



NORTH STAR MUSEUM

BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING

Museum News

August 2009



Tiger Mania at the Museum

Games, crafts, fun and food – what more could a seven year-old boy want? On June 28 and on August 9, fourteen boys who recently joined the Cub Scout program as Tiger Cubs during the “Spring Into Tigers” spring recruiting campaign participated in Tiger Mania at the Museum. This brand new program was developed by experts with fun activities for the Tiger Cubs provided by co-chairs Linda Rawlings and Maureen Espelien. An informative introduction to scouting was also presented to their parents by co-chair Barb Herrmann.

The highlight of the morning was making kites and then learning how to fly them. Lunch was the perfect way to wrap up an exciting morning for these new Cub Scouts. Now that our first events have been a success, we hope to schedule more Tiger Mania at the Museum events in the future.



This is where it all started.



These Tigers were using stamps to decorate their kites.

The North Star Museum Goes to NOAC Conference, August 1-4 Bloomington, Indiana

Bloomington, IN – This dispatch comes to you from the beautiful campus of the University of Indiana, host to the National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC). The 2009 event was held from August 1-4 and, once again, the North Star Museum was invited to take part in an impromptu museum for the event. NOAC's are held every 2-3 years and they draw between 5,000 to 7,000—great visibility for the Museum.

This year, the committee developing the 2009 NOAC History Museum decided to take a fresh approach. At previous meetings the history museum displayed about 5,000 square feet of Boy Scout material, often not in any discernable order or tied together by a theme. This year, NOAC History Museum adviser Tim Brown and his committee decided to display a real, chronological treatment of the first century of Boy Scout history in the United States, as well as the story of the Order of the Arrow, beginning in 1915 with E. Urner Goodman and Carroll Edson's idea for a camping society within Boy Scouts. In two dormitories at Indiana University, the history committee secured nearly 11,000 square feet of display space in which to tell this story.

We were asked to provide a number of items for the display. From our extensive inventory of camping gear, we provided an early Boy Scout campsite tableau. We also helped put together a 1930s campsite. The camping gear was supplemented by a 1915 uniform and mannequin, a 1930s Cub Scout, a 1950s Sea Scout uniform, and a 1950s adult uniform. For good measure, we added a walking stick that belonged to E. Urner Goodman from our collection.

While it was not terribly hard to find the material to make up the 1930s campsite, it was a challenge to get everything ready for exhibit and figure out how to stake a tent on a tile floor. The obvious answer was velcro in place of stakes. Everything needed to be vacuumed and cleaned, padded out, or have a mount made. For small artifacts, museum member Joe Reding was kind enough to make some display cases that would also serve as reading rails/barriers to prevent people from entering our "campsite".

As with our last NOAC Museum appearance, Museum member Teri Kyslyczyn's employer, John A. Knutson, CPA, was kind enough to lend us their trailer. Board members Tom Welna and Paul Bartyzal were kind enough to agree to haul it (and me) and we were off to NOAC!

I had a very able helper on set-up day named Bob Wolz, Executive Director of the Harry S. Truman Little White House in Key West, Florida, and an OA lodge advisor. Bob was a great help as we put up our campsite. Like many outdoors campsites, set up did not go as smooth as planned. Our tent poles, borrowed from a 1940's U.S. Army two-man pup tent, were about a foot too long for the official BSA two-man pup tent. Plus, the velcro would not stick to the floor. To the rescue came Jack Borde, a carpenter/engineer/genius with a power saw and drill. Jack built us a frame to which we could "stake" the tent, and cut two suitably-sized tent poles. Velcro attached to the outer arms of the frame allowed us to "stake" the tent. We were suddenly in business and prepared for the onslaught of attendees!

NOAC 2009 drew around 5,700 people, with 1,200 adults advisors and over 100 staff. We probably had nearly 5,000 of the whole lot come through the museum in four days. It was a fabulous way to acquaint both the youth and the adults with the rich history of Scouting and the Order of the Arrow, not to mention the North Star Museum. I heard nothing but good comments from visitors when I was there, and I came away totally impressed with the volunteer committee that had pulled it all together.

As for me, I was just happy to see our pup tent still standing every day when I arrived.

NORTH STAR AT NOAC



2 MILLIONTH EAGLE SCOUT

Anthony Thomas of Lakeville, Minnesota, has been named the 2 millionth Eagle Scout by the Boy Scouts of America. He is a member of Prince of Peace Troop 471, which is part of the Northern Star Council in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Anthony will serve as youth ambassador for the organization and encourage other Scouts to work toward the Eagle rank. He will attend national and regional events.

Anthony and his parents, Jim and Cheryl, visited the museum on July 17 to see the exhibits and talk about preserving Anthony's experiences over this coming year.



