

**AUGUST
2022**



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Super Merit Badge Weeks 2022 and Upcoming Merit Badge Opportunities



Natalie Broshar is shown energizing her class of eight Scouts in a session of Electronics Merit Badge

The summer of 2022 has gone by so quickly. It was a hot one, too. It was also another successful summer of Super Merit Badge Weeks. During June, July, and August, we offered eighteen live merit badge classes. Eight different merit badges were offered. With August registration still open at press time, our records show that 135 Scouts signed up

and attended or will attend these classes. Thank you to all of the counselors and adult volunteers that made these sessions possible.

Building upon our summer success, look for more merit badge classes to be scheduled before the end of 2022. We are already planning a STEM-focused group of merit badge sessions for October 20-21. The merit badges we expect to offer include Electricity, Electronics, Programming, and Robotics. Keep an eye on the website so you do not miss the opening of registration.

Stay tuned to the Museum website and the Museum

News for the announcement of additional classes and class times. We typically schedule merit badges during MEA in October, over Thanksgiving weekend, and during the last week of the year. If your unit wants to book a class on a date of your choosing with one of our counselors, just email John Guthmann at jguthmann@msn.com.



Dennis Stolp instructs five Scouts during his rifle merit badge workshop. They all went to the range later that day.

WIN on November 12 with "Derby Night at the Museum"

It has been two years but the wait is over! The North Star Museum "FUNraiser" known as "Derby Night at the Museum" is back in 2022--REALLY. On Saturday, November 12 at 6:00 p.m., relive your childhood and get your com-

petitive juices flowing by entering a car to WIN the race on the Museum's state-of-the-art Pinewood Derby track. Remember, this is an event for adults.

You can register for the event through the Museum's website at nssm.org.

The pre-registration fee of \$30 per person includes two beverage coupons for wine, beer, or soft drinks, a glass with the Museum logo on it, and one car entry. Pre-registration is best because the cost is \$35 at (Continued on Page 2)

WIN on November 12 with “Derby Night at the Museum” (cont.)

the door. You can race extra cars at \$10 per car. Dinner will also be available for purchase so please come hungry.

A silent auction is one of many event highlights. Your high bid will WIN that item for you. If you have an item to donate, please call Event Chair Connie Fullmer at 952-935-4717 or email her at connie@mentoringpeace.org.

We also expect to offer one or more raffle opportunities that will allow both you and the Museum to WIN. All proceeds benefit the Museum.

If you do not have a car, there is plenty of time to build one. Kits are available on Amazon or at your local Scout shop. The Museum shop may have some cars for sale, but supplies are limited. Creativity counts, as

there will be recognition for the “best looking” car on the track. Or dress for the occasion and perhaps you will WIN the annual Derby Hat contest. On November 12, come to the ultimate “FUNraiser” that is “Derby Night at the Museum” and WIN! WIN! WIN!

Jamboree on the Air/Internet is Back!

Once again, the Museum is hosting a piece of the largest Scouting event in the world. Yes, on Saturday, October 15, 2022, JOTA (Jamboree-on-the-Air) and JOTI (Jamboree on the Internet) will run at the Museum all day from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Whether you come alone, with a group, or with a unit, you are welcome to attend.

JOTA is a radio event. Using ham radios around the world, nation, and in our community, participants can connect to their fellow Scouts. To make it happen Tim Arimond will bring ham radio station KØBSA (Kay-zero-BSA) to the Museum. The Museum actually has a permanent antenna on the roof to make it even easier for Tim to turn the Museum into a radio station. Historically, more than one million kids from over 150 nations participate in JOTA. Using JOTA and station KØBSA, kids who come to the Museum on Octo-

ber 15 can travel internationally without a plane ticket or a passport.

In addition to JOTA/JOTI, the Museum will offer a Radio Merit Badge workshop on Saturday, October 15. As with all of the Museum’s merit badge workshops, preregistration is required, and the cost is \$12 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. Scouts registering for the merit badge should bring a bag lunch and a signed merit badge card signed by their Scoutmaster, which indicates that they are cleared to take the class. Radio Merit Badge will run from 10:00 a.m. until about 2:00 p.m.

