



# NORTH STAR MUSEUM

## OF BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING

### Museum News

**Inside this issue:**

It Was an Amazing Derby Night	2
Support the Museum and Help Us Earn a Match	3
New Members and Memorials	3
IN MEMORIAM: Gordy Meeker	4
IN MEMORIAM: Gordy Meeker (continued)	5
Derby Day for Girls	5
Clean-up Day Brings Girls Out for Service	6
Silver Award Project Benefits the Museum	6
Pinewood Derby Prep Lab	7

### A Super Merit Badge Weeks for the Holidays

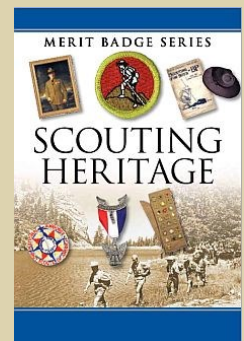
Once again, the Museum is giving kids a chance to advance as they close out 2019. So, there is no reason to sit around during the final days of the year. Instead, sign up for a year-ending merit badge.

The Museum is offering a variety of merit badges the last week of the year. The nine badges being offered include both Eagle required and elective merit badges. Wood carving is being offered for the first time. As always, Museum merit-badge offerings fill fast so if this article is your first notice of Super Merit Badge Weeks for the Holidays—act fast!

Scouts can sign up for and attend sessions in Citizenship in the Nation (12/26/19 at 8:30 a.m.); Citizenship in the World (12/27/19 at 8:30 a.m.); Scouting Heritage (12/27/19 at 8:30 a.m.); Wood Carving (12/27/19, plan on a full day starting at 9:00 a.m.); Bugling (12/27/19 at 1:00 p.m.); Family Life (12/28/19 at 8:30 a.m.); Communications (12/28/19 at 1:00 p.m.); Citizenship in the Community (12/30/19 at 8:30 a.m.); and, Law (12/30/19 at 1:00 p.m.).

As always, the cost for participating in the workshops is \$15, and \$12 for Museum members. To

sign up, just go to the Museum's website, [nssm.org](http://nssm.org), and follow the links. See you at Super Merit Badge Weeks for the Holidays.



### Join Us on Girl Scout Way Badge Day for Girl Scout Brownies and Juniors

Building on the past success of our Girl Scout Way program, the Museum is starting 2020 with an offering of Girl Scout Way Day for Brownies and Juniors. Sign up to participate on Saturday January 26, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

On January 26, girls will have the opportunity to earn the majority of the badge with only a small part to be completed later with your troop. The cost is only \$10 per girl. The price includes a snack. Simply call the Museum (651-748-2880) to register.



**Brownie Way Badge**



**Junior Way Badge**

## It Was an Amazing Derby Night

For the third year in a row, the Museum's *Derby Night at the Museum* "funraiser" was not to be missed. About forty Museum supporters turned out for fun, fellowship, food, and fundraising - all to support the amazing programs offered by the Museum.

As with past events, there were plenty of opportunities to both support the Museum and walk away with some merchandise. The silent auction was back with an incredible variety of items to bid on. Instead of a wall of wine, we featured a "Wine Pull", which guaranteed that every ticket holder would win a bottle of wine. Two Beer Baskets were raffled off for the non-wine drinkers. Thanks to the generosity of sponsor Solo Vino, the wine and beer was acquired at cost so more of the net was available to support the Museum. Finally, the winner of "heads and tails" walked away with half of the pot, with the Museum getting the other half. Just like past events, there were a lot of happy people by the end of the evening.

To go along with all of the fun, the event also offered food and drink. The pulled chicken dinner from Tinucci's was delicious. The money donated for food, wine, and beer also benefited the Museum. A special thank you also goes out to our other event sponsors, Old National Bank and Ideal Credit.

As always, the Pinewood Derby race was the main event. For the second year in a row, the race was expertly managed by Dean Thompson at the entry table and Paul Bartyzal at the computer. A record number of cars - 22 - entered the race. To make things really interesting, none of last year's finishers were able to make the top three. Renee Thompson took first place, followed by Josh Bitz in second, and Biz O'Mara in third. Renee Thompson had the fastest individual heat, at 3.1742 seconds. Her time was the equivalent of 187.95 miles per hour! Rick Smith raced the oldest car, a vehicle that dated all the way back to 1997. By contrast, several cars were less than twenty-four hours old at race time.

Following tradition, the event was spiced up by the best derby hat competition. As soon as she walked in the door, there was a buzz about Nell Nere's derby hat. Sure enough, she was a shoo-in with the judges too. Let's just say she "rode away" with the title.

So, start building your speedy racers for next year's *Derby Night at the Museum*. The date is already set. Put **November 14, 2020** on your calendar and start getting your car ready. Make a new car or bring that car from your youth back to life. Start working on your head gear as well. It is all for a good cause.



Nell Nere rolled away with the Best Derby Hat award.



No, there was not any dancing at Derby Night. This is a photo of the heads and tails raffle.



