

APRIL
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Museum News

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They'll Be Smellin' 'Round the Mountain Here They Come: Skunk Reunion 2022



On June 4, 2022, the latest smelly gathering of that pungent crew known as the Skunks will take place at the bottom of the "mountain", better known as the Training Building on the lower level of Fred C. Andersen Camp. The stench will grow with the

arrival of each Skunk. Get ready to plug your nose when the fellowship begins at 10:30. The program starts at 11:00 and lunch will be served at noon. As usual, the event promises to be a real stinker. The cost is only \$15. Registration is a must. To make things easy, just wrap your smelly hands around the registration form in this issue of the *Museum News*, and send it in with your check. Or, register online through nssm.org, the Museum's website.

As usual, a special and festive program is all set. You will not want to miss hearing from this year's keynote speaker. We are fortunate to have secured longtime Scouter Jack Johnson as our keynote. In addition to his long experience in Scouting, Jack served as the curator of the Minnesota Military Museum located at Camp Ripley. He knows museums and he is sure to share some tips that will help the North Star Museum to be even more successful. (Continued on Page 2)

PRESENTING: Your 2022 Skunk Reunion Keynote Speaker — Mr. Jack Johnson

"The challenges faced by small museums and our unique advantages, and why small museums like ours are so important."

The Skunks are excited that Jack Johnson is joining us on June 4 for the annual Skunk Reunion. Jack brings to us a wealth of experience. Here is just a sample of his background:

- Eagle Scout and former Program Director/Assistant Camp Director, Camp Clyde (now named Camp Parker) Central Minnesota Council (two years).
- Scoutmaster and Troop Committee Chair of the famous Troop 17 in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood of Saint Paul.
- A retired Lt. Colonel in the Minnesota Army National Guard. Served for ten years as the Command Historian for the Guard, which got him involved with the Minnesota Military Museum located at Camp Ripley.

(Continued on Page 2)

They'll Be Smellin' 'Round the Mountain Here They Come: Skunk Reunion 2022 (continued from Page 1)

cessful. Jack's full biography is in an accompanying article.

As usual, the Skunk of the Year will be recognized during the program. If you have a particularly foul-smelling candidate for the award in mind, please fill out the nomination form in this issue of the *Museum News* and send it in as soon as you are able.

If what you read in this article is not enough to ensure your registration, check this out. The first forty Skunks to register for this year's Skunk Reunion will receive a highly collectable 50th Skunk Reunion program booklet

from 1979. The booklet contains the "History of the Saint Croix River Camp" AND the "Origin of the Order of the Order" story, including the names of the original sixteen Skunks as well as a list of all the Skunks from 1962 through 1978. A photo of the booklet cover is seen to the right. Sign up today!



Cover of the Fiftieth Skunk Reunion program booklet from 1979.

PRESENTING: Your 2022 Skunk Reunion Keynote Speaker — Mr. Jack Johnson (continued from Page 1)

- Helped transition the military museum from an old unheated wooden building with a 1/3-time employee to a more suitable air conditioned/heated building with increased floor space and current staff of 4.5 employees.
- Designed the floor plan and built all new exhibits for the newer museum.
- Served as its Curator 1986-2000.
- Designed and maintained its website and co-edited its quarterly newsletter.
- Member of the military museum's board of directors for 35 years, 1983-2017.
- Longtime member and former president of the of the Military Historical Society of Minnesota.
- Jack retired as a higher education academic administrator, having served as a dean or department director at Hamline University and the University of Minnesota. He has a PhD from the University of Minnesota.
- He and his wife, Judith, helped create the current camping exhibit at the North Star Museum.

As you can see, the 2022 Skunk Reunion is not an event to be missed. Full details and registration information is elsewhere in this issue of the *Museum News*. As an added bonus, and unique to this year's event, there will be an open topic-related question and answer period following Jack's presentation. See you on June 4!

Enjoy Some Campfire Fellowship at the Museum While You Eat and Learn

The Museum is ready to resume its summer campfire events in 2022. We are calling the first one “Cast Iron Cooking.” The event is open to all ages and will take place at the Museum’s campfire area on June 9 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Learn to cook in a Dutch Oven. We will also demonstrate a box oven. We might even show you how to cook with pie irons. It will be

food, food, and food. What’s not to like. We will be eating what we cook. The cost is only \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members.

While you are at it, put July 7 on your calendar as well. July 7 will be jackknife and whittling night. Also open to all ages, the cost and times will be the same as our June 9 event. The evening

will give all participants a perfect chance to “sharpen” their whittling skills.

To register for these events, watch for a registration portal on the website at nssm.org or call Joleen Rudeen at the Museum. The number is 651-748-2880. See you at the Museum this summer!



On March 22, the boys of Troop 113 took up the challenge of going through the Museum’s new Escape Room. After making it out of the Lost Tomb unharmed, they took a group picture with a souvenir of their escape in front of their troop’s historic chariot, which is part of the Museum’s permanent collection.

Around the Museum



The girls of Troop 57876 recently enjoyed their excursion to the Museum. Pictured wearing vintage uniforms are, from left to right, troop members Victoria, Lexxi, Amelia, and Emma



Thanks to the generosity of Clint Vorhees, the Museum has an outstanding temporary exhibit containing examples of the numerous toys produced to interest members of the Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts over the last century. See photos on the left and right. Come out to the Museum for a closer look while the exhibit is still on display.



Skunk of the Year Nomination Form



Nomination for Skunk of the Year due by May 21, 2022

Section One:

Award Criteria: This award is presented to a person who has been affiliated with Scouting, USA, Girl Scouts of the USA, or the North Star Museum for at least 15 years, and is a current member of the museum.

