



Willistown Troop 78

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March 2026

Volume 42 Number 7

First Aid Meet!

CHALLENGING NEW FORMAT. WE MET THE CHALLENGE!

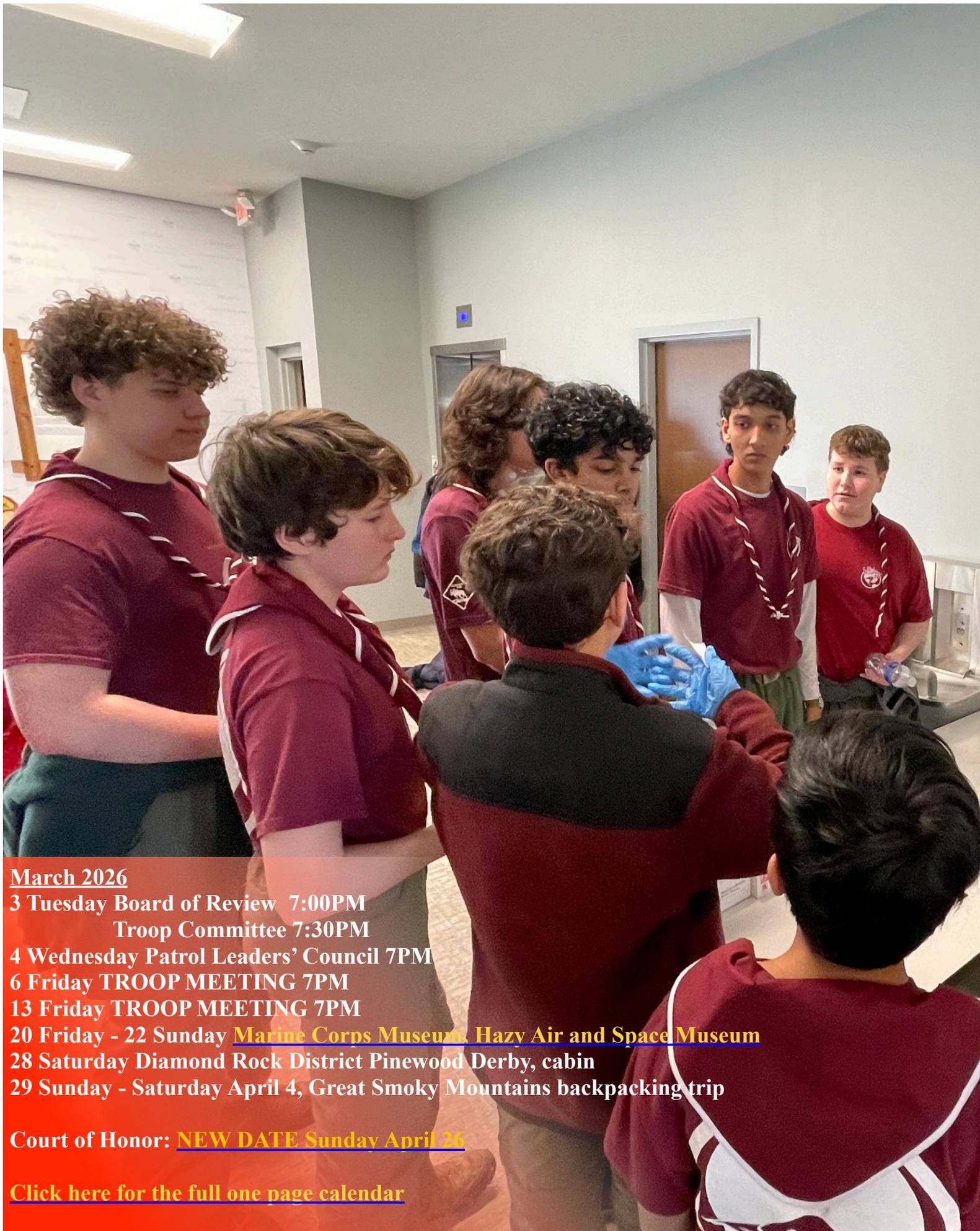


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March 2026

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6 Friday TROOP MEETING 7PM

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20 Friday - 22 Sunday [Marine Corps Museum, Hazy Air and Space Museum](#)

28 Saturday Diamond Rock District Pinewood Derby, cabin

29 Sunday - Saturday April 4, Great Smoky Mountains backpacking trip

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

Readiness Rally: Council First Aid Meet

Saturday February 7, 2026

PARC, Exton, PA

By Ryan W.

