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Troop 122 Scouts and Leaders helped with an Eagle project while in the Twin Cities.

North Star to the Rescue

By Nefret Salzberg

When a little boy puts on his Cub Scout uniform for the first time he believes that he has embarked on a grand adventure. This adventure only gets bigger once he becomes a Boy Scout.

To see the truth of this, one need look no further than the boys in Troop 122 of Norfolk, Nebraska, some of whom got a little *more* adventure than they anticipated. They planned on canoeing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area for 5 days, with nights spent in the Twin Cities at either end. Things did not go according to plan.

Four days out from their departure, Scoutmaster Timothy Brazeal learned that they did not yet have accommodations in St. Paul for his 12 scouts and 6 adults. Hoping for a church basement, Tim thought he had discovered the perfect solution when he found the museum's website. Instead of rolling out their sleeping bags underneath the night sky, they could sleep surrounded by Scouting history. There was only one problem

with this--as North Star's executive director Claudia Nicholson put it--"the fire marshal would have my head." Since the museum could not *be* the solution, Claudia decided to help *bring about* a solution by e-mailing the museum members.

Within hours, many places were suggested, including renting a shelter at Phillippo Scout Camp, Hoffman Park, and various churches. By the next morning, the troop accepted museum member Ed Trust's offer to stay at his home in Rosemount, where the boys were invited to have as many hot dogs and hamburgers as they could eat, use the hot tub, basketball court, and the fire pit. But the biggest perk of staying with the Trust family was helping with the youngest son's Eagle Scout project.

The outpouring of support and offers touched Brazeal, "I am overwhelmed with the Scout Spirit that exists. Because of your e-mail to your board...I received about 8 suggestions and invitations for places to spend the night.... I'm not a particularly mushy guy, but I'll be darned if it didn't bring a tear to my eye," and this was all before they even left!

When they got to the Boundary Waters, the troop split into two groups of nine with six scouts and three adults each. One group spent the intended five days in the Boundary Waters, returned to the Trust's house for the night, and went home. The other group, however, had a more interesting adventure that had nothing to do with giant mosquitoes. The outfitter neglected to give them all the maps necessary to finish their journey. When they realized they wouldn't be able to get back, they made camp and went into survival mode, putting the boys' safety first. The next day, another canoeist provided them with the missing map. **(Continued on next page)**

Museum to the Rescue (Continued)

The embarrassed outfitter gave the group free food, hats, and shirts in an attempt to make up for the error. The group ended up at the Trust house a day late, then headed home the next day with memories of their grand adventure fresh in their minds. As Tim said, “This is what Boy Scouts is all about.” And for the museum that helped make all of this possible, “I will definitely make time for it in the likely event that we repeat this adventure.” Next time, without the missing map.

From the Director

A board member raised an interesting question at our most recent board meeting: are our planned programs sufficiently interesting to Girl Scouts, or do we need to do a better job of being inclusive of Girl Scouting in all that we do?

The short answer at the time was, no, the programs planned were not diverse enough, and yes, we need to be more cognizant of Girl Scouting as we move forward in all aspects of managing the museum, both programmatically, and administratively.

Many of you know the history of the Museum, but for those who are newer to the organization, here are the highlights: the museum was founded in 1976 by a group of Boy Scout veterans who feared that the material remains of their Boy Scouting experience would be lost if they did not collect it. The men came, almost exclusively, from the Indianhead Council. While they collected Girl Scout material from the very beginning (among the first objects taken in by them were some Girl Scout handbooks), the objects that they collected came from connections relating to their very personal experiences. The biases of the collection began, then, early. So, too, the Museum’s governance. Board members were replaced by others known personally by the outgoing board members.

Since that time, the Museum has come to identify itself with Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in the 5-state upper Midwest region. It has national and international collections, along with its local collections. But the biases of the original founders

linger. The “default mode” is Boy Scout, and more specifically, Boy Scout/St. Paul area.

This has to change. The consolidation of the Indianhead and Viking Councils into the new Northern Star Council last year has helped us broaden our focus on the Boy Scout side. For a positive move in the Girl Scout direction, the Museum will pull together a “Girl Scout Advisory Committee” to assist us over the next two years in fully integrating Girl Scouting into our program, collections, administration, and governance.

In the coming year, you will begin to see something more closely resembling parity in our programs and governance. Bringing parity to collections will be more difficult, as we have been passionately collecting Boy Scout objects for 30 years. Fortunately, we have a great working relationship with the Girl Scout Council of St. Croix Valley—our partners in an exhibit in 2002, producers of one of our grand opening exhibits, and whose collection we store in our warehouse facility, donated by 3M. But ownership of a Girl Scout collection of the depth and quality of our Boy Scout collection may never happen.

