

2021 Annual Report



2640 East Seventh Avenue
North St. Paul, MN 55109
651-748-2880 + NSSM.org



When “Normal” Returns, We Were Ready.

Dear Friends of the Museum:

2021 was a year sandwiched between moving the entire collection in 2020 from storage at the 3M Case warehouse during the ups and downs of the COVID19 pandemic and a little bit more freedom in 2022. For most of 2021, the North Star Museum was off limits to in person meetings, tours and programs. But, like the rest of the country, we figured out how to have video meetings and occasionally have one that was social distancing wearing protective masks. We stayed active but low key.

But, within the structured requirements of the pandemic, we accomplished a lot. We answered a call to return to normalcy, to be more innovative and flexible in our approach to fulfilling our goals and objectives.

These tasks were accomplished thanks to the hard work of our volunteers (see the list of volunteers on page 10 of this report). Remember, at this point the museum was and is a volunteer organization.

Pushed to master Zoom for meetings and classes, the museum discovered that our reach extended across the United States. Scouts in California participated in our merit badge classes. We received comments about the Call to History program from a wide audience across Minnesota and from our membership.

We thank you for your support in gifts, volunteering, and participation. We look forward to welcoming you to new experiences and activities as we move forward. We look forward to your thoughts about new programs and ways to increase our presence and message. Consider whether you would like to join our crew as a volunteer, the work is rewarding and interesting.

Lorena Palm
Board Chair

Kurt Leichtle
Interim Executive Director

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 excess collections were housed in warehouse space on Case Avenue, St Paul, MN donated by 3M. However, in late 2020 those collections were moved to Robert's Properties on Buerkle Road, White Bear Lake.

Partners

The Museum works closely with the Heritage Group, 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.

Answering the call for support, YOU — our donors and friends — were there!