As for JOTA/JOTI, there is no charge. Scouts of all ages and any gender may participate. Visitors can just show up but if you have a group of five or more, we would appreciate it if you could pre-register so we can plan accordingly. Once registration



opens, you will be able to register through the Museum’s website at www.nssm.org. Once on the website, go to Programs and Events, then Jamboree on the Air, and sign up for a session. See you “on the air.”



Museum Project Part of Rare and Coveted Award



In March 2022, Quinn Vochko of Wayzata Troop 3283 became only the second Northern Star Council recipient of the national Distinguished Conservation Service Award after passing his Board of Review. To earn the DCSA, a Scout must research, plan, and lead two significant conservation projects and then conduct follow-up work to ensure that the projects achieved their intended goals. The BSA created the Distinguished Conservation Service Award (“DCSA”) in November 2019 as a replacement for the William T. Hornaday conservation service award. The Museum played a central role in Quinn’s award.

Quinn's first project, begun in the summer of 2020, was the design and planting of a pollinator garden outside the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting. He researched and selected several native plants that thrive in our area and bloom at different times during the growing season. The idea was to give pollinators something to eat

all summer. He designed a detailed planting layout to avoid lumping all of one type of plant together. Quinn’s project was featured in on page 5 of the Aug.-Oct. 2020 *Museum News*. The issue is available on our website at nssm.org.

Quinn's second project was the design and installation of fishing line recycling containers for placement at five piers on four lakes managed by the Three Rivers Park District along with two more at a lake at Camp Christmas Tree, a YMCA day camp. He researched the problems created by improper disposal of monofilament fishing line. When there is improper disposal, birds and fish can get tangled up in the line and die. Worse yet, it can take hundreds of years for fishing line that is discarded in a lake to decompose. The fishing line recycling containers designed and built by Quinn gave people a convenient and better way to dispose of their unwanted fishing line.

Quinn received his DCSA certificate and award knot in May at a troop court of honor. Congratulations Quinn!



Distinguished Service to Conservation Award Knot

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Donations

- **Nancy Tibit Talbott in Honor of Founders Hall Inductees**
- **Paul & Breanne Berning in Honor of “Builder “ Hugh Gwin**
- **Doreen Gloede in Honor of “Trailblazer“ Sharon Reece**

Know of anyone interested in joining? Join online at nssm.org

A Truly Unique Skunk Reunion

Twenty-one true stinkers attended the 2022 Skunk Reunion at Fred C. Andersen Camp on June 4. There was the usual fun, fellowship, and great food. During the meeting, it was announced that John Andrews received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award from the national BSA. Congratulations, John! Jim Rupert was named Chief Skunk Emeritus and received temporary custody of a skunk-topped walking stick to signify the honor. Of course, there was also the annual Skunk of the Year presentation and the meeting concluded with a thoughtful keynote address from Jack Johnson.



At the 2022 Skunk Reunion, Bob Hannah (l) was presented with the Skunk of the Year Award. Here he is receiving his certificate and award

This year's Skunk of the Year honoree is Robert "Bob" Hannah, Sr. Bob has devoted over 65 years to Scouting as both a professional and volunteer. He has held numerous positions in Scouting including Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Post Advisor, Unit Commissioner, Roundtable commissioner, Chartered Organization Representative, and National and World Jamboree Staff. Among the many awards he has received are Scouter's Key, Scoutmaster Key, Commissioner Arrowhead Award, District Award of Merit, Silver Beaver, Bronze Pelican Award, Order of the Arrow Vigil Honor, James E. West Fellow, and two bead Wood Badge.