Since the end of October, each patrol has been tirelessly practicing for the Council Readiness Rally during both troop and patrol meetings. After a tight competition in the Troop Readiness Rally the night before, my patrol, the Cougar Patrol, placed first (despite only having 4 scouts).

Bright and early the next day, on a snowy Saturday morning, scouts filed onto the bus en route to PARC for the Council Readiness Rally. With only their knowledge of the first aid section in the Scout Handbook to fall back on, each patrol walked into this competition blind, as the format and rules had changed from years past. With this new format, each patrol was required to bring 10 scouts, so a few of our patrols merged together into 4 larger patrols: Cougar, Moose, Flying Eagle, and Rattlesnake. In addition to a change in sizing, this competition would be troop-based, meaning the average of each patrol would decide which troop won the entire competition.

As each scout made their way inside PARC, you could feel nervous energy. We all wanted to perform well for the troop and make

sure that all the practice paid off. Once we got to the multipurpose area, we got into lines and waited for the event to start. After a quick opening ceremony and instruction, each of the patrols went to 1 of 17 different stations, which tested their first aid knowledge and skills. Stations varied from assembling a stretcher and transporting a victim, to collecting materials for a troop first aid kit, to identifying poisonous plants and explaining the treatment for each, and various other skills. These stations were not only testing scouts on their first aid knowledge but also assessing each patrol's teamwork and cooperation with these new, larger numbers.

After each patrol visited their final station, we all assembled back into the multipurpose room and eagerly awaited the results. As each place was announced, the room got quieter and quieter, and you could hear a pin drop by the end. After what seemed like ages, 1st place was finally announced with Troop 78 topping the opposing troops and coming home





with the win. The weight was lifted off everyone's shoulders, especially Ethan Sansone, our SPL, who did a great job preparing us for the event. Once he went up to receive the award on the troop's behalf, a sigh of relief washed over all of us, after all the hard work had paid off.

However, as the scouts in 78 thrive off competition, we still wanted to know which patrol did the best. So, our staff asked for the placement of each patrol, which would be announced at the troop meeting the following week. They did, however, tell us that we swept the top 4 places in the entire event. After a painstakingly long week, at the end of the



meeting, each patrol leader was called up one by one with the places from the Readiness Rally. Rattlesnake Patrol, led by Will, claimed 4th place, then Moose Patrol, led by Ben, claimed 3rd. Flying Eagle Patrol, led by Jacob, earned 2nd, meaning my patrol, the Cougar Patrol, earned 1st place in the Council Readiness Rally (never a doubt).

Overall, each scout had a great time at the Council Readiness Rally and not only left with a victory, but a greater knowledge of first aid as a whole. I myself am very proud of my patrol and the troop's performance, and cannot wait for next year's competition.

Camp Bashore: Winter Olympics

Friday February 20 - Saturday February 21, 2026
 Jonestown, PA

By Henry S.

Due to renovations at Matje Farm, we chose Camp Bashore, the home of Pennsylvania Dutch Council's summer camp for our winter olympics. When we got to Camp Bashore, we settled into our cabin and unloaded the truck, only to realize a scheduling error, and we went to the wrong cabin. After a brief stint confused on the Bashore roads, we found *our* cabin and had a snack of Oreos before going to sleep.





We woke up to a very *well* made french toast as well as cereal and sausages. Our first activity was a scavenger hunt throughout the camp. We saw their campfire circle in front of the frozen lake, the ranger's house, his dog, and many more. Then came the first skills event, such as 3-man ski and 8 knot. Then came the water boiling. As the weather was very windy and had just rained the night prior, it was *very* hard to start a fire. It was so hard that not even staff had lit a fire, which led Senior Patrol Leader Justin S. to sacrifice his own principle and use dry grass. With the fires we finally lit, we made our hobo pack, a mix of vegetables and beef. After that came the next portion of the skills events: Tug of War, Knot Relay, and Chariot Race.