Ferial Abraham	Kaden Dahal	Robert E Gwinn	Steven Krech	Carol and Robert Oldowski	Spire Credit Union
Mike Aeling	Mary Degel	Margaret Hall	Dan and Karin Kuntz	John M. Olson	John Stafford
Daniel B. Ahlberg, MD	Lloyd Dewey	Robert J. Hannah, Sr.	Gary J. Kwong	Biz O'Mara	David Stamps
George L. Allen	Charlton Dietz	David C. Hansen	Alexandra Lape	Charles and Peggy Opp	James Stevenson
Thomas H. Alt, MD	Kenneth R. Edd	Tamra Davis Cownie	Wesley J. Laseski	Gerald E. Oss	William L. Sulzbach
Caden Anderson	Russ Edhlund	Dennis and Nancy Hebrink	Linda Lee	Lorena A. Palm	Doug Swanson
Lee and Penny Anderson	David L. Eisenbrandt	Susan Guthmann Henry	Kurt E. Leichtle	Mr. Eric Perowitz	Patricia and Richard Swanson
Terri L. Anderson	John D. Elholm	Barbara Corti Herrmann	William (Bill) Lenker	Craig D Peterson	Jean Sweeney
John R. Andrews	Robert and Louise Elliott	Steve and Jolene Herrmann	Norman Lerbs	Robert and Carol Pettitt	Robert F. Szczys, MD
Anonymous	Becca Emmons	Michael Herrmann	Todd S. Levig	Bradley and Virginia Pfaff	Christopher Tashjian
Timothy and Anne Arimond	Idelle Erickson and Katherine Duyfhuizen	William and Virginia Hickey	Ken and Mary Lillemo	Damon and Rachael Pfaff	Jon A. Theobald
Kevin Balfanz	Mavis C and Mark A Fisher	Erika Hotchkiss	Ms. Rachel Limon	Betty Phillippo	Caroline Thompson
Charles S. Barklind	Roger A. Forman	Stanley S. Hubbard	Al Linder	Pine Bend Scout Club Foundation	Roberta Thompson
Timothy G. Barrett	Scott and Diana Foss	Judy Hunter	Grant and Betty Lubin	Karen M Rafter	Thomson Reuters
Paul Bartyzal	Patricia Frankenfield	Jean E Inglehart	Michael and Sharon Lund	Nancy Randall Dana	Totanhana Nakaha Lodge, Order of the Arrow
Sandra and Nancy Berg Dickson	Michael J. Fratto	Myron and Catherine Jacobson	Jackie Maas	John Raymond	Virginia Turba
Gurtie and Stan Berkner	David Frei	James R. or Betty King	Ann Therese Macdonald	Joseph A. Reding	Kathryne La Valley
Alan Bernick	Sharon Toogood Froehle and Marsha Woolcott	Brad and Susan Johnson	Hugh and Marilyn Madson	Brian and Cheryl Reiners	Joseph F Vochko
Barbara Bickford	Connie Fullmer	Gene and Kathy Johnson	Nancy J Manahan	Victoria A. Reinhardt	Beth and Gerald Voermans
Danielle Bitz	Bridget Garske	Jack K. and Judith A. Johnson	Steven and Beth March	William and Joanne Robbins	Clinton H. Voorhees
Timothy A Blakesley	Gloria J. Gebhard	Peter A. Johnson	Donald Marose	Cindy L. Rosch	Kristie and Chuck Wanstrom
Patricia M. Bolger	Jerome and Beth Marie Geis	David J. Jungkuntz	Merritt R. Marquardt	Charles Rose and Barb Rosene	Jerry Warme
Barbara J Bonifas	Dr. Robert W. Geist	John Kablan	Mary Jo Martin	Marilyn Rosene	Teresa Wells
Judge David S. Bouschor	Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys	Warren P Kalsow	Padraic McGuire	James H. Rupert	Thomas Welna
Risa G. Brandon	Joseph W. Glenski	Mitzi Karl	Mary Lou McMenomy	Mark J. Salmen	JoAnne Wetherell-Moriarty and John Moriarty
Natalie Broshar	Jennifer Glover	Katherine B. Andersen	Medtronic	Cindy and Peter Sanders	David L. Wettergren
C. Edward and Cynthia Buchwald	Gary Gorman	Fund of The Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundation of The Saint Paul Foundation	Michael S. Meyers	Daniel Sayner	Emily White
Jon and Sherrill Carlson	Ann M. Green	John F. Kemper	Pearl Mitchell-Jackson	Bonna Scherer	Steven J. and Terri Wilcox
Larry Carson	Roger Green	Charles Kenow	Howard Mooers	David Schmidtke	Steven Wojan
Mary Ann J Carter	Roger and Mindy Greiling	David and Susan Kibler	Lawrence E. Moser	Kathy Scholer	Brian Wright
Bruce Cary	Janet Grieder	Byron Kieser	Mark Nelson	Susan and Wayne Shelton	Kent York
John and Pamela Chandler	Elizabeth Guthmann	Karen A. Klose	Myrna Nelson	Chad Skally	Steve and Julie Young
Mary Charles	John and Teresa Guthmann	Joann Knuth	Richard and Nancy Nelson	Nora Slawik	Kurt and Diane Zillye
Charles and Judith Clausen	Debra Guthmann-Ternus		Jack E. Nessen	George Smith	Jim Zimmer
Kenneth Crabb	Hugh H. Gwin		Marianne Nicholson	Dr. Richard E. Smith	
Sandra Craighead			Patrick Norris	Stuart Smith	
			Northern Star Scouting		
			David and Billie Novy		
			Laurie Oelslager		

Notes from the Director

When it feels like you're moving two steps forward and one step back, what do you do?

Change directions and focus. A crisis point was reached in storage of the collection. We had to move everything from the Case facility because it was going to be repurposed. We searched for locations closer to the Museum, and finally landed a spot in Maplewood just north of I-694 and Highway 61. The entire collection at Case was packed up and moved.