The crowd is on the edge of their seats during a Derby Night heat.



Museum Board Chair Lorena Palm enjoys Derby Night at the Museum in her Derby Hat.

## Support the Museum and Help Us Earn a Match



Thank you for your continuing support of the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting. Thanks to you, 2019 was a successful programmatic year. The camping exhibit, our permanent Girl Scout exhibit, and the completion of our hands-on history center cemented our place as a “go to” destination for all young men, young women, and adults who are either current members or veterans of the Boy Scout and Girl Scout programs. Your gifts help the Museum maintain and expand its presence and its programming.

This December, your gifts to the Museum are even more meaningful. Thanks to a \$20,000 matching gift from the Katherine B. Andersen Fund of the St. Paul Foundation, the first \$20,000 in new or increased donations we receive before the end of the year will be matched dollar for dollar. There is no better way to leverage your support of the Museum.

The Museum has great plans for 2020 - plans that you can help make happen. Stage 3 of the Camping exhibit, entitled *Winter Camping - Challenging Nature*, will become reality. A second exhibit, *Preparedness: Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts on the Homefronts in the 20th Century*, is also planned. The latter exhibit examines the roles the two youth groups played in raising money, collecting material, and helping to maintain a positive spirit during the two World Wars. We also plan to continue our successful merit badge workshops and S'Mores with Juliette programs. Finally, the Museum plans to capitalize on the popularity of escape rooms by opening an escape room at the Museum for both youth and adults.

Your gift to the Museum brings our presentation and interpretation of the transformative message of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in the United States to more people. We appreciate your generosity. Make your gift before the end of the year to maximize your potential charitable deduction and to help secure our matching gift. The simplest way to give is directly through the Museum's website, at [nssm.org](http://nssm.org). Just click on the word “support.” Thank you for your continued support.

Lorena Palm  
Chair, Board of Directors

Kurt Leichtle  
Acting Executive Director

### New Members

- Mindy Greiling
- Steve Krech

### In Memory of Edna Edd

- Judy Hunter
- Bonna Scherer
- Sandra Craighead
- Sandy Berg Dickson
- Emily White
- Risa Brandon

**Know of anyone  
interested in joining?**

**Contact:**

**Diana Foss**

**651-748-2880 or**

**[dfoss@nssm.org](mailto:dfoss@nssm.org)**

## IN MEMORIAM: Gordy Meeker

Gordon Meeker, long-time Skunk, Scouter, Museum supporter, and supporter of the Pine Bend Scout Club Association, died at the age of 96 on November 8, 2019. Only days before his death, Gordy donated his collection of home-made Pinewood Derby cars to the Museum. Perhaps the best way to remember Gordy is to reprint an excerpt of Gary Gorman's "Volunteer Corner" article from the October 2016 *Museum News*, which featured Gordy. So, what follows is an excerpt from Gary's article.

The subtitle for this article could be "The Deep Roots of Gordon Meeker." [His] Scouting roots [are] almost as old and deep as Scouting itself. Gordon's family Scouting history begins in 1915 in the Southwest Minnesota community of Pipestone. At that time, his father, a local attorney, became one of the organizers of the brand-new Sioux Council. The council then covered parts of three states: Southwest Minnesota; South Dakota; and, Iowa. Shortly thereafter, Gordon's father went on to be the council's first President. Gordon was born on June 19, 1923 and joined the Boy Scouts as soon as he could in 1935 at age 12. He was a member of Troop 21 in Pipestone. In 1937, his family moved to Saint Paul. Gordon then transferred to Troop 34. Within a few months of his joining, the unit became Sea

Scout Ship 34. Not many of us can claim to have been both a Boy Scout and a Sea Scout but Gordon can. Prior to his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, Gordon earned his Eagle Scout award.

During this same time frame, Gordon joined the Pine Bend Scout Club. He was a part of the group that floated a raft of logs down the Mississippi river, Huck Finn style, to be used as building material for their camp's log cabin, which they built near the river just below what is now the Pine Bend oil refinery. The event is documented on a film that is part of the Museum's collection. Through the Pine Bend Scout Club, Gordon met the late Bob Nelson, who became a lifelong friend and was later a Museum board member. Bob was the founder and long-serving Scoutmaster of Troop 71, which is still going strong today.

During World War II, many Scout leaders were drafted or volunteered to serve in the armed forces. In the military, they wore a different uniform and were involved in a different and much more dangerous kind of outdoor activity. Consequently, the war caused many vacancies in the ranks of adult troop leaders across the country. At age eighteen, Gordon was asked to fill one of those vacancies as Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 32 in Saint Paul. In



**Just days before his death, Gordy Meeker donated his hand-crafted derby cars to the Museum.**

1943 Gordon entered the U.S. Navy. After more than a year of training, he was commissioned as a naval officer. His ship participated in the famous naval battle for Okinawa. Gordon was the ship's gunnery officer. Gordon was discharged in 1946. Like a homing pigeon, he went right back home to Troop 32 and became its Scoutmaster. [At the time of his death], Gordon [was] one of the very few remaining combat veterans of World War II, nearly all of whom are over the age of 90. He is also one of a handful of the original members of the Pine Bend Scout Club.