However, we *can* plan and carry out programs that appeal specifically to Girl Scouts and the adults who work with them, or programs that cut across gender lines (like the Jamboree on the Air in October, and our “Canoe Rendezvous”, scheduled for February 2007). We *can* increase the board representation of people who work closely with the Girl Scout movement. And we can reset our default to become “Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Girl Guides”, as it says in our mission.

The first step in change is recognizing the problem. I have no doubt that with the help of committed, passionate people, this change will happen far more quickly than we realize. It will be change that is most welcome, and will serve to strengthen the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in its transformation into the premier museum documenting the Boy Scout and Girl Scout movements in our region, and perhaps, the premier such museum in the country.

Claudia J. Nicholson – Executive Director

New in the Museum Shop

Since the Grand Opening, we have added three books to our Museum Shop stock that may be of interest to you. Remember, all members get 10% discount on shop sales!

Girl Scout Collector's Guide: A History of Uniforms, Insignia, Publications, and Memorabilia by Mary Degenhardt and Judith Kirsch. This hefty tome (569 pages of text) describes Girl Scout uniforms, insignia, and accoutrements from the beginning of Girl Scouting in the USA in 1912 to nearly present times, and is chock full of illustrations. It includes a great deal of information about the evolution of the Girl Scout program over the years, and provides an excellent overview of this youth movement. It is not a price guide. Published by Texas Tech University Press, we are selling it in the shop for \$39.95.

Diamond in the North: A History of Scout Adventure in the North Country, 1923-98 by Gene Felton. This book tells the story of the Sommers Canoe Base, and serves to celebrate 75 years of Boy Scout canoeing in the northern Minnesota wilderness. The book recounts the history of the place, the base, the men (and women) who made it work, and the programs and equipment used by the thousands of youth and adults who have traveled north for high adventure. It is well-illustrated with drawings and photographs, including two by Minnesota photographer Jim Brandenburg. Published by the Sommers Alumni Association, we are selling it in the shop for \$12.95.

Dark Sky, Dark Land: Stories of the Hmong Boy Scouts of Troop 100 by David L. Moore. Moore tells the story of the first wave of Hmong immigration to Minnesota through the experiences of 17 boys who were members of Troop 100 in Minneapolis, the first troop exclusively for Hmong boys in the U.S. (See the article on the September 24 Troop 100 program at the museum to learn more about these remarkable young men.) Published by St. John's Publishing, we are selling it in the shop for \$14.95

Summer Reading Program off to Promising Start

Thus summer, the museum and the North St. Paul branch of the Ramsey County Library experimented with a parent/child reading program, targeting youth who are going into 4th-6th grades. We selected three books to read that represent the values of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting: courage (*Rowan of Rin* by Emily Rodda), perseverance (*Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio* by Peg Kehret), and respect (*Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael Morpurgo). Then, we come together to discuss the books, and how they relate to these values. The discussion site has alternated between the museum and the library.

While attendance at these summer reading programs has been small, the discussions have been lively, and the participating parents are very enthusiastic about the idea (and the kids seem to be enjoying the books). The things we learn this summer will enable us to plan a program for next year that is likely to attract more participants.

By summer's end, we will have bibliographic information about the books, along with discussion questions, available at the museum's website for leaders to use with their troops. They can select one book, or read them all.

If you have a favorite book that illuminates values of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting, call Claudia at the museum (651-748-2880). She is compiling titles for future reading groups.



New books available in the Museum Store.
(Photo by Nefret Salzberg)

Word-of-Mouth to Benefit Museum

Remember the shampoo commercial? “Once you try it, you’ll tell two friends, and they’ll tell two friends, and they’ll tell two friends. . .” Do the math. In just six exchanges, the message will go from two people to 64. This is the power of word-of-mouth.

Word of Mouth (WOM) marketing is a powerful tool we can use to develop a broader base of support for the museum, as well as sell its program to more people who have a reason to be interested in our work.

At this point in the life of the museum, developing a larger community of interested members and users is critical. We cannot carry out a larger, more complex program without the support of many more individuals. All of you can help us in this simple way to spread the word about what we are doing, and urge people to check us out.

For example, say you are a Brownie Troop leader. You bring your girls to the museum; everyone has a good time, accomplishes something worthwhile, and feels good about the visit. This is an experience you can share with fellow leaders at your Service Unit meeting. The rest of the leaders do not have to come in and sample the museum—you’ve done that for them. All they need to know is that it was a worthwhile experience for you and your girls. Your saying something good about the museum, and urging a visit, will carry much more influence with your peers than the slickest brochure, finest newsletter, or largest printed advertisement. Personal communication *matters*.