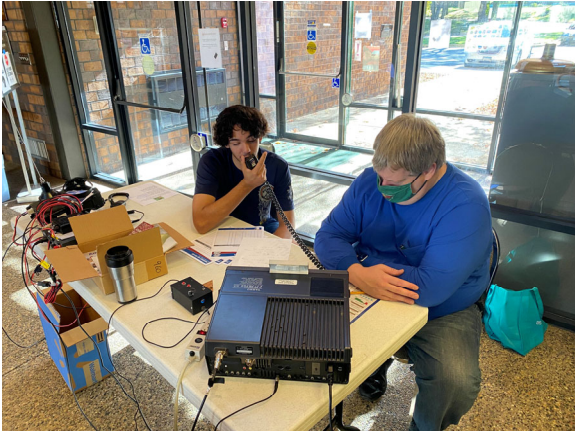
During 2021, we continued to accept new items for the collection, and those items and the backlog needed to be cataloged. The stand-alone collections software we used was a barrier to solving this problem. It only allowed one user at a time to enter information. It was time to move the collection records up in the cloud by using the online version of PastPerfect. Now ten users can work from anywhere. In 2022, the data from the stand-alone software will migrate to the cloud, and we'll finally be able to locate any item in the collection.



Kurt Leichtle, Interim Executive Director, stands in front of the new entry gateway to the hands-on exhibit.

Programs—Increased in number, but still were held online and later in-person

Merit Badge Workshops remained strong. During the first half of the year, they were held via Zoom. By summer, they returned to in-person. We were able to hold Jamboree on the Air (JOTA and Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI). (Photos below.) Any time youth had a break from school throughout the year, they could find a Workshop to attend. 285 merit badges were completed.



In January, SaNeCo Service Unit hosted a Star Party for their troop on Zoom. Amateur Astronomer and Museum Board Member Natalie Broshar hosted the event. Girls and families learned about stars, planets, novas, constellations, and other celestial objects.



Community programs were offered during the summer. Three campfires were held. In June the focus was on cooking. At left, Troops 14797 and 17813 prepared food using Dutch ovens, a box oven and pie irons. In July, the focus was on jack knife safety. At right, Volunteer Gary Gorman helped one young Scout with basic carving techniques. In August, the final campfire focused on making and eating S'mores while singing the night away.





Exhibits and In-Person Tours

The escape room project (one of several rooms at left) was completed. Because of the new Covid variant, we had to stop before testing it out. We look forward to testing how it will work in the early winter. The public roll-out will occur in January 2022. In other projects, exhibit design and construction slowed but progress has been made and the completion of the Teamwork and Competition exhibit discussing Chariot races, Push Car races and the Klondike Derby is in the final stages of fabrication.



The Museum reopened on February 20, 2021, Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for walk-in visitors. Groups were able to schedule private tours. In December, Daisy/Brownie Troop 58019 from Northern Lights Service Unit visited for a tour and scavenger hunt.



One of the highlights of any recent visit to the Museum is the excellent and realistic camping exhibit. The Exhibits Committee added a winter camping component to the exhibit, dubbed, "Winter Camping — Challenging Nature".

And there were meetings...

... the Board of Directors (at right) were busy with committee meetings, board meetings, and a long-range planning meeting, which was facilitated by long-time Volunteer and former Board Member Kristi Wanstrom. At right, a small-group breakout discussion is shown. Three objectives were determined: 1) Develop a public relations plan; 2) Produce a regular “Boy Scout/Girl Scout” skills curriculum to offer to the general public; and 3) Hire a part-time fundraising consultant in order to raise funds to hire an executive director.



In October, the 2020 Annual Meeting was held via ZOOM.



The Veteran Scouter (Skunks) Reunion resumed in August at Fred C. Andersen Scout Camp. However, it morphed into a meeting that focused on the future of the Museum.



