation and brief morning walking tour of that scout camp. We look forward to seeing many scouts on the trip. Additional details and a packing list will be provided at the first troop meeting, along with a permission slip.

A SCOUT IS 'TRAINED'

Don't miss the following training opportunities coming up in October:

Den Chief Training for Scouts and Den Leaders will be on Saturday, October 11th, at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Frazer. For any scout who wishes to become a Den Chief. The registration for this course is at <http://ccbsa.doubleknot.com/event/den-chief-training/1501325>.

NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training) will be conducted October 24-26 and October 31-November 2, at Camp Ware. NYLT is a youth-led conference that focuses on providing youth leaders with the skills to run successful youth-led units. The NYLT skills are also lifelong leadership skills that will distinguish these scouts from their peers. The course is designed for youth that are 13 years of age and older and completing 7th grade. Scouts must be First Class or above in rank. **In order to attend, all participants must complete Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops or Crews (ILST/C), being held on September 20 at Camp Ware.** To register today go to <http://cccbsa.doubleknot.com/event/introduction-to-leadership-skills-for-troopscrews/1530865>.

Introduction to Outdoor Leaders Skills Training (IOLST) on **October 11 and 12 at Camp Jarvis** is available for registration now at <http://cccbsa.doubleknot.com/event/introduction-to-outdoor-leader-skills-iols/1501326>. Every participant must attend the **patrol prep session on Thursday, October 2, at 7:00 PM**, at the Council Service Center to meet your patrol, decide what to eat, assign who brings what gear, learn about camping, first aid, campfire gigs, patrol contests and much more. This training along with the classroom piece of Introduction to Adult Leadership Skills will complete your training to be an Assistant Scoutmaster.

NEW DADS NEEDED!

The September Troop Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 2nd, at 7:30 PM, at the cabin. The committee meets to guide and discuss the operation of the troop. New dads are especially encouraged to attend.

BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY PICNIC

By Nathan Motel, Flying Eagle

We all arrived at the Brandywine Conservancy Museum around noon. As soon as everyone arrived

we began to indulge in the delicious hamburgers and hot dogs. The conservancy offered a wide array of food, snacks, and drinks. Once we finished off the food we went inside of the museum and gazed at every painting on display. Most of the paintings were locally painted and all of them were beautiful. When we finally finished looking at the paintings we went back outside and started the scavenger hunt.

The scavenger hunt took place all over the property. There were trails that you had to walk along to find objects. Most of the hunt was outside but some of the objects were in the courtyard. Once we had finished the scavenger hunt we waited to figure out who won. The winning patrol got a prize for each member. Then we all said goodbye and left.

SUMMER CAMP WRAP UP

Mr. D.

I haven't written an after camp article in a couple of years but thought I should renew the tradition of bragging a little about the troop's achievements at summer camp. The scouts who attended camp know how well they did, but parents should know that their sons accomplished "a ton" at camp. As individuals, they earned advancement, as patrols they worked on service projects, clean camp and skill event games, and as a troop they excelled in marching (of course), scout skills and by setting the example as the finest troop in attendance for both their weeks at camp. There is much more to camp than winning ribbons, but everyone likes to know how many, so here's the awards tally by week:

Week One: Marching – 7 out of 7
First Place - Paul Bunyan Field Day, Clean Camp Award, Inter-Troop Archery Shoot, Clash of Directors Patrol Competition (Stag Patrol)
Second Place – Inter-Troop Track Meet, Obstacle Course (Panther Patrol) Clash of Directors (Panther Patrol)
Third Place – Speed Climb, Swim Meet

Week Two: Marching - 5 out of 5 (two rain outs)

First Place – Water Carnival, Clean Camp Award, Track Meet, Swim Meet, Speed Climb, Turtle Derby, Obstacle Course (Cougar Patrol), Scavenger Hunt, Lego Patrol Competition (Cougar Patrol)

Second Place – Inter-Troop Archery Shoot, Obstacle Course (Badger Patrol), Staff Hunt.