Due to the weather of next day, we were forced to make the decision to leave Camp Bashore that night to beat the storm. But before we left, some of us went on a hike to see the homestead of escaped slave Joseph Johns (1794-1906), who lived to be 112.

After the hike, we ate our dinner of meatball subs before we held our campfire ceremony where the winner was announced. In 3rd place was Stag (Caleb F.), 2nd Place was Panther (Mason S.), and in 1st was Rattlesnake (Will G.)



Super Bowl Breakfast

Sunday February 8, 2026

Cabin

By Jacob L.

On the morning of February 8th — Super Bowl Sunday — Troop 78 hosted our annual Joe Cady Memorial Super Bowl Breakfast. Some scouts and adults were at the cabin early to set up, while the first of four seatings of families, friends, and Scouts arrived later.

On the menu, just like last year and the many years before, were eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, toast, pancakes, French toast, and a wide variety of drinks. If you could imagine a classic breakfast favorite, it was probably there. Just as the kitchen volunteers and Scout waiters finished preparing, the first guests arrived.

Guests were allowed to schedule time slots for 8:00, 8:45, 9:30, and 10:15. As a complementary bonus, the Winter Olympics played on the troop’s projector throughout the morning, giving guests something exciting to watch while enjoying their breakfast.

After the first guests finished their food, many paid compliments to the staff and chefs. More guests started to filter in throughout the morning, each complimenting the food and service during their breakfast.

During the busiest hour at around 9:30, the kitchen staff even set up a tent outside to keep up with food orders. It was like a well-organized breakfast assembly line, just with more bacon. After the initial rush, things began to slow down once again.

Once the final guests had arrived and finished eating, the crew began cleanup, putting everything away in a very quick and orderly fashion. After the final chair was stacked, the crew headed home after their morning’s work to enjoy the long awaited Super Bowl.



Picnic Table Project

Saturday February 28, 2026

Cabin

A group of dedicated volunteers met at the cabin starting early on the morning of Saturday February 28 for the construction of picnic tables for Camp Horseshoe.

The Camp Director, our own Ethan Bilson and his team have completed a detailed evaluation of the condition of the camp's campsites and program areas. The outcome of the study shows the camp is in need of picnic tables to replace those which are beyond their usable lives and also to add new tables throughout the camp. The camp is in need of 40 new tables and Troop 78 has agreed to make them.

Through the generosity of many, we raised the necessary funds. The materials were purchased and delivered to the cabin. We met Saturday for the first work day. The day was spent sorting and cutting the pieces for the tables using Ernie's design and templates, and beginning the assembly of the legs.

Thanks to Steve D'Antonio, Rob Duff, Dan Connors, Arek Connors, James Connors, Ethan Bilson, Dan Esterly, Joe Johnson and Pete Motel for their time and talents!

We will meet again Saturday March 7 at 8AM to complete the leg assemblies.

The plan is to take the pieces to camp for the final assembly on the upcoming OA weekends in April and June.

The tables will be ready in time for this summer camp season.



AOLs Crossover to Troop 78

Friday February 20, 2026

It is with great honor that Troop 78 welcomed Drew C. and Bobby F. crossing over from Pack 110 to Troop 78 on February 20th. Pack 110 meets at Hillsdale Elementary in West Chester PA, and has several ties to Troop 78, with Bobby's brother Sully already in Troop 78. Sully helped out Pack 110 this past year as a Den Chief. Bobby has been a First Aid Meet victim at two first aid meets, and looks forward to camping, canoeing, and being an expert in knots. Drew is looking forward to campsite cooking with his patrol.

Pack 110 is very appreciative of Troop 78's support this past year, especially with the Pinewood Derby Workshop, and looks forward to further collaborations and would welcome a scout to consider being a den chief.



Upcoming Events

Spring Court of Honor

NEW DATE: Sunday April 26, 2026

Cabin

Please join us for our annual spring Award Ceremony and Eagle Court of Honor. This event is open to all scouts and families. At this ceremony we will announce the Recruit of the Year, we will award Eagle, Scouting's highest rank, and we will also call out new scouts to join the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's honor service organization.

Come out to help us recognize the achievements of our scouts!

[Please click here for more information](#)



Nature Walk at Ridley Creek State Park

Thursday March 12, 2026

By Mason E.