The Museum Goes Live Worldwide

The Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), a worldwide Boy Scout and Girl Scout amateur radio event, will be held at the Museum on October 17. Members of the St. Paul Radio Club will be on hand with their radios to allow youth to talk to their counterparts across the country and around the world. A temporary radio station will be set up at the museum between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

During the JOTA, we plan other activities that will relate to Boy Scout badges and Girl Scout badges and patches, as well. Plan your trip to the JOTA on October 17 now and check the museum website for updated activity information as it becomes available.

Come and talk with kids just like you around the world!

Time to Plan Your Centennial Year Unit Visit

With our recent cool weather, you might be wondering when summer will be starting but it is actually time to start gearing up for the Scouting year. September is almost upon us! The next Scouting year will not be just any year—it is the Boy Scout Centennial year.

During the months of August and September, as your unit committee meets to schedule your program, don't forget to include a tour of the Museum in your plans for the 2009-2010 year. Our volunteers and staff can tailor the tour for any Cub Scout dens, Boy Scout troops and Daisy, Brownie, and Junior Girl Scout troops. Make your reservations soon to get your pick of dates for programs and/or tours. In addition, this fall, the Museum will be running Boy Scout Merit Badge Saturdays once again and we are planning several Girl Scout badge/interest patch workshops as well. Keep an eye on the Museum News and the web site (nssm.org) for dates and times.

If you would like to conduct a Court of Honor or another meeting in the unique setting that is the Museum, don't forget that we can accommodate you. Just give Claudia Nicholson a call to make your reservation. Rates are reasonable. See you at the Museum this year!

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE COLLECTION

The key to any Museum is its collection. Good displays, interpretation and programs require a museum to know what it has and what it can do with what it has. Only the more recent donations to our collection are electronically inventoried. A vast portion of the collection came into our possession before electronic record keeping was available or contemplated.

The Board of Directors and the Collections Committee have developed plans to begin a whole-collection inventory. A significant grant request is pending to help fund the project. However, even if the grant does not come through we plan to inventory each box and container of collections, get the data into a new museum collections management database, and begin reconciling the new date base with current collections records.

The goal of our whole-collection inventory: first, to ensure that we can find everything that we have; second, to identify duplication in our collection; third, determine what kinds of storage we need and in which of our two facilities each item in the collection should be stored; and, fourth, make our collection more available to the public.

Obviously, this is critical work, as we cannot operate to our full potential without a thorough knowledge of our collection. It is estimated that that the inventory will require approximately 2,000 hours of volunteer work per year and that, by the end of three years, we should be about 70% done with the inventory. Yes, we have a big and valuable collection—but you already knew that. If you are interested in working with our collection hands on, volunteering for the inventory would be perfect for you. Just give Executive Director Claudia Nicholson a call.



NEW LOOK WEBSITE IS NEARLY READY TO GO “LIVE”

In the past year, you undoubtedly have noticed the sparkling results of the North Star Museum’s new visual identity. You have seen it on our letterhead, in the Museum News and on the new signs that adorn our building. Now, it is time to incorporate the new look into our website.

The new website has been under design for some time now. The work is being done with top-rate volunteers. We are particularly pleased that Laura Larsen, who did her Gold Award project with us, is designing our new website. She is working with Board member Kristie Wanstrom, who was the key volunteer behind the development of our new look. Not only are we integrating our new visual identity into the design, we are significantly changing the content and the user utility of the website. You can also expect the website to be updated more frequently as the new design will simplify the ease with which we can update the site.

If things stay on schedule, look for the new website to go “live” in late September. The new website will certainly represent a net gain for the Museum.

Volunteer Corner



Terri Anderson

This article is the second in our series featuring our volunteer staff at the museum.

“I was snookered”, said this month’s featured volunteer, Terri Anderson, as she described through a smile her first involvement with the Museum. Terri blames former North Star Memorabilia, Inc. Chairmen Jim Beikler and our late Executive Director Dick Carroll for “Snookering” her into volunteer work at the museum.

Terri said that she was first asked to help with the mailings back in 1994 and after that she was then gradually given more challenging work. According to Terri, one day Jim Beikler just simply appointed her as Board Secretary. To Terri’s credit she did not decline. Through the years, Terri’s volunteer jobs have included serving for over eight years as a Board member. As State Fair booth coordinator, Terri was responsible for scheduling staffing of the booth, which was a joint venture between the Museum and the Indianhead Council. Terri has also volunteered to transport and set up Museum exhibits at different Scouting events via our Museum on Wheels Program.

Terri currently heads up the Museum’s Oral History Project. Our featured volunteer explained that the Oral History Project has the noteworthy goal of collecting 100 oral histories and stories from our veteran Scouters before they

and their valuable memories pass on. She said that a small number of these interviews have been conducted to date. While the job of mover is not an official volunteer job title it has proved to be a necessary one in our various locations. Terri and her son Kwao helped with the most memorable and epic move from the basement of Dick Carroll’s home to the 3M Case Street warehouse, a site which we still use today. While telling of the Dick Carroll basement move she stated that her son Kwao is an Eagle Scout!