The Silver Buckle award for the scout in each troop who has most lived up to the principles of the Scout Oath and Law, as voted by his fellow scouts was awarded to Holden Barnes in week one and Billy Mackrides in week two. Congratulations to you both, and thank you for setting an excellent example for Troop 78.

We had a lot of adult help both weeks this year at camp, and it was a good thing because Ernie had them building a new Leader's Adirondack in their "spare time." It's a great addition to the Dan Beard campsite, and next year we won't have any of our leaders sleeping in our kitchen tent. My thanks to all the dads and adult leaders who gave their time at camp this year, especially those of you helping for a week or more: Bob Urban, Jake Schallack, John Lotz and Ernie Heegard.

At the end of week one, the troop surprised me with a handsome plaque to commemorate my 20 years as Scoutmaster. I would like to thank everyone involved for their thoughtfulness, but I can truly say that serving as Scoutmaster already comes with many rewards.

I don't do it often enough, but I want to thank all of the parents, adult leaders and scouts who continue to provide their time and energy toward providing a quality scouting program here in Troop 78. It is truly a group effort. I would especially like to thank the active Assistant Scoutmasters and particularly those who have served as Camping Chair over the past twenty years, including Bret Reber, Jim Bennett and Jack Bilson. A special thanks

to Jim for rejuvenating the “most awesome” high-adventure trips to the Kandersteg International Scout Centre in 2008 and 2012. Thanks to Steve Brown for taking on the task for 2016. I also want to thank those who organize our other “signature trips” to Florida (Joe Rubino and most recently Jim Hogan), and to Algonquin Park in Canada (Bruce Balmat and for the past four years Mark Seigle). A big thank you to John Walsh for coordinating this year’s Philmont trip for five scouts and four adults from our troop, and to Eric Meltzer for organizing the 2013 and 2015 Sea Base trips. It’s great to have so many adults involved with our camping program, and to be able to offer such a variety of experiences for the boys. Now we begin a new scout year with lots of new adventures ahead. You won’t want to miss a one!



TROOP 78’S PHILMONT TREK **Ethan Bilson, Stag Patrol**

This summer, five scouts and four adults from Troop 78 had the privilege to venture out for a fantastic trip to the Colorado Springs area and the Philmont Scout Ranch outside of Cimarron, New Mexico. None of this trip could have been possible without the help of our mentors from council and the whole Blue Sky Adventures scout travel group, who provided us with fantastic facilities and activities in our brief stay in Colorado.

This trip, as most do, started with a bit of annoying travel. However, after our tiring flight, the cheerful Blue Sky staff guided us around all the Colorado Springs area attractions in a mere 48 hours. We visited the Air Force Academy,

Garden of the Gods, the Pike’s Peak cog train, Red Rocks Amphitheater, and even white-water rafted the Arkansas River. On the last day, we were sad to leave the beds and pool of the University of Colorado, but we were all excited to begin our awesome itinerary in New Mexico.

After a lengthy check-in process on the first day, the crew and our ranger Matthew ventured out into the wilderness. We passed the ranger exam, but before Matthew left us, he managed to pack a cake from base camp, which he frosted for Robert Varney’s 17th birthday. Though there were many hardships, including hail on the top of Shafer’s Pass, lightning storms on Uraka Mesa, and fog on Stockade Ridge, those experiences were memorable and offset by the positive experiences we had in other places and the fine members of the backcountry staff. Some of the highlights of the trip were our time spent in Pueblano, Miners Park, French Henry, Head of Dean, the COPE course, and Baldy Town.

