

DECEMBER  
2022

NORTH STAR MUSEUM  
OF BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING  
*Museum News*

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### The Escape Room Is Back

The Museum's Escape Room is back starting in January. Last year, it proved to be one of our more popular new programs in years. The Museum's Escape Room, with its Egyptian theme, may be a perfect activity for the groups you work with. You could sign up just for the Escape Room or you could package your trip to the Museum with a tour of the gallery and a visit to the Escape Room.

We have scheduled times for the Escape Room on a first come, first served basis. The January dates and times are:

- Friday, January 13 at 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, January 14 at 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, January 16 (MLK Day) at 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, January 20 at 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, January 21 at 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Keep an eye on the Museum's web site for the announcement of February dates. The cost for the Escape Room is \$15 per person. Call the Museum at 651-748-2880 to schedule your unit or your group for an exciting and mystical visit to the Museum's Escape Room. You can also email Carissa Meyer at [carissa.meyer@nssm.org](mailto:carissa.meyer@nssm.org). Groups can pay at the door based on actual attendance. Good luck making your escape—you'll need it.



A group of Scouts try to figure their way out of one of the rooms at the Museum's Escape Room.

### Please Cast Your Vote - Announcing Our Board Elections

About the time you receive this issue of the *Museum News*, you will also receive another communication from the Museum. You may even have received it already. It is the package for the Museum's annual Board of Directors election. Your vote is important because it ensures the ongoing effective lead-

ership and management of the Museum. The election package contains a cover letter, a ballot, and the biographies of the officers and directors up for election. Also included in the election package is the Museum's 2021 Annual Report. Special thanks to Terri Anderson for her work writing and designing

the Annual Report.

This year, all of the officer positions are up for election. Lorena Palm, Sandy Craighead, and Jim Stevenson are running for reelection to the positions of Board Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer, respectively. We are also (Continued on Page 2)

## Please Cast Your Vote - Announcing Our Board Elections (cont.)

happy to announce that Terri Anderson is running for Board Secretary. With the support of the membership, we look forward to Terri's return to the Board of Directors. Of course, she has remained an active volunteer, but it will be nice to have her back on the Board.

The ballot also contains the name of three director candidates. Two have been on the Board before. Kurt Leichtle most recently served as our interim Executive Director. Bonna Scherer was required by the term limits provision in our By-Laws to step off the Board for at least a year. She has remained active as a volunteer during the

past year, and she has graciously accepted the invitation to return as a director.

We also have a first-time Board candidate in Joe Glenski. Joe has been a Boy Scout leader for over forty-five years, and he has been a member of the Museum for over fifteen years. He is an Eagle Scout and if you have been involved in Northern Star Council activities, you have seen him. He has served as a Scoutmaster, District Commissioner, Council Activities Chair, and NOAC Lead Adviser, just to name a few of his roles. By day, Joe works as a Senior Distinguished Technologist at Hewlett Packard Enterprise, leading a team focused on

supercomputer performance. To top things off, Joe is not the first Glenski to seek election to the Museum's Board. Joe's mother, Mary Glenski, spent a number of years on the Museum's Board.

So, enjoy your Annual Report but do not get so absorbed with the report that you forget to vote. Please send us your vote before the end of the year. You can mail your ballot in or vote online. Just follow the instructions that come with your ballot. Once the ballots are cast and counted, we will announce the results in the February *Museum News*.

## In Memoriam: Frances Hesselbein by Lorena Palm

This past week you may have noticed one of the many news stories noting the death of Frances Hesselbein, the former CEO of Girl Scouts of the USA, at age 107. She had incredible energy and worked at her office right up to the end. The photo accompanying this article was taken on her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday.

My Frances Hesselbein memory is about that incredible energy. I was the CEO for the Girl Scout Council in Grand Rapids, MI, and we asked her to come to speak at the dedication of our new \$1.8 million-dollar dining hall at our camp. She arrived on a flight direct from a speaking engagement in Europe, went to an

evening reception at the home of the former CEO for Bury Lu Cookies, went to her hotel, and rose in the morning to speak at an early breakfast gathering of local heads of non-profits before going to camp for the dining hall ceremony. From her camp appearance, we took her to the airport to fly home to New York City. She was 90 years old at that point.

Frances Hesselbein's contributions to the Girl Scouts were many but in my mind her greatest accomplishment was to change the organization from one of primarily white girls to a more diverse group. Her message to us as CEO's was, "If they



**Former Girl Scouts of the USA  
CEO Frances Hesselbein.**

look at us, do they see themselves?" We all understood that looking like a diverse organization would promote a greater diversity among girl members. We worked hard to make that a reality . . . for Frances. May she rest in peace. She earned it.

## Gallery Talks – A New Way to Enjoy the North Star Museum and the History of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting

Starting in 2023, there will be a new way to enjoy the Museum and learn more about the history of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting. With our Gallery Talks series, the Gallery does not actually talk. Rather, you will have the chance to hear a subject matter expert on the history of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting present a topic of interest.

Historian and history professor emeritus Kurt Leichtle will present the Museum's first Gallery Talk on January 28, 2023 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in the Founders Hall. Dr. Leichtle is the for-

mer interim director of the Museum and professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin River Falls. Dr. Leichtle has been involved with Boy Scouts for thirty-two years as a youth, then as a leader for his sons' pack and troop, and then as an adult at the district and council level, as well as working with the Museum.

Dr. Leichtle's Gallery Talk topic is "Scouting: Caught Between the Country and the City." The talk discusses the founding of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and places those origins into the context of American culture and

history. That context creates a tension between urban growth and the desire to retain rural, frontier heritage. The two organizations sought a way to operate in both worlds. The story sets the scene for how each organization searched for growth and success.

