



Annual Report

2019

Looking Back from 2020, 2019 Seems a Separate World

The Museum had a good year in 2019. The year began by re-tooling our structure to a volunteer organization with only one part time employee, Diana Foss. The move was taken to help us rebuild the organization and begin to move forward again. By December 2019 success could be seen. The finances stabilized and programming increased. Early in 2020 the pandemic arrived, and the world changed, slowing down progress on planned exhibits and activities.

Of all the programs offered in 2019 by the museum the consistently most popular one is the merit badge workshop. Enrollment indicates these are meeting a need of our constituents. We offered other activities—badge classes for Girl Scouts and Webelos, tours for individual troops, packs, and dens. Most of these were in the evening. Events included celebrating Juliette Gordon Low’s birthday, and programming around the museum’s pinewood derby. The museum hosted several actual derbies for both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts as well as workshops to prepare and test individual cars. We also hosted the annual adult pinewood derby fund raiser. The adults had as much fun as the youth. Some cars ran very well and others, not so well ... to the delight of all. In the fall, a Girl Scout group constructed a new fire pit off the parking lot for their Silver Award project.

New ventures were planned, developed, and postponed due to the 2020 pandemic. The board and volunteers were excited by the new Escape Room activity built by Nell Nere. Begun late in 2019 the plan, construction, and initial assembly was accomplished ... and pictured in a 2019 newsletter. We are looking forward to inviting Girl Scout and Boy Scout units to try their hands at group problem solving to escape the room. On the exhibits side of museum work, the Winter Camping add-on was designed, and fabrication begun. Kudos to Judy Johnson for painting winter backgrounds for us. Discussion and design of HomeFront exhibit highlighting the efforts of the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts during the World Wars was begun.

The museum offers you, the members, and the public much to look forward to when we open fully once again. The museum wants to thank all of you who financially supported the museum in 2019 and who gave of their time and talent.

Kurt Leichtle
Interim Executive
Director

Lorena Palm
Board Chair

Highlights of 2019

- ◆ 656 Visitors to the Museum
- ◆ 5 Museum Events with 108 people attending
- ◆ 41 Programs, including
 - ◆ 69 Merit Badge Workshops with 371 Boy Scouts participating
 - ◆ 5 Girl Scout and Boy Scout Tours/Programs with 77 young people participating
- ◆ 4 Building Rentals with 100 people attending
- ◆ 4 Outreach Visits with 1,347
- ◆ 203 Current Members
- ◆ 50 Current Volunteers

Our Mission

Our mission is to collect, preserve, share and interpret the history and significance of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in the upper Midwest.

Objectives and Impact

The North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting seeks to place the history of the two organizations in the context of both history and the present. Enabling our audiences to see and understand the importance and contributions of the organizations to youth, adults, and the country.

Service Range

The museum's collections and exhibits cover the area encompassed by the original Region 10. The area ranged west from western Wisconsin into eastern Montana and from the Canadian border to Iowa and Nebraska. We work with a variety of Boy Scout and Girl Scout councils and local troops and packs.

Facilities

The museum located in North St. Paul houses exhibits, offices, and educational spaces. Our collections are housed in warehouse space on Case Avenue, St Paul, MN donated by 3M.

Partners

The Museum works closely with the Heritage Committee of GSUSA, Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys Council and the Archives of the Northern Star Council BSA.

History

In 1976 a group of Scouters (adult Boy Scout volunteers) who were also collectors worried about what would happen to their collections and what could be done with them to benefit the BSA and the public formed the North Star Scouting Memorabilia, Inc. The group were largely members of the St. Paul Council which became the Indianhead Council and is now part of the Northern Star Council. The group created traveling exhibits to tell the story of Boy Scouts both to the Boy Scouts and to the general public. For the next thirty years their exhibits were a feature at council-wide events. One volunteer, Dick Carroll, learned the skills necessary to begin to organize the collection made up of the original members' collections. They also continued to collect adding to the base for the present Museum collection. On Carroll's death he left his house to create a fund for the organization. That gift opened the next phase of the Museum's history. In 2005 the Museum moved into its present quarters with its first professional staff. Claudia Nicholson became the Executive Director. She led the Museum into its next stage. The Museum grew, developed programming and built its new presence in the Boy Scout and Girl communities. As with all organizations growing pains occurred.

“So Big We Needed Two” Calls to History



On April 27, 53 attendees listened to GSUSA Board Secretary Noorain Khan (pictured at left, center with two Girl Scouts) review her life and career with a special emphasis on the role Girl Scouting played in her success, and offered a roadmap to success in life using Girl Scouting and achievement of the Gold Award as the catalyst.



On April 30, 55 attendees watched as Northern Star Council Scout Executive/CEO John Andrews (pictured bottom left, with Hugh Gwin) made an informative presentation focusing on the many connections between our area and the early formation and development of Boy Scouts of America. The highpoint was the opening of the time-capsule taken from the cornerstone of the soon-to-be-demolished St. Paul Service Center. Documents included a letter from the building architect addressed to those opening the time capsule, in addition to materials mentioning former Council President and Ramsey County Attorney William B. Randall, after which the Museum’s Founders Hall is named.



Community Service



The Museum has offered service and advancement opportunities for youth.

