



Newsletter

Volume 25 Number 3 November 2008

COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2008

11/3 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30-8:30PM)
11/4 – Troop Committee Mtg. and Board of Review (7:00 PM)

11/7 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)

Poinsettia Money Due for Early or Corporate Orders to be delivered 11/24

11/8 – Den Chief Training (Downingtown)

11/11 – Chester Co. Roundtable

11/14-16 – Backpacking Trip

11/20 – Readyman for 4th Grade Webelos (help needed)

11/21 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)

(Readyman 5th gr.) Poinsettia Money Due for Regular Orders to be delivered 12/6

11/24 – Poinsettia Early or Corporate Order pick-up at Cabin

DECEMBER 2008

12/1 – Patrol Leaders Council (7:30-8:30PM)

12/2 – Troop Committee Mtg. and Board of Review (7:00 PM)

12/5 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)

12/6 – Poinsettia Regular Order pick-up at Cabin

12/11 – Diamond Rock Holiday Roundtable

12/12 – TROOP MEETING (7 to 9 PM)

12/19 – TROOP MEETING and Holiday Party (7 to 9 PM)

NOTE:

Camping Trips/Major Events shown in: **Bold**

TROOP MEETINGS: underlined in CAPITALS

Adult Leader Only Meetings: in Italics

NEW DADS NEEDED!

The November Troop Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 4th at 7 PM at the cabin. The Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month to guide and discuss the operation of the Troop. New dads are especially encouraged to attend these meetings to get involved in Troop activities.

2008 POINSETTIA SALE IS UNDERWAY!



Poinsettia packets were handed out at the October 24th Troop meeting. If you didn't get one, please see your patrol leader or Mr. D.

Important REVISED dates:

Sale Dates: 10/24 through 11/21

Early or Corporate money and orders due: **11/7**

Regular money and orders due: **11/21**

Early or Corporate plants delivered: **Monday 11/24**

Regular plants delivered: **Saturday 12/6**

Plant prices remain at \$10 for Singles and \$20 for Triples. **NEW THIS YEAR** – we've upped the ante on the portion of the proceeds Scouts will receive for their Scout Accounts - \$2.00 for singles, and \$4.00 for Triples!

For questions or more information, contact Stephanie Robinson at

TROOP 78 BSA REGISTRATION

Troop 78 registration fees are due now. Willistown Troop 78 needs to register all Scouts and adults each year with the Boy Scouts of America. Registration fees covering 2009 are at the same rate as 2008.

The annual registration fee covers some of the cost of going on trips including fuel for the bus, the food on trips, a subscription to Boys' Life (one per household), and Troop specific uniform pieces (patches, neckerchief).

2009 Troop 78 Registration Fees:

- First Scout: \$65
- Each additional scout in a family: \$50
- Venture Crew: \$35
- Adults: \$50
- 1st Year Dads: \$35
- Seniors (age 65+): \$35

Dads, please show your support for your son and the Boy Scout program by registering as an adult. Registration also helps the Troop by making you eligible for attending any Scout camping trip and for serving as a merit badge counselor where you can share your experiences and knowledge with the boys in the Troop.

Registration form and check is due by November 6, 2008.

For a form or questions, please contact Dave Schertz.

NOVEMBER MEANS "BACKPACKING" FOR TROOP 78!

Each November, Troop 78 hits the trail with our annual Backpacking Trip. This year, we will hike a portion of the Appalachian Trail near Pine Grove Furnace.



We'll leave from the Cabin on Friday night, November 14th at 6:00 PM sharp, and head to Pine Grove Furnace State Park near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. On Saturday morning, we'll break camp and go on a seven mile trek over the AT, and camp at the Tagg Run Shelter. On Sunday morning, we will hike 4 miles back to the bus and head home. We should arrive back at the Cabin around Noon on Sunday, November 16th.

While this year's trip has only one route – we will not have a less difficult hike and a more difficult hike this year

– the terrain is relatively flat but will be rocky (par for the course for the AT in Pennsylvania!). First-time backpackers are most welcome, but we want to let everyone know that we will only be hiking one route as a group this year.

Fathers, as always, are welcome. We caution that this trip can be strenuous, and only those who are in physical shape to undertake the hike while carrying a backpack full of gear should plan on attending. If you have questions about whether you should come along, please see Mr. D'Antonio or Mr. Bennett. Fee for dads is \$20 (payable at camp); there is no fee for Scouts.

Scouts – Please let your Patrol Leader know by **Friday, November 7th** if you are planning to come on the Trip (let him know if your dad is coming, too). We expect a big crowd for this event, so do not delay! **WARNING:** Any Scout who reports that he is coming but does not show for the Trip will have a \$25 cancellation fee deducted from his Scout Account.

See you on the bus!

PINE GROVE FURNACE/AT BACKPACKING TRIP PACKING LIST

Pack all gear in a backpack. If you do not have a backpack and need to borrow one, please let your Patrol Leader know. The Troop has a few packs to lend.