<p>CANDIDATE/ Name of individual being nominated: _____ Current museum member? Yes / No Registered member of Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts? Yes / No Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____ Phone number: _____ Email: _____</p>
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<p>Nominator's name: _____ Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____ Phone number: _____ Email: _____ Best time to reach you: _____</p>

Section Two:

Please provide a statement of support for the individual being nominated. The statement should address the award criteria and this individual should receive this award. Include tenure with the museum, special or extraordinary things done during the year, other Boy Scout/Girl Scout activities he/she may be involved with, and the amount of time spent on museum activities. Use an extra sheet of paper if necessary.

Section Three: (optional)

Attach a letter of recommendation supporting your nomination from a person other than yourself. This person may be a museum member, Boy Scout or Girl Scout, adult volunteer in Boy Scouting or Girl Scouting, or someone else who knows of the individual's contributions.

Nominator's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Mail nominations to:

Selections Committee
 North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting
 2640 E. Seventh Avenue
 North St. Paul, MN 55109

This form can also be downloaded from: www.nssm.org

Greetings to all Museum Members

Veteran Scouters and Skunks

2022 Skunk Reunion



It's time to get together, swap stories, and report on the progress of the Museum.

Who: People who are Museum members and have been registered in Boy Scouts of America or Girl Scouts of the USA for 5 or more years.

When: Saturday, June 4, 2022

Where: Fred C. Andersen Scout Camp, former St. Croix River Camp. This year we will be in the Training Building located on the lower level of the camp.

Time: 10:30 am Fellowship, beverages provided
 11:00 am Program
 12:00 Noon Lunch

Cost: **\$15.00 per person. Preregistration is mandatory!**

Registration: You can register online by going to www.nssm.org, calling the North Star Museum between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm Tuesday-Thursday or mailing a check into the North Star Museum at 2640 Seventh Avenue East, North St. Paul, MN 55109.

Directions: Take Minnesota 36 across the new St. Croix River crossing and proceed on highways 35/64 to the Andersen Scout Camp Road (follow the signage). The camp is 1.2 miles further. Once in camp follow the signs.

The deadline for registration is May 27, 2022

My name is _____

Yes, I'm coming! Put me down for the reunion. Here is my \$15.00.

I will be bringing guests Number of guests _____ x \$15.00 (Names: _____)

I need a ride.

I can pick-up supplies and/or help by driving. Please call me at _____

2022 Founders Hall Recognition and Celebration—A Special Success



Keynote Speaker Sarah Strommen makes a point during her excellent address during the event.

On Saturday, April 23, 2022, the Museum held its first large live event since the dawn of the COVID era. The Founders Hall Recognition and Celebration was attended by nearly fifty enthusiastic Museum supporters. In addition to showing their support for the Museum, our guests were there to welcome the two newest members to the Davis and Randall Founders Hall.

After a delicious lunch, those in attendance sat back and enjoyed the words of our keynote speaker—Minnesota Department of



Hugh Gwin and sister/presenter Beth March are pictured following the Founders Hall ceremony.

Natural Resources Commissioner Sarah Strommen. Commissioner Strommen is the first female DNR commissioner in state history. Her love of the outdoors and of our unique Minnesota outdoor resources came through loud and clear. After a lively Q & A following her address, all eyes turned to the recognition portion of the program.

Our newest Builder, Hugh Gwin, was introduced by his sister, Beth March. We learned about Hugh as one only can from a sibling. We also learned what a solid Boy Scout and Girl Scout family the Gwins are.

Sandy Craighead introduced Sharon Reece, our newest Trailblazer. Sharon brought her infectious enthusiasm to the Founders Hall. Like Hugh Gwin, Sharon has roots in both the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts. In light of her decades as a Girl Scout volunteer, no one was surprised to see Sharon glowing in green at the event.

Following the program, guests had the opportunity to explore all of the new exhibits at the Museum. The recognition plaques were unveiled during the program. So, if you did not have a chance to attend this year's event, come out to the Museum to learn about our outstanding 2022 honorees.



Following the Founders Hall ceremony, newest inductees Hugh Gwin and Sharon Reece took a moment to pose beneath their plaques.



Nancy Dana congratulates Hugh Gwin on his Founders Hall induction.



6:30 PM

JUNE 17, 2022

FEAST BY FIRELIGHT

CAMPFIRE FONDUE COOKING CLASS

Members: \$35/person*

Non-Members: \$40/person*

Starter

Grilled Salad
Classic Cheese Fondue

Main

Classic Beef Bourguignonne (Oil Fondue)
Shrimp in Garlic Broth Fondue

Dessert

Chocolate Fondue

**Includes one beer or wine with meal; This is a 21+ event.*

Space is limited. Register at nssm.org.

DATED MATERIAL



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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North Star Museum
of Boy Scouting
and Girl Scouting
2640 East 7th Avenue
North St. Paul, MN 55109

Phone: 651-748-2880
E-mail: jrudeen@nssm.org

**We're on the web
www.nssm.org**

Get Ready for Super Merit Badge Weeks - 2022

Once again, live and in color, the Museum's most popular educational program, Super Merit Badge Weeks, will be back. As we speak, an exciting summer of merit badge offerings is being scheduled.

Put the dates in your calendar now so you are ready to sign up when the class schedule is announced. June merit badges will be scheduled during the week of June 21-25. July merit badges will be scheduled during the week of July 19-23. The last summer week of Super Merit Badge Week will be scheduled during the week of August 16-20. Each week of programming will be announced

about thirty days before the scheduled week. As always, you can register and pay on line at nssm.org. Get ready, Super Merit Badge Weeks are coming!



Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, John Guthmann, 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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