Bob has also been a valuable volunteer at the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl

Scouting. He has put in many hours identifying and pricing hundreds of the artifacts donated to the Museum. His knowledge of Scouting memorabilia has uncovered extremely rare and valuable items in the Museum's collection. Bob is currently assisting other Skunk volunteers at the Museum warehouse who sort and document items in the Museum's collection on a weekly basis through the Skunk Service Patrol. Congratulations to our 2022 Skunk of the Year Bob Hannah!

Another significant highlight of the frowsty event was the keynote address by Jack Johnson. Jack is a small museum expert. His experience includes serving as curator of the Minnesota Military Museum at Fort Ripley. He shared his great insight into the

challenge of operating a small museum and he provided great advice about how to operate a small museum successfully. In fact, a twenty-minute discussion followed Jack's remarks. Here are the highlights of Jack's important address.

Jack emphasized that museums are important. Without museums, the artifacts of history would reside in private collections, shielded from public view. Worse yet, they might get lost or just be thrown away. Museums preserve the history of our society and tell stories about how our society came to be, what it accomplished, and how it has changed with the times. The North Star Museum does the same with the Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting movements.

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A Truly Unique Skunk Reunion (cont.)

Jack defined a “small” museum as a unique institution with a distinct confluence of mission, location, resources, and target audience. A small museum likely has a budget in the \$250,000-300,000 range, a paid staff of two or three at most, a small older building, a low brand profile that is not well known beyond its immediate location, and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Sound familiar?

Small museums are typically challenged by inherent and controllable forces and external and uncontrollable forces. Attention needs to be given to both types of forces. Finances are controllable. Small museums usually operate on a shoe-string budget, they typically don't attract big crowds, and they usually do not have big donors who routinely underwrite large operational budgets. The smaller brand profile makes fundraising and attracting visitors more difficult. This means that small museums continually grapple with fundamental questions over how best to spend the few dollars they have.

Due to limited budgets and a limited staff, small museum employees wear multiple hats and they have to “do it all”, whether it be the membership program, long-range planning, exhibit planning, collection care, fund raising, or publicity. There is the risk of burnout and underappreciation. A core group of active volun-

teers to support the staff is also essential to success.

Small museums are often housed in older buildings that were not designed to be museums. That makes them less functional, harder to maintain, more expensive to heat and cool, and more prone to breakdowns. Yet, the place needs to look good and well cared for. Peeling paint, dirty carpets, dusty window panes, and poor lighting, will turn off visitors and potential supporters.

Small museums need a strategy to address their inherent low profile and limited public awareness. A less well known institution leads to fewer visitors, less media coverage, problems with fundraising, inaccurate public image, and fewer artifact donors.

Collections management is controllable but challenging for all small museums. The more you have, the harder it is to maintain what you have. A good museum has a responsibility to care for its collection. That means deciding what's valuable and worth taking or keeping. Small museums typically have limited storage space and a limited budget for artifact restoration and preservation. Thus, small museums must have a clearly understood mission and a well-defined collections policy. You can't collect everything and you certainly can't accept everything that's offered. The latter principle is

always difficult because you don't want to hurt people's feelings or scare away valuable donations that fall into the sweet spot of what the museum wants to collect.

If the controllable isn't challenging enough, there are the uncontrollable challenges that small museums face. In today's competitive environment, visitor expectations are rising. Most museum visitors today have seen the polished and sophisticated way that exhibits are presented in large, well-funded museums, and they may be disappointed with what small museums can do. Our displays may seem boring or unimpressive by comparison. Today's museum visitors expect to be entertained – especially younger people who have grown up with eye-catching electronics and interactive media. They have in-depth information instantly available at their fingertips through Google, Instagram, Twitter, etc. Today's audience also expects to see videos, television screens, and push-button interactive activity. That means things like headphones, sound systems that kick in when someone approaches an exhibit, QR codes linked to an educational video about the exhibit, and putting objects in our collection online with their stories.

The state-of-the-art of artifact preservation is also much more sophisticated and expensive to
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A Truly Unique Skunk Reunion (cont.)

day. Having UV and environmental controls in place is expected. Artifacts are also now stored through the use of multi-field data bases. Protecting the objects themselves is also an issue. Larger museums employ guards, surveillance cameras, and cybersecurity.