WHAT TO BRING:

Winter sleeping bag or sleeping bag w/blanket

Sleeping pad

Pack cover*

Two (2) Nalgene/unbreakable water bottles holding at least 1 liter of water each (Do NOT put anything in the bottles EXCEPT water)

Trashbag

Flashlight

Warm clothes; gloves; hat with visor; knit hat**

Sunscreen

Lip balm

Long underwear**

Jacket

Rain jacket; rain pants

WEAR sturdy hiking shoes or boots – NO SNEAKERS!

Wool or synthetic hiking socks (no cotton socks, no sneakers for hiking)

Toilet articles

Plate or bowl; utensils (at least a spoon)

DRINKING CUP (no metal cups – cup should hold at least 8 oz.)

Spending money for souvenirs (optional)

*A second trash bag will work as a pack cover – see accompanying [Backpacking Guidelines article](#)

**Remember – It is best to dress in layers. Pine Grove Furnace could be quite warm during the day and cold at night, or cold all day. Who knows what Mother Nature has in store for us? BE PREPARED!

BACKPACKING GUIDELINES

Packing for a backpacking trip is different than packing for any other camping trip. Each camper has to carry all of his own gear, and approximately 7- 10 pounds of Troop gear. All gear and equipment has to fit inside the camper's pack, or be securely fastened to the outside of the pack.

In general, a backpacker's fully-loaded pack should weigh no more than about 25% of his body weight. That means a Scout weighing 100 lbs. should not carry a pack weighing any more than 25 lbs. when fully loaded. Given that 1/3 of the pack will be weighed down with Troop gear, like food, cookware, and camp stoves, it is really important to limit the amount of personal gear that you bring. Further, each person should carry at least two liters of water. Each liter weighs about 2 lbs., so you need to factor the water weight into your packing.

There are some items that you simply cannot avoid carrying: Tentage and a sleeping bag are at the top of that list, along with rain gear. It's the "if it fits in the pack, I'll carry it" items that the backpacker needs to avoid. Here are some tips to consider as you pack:

Line your pack with a large garbage bag before packing. Your pack will be outside of your tent, and you want the

contents to stay dry. Also, bring a trashbag to put down on the ground before you set your pack on it. It will keep moisture from seeping up into your pack. If you have a pack cover, put it on your pack, and if not, an oversized garbage bag will fit over your pack and keep your stuff dry.

Food above fuel. Stove fuels can leak in your pack, so keep your food above your fuel. That way, if the fuel leaks, your food should still be okay.

Remember we're only going away for two nights! Extra clothing should be kept at a minimum. Jeans are heavy to carry, and cold when wet. Leave the jeans home! Consider wearing a light pair of synthetic pants. Synthetics dry quickly. Do you really need a spare pair? When in doubt, leave it out!

Pack as you use items; balance the load. Think about how and when you'll use items. For example, your raingear needs to be accessible at all times. Heavy stuff should be in the middle of the pack, closer to your back. A packload that "shifts" when you walk will be awkward and uncomfortable, as will stuff that's tied loosely to the outside of your pack.

Don't forget your water! We require that everyone carry at least two liters (about two quarts) of water. It's best to carry your water in unbreakable containers, like Nalgene bottles. You need to drink a lot of water when hiking. If you don't have the need to urinate frequently, you aren't drinking enough water. Remember - once you feel thirsty, your body is already experiencing the early effects of dehydration. And don't put anything in your water bottles except water. Sweetness from other products causes greater thirst, and can attract bears (yes, there *are* bears in the woods!). Sweetened beverages leave a residue in your bottle that bears can still smell. If you normally put lemonade, iced tea or some other beverage in your water bottle, run the bottle through the dishwasher before refilling with just water.

Plan to dress in layers. Layers allow you to remove clothing when it's

warm, and to add clothing as it gets colder. A good base layer is key. Synthetic long underwear is important. It wicks moisture away from your body, and fits nicely under those lightweight pants. Make sure that a synthetic pullover and a waterproof layer are near the top of your packed items, so you can add layers when needed.

Avoid cotton. Cotton gets heavy when wet, provides no insulation, and takes forever to dry. Go with synthetics and wool. Wool keeps you warm, even when it's wet.

Roll, don't fold, your clothing when you pack it. Rolled clothing won't wrinkle, and takes up less room in your pack.

Wear and bring sock liners! You can wear the same pair of wool hiking socks for several days if you wear sock liners under them. Sock liners also help cut down on blisters and hot spots. Sock liners are lighter than socks – remember, we're cutting ounces, not just pounds!

Wear hiking boots with good support, and waterproof them frequently. Your boots should fit well, have good tread, and provide ankle support. Make sure you're not wearing the boots for the first time on this trip. *Your boots should be broken in before you hike.* Boots can be waterproofed with silicon spray or waterproof polishes. Both are sold at stores like Walmart and sporting goods stores. Read your boot care instructions before applying any coatings to your boots!