Rounding out our featured volunteer’s service to the museum is Terri’s skill with the eTapestry computer program, which we use to keep track of our donors and development efforts. Terri has served as our FREE eTapestry consultant. Terri comes by her knowledge of eTapestry by way of her current job as Donor Relationships Manager at Northern Star Council. Terri works in the Council’s Saint Paul office. She explains that her job involves coordination of the Friends of Scouting Annual Campaign as well as the Council’s major gifts initiatives.

When asked what it was that attracted her to volunteering at the museum, Terri explained after a thoughtful pause that to her it was important "to preserve memories." Terri's interview concluded by seeking her favorite story or volunteer event while working at the museum. Terri responded by describing the time several years ago when she and her son Kwao volunteered to take a number of the museum's displays to a new cub scout pack's Blue and Gold dinner some sixty miles away in Northfield Minnesota. Terri and her son were just barely able to get themselves and the large display into her small car and with no room to spare, she added. When they arrived, they set up the displays and found out that this was to be the night of the pack's very first Pinewood Derby and they had no idea on how to run it. To make a long story short; Terri and her son ended up showing them how to do it! Terri said it was a fun thing for a mother and son to do together and it helped her son feel that he could contribute to helping others.

By Gary Gorman
Volunteer Team Leader

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Do you think of yourself as an ambassador? I am sure that many of you consider yourselves as ambassadors of Boy Scouting or Girl Scouting (or both!). There are a couple of institutions that I consider myself an ambassador of aside from Scouting, including my college, graduate school, and my profession. But most of all, I consider myself an ambassador of the Museum.

I'd like to ask all of you to begin, if you have not already, to consider yourself an ambassador for the Museum. Our success depends entirely upon being known, and valued, by the communities that we wish to serve. Of course, the first communities that we wish to serve are Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting, and in the past couple of years, we have made great strides in this area. We have supplemented our "Museum without Walls" program with an active tour program for troops, packs, and dens, by serving as a venue for meetings and celebrations, and by working with both of our local Councils to help them preserve their own history and make it an active part of the work that they do.

We want to serve our local community as well. Since we have been in our North St. Paul building, we have had a presence at nearly every local event, hosted community events at the Museum, and provided a place for locals to interact with Scouting.

And, we want to serve the general public. I think all of us believe that Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting have made significant contributions to American life in the past century. This message is one that we promote, front and center, through our exhibits and programs. I am not sure we see enough members of the general public, but I feel confident that we can change that.

You come into the equation by promoting the Museum whenever you can to all of the communities that you are a part of. We are not just for the Boy Scout and Girl Scout community—although everyone who scouts in this area should know of us. We want to see all of your friends and acquaintances. The North Star Museum is a bargain, with free parking, free admission, and a location that is convenient for everyone.

Please ask them to join us as well. We can only serve all these communities if we have adequate support. In the last two years, membership in the Museum has gotten a lot more fun and valuable. From our annual meeting, to this newsletter, to advanced notice of programs, your membership dollar buys you a lot more. Encourage people you know who believe in what we are doing to join us in our work.

Ambassadors are the most highly respected members of the diplomatic corps. Let's ensure that all of you become our most highly respected members as well!

Claudia J. Nicholson

GET READY FOR ANOTHER FUN ANNUAL MEETING

With the taste, sounds, and fun of last year's Oktoberfest-themed Annual Meeting still fresh, it is hard to believe that our next Annual Meeting is right around the corner. Are you sensing a small theme in this month's *Museum News*? Yes, time flies when you're having fun.

This year, the Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, October 31. Once again, it will run from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. As with last year, there will be a themed brunch, music, tours and other special surprises. Of course, our Annual Report will be available and you will learn the "State of the Museum" from Executive Director Claudia Nicholson. So, put the date on your calendar and look for the registration mailing with the Board of Directors/Officers election ballot. We look forward to seeing you there.

Museum Hours

Tuesday through Friday: 1 PM - 5 PM
Saturday: 10 AM - 5 PM
Closed Sunday and Monday
Open weekday evenings by appointment

Contact the Executive Director

You can contact Claudia Nicholson at the Museum by calling 651-748-2880 or reach her by email her at cnicholson@northstarmuseum.org.

Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, John Guthmann, Claudia Nicholson and John Raymond.

North Star Scouting Memorabilia Inc. is a Minnesota non-profit corporation, a member of the American Association of Museums, Association of Midwest Museums, and the Association of Scout Museums International. We are a 501(c)(3) with the mission to collect, preserve, share and interpret the history and significance of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in the upper Midwest.. We adhere to the Code of Ethics of the American Association of Museums and the Donor Bill of Rights.

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