After the 1950s, Gordon went on to serve in a number of volunteer positions in Scouting, including, Webelos Den leader, Explorer Post leader, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, District roundtable leader, and, several others. Gordon held volunteer positions in the old Skyline, Capitol City, and the North Star districts. Over the years, he

**(Continued on Page 5)**

## IN MEMORIAM: Gordy Meeker (Continued)

also served various positions with the Pine Bend Scouting Association, Pine Bend Foundation, and he served as its Webelos Woods director. In 2004, Gordon was named Skunk of the Year by the Museum.

Obviously, service to youth has been a very large part of Gordon's life. On top of his heavy involvement as a Scouting leader, Gordon also was the volunteer director of the Highland Park Hockey League. Of course, Gordon [was also] an active and effective Museum volunteer. In 2008, Gordon joined the Museum's Service Patrol. An invaluable aid to the Museum, the Service Patrol has helped in many

areas, such as organizing the Museum's extensive Boys Life and Scouting Magazine collections.

The concluding sentence of Gary's article was a fitting tribute to Gordy in 2016 and it remains a fitting tribute today: "How lucky we [were] to have such a long-

serving and faithful Scouter with us! Gordy, thank you for your dedication to the Museum, Scouting, and the public!"



**Gordy Meeker doing what he loved most - working with kids.**

## Derby Day for Girls

The weekend of November 15-16 was definitely a weekend for the Pinewood Derby. In addition to Derby Night at the Museum for adults, the Roseville Girl Scout Service Unit visited the Museum on Sunday, November 16 for its own derby event.

For numbers, the girls rivaled that adult event held the previous evening. Thirty-four girls had a great time racing their cars and eating derby-styled snacks. The race was conducted using the traditional format of three heats so each car can race on each of the three lanes of the track. After three heats, the dif-

ference between the winning girl's time and second place was only 2/10,000 of a second! WOW. If you are associated

with a Girl Scout unit, Pinewood Derby might be a great program for your girls. Call the Museum today to arrange a time.



**The Girl Scout derby event on November 16 included these derby-themed snacks. These went into the stomach - not onto the track.**

## Clean-up Day Brings Girls Out for Service

November 9 was Clean-up Day at the Museum. Our clean-up efforts certainly benefited from the presence of Girl Scout Troop 57863. The troop is based in Woodbury. Over seventy bags of leaves were bagged that day. Girls, we could not have done it without you. Thank you.



**Girl Scout Troop 57863 helped rake leaves during Clean-up Day at the Museum on November 9.**

## Silver Award Project Benefits the Museum

The Museum has always offered service and advancement opportunities for youth. Angela and Rachel Ernst of Girl Scout Troop 51047 recently took advantage of the opportunity. They decided to complete their Silver Award project at the Museum. To earn the Girl Scout Silver Award, girls have to complete a project that requires a minimum of fifty-hours to complete.

For their project, Angela and Rachel targeted a number of much-needed outdoor projects on the Museum grounds. They took a comprehensive approach. First, they cleared out bushes, shrubs, and trees on the South side of the parking lot. Then, they brought in fresh dirt and planted new grass seed. Finally, they purchased and built a new fire pit. The fire pit may now be used for programs and activities at the Museum using real wood. Never before has a real and usable fire pit been available at the Museum.

Every time you enjoy the Museum's fire pit, you will have Angela

and Rachel Ernst to thank. Congratulations, girls. And, thank you.



**Angela and Rachel Ernst proudly display the new fire pit they built for the Museum.**

DATED MATERIAL



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DECEMBER 2019

North Star Museum  
of Boy Scouting  
and Girl Scouting  
2640 East 7th Avenue  
North St. Paul, MN 55109  
Phone: 651-748-2880  
E-mail: [dfoss@nssm.org](mailto:dfoss@nssm.org)

**We're on the web**  
**[www.nssm.org](http://www.nssm.org)**

## Come to the First Ever Pinewood Derby Prep Lab

Did you ever want to build the perfect Pinewood Derby car? Do you lack information to share with your son or daughter about how they can build the perfect Pinewood Derby car? Well, the Museum's Pinewood Derby Prep Lab on January 11, 2020 is for you.

From 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on January 11, come over to the Museum for your opportunity to talk with experienced Pinewood Derby fathers about your car. Pinewood Derby kits will be available for purchase, and a pit workshop will be set up where you can learn how to construct and fine tune your car. With your car rolling like a fine-tuned machine, go ahead and run your car on the Museum's state-of-the art Pinewood Derby track.

The fee for this incredible opportunity is the normal Museum admission fee (\$6 for adults and \$4 for youth). A small price to pay for this kind of advice and assistance. See you at the Pinewood Derby Prep Lab on January 11.

---

*Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, Diana Foss, 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.*

© 2019 North Star Scouting Memorabilia Inc.