There are also programmatic expectations that have developed in the community we serve. As a result, small museums are expected to reach out beyond the walls of the museum to new audiences. There is also an expectation that the institution will be more focused on education. Of course, small museums must also meet community expectations and laws that address the needs of handicapped, disabled, disadvantaged people. Small museums must be sensitive to diversity and they need to be more inclusive. That includes the words we use and how we plan and build our exhibits.

Small museums also need to adopt to the outside world when it comes to publicity. There is much more competition for the same audience. Small museums need a good website that is continually updated. There also needs to be an active Facebook presence. Better yet, Facebook plus Twitter and blogs. This can get expensive and it requires tech-savvy people to keep things working and up to date.



Orderly, but stinky - the Skunks are shown in the middle of their business meeting at the 2022 Skunk Reunion.

In addition to audience competition, there is fund raising competition. The number of worthy nonprofit organizations that are looking for money keeps growing. There is also a trend among philanthropic foundations to focus their giving on only a few kinds of organizations, giving priority to things that have nothing to do with many small museums.

Museums do not control the national, state, or local culture. Yet, every museum must stay relevant. Museums exist in a social and cultural context that is constantly changing. To survive and thrive, museums must adapt to meet the evolving needs and interests of the public it seeks to serve – its target audience – while not losing sight of its integrity and mission. Attitudes

change and ideas that would have been unthinkable a few generations ago are now mainstream. This is the world we live in and museums cannot ignore cultural change. Museums may find adaptation difficult because museums tend to be inherently conservative. After all, they are all about conserving. This may create a dilemma for museum boards, staff, volunteers, interested members of the public, and other stakeholders who feel that the organization needs to be agents of change and supportive of attitudinal shifts. The goal should be to seek common ground and strike a balance between preservation and interpreting our past heritage, and shining a light on the future – perhaps even shaping how we
(Continued on Page 7)

A Truly Unique Skunk Reunion (cont.)

see the future. Unless they successfully balance these competing interests, small museums run the real risk of becoming irrelevant.

Jack concluded with a strong and optimistic message for museums like the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting. All museums should be valued, but the public tends to overlook the smaller and less visible ones. The irony is that small museums can tell a very powerful story and they often do it in a way that outperforms the big guys. Bigger isn't always better. And more isn't always better. Large museums can be awesome and awe-inspiring, but they can also be tiring as you plod from one gallery to the next, wondering if it will ever end.

On the other hand, small museums can connect to people on a more personal and intimate scale, making interaction with docents or museum staff more likely, and making it easier "take it all in." It is also easier to build relationships with stakeholders. Small museums have the freedom to be really different, to be quirky, unusual, and creative. Large, established, mainstream museums that appeal to a mass-market do not have that flexibility. High quality and well trained volunteers or staff can really make a difference. Small museums are less bureaucratic and can measure success quickly. Small museums can be less

stressful, more welcoming, and they are often less expensive to visit.

As for the North Star Museum, Jack noted that we cater mainly to kids. Yes, parents tag along, but most of the people who come through our doors and participate in our programs are young people. And that gives the North Star Museum a wonderful opportunity. If we do a good job, if we make the experience fun and maybe even exciting, it's more likely that our visitors will value and support the Museums in the future as adults.

The North Star Museum must remember that it cannot do everything. One of the dangers of

being a small museum is that it identifies a mission and then thinks it somehow must do everything to accomplish it. But choices must be made and there needs to be an understanding throughout the organization of what the priorities and necessities are. There may be debate about *how* to do something, but there should be no debate about *what* to do if you have a worthy mission that is well defined.

And with that, the 2022 Skunk Reunion concluded. Thinking back on the Skunk Reunion and Jack Johnson's message, it was like Scouting itself—fun with a purpose. See you at the 2023 Skunk Reunion!