Leave the "goodies" home. It's fine to carry energy bars with you when hiking, but leave the candy home. Remember - *no food in your pack or your tent at night.* We will collect all food and stow it centrally at night so that we don't attract bears and other critters. A bear's sense of smell is keen. Even after you remove your food from your pack, the scent remains behind. Pack your personal food in a plastic ziploc bag to help seal in the scent, and write your name on the bag. It will make it easier for you to claim your stuff the next

morning, since you'll be turning it over for stowing at night.

Pack your things in plastic gallon ziploc bags. You can re-use the bags for all camping trips. The bags will keep your stuff dry, and make it easy to find in your pack.

When in doubt, leave it out! Pack smart! Think about whether you need a windbreaker and a rain jacket. Carry one item and make it serve two purposes. Your jacket can act as a pillow, or an extra pad under your sleeping bag.

SCRIP IS BACK!



Scrip is back with some new twists.

The exciting news is that half of the profits on what you buy will go directly into your son's Scout Account. The other half will go into the "War Chest" for the next "Big Trip". This way you can save for Summer camp, Canada, or the next "Big Trip", which is in the works already.

We will stock ACME, Giant, Starbucks, and WAWA gift cards. New this year will be forms to fill out when buying these cards. This will help us keep an accurate account of the credit that will go into your son's Scout Account. You can also order cards from a list of retailers, just like last year. There will be forms for these too, and we are working to get them onto the Troop web page for easy down loading.

For those unfamiliar with Scrip, it is simply a word that means "substitute money" – in other words, Scrip is gift certificates from national and local retailers. They're the same gift certificates that you buy at the store. Many popular retailers participate in our Scrip program including Giant, ACME, Wawa, Starbucks, iTunes, Home Depot, Outback, CVS, Walgreens, and many, many others.

You're probably asking yourself how these stores help us raise money. It's simple -- Scrip participating retailers

agree to sell gift certificates to our organization at a discount. Member families like yours buy the certificates for full face value, redeem them for full face value, and our Troop keeps the difference as revenue...of which your son gets half and the other half goes into the "War Chest" for the next "Big Trip" your son will be going on. And Scrip is exciting, because everybody wins:

- The retailer gets cash up front and repeat business
- The Troop gets income that involves *no selling*
- Your son gets money in his Scout account
- The "War Chest" grows and helps with our fund raising efforts for the next "Big Trip"

The beauty of Scrip is that you put your regular household shopping dollars to work. You earn money for your son's Scout Account without spending a single additional penny. Just spend your regular shopping dollars with Scrip at the stores that participate in the Scrip program! And Scrip can be used for just about any household purchase including food, clothing, entertainment, gasoline, and even dining out.

It's common for people to wonder, "What's the catch?" The catch - if there is one - is that you have to plan your purchases a little bit. That's it!

What that means is what we all learned in Savings 101. "PAY YOURSELF FIRST – THEN PAY EVERYONE ELSE."

We all go to the grocery store weekly, and all you need to do is plan before hand. Come to a Troop function (meeting, trip, Court of Honor, etc.) and buy you ACME or Giant gift card to do your grocery shopping for the week. You have just paid yourself with money that you will use for your groceries.

The Troop 78 Scrip program promises to be a simple and effective income generating program that will be very beneficial to you, your Scout, and his fellow Scouts. This was proven when we made almost \$3,000 in 8 months

for the Europe trip. Don't be left out of making money for yourself in these tough times.

Thanks for your support,

Sincerely,
Jim and Claire Hogan
Troop 78 Scrip Coordinators



2010 NATIONAL JAMBOREE APPLICATION INFORMATION -

100 SPACES REMAIN!

A century of the finest outdoor and leadership experience a boy could have! This tradition lives on at the pinnacle of the 100th Anniversary of Scouting — the 2010 National Jamboree. Yesterday merges with tomorrow at the greatest Scouting event of the century. It is the opportunity of a lifetime, one you will never forget. **DON'T MISS OUT** on this special moment in time!

ESCRIP HELPS THE TROOP

Do you shop at Genuardi's? Would you like to help the Troop with very little effort? Then consider signing up at www.escrip.com. All you need to do is register your Genuardi's card and they do the rest! Our ID # is: 151278872. If you have any questions about the program, contact [newsletter at willistown78 dot org](mailto:newsletter@willistown78.org). If there is a parent who would like to coordinate this effort, please contact Mr. D.

EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED

Parents, if you do not receive the monthly newsletter via email and would like to, please let us know at [newsletter at willistown78 dot org](mailto:newsletter@willistown78.org).

Occasionally reminders are also shared via email to reinforce information handed out at Troop meetings. If you have any questions, they too may be directed to this email address.



Newsletter

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