Angela and Rachel Ernst of Girl Scout Troop 51047 decided to complete their Silver Award project. It was an ambitious project of clearing out the back south side of the museum, replanting, and purchasing and building a firepit. (immediate left.)



For his Eagle service project, Zachary Marshaal built and installed the bases for the Museum’s old display cases in the gallery. Elevating them makes them much more useful for exhibits and easier for visitors to see. At middle left, he stands with Jack Johnson of the Museum’s Exhibit Committee, who advised him in his project.



During the November Fall Clean-Up Day at the Museum, Girl Scout Troop 57863 (at bottom left) provided much-needed help raking leaves — 70 bags full!

Programs for All

The Museum is committed to offering programs for young people and adults.

For youth in Scouts BSA (formerly Boy Scouts), being able to earn merit badges year-round at the Museum is very popular. A number of girls completed their first merit badges. Merit badge workshops are offered all year round. (At right are Thea Capistrant and Lucy Dosh, Troop 7091, proudly holding their Citizenship in the Nation advancement cards. In addition, a historical adventure—Looking Backward and Looking Forward —was offered to Webelos Scouts (4th/5th graders).



For Girl Scouts, the Museum offered a number of programs, including Girl Scout Way Badge for Brownies and Girl Scouts, Cookies and S'Mores Charms, and Leadership Day for Girls.

For all age groups who enjoy racing and because the Museum has an event, Derby Night at the Museum, the Building a Winner Pinewood Derby Car, is popular. Groups are encouraged to schedule times to use the Museum’s state-of-the-art pinewood derby track in order to test out their cars.

And let’s not leave out adults, especially those having never camped, the Museum offers the Adult Camp Primer workshop.

Without these donors, the Museum would not be the same ...

3M Foundation	Thomas W. Frame	Dan & Karin Kuntz	Francis & Tamara Robertson
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Brave New Workshop Comedy	Hardenbergh Foundation	Loren Meinke	William L. Sulzbach
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Natalie Broshar	Dennis & Nancy Hebrink	Michelle Wood	Stacey Swanson
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Becca Emmons	Kiwanis Club - N. Suburban St. Paul	Stephanie Pommier	Mary Yapp
Idelle B. Erickson & Katherine	Nancy T. Klemek	Project Astride	Kent York
Duyfhuizen	Karen A. Klose	Nancy Randall Dana	Kurt & Diane Zilley
Nola & Jeffrey Erickson	Dan & Joann Knuth	John Raymond	William & Mary Lee Zrust
Mavis C. & Mark A. Fisher	Jeffrey & Debra Kohen	Joseph A. Reding	
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Interim Executive Director

Kurt E. Leichtle, Ph.D.

Administrative Assistant & Bookkeeper

Diana Foss

Volunteers

Volunteers are crucial to the North Star Museum; at present the Museum is run by a board of volunteers and staffed by volunteers. One paid employee takes care of administrative tasks such as book-keeping and being a contact point. The Museum welcomes members and people who wish to become volunteers.



Other Volunteers

Terri Anderson

Mike Bagstad

Paul Bartyzal

John Capecchi

Chuck Clausen

Judy Clausen

Russ Edhlund

Bob Elliott

Becca Emmons

Scott Foss

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Will Sulzbach

Dean Thompson

Renee Thompson

Clint Voorhees

Kristie Wanstrom &
Sons

Saying "Goodbye" to Friends and Volunteers



Pamela Grayson
March 2019



Roy K. Nelson
January 2019



Robert C. Klas, Jr.
March 2019



Jon Pederson
August 2019



Gordy Meeker
December 2019



Joyce Rosene
March 2019

Exhibits



The Museum is blessed with many talented volunteers who research, create and build its exhibits.

At left is a sneak peek at the updated Winter Camping exhibit planned to open in early 2020. This background and another was painted by Judy Johnson.

The Rosene Family celebrated Bob Rosene's 95th birthday at the Museum. Pictured below are members of the family at the entrance to the Museum's Camping Exhibit—which features a rare Rosene Canoe that was made by Bob's father with the help of a group of Scouts.



In addition, it will not be long before you can experience a great new program offering at the Museum—a 20'x20, four sectioned Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting-themed Escape Room.

Summarized Balance Sheet December 31, 2019

Assets:			
Cash		\$116,918	
Other Current Assets		<u>\$ 49,956</u>	
Total Current Assets		\$166,874	
Property and Equipment—Net		<u>\$561,912</u>	
Total Assets		<u>\$728,786</u>	
Liabilities and Net Assets:			
Liabilities		\$3,721	
Net Assets		<u>\$725,065</u>	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		<u>\$728,786</u>	

Summarized Statement of Revenue and Expenses for the Year Ending December 31, 2019

Revenue:			
Contributions		\$211,876	
Membership		\$17,293	
Other		<u>\$ 11,264</u>	
Total Revenue			\$240,433
Expenses:			
Payroll and Related Costs		\$46,313	
Professional Fees		\$57,566	
Occupancy		\$46,577	
Other Operating Expenses		\$19,987	
Depreciation		<u>\$36,896</u>	
Total Expenses			<u>\$208,350</u>
Net Revenue over Expenses			<u>\$ 32,083</u>



Please come visit — alone or in a group. If you'd like to schedule an appointment, please contact us at dfoss@nssm.org or leave a voicemail at 651-748-2880. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause but we want everyone to stay healthy!