During the Skunk Reunion, Jim Rupert was presented with a vintage staff topped with a skunk sculpture. Do you think Jim is happy?

Join the Skunk Service Patrol



Did you know that the Skunks have a service patrol? They do and you can be a part of it. The Skunk Service Patrol meets for service, fellowship, learning, and fun almost every Tuesday from 10 p.m. until about 2 p.m. to inventory, sort, catalog, identify, research, mark, number and then enter Museum collection items into the Museum's data base. The Museum currently possesses many thousands of collections items that need to be processed. The Skunk Service Patrol meetings take place at the Museum's White Bear area warehouse.

Cataloging items for the Museum's collection is much more fun and interesting than you might think at first. It gives you a chance to discover new information about the history and traditions of our shared Scouting heritage. The range of items we see and work with is incredible. The Skunk Service Patrol is the primary working group for Boy Scout items through the Museum's Collections Committee. There is a similar group of vol-

unteers who perform the same function for cataloging the Museum's Girl Scout collection.

Many of us who have been in Scouting for 30, 40, or more years think we know just about everything Scouting but we don't. For example: several months ago, while going through a donated collection from a Wisconsin Scouter, we ran across a 1969 National Jamboree newsletter. The 1969 National Jamboree was held at Farragut State Park in Idaho. One article in the newsletter stood out. Its title was "Take Charge First Lady Lures Swarms of Boys." The article featured an interview with Lady Baden-Powell, who attended the 1969 Jamboree. She was asked by the young Scout reporter if she knew where the word "Jamboree" came from. She explained that her husband, Boy Scout Founder Lord Baden-Powell, invited Scout Scouts from a number of countries to come to England for a big get together in the mid-1920's. In so doing, he was looking for a name for the event. One suggestion came from Australia but did not like it. So, he came up with the name on his own. As "B.P." later explained to her, boys were "all jammed together" at big Boy Scout events, therefore he came up with "Jamboree." Of course, the word "Jamboree" remains alive and well in 2022.

If you would like to join the fun and fellowship that is the Skunk

Service Patrol, just contact Gary Gorman. You can find him at: gormangary13@hotmail.com or you can phone him at 651-428-6097. If you would like to volunteer to work on the Museum's Girl Scout collection, just give Bonna Scherer a call at 651-235-1128.

'Squeeze of Encouragement'

Take-Charge First Lady Lures Swarms of Boys

Lady Baden-Powell is the "first lady" of Scouting throughout the world. It was only natural the lady didn't want, as she said, to see more of those "terrible pictures of myself, blowing my nose or sneezing."

So, upon her arrival at the Jamboree Friday, when confronted by a swarm of Scouts and Explorers outside Headquarters Tent, she took charge.

Mounting a redwood bench on the Avenue of Flags, she started giving directions to one and all:

"Kneel down now, you on the front row, take your picture and creep away, and then the second row can get their pictures."

"Don't get in each other's way, now."

"How many cameras are there at the jamboree?"

A million, one Scout said.

And then began her auctioneer-like chant: "Nearly done? Nearly done? Nearly done?"

Finally, they were done, and she was off and running again with a plan she said she had designed to give "a little squeeze of encouragement" to the boys who wanted to shake her hand—and to do it quickly.

With some little difficulty but calm understanding of their eagerness, she got them lined up in what she wanted to be "a beautiful straight line."

It was something less than that. Nevertheless, "two at a time," she shook hands with all, with the left hand of one boy clasped atop the left hand of the other.

"Good luck" and "have a happy time," she said to each.

Officially, Lady Baden-Powell is the World Chief Guide of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. And the name will be familiar to Scouts, since it was her late



LADY BADEN-POWELL, receives a State of Oklahoma recognition from Rex Pivett of Pawnee, Okla., member of Troop 36 in Camp James J. Storrow.

husband, Robert Baden-Powell, in Scouting in such countries who founded the Scouting as Israel, India, Iceland, Sweden, Holland.