A Call to History Road Show

The first half of 2021 we were hesitant to hold large group events. As an alternative, “A Call to History Road Show”

was developed. This program was filmed and shown on Facebook and YouTube [<https://youtu.be/TAXzTh5rrr0>].

It featured four different stories (screenshots at left, top to bottom, then at right): (1) Board Members Emily White and Bonna Scherer discussed Camp Minnesota which was a 1920’s wilderness training experience at the end of the Gunflint Trail for GS women; (2) Board Members Interim Executive Director Kurt Leichtle and Board Member Barb Herrmann (who was also the emcee) discussed the Bronze Medallion given to the



Dan Stoltz, President/CEO of SPIRE Credit Union, closed the show.

Boy Scouts of Minnesota for selling the most war bonds in the second drive to finance support the efforts of World War I; (3) Board Members Sandy Craighead and Lorena Palm discussed a history of the Golden Eaglet award of early Girl Scouting; and (4) Kurt Leichtle and Scout Executive/CEO John Andrews discussed two large scrapbooks belonging to Charles Sommers from his early history of involvement in Scouting in the .Paul area.



Board of Directors

(A Volunteer Board)

Lorena Palm — *Chair*
Sandy Craighead — *Vice-Chair*
Barb Herrmann — *Secretary*
Jim Stevenson — *Treasurer*

Members

Natalie Broshar
Idelle Erickson
Gary Gorman
John H. Guthmann
David Novy
Bonna Scherer
Emily White

Board Emeritus

Thomas Welna

Kurt Leichtle, Ph.D. —
Interim Executive Director

Diana Foss — *Bookkeeper*

Volunteers ...

... are crucial to the 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 bookkeeping and being a contact point. The Museum welcomes members and people of all interests and skill levels who wish to become volunteers.

Other Volunteers

Terri Anderson	Dan Kuntz
John R. Andrews	John Kysylyczyn
Tim Arimond	Jim Lindfors
Mike Bagstad	Don Marose
Paul Bartyzal	Mary McMenemy
John Capecchi	Nell Nere
Chuck Clausen	Biz O'Mara
Richard Clem	Charlie Opp
Russ Edhlund	John Raymond
Bob Elliott	Jim Rupert
Becca Emmons	Dennis Stolp
Scott Foss	Dan Stoltz
Mike Fratto	Will Sulzbach
Bob Hannah	Clint Vorhees
Jack Johnson	Kristie Wanstrom



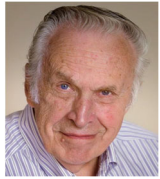
On November 14, over 40 Girl Scouts raced their cars on the Museum's state-of-the-art Pinewood Derby track. 60 adults were present to cheer on their racers. The event was hosted by the Minneapolis Lakes Service Unite (#144) and attended by troops from multiple service units. Above and below are some of the winners.



Saying “Goodbye” to Friends and Volunteers



Jon C. Cieslak
October 2021



Don Craighead
December 2020



Scott Degel
November 2020



Lloyd Dewey
June 2021



Joan Henry
February 2021



F. Alexandria Klas
May 2021

Financials

Summarized Statement of Revenue and Expenses (For the Year Ending December 31, 2021)

Revenue:	
Contributions	\$201,695
Membership	\$16,975
In Kind	\$1,771
Other	\$19,667
Total	\$240,108
Expenses:	
Payroll and Related Costs	\$19,504
Professional Fees	\$5,424
Occupancy	\$34,886
Warehouse Lease and Expenses	\$52,759
Other Operating Expenses	\$16,625
Depreciation	\$37,756
Total	\$166,954
Net Revenue over Expense	\$73,154

Summarized Balance Sheet (For the Year Ending December 31, 2021)

Assets:	
Cash	\$250,650
Other Current Assets	\$308,981
Property and Equipment—Net	\$484,824
Total Assets	\$1,044,455
Liabilities and Net Assets:	
Liabilities	\$3,766
Net Assets	\$1,040,689
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,044,455