Let’s try it. Tell two friends about the museum, and urge them to tell two friends . . .

ANNOUNCEMENT: The museum is raising funds at year-end by participating in the Simon Day of Giving with the Maplewood Mall. Sunday, November 19 will be a special day of shopping at Maplewood Mall, and with pre-purchased tickets from the museum, you will be eligible for retailers’ discounts as well as sumptuous door prizes. More information at the museum website: www.nssm.org



Moose at home in the museum. (Photo by Nefret Salzberg)

Migrating Moose Returns

In 1976, Vern Hendrickson donated a mounted moose head and a mounted sailfish from the Lodge at Camp Neibel to the museum. The sailfish has long since been disposed of (with all of their protuberances, they are a little fragile), but the moose head has been in foster care since the museum moved out of Midwest Plastics in the mid-1990s. The moose has been presiding over Thanksgiving dinners and other state occasions in the dining room of Arlene West and Kevin Bevis, friends of former board member Steve Granger. With the museum’s move to a building of its own, it was time for the moose to come home, which he did on June 24. He has now been hung in a place of honor and presides over the museum store.



The moose was clean, but very dusty. Vacuuming mounted animals helps keep the dust off, and the smell down. (Photo by Nefret Salzberg)

Memorial and Tribute Gifts to North Star

A gift in honor or memory of a loved one or friend is a wonderful way to show your support for the mission and work of the North Star Museum. A memorial gift is given in honor of a deceased loved one or friend. A tribute gift commemorates a special time or accomplishment in an individual's life—birthday, anniversary, retirement, attainment of Eagle Scout rank, or the Gold Award. If Boy Scouting or Girl Scouting was, or is, important to an individual in your life, then making a memorial or tribute gift to the North Star Museum just might be the right way to honor them.

If you wish, a special card acknowledging your memorial or tribute gift can be sent to the family of the person you are remembering, or to the person or family you are honoring. The amount of your gift will not be disclosed.

Memorial and tribute gifts will be listed in the museum's newsletter, *Museum News*, as well as on a special page at the museum's website:

www.nssm.org.

In memory of:

Scoutmaster Art Schull
Barbara Hendrickson

Troop 100 at the Museum

On September 24 at 2 p.m., Dave Moore, first Scoutmaster of Troop 100 in Minneapolis, will speak about the early days of the troop, accompanied by alumni Yee Chang, Cy Thao, Kao Vang, Yimeem Vu. They will describe their coming-to-America experiences, and how Boy Scouting helped them.

ANNOUNCEMENT: The museum is going to implement the awards program devised by the Recognitions Task Force, and adopted by the Board last year. Several of the awards require nomination forms, and you can find this form at the museum website: www.nssm.org, along with the requirements for each.

Skunk Reunion Photos

The Annual Skunk Reunion was held May 30, 2006 at the Museum and the highlights were reported in the last issue of the Museum News. Here are some photos from that event.



John Guthmann presents 2006 Skunk of the Year to David Klinkhammer. (Photo by Fred Riehm)



John Andrews, Scout Executive of Northern Star Council, spoke on the history of Indianhead and Viking Councils and the old Region 10. (Photo by Fred Riehm)

ANNOUNCEMENT: The museum is putting together a Volunteer Task Force, to identify potential volunteer positions, and potential volunteers to fill them, as well as help write good position descriptions. This would be a short-term commitment (fewer than 4 months), and will begin as soon as we have 5 people willing to serve. A further description of this Task Force can be found at the museum website: www.nssm.org.

ANNOUNCEMENT: The museum will create a Collections Committee to review potential acquisitions to the museum, and to make acquisition recommendations to the Board of Directors. This committee will also work on our Collections Management policy. This is to be a permanent standing committee of the Board. Members will be appointed for 2-year terms. The committee will meet no fewer than 6 times per year, for two hours. A further description of this Board Committee can be found at the museum website: www.nssm.org.

Remember the North Star Museum in your will!

Museum Hours

The museum will be open Tuesday-Friday from 1-5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Weekday evenings available for groups scheduled in advance. The museum will be closed Sunday and Monday. Museum holidays are: New Year's Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

Contact the Executive Director

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

Editor: 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) dedicated to the preservation of the historic items of Scouting. We adhere to the Code of Ethics of the American Association of Museums and the Donor Bill of Rights.

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