Many of the camps of Philmont had the staff act out a particular era of time. Our first, and the most interesting, “historical” staff camp we were at Pueblano was a lumber company circa 1914 and offered a variety of fun activities, including our favorite, spar-pole climbing. Scouts had to climb 25-foot Ponderosa Pine logs with spur-like spikes on their boots called gaffs and a belt while a willing scout “Donkey” had to pull their lifeline. At Miners Park, the climbing continued. Scouts climbed a 50-foot rock feature and rappelled down, only to be forced to proclaim the Disney princess they would marry. French Henry camp was an 1860’s mining town where we were able to pan for gold (with no luck) and tour the abandoned, caved-in, and apparently haunted Aztec-Ponil 1 mine. Baldy town had no program of interest but with its showers, trading post and lounging porch, it was a perfect spot to resupply and wind down from our summiting of Baldy Mountain, the tallest mountain in the park. At

Head of Dean, scouts were given some challenge activities including, traversing a broken bridge 200 feet in the air and the 13-foot-tall wall that all of us had to get over. Though some challenge, we finished the tasks with good teamwork and relative ease. That night, we all played a game of soccer and ultimate Frisbee against a rival crew. I was feeling outgunned, so I ventured to the evening sunset hike, which had wonderful views of all the mountains on the ranch. One could see the incoming storm, the rain on Baldy Mountain, and Colorado and Kansas in the distance. The staff was awesome and very enthusiastic, but unfortunately, when one staff member told us that it was all downhill from that point in our trek, we were jinxed and the bad weather moved in. On our way up the Uraka Mesa and the Stockade Ridge, we were hit with bad weather that lasted 3-4 days. At one point we hiked into a thunderstorm cloud on our way up the mesa. Though those experiences were not as pleasant as the previous “drought conditions,” we still had fun and it was a bonding experience.

Thankfully, on our last day, the sun shone, the fog dissipated and we could see Philmont’s most famous mountain, the Tooth of Time. Unfortunately we missed our day to hike it, but it was a perfect inspiration to make our way down the ridge and visit the last landmark and program, the C.O.P.E. course. We were fortunate enough to go on the 3 most popular features.

After another night in base camp, where we had an awesome dinner in town, bought a million souvenirs, and went to the homecoming campfire, it was time for us to leave wonderful New Mexico for Denver International and then eventually Malvern. Thanks again to everybody that made this trip happen and to our crew leader, Robert and lead advisor, Mr. Walsh.

ALGONQUIN CANOE TRIP

Andrew Brown, Stag Patrol

On the 10th of August, six intrepid scouts and four adults (including recent Troop 78 alumnus Michael Bennett) left the cabin for a week-long canoe trip in Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario. We piled into Mr. Siegel's truck and Mr. Bravo's Tahoe for the drive up. Once we got into Canada, we camped in the town of Pembroke for a night along the Ottawa River. The next day we woke up early, had a cold breakfast and finished our drive to Algonquin. We put our five canoes into Cedar Lake, where we started our trip. Many things happened this first day. We saw "wildlife" as Mr. Siegel says. A portage pack filled with peppers, tomatoes, eggs and meat packed in

dry ice exploded in my canoe! Not to worry, we were fine and the canoe was okay (and a bit wider) but most of the peppers were destroyed. The next day was a good day and was mostly sunny, the only sunny day we had. The rainy part of the trip started that night, but we had delicious steak for dinner. Thunderstorms and heavy rain soaked everything that night. So the next day we stayed at our campsite and listened to Colin and the adults talk about movies and sports. It was better weather, but windy and cold as we began to paddle again. It was a long day of paddling and portaging and we had to stop to catch our breath a couple times. That night we enjoyed Beef Stroganoff. On the fourth day we paddled across Kioshkokwi Lake

where we had a great view across it. At our campsite our neighbors warned us that they would be loud but we were actually louder than they were. The last day of paddling was pouring rain and windy again. It was a long paddle back to Cedar Lake. We had made a big circle in the park. After we put the canoes on the trailer and put the gear away, we put on dry clothes, which were enjoyed by everyone. We drove back to the same campground in Pembroke and had a great Mexican dinner at a local restaurant. When we woke the next day it was sunny (great timing) and we had to go home. Overall it was a great experience and fun. We enjoyed each other's company, the wilderness and the food that Mr. Siegel cooked for us.