On Thursday March 12 at 4:00PM there will be a nature walk at Ridley Creek State Park. The nature walk will last approximately 1 hour and will fulfill the Nature requirements for Second and First Class Rank.

Those who are attending will need a ride to and from the Mansion/Parque at Ridley Creek. Anyone attending should wear boots as it may be muddy. If you have questions please contact Mason.

Marine Corps Museum & Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Center

Friday March 20 - Sunday March 22, 2026

Triangle, Virginia

A Day of Heroes, History & High-Flying Machines

National Museum of the Marine Corps • AM | Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Center • PM



Morning: National Museum of the Marine Corps

Located in Triangle, VA — 25 min from our campsite — this world-class museum tells the full story of the United States Marine Corps from its founding in 1775 to today's modern fighting force. Built around a soaring 210-foot steel spire that mimics the raising of the flag at Iwo Jima, the building itself is an experience before you even walk inside.

What you'll explore:

- Step inside a simulated WWII landing craft and experience the chaos of the Pacific theater — sights, sounds, and all.
- Walk through immersive galleries covering every major conflict: WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and the War on Terror.
- Climb into actual cockpits, handle real gear, and see weapons, vehicles, and aircraft up close.
- Discover the meaning of honor, courage, and commitment — the core values Scouts live by too.
- Learn about the legendary Battle of Belleau Wood, the Chosin Reservoir, and the men who earned the Medal of Honor.



✈️ Afternoon: Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Center

The Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center is the Smithsonian's companion facility to the Air and Space Museum on the National Mall — and it's where they keep the BIG stuff. With over 300 aircraft and spacecraft displayed in two massive hangars, this is one of the most impressive collections of flying machines on Earth.

What you'll see:

- The Space Shuttle Discovery — a real orbiter that flew 39 missions and logged over 148 million miles in space.
- The SR-71 Blackbird, the fastest jet ever built, capable of outrunning a missile at Mach 3+.
- The Enola Gay — the B-29 Superfortress that dropped the first atomic bomb, ending World War II.
- A Concorde supersonic airliner, fighter jets, helicopters, and scores of historic aircraft from every era.

[Click here for more information and the permission slip.](#)

Great Smoky Mountains High Adventure

Sunday March 29 - Saturday April 4, 2026

Smoky Mountain National Park, North Carolina

In the long troop tradition of high adventure trips for older scouts, Troop 78 will backpack for a week in the Great Smoky Mountains on the Appalachian Trail. This section of the AT will offer the scouts some of the AT's most fabulous vistas along its entire 2000+ miles and will take the scouts over the highest point on the AT, Mount Kuwohi at 6,643 ft.

This trip will certainly be a great adventure for scouts and leaders alike.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Radnor Races! Save the Date!

Saturday May 16 and Sunday May 17, 2026

Radnor Hunt Club

By Brian Rothberg

PLEASE, go on over to your calendar and block out the third weekend in May to help Troop 78 at the Radnor Hunt Races.

We normally send this earlier but due to the ridiculous snow, ice and cold of the past weeks, it just seemed too cruel to talk about Spring. But IT IS TIME =====

Expect a beautiful day in Hunt Country as the Troop spends a weekend at the Races.

Planning is already well under way to make the Event the best one ever.

On Saturday, May 16 & Sunday, May 17 we need your help as Troop 78 does its annual Radnor thing!

PLEASE PLAN TO BE THERE!

The snow and ice Will be GONE. [Click here to let me know you can help.](#)

Chester County Council News

Weekend Merit Badge Program

Camp Horseshoe

The weekend off-season merit badge program will continue with Geology merit badge Saturday March 21 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.](#)



Order of the Arrow

Annual Banquet

Saturday February 28, 2026

Red Clay Room, Kennett Square



Order of the Arrow members gathered on the afternoon of February 28 for their annual banquet. The banquet was held in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Lodge.

The banquet hall was sold out, packed to the rafters. The troop was well represented with two full tables.

We enjoyed perusing the tables of the silent auction laden with scout memorabilia. We then helped ourselves to a sumptuous buffet of roast beef, chicken parmesan, and numerous side dishes.

When the program began, we heard inspirational words from the National Chief of the OA, visiting us all the way from Massachusetts.