At a press conference, Lady Baden-Powell expressed her delight at the recent step together in Scouting, she said, and that is that "boys should be as many as they can be."

She'll be touring the Jamboree, with Mrs. "Green Bar Bill" Hillcourt as an escort for a few days before taking off on another series of Scouting stops throughout the world.

"You are girls, and you're going to be women," he was quoted as saying.

But, Lady Baden-Powell says Scouting must move with and ahead of the times and "in

recent years the desire for meeting of Scouts from several countries in England in 1920, from within the young people themselves," as they seek to

overcome prejudices, solve problems and undertake community service jointly.

Already, she pointed out, "Australia, he hit upon girls and boys work together at

All those fellows who come all levels and in full partnership would be jammed together."

Lady Baden-Powell explained the origin of "jamboree" in an article from the Saturday July 19, 1969 Jamboree Journal

The Story behind the Museum's World War I War Bond Medallion



This is a close up of the Museum's Liberty Loan medallion revealing the signature of designer Leon Hermant.

As many Museum members know, a bronze medallion was awarded to Minnesota Boy Scouts for selling the most war bonds of any group of Boy Scouts during the second bond drive to support World War I. The drive began in 1917. Rescued from the trash more than once, the World War I Medallion is one of the most unique objects in the Museum's collection. As the Museum puts together an exhibit on the Homefront in both World War I and World War II, we looked more closely at the medallion.

The medallion was sculpted by

Leon Hermant. He likely took the consignment to create the Liberty Bond Medallion in 1918. The story behind the man who designed the medallion has not been told at the Museum—until now.

Hermant was born in France in 1866. He came to the United States to work on the French Pavilion at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. After the exposition, Hermant remained in the United States, basing his work out of Chicago. The year after the World's Fair in St. Louis, he came to St. Paul and worked on



Leon Hermant

the St. Paul Cathedral. At present, we are not sure what he did in the Cathedral. One of his well-known creations is a monument honoring Louis Pasteur, which is in Chicago's Grant Park. The French Government awarded him the Legion of Honor. He continued to create monuments and sculpt decorations for public buildings through the date of his death in 1936.

All of the objects in the Museum's collection have a story to tell. Some, like the World War I Medallion, have more than one. Look for the medallion next time you visit the Museum.



French Building at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition

DATED MATERIAL



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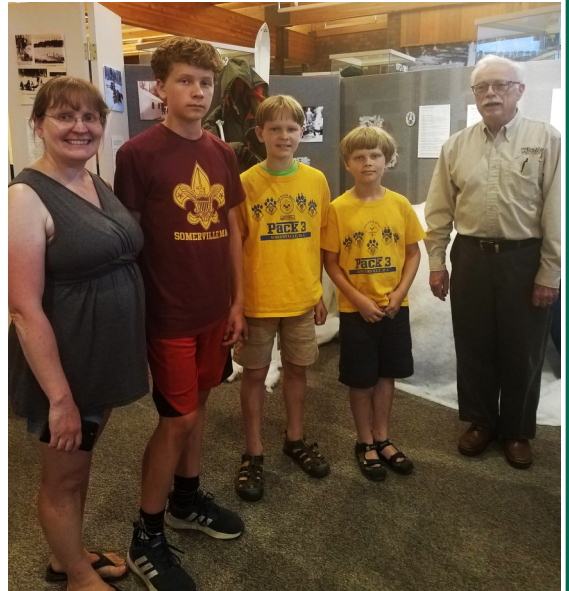
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We're on the web
www.nssm.org

Massachusetts Family Visits the Museum

In June, the Burchand family of Somerville, MA visited the Museum and enjoyed a tour. While dad stayed in the car with a sleeping two-year old, Mother Liga Vilcane and their three boys from Troop 3 toured with Kurt Leichtle. The boys are Tim, Chris, and Richard Burchand.

From right to left: Liga Vilcane and her boys Tim, Chris, and Richard Burchand are shown on their Museum tour with Kurt Leichtle.



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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