Come and join the discussion. Light Refreshments will be served. The Gallery Talk is free for members. For non-members, the charge is \$10, which includes admission. See you in the Gallery!

## 2022 Holiday Hop

On Saturday December 10, the North Star Museum participated



**Girl Scout units operated a professional looking boutique at the Museum during the Holiday Hop.**

in the North St. Paul Holiday Hop. As people streamed into downtown North St. Paul, local businesses and organizations, such as the Museum, opened their doors to the public.

To greet the public, the Museum was prepared with Girl Scout Troops who participated in a Boutique. The Boutique contained items that could be purchased for personal or holiday gifts. The proceeds will help fund trips and events for the girls in the troop. In addition, the North St Paul Service Unit again led crafts for kids of all ages to make and take home. Hot cocoa was served to keep everyone warm and cozy. During the Holiday Hop, over 90 people visited the Museum.



**Santa dropped by the Museum for an appearance at the Holiday Hop.**



### Derby Night at the Museum Was a Hit

On November 12, over thirty enthusiastic racers and spectators came to the Museum for the 2022 Derby Night at the Museum “funraiser”. In addition to the big race, those present enjoyed a barbeque dinner, desserts, wine, beer, and soft drinks. Special thanks to our event sponsors, North St. Paul History Cruzers, T.A. Schifsky & Sons, Inc., Berwald Roofing & Sheet Metal, and Arthur O. Haukland VFW Post 1350.

On top of the fun, food, and refreshments, those present could support the Museum by making a purchase at the silent auction; bidding on one of five custom Pinewood Derby Cars designed, built, and donated by nationally renowned artist Jimmy Longoria; and buying a chance to win one

of the wall of wine/beer drawings. There were plenty of smiling faces during and after the event.

Speaking of the big race, the main event was held on the Museum’s state-of-the-art Pinewood Derby track. It was amazing to see the artistry and engineering on display as the cars raced down the track. With Paul Bartyzal at the computer, cars were timed to the nearest 100th of a second. Each car ran four heats, one in each of the four lanes. If there is a big race there must be big winners, and at Derby Night we had a bunch. Past Best Derby Hat winner Tom Welna took first place in the big race. He also had the fastest heat, measured at 197.93 mph. John Viktora-Croke fin-



Thank you to our Derby Night sponsors.

ished in second place and Josh Bitz was the third-place finisher. There were many creative derby hats in the crowd this year but the Best Derby Hat winner was Kristina Viktora-Croke. Congratulations one and all.

Plans are already being made for Derby Night at the Museum next year. It is not too early to start working on your car. See you at Derby Night 2023!



The winners of the Big Race show off their trophies and their cars. Left to right are John Viktora-Croke (second place), Tom Welna (first place), and Josh Bitz (third place).



Kristina Viktora-Croke models her winning Best Derby Hat.



All of the candidates for Best Derby Hat gather for a pre-award photo.



The gallery roots for their favorite car at Derby Night.

## Year-End Merit Badges Coming to the Museum

Once again, the Museum is offering a number of merit badges during the last week of the year. That is good news for both kids (“I need the badge”) and parents (“I need the kid out of the house”). Online registration is already open for our slate of year-end merit badge offerings. Just register through our website at [nsm.org](http://nsm.org). The registration fee remains unchanged: \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members.

This year, six year-end merit badges are scheduled. They are all Eagle required and include all four of the Citizenship merit badges. Two merit badges are being offered on Tuesday, December 27. First, we are offering Citizenship in Society merit badge from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Second, we are offering Com-

munication merit badge from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

One merit badge is being offered on Wednesday, December 28. Scouts can participate in a Citizenship in the Community merit badge workshop from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Two more merit badges are being offered on Thursday, December 29. Scouts can attend a session of Citizenship in the Nation from 8:30 a.m. to noon. That afternoon, Citizenship in the Community is being offered from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The final merit badge being offered by the Museum in 2022 is on Friday, December 30. That morning, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Scouts have an opportunity to earn Citizenship in the

World merit badge.

All of the merit badges have registration limits. So, if you want to ensure your spot, register as soon as possible. Kids want to commit early anyway to allow sufficient time to prepare. Each counselor sends an information/instruction sheet to registrants at the time of registration. The sheet is also available on the website. Since the Scout motto is “Be Prepared,” the counselors expect the Scouts to read the sheet and prepare accordingly.

Advancement is a great way to end the year. If you earn your merit badge in 2022, that is one less New Year’s resolution in 2023! Sign up for a year-end merit badges at the Museum today.

## More Derby Night Photos



**Acclaimed artist Jimmy Longoria shows off the five cars he designed and built. All five sold at Derby Night to lucky bidders.**



**Dean Thompson ably operated the starting gate at Derby Night.**

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

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

## Include the Museum in Your Year-End Giving Plans

Here we are in late December. The year 2022 is almost over. Your chance to make a charitable gift in time for a deduction on your 2022 tax return ends on December 31. There is still time for you to make a year-end gift to the Museum and we would be appreciative. Your gift to the Museum will help in many ways, ranging from cataloging our

collection to our educational programs for youth and adults (the Escape Rooms, Merit Badge Workshops, overnights for units and special museum tours). We try to make it easy to make a gift. You can make a gift right on the Museum's website at [www.nssm.org](http://www.nssm.org). Thank you for your considering the Museum in your 2022 giving plans.

## MUSEUM HOURS

**Monday - Friday**  
**by appointment only**

**Wednesday & Saturday**  
**10 am - 2 pm**

*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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