The group was addressed by our very own Jim Bennett, President of Chester County Council. Jim presented the James E. West award to the Chief of the Lodge, Colin Wheeler, recognizing the Lodge and its members for all of their efforts which benefit the camps and the Council.



The OA will gather again at the April work weekend at the camps.

CCC Training Opportunities

National Youth Leadership Training

Friday April 10 – Sunday April 12

Friday April 17 – Sunday April 19

The cost of this training will be paid for by the Troop. Please ask Mr Duff or Mr. D about this.

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 participants from their peers. The event fee includes meals, lodging, and materials for the event.

By April 1, scout participants must:

- be at least 13 years of age and at least of First Class rank and have completed 8th grade and have already completed the [Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops/Crew \(ILST/C\)](#)

WHEN: Friday, April 10 – Sunday, April 12 & Friday, April 17 – Sunday, April 19

This event includes TWO full weekends. Both weekends need to be attended to complete the course.

WHERE: Camp John H. Ware 3rd, 239 Jubilee Road, Peach Bottom, PA 17563

CONTACT EMAIL: nylt@cccbsa.org

Register here: <https://scoutingevent.com/539-NYLT2026>

Chainsaw Safety Training

Friday March 13 - Saturday March 14, 2026

At Winter Camp did you see all the chainsaws running and think to yourself, I want to do that! The first step is getting certified. March 13-14 at Camp Ware is your chance. Open to those age 21 and up. **This course is required for anyone operating a chainsaw on scout property.**

The Chainsaw Safety Course offered by the Chester County Council is designed to refresh and instruct participants on safe chainsaw practices, to be enforced on CCC properties at all times in accordance with the National Scouting America guidelines.

Throughout the duration of this course, all Scouting America and Chester County Council practices, standards, and regulations will be followed at all times. All training material is sourced directly from the Scouting America Chainsaw Basic Facilitator Guide.

This is an interactive training; all participants should come prepared for work that may be physically demanding. At any time, if a participant needs to rest or see the assigned health officer, they are encouraged to do so. All aspects of participant safety will be the utmost priority at all times.

[Register now Online on Councils Website.](#)

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills

Saturday March 20 - Sunday March 21, 2026

Attention Adults! Want to become an Assistant Scout Master? Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) is coming up on March 20-21, at Paoli 1's Cabin.

The Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) course builds and expands on the concepts and themes introduced in Scoutmaster Position-Specific Training and Varsity Coach Position-Specific Training and provides Scouters with the confidence to take youth into the outdoors. Specifically, this hands-on program gives adult leaders a practical introduction to the patrol method of a Scout-led troop by teaching many of the practical outdoor skills they need to lead Scouts in the out-of-doors. In addition, the teaching methods, activities, and games model the variety of teaching used in effective and engaging Scouting programs.

[Register now Online on Councils website.](#)

Wilderness First Aid Training

Thursday February 12, 7-9PM

Saturday February 14, 8AM-5PM

Thursday February 19, 7-10PM

Saturday February 21, 8AM-5PM

[Chester County Public Safety Training Campus](#)

Coatesville, PA

Wilderness environments create special situations not usually encountered in an urban or suburban environment. With Wilderness First Aid certification, first aid providers in a remote outdoor setting will be better prepared to respond with wilderness first aid training when faced with limited resources, longer times to care for someone, and decisions about when and how fast to evacuate an ill

or injured person. This comprehensive 16-hour wilderness first aid course meets or exceeds the Boy Scouts of America Wilderness First Aid Curriculum.

This training is required for adult leaders on high adventure trips.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Wood Badge: Adult Training

Registration for Wood Badge 2026 is OPEN!

Wood Badge is an advanced, national leadership course open only to Scouting volunteers and professionals. You want to participate in a Wood Badge course because of things you will learn and do. Here are some of the benefits:

1. Stronger units. You will make your Scouting unit — and your sons' and daughters' units — stronger.
2. Experience. You will learn and experience things that will stay with you in Scouting and the rest of your life.
3. Fun. You will have fun and you will meet interesting people.
4. Other groups. You will make your other groups, like work, church, even family, stronger.

COST: \$320.00 (early bird rate - register by 4/15/26), \$400.00 (registration after 4/15/26)

Register here: <https://scoutingevent.com/539-104910>

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

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