



# NORTH STAR MUSEUM

OF BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING

## Museum News

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### Calling All Skunks!

While some may be caught off guard by the early spring and another swiftly progressing year, rest assured that The Order of the Odor is already deep into planning for the 2016 Skunk Reunion. Here are the aromatic details: Saturday, June 4, 2016, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Fred C. Andersen Camp's Good Medicine Lodge.

It is easy to be a Skunk. If you are a member of the Museum and you have been active in Boy Scouting for fifteen years or more, YOU ARE a Skunk. So, start getting your smell on and plan on attending another pungent Skunk Reunion! First-time stinkers are especially welcome.

This year Jim Rupert and Russ Edhlund have a program that is guaranteed to entertain and delight. Of course, Charlie Opp will be up to his old tricks in the kitchen preparing a fabulous lunch. The cost is just \$13 per person and you must RSVP. To give us a stinky heads up, just



Here is a scene from the 2015 Skunk Reunion. Don't miss the 2016 Reunion.

contact Diana at 651-748-2880 or email her at [dfoss@nssm.org](mailto:dfoss@nssm.org).

A highlight of the Skunk Reunion is the announcement of Skunk of the Year. We need your help to make sure our selection committee is aware of the most deserving and malodorous Skunks. Please nominate someone for the recognition. The nomination form is in this issue of the *Museum News* and will be posted on the Museum web site.

Join the fun. Come to the 2016 Skunk Reunion.

Help us boost our "total years of Scouting in one room" number to an all-time high. Last year, the total reached 34,117! See you there.



Barbara Herrmann and Dave Novy, the 2015 Skunks of the Year, are pictured above enjoying their "Skunkware." Who will receive the 2016 award?

## Why Are YOU a Member?

In this issue of *Museum News*, you can read long-time member Joe Reding's essay explaining why the North Star Museum is so important. Joe got us thinking: Why are YOU a member of the Museum? The reasons are likely as vast and varied as there are members. We would like to hear your story and share them to inspire others in future issues of our newsletter.

Here is some recent feed back from a member that will get you thinking. From Jean Keller: *"I had heard a lot about the Museum from my Pine Bend colleagues. The Pine Bend Association has donated some of their historic artifacts there. I was impressed with the collections and how they were displayed. I also enjoy the camaraderie of sharing memories with other Scouters at the museum."* We

want to know if you agree or if you have a different reason to appreciate the Museum.

Museum membership certainly has its privileges. Have you taken advantage of the priority booking that members receive for programs and events? Merit badge workshops are a case in point. *Did you know that with a Troop Membership, your Scouts get priority booking for Merit Badge Workshops AND they get a discount!?* Members also get invitations to special "members only" events, the bi-monthly *Museum News Newsletter*, discounts on programs, discounts in the Museum Gift Shop, and more. Most importantly, your membership helps us continue to preserve your Boy Scout and Girl Scout memories and history. Thanks to your support, we

continue to tell your stories and showcase your adventures. Of course, YOU are already a member – and we hope you will choose to remain a part of the North Star Museum family for a long time to come. In the meantime, we would appreciate assistance in our efforts to bring in many more friends of the Museum. Please tell your fellow Scouters, neighbors, friends, and colleagues about us!

So, send us your thoughts on why YOU are a member of the North Star Museum. Tell us why what we do is so *important to you*. And, help us grow by telling your friends about the Museum. Just call Diana at 651-651-748-2880 or email what you would like to say to: [sdelatorre@nssm.org](mailto:sdelatorre@nssm.org).

## How to Get a Spot and Save A Buck

Those of you who have booked a Merit Badge Workshop at the Museum have probably noticed that they fill up FAST! Why? **Because we offer our members priority booking and discounts.**

Members of the North Star Museum get first "dibs" to register for workshops before dates are announced to the public. Want to ensure that you get the into the Merit Badge Workshops you need? **Become a member of the North Star Museum!**

There is another reason to become a Museum member.

**Individual members receive a \$3 discount off the \$13 registration fee.**

For youth who cannot afford individual membership, there is another way to obtain both priority booking and discounted merit badge registration. **Enroll your unit in a Troop membership.** Troop memberships are just \$75 and offer most of the benefits of individual memberships – including priority booking of Merit Badge Workshops AND up to five \$3 individual discounts off Merit Badge Workshop registrations. Troops may even purchase

more Merit Badge Workshop individual discounts. Additional individual discount certificates may be purchased from the Museum by member troops for \$3 each, or 10 for \$25.

Don't wait until the summer's Super Merit Badge Week sessions are sold out. Become a Member – or Troop member – of the North Star Museum TODAY. Go to our website: [www.nssm.org](http://www.nssm.org) and click on membership or call our office for details. 651-748-2880

## Your 2016 at the Museum

Your Museum staff and our valued volunteers have a busy, fun, and educational year planned for you. To help you plan your visits to the Museum, scroll through this article and mark your calendars. Any event with a Museum presence that is located off-site is noted. Of course, as the year progresses, other events are sure to be added. Then, in addition to these events, there will be the usual full schedule of Merit Badge Workshops. See you at the Museum!

### APRIL

Wednesday 4/27 – Call to History

### MAY

Friday 5/6 – S'mores with Juliette/Pie Irons, 6:30–8 pm

Saturday 5/14 – DAY CAMP (Fishing/Conservation), 1–4 pm

### JUNE

Saturday 6/4 – Skunk Reunion/Fred C. Andersen Camp, 11 am–2 pm

Tuesday 6/14 – Volunteer Appreciation Night, 6–8 pm

### JULY

Tuesday 7/12 – Annual Meeting, 6:30–8 pm

Saturday 7/16 – Twilight Camp (Time TBD)

### AUGUST

Friday 8/5 – S'mores with Juliette/Songs and Sisterhood, 6:30–8 pm

### OCTOBER

Friday 10/7 – S'mores with Juliette/Camp Cooking (*Boy Scouts welcome!*), 6:30–8 pm

Saturday 10/15 – Jamboree on the Air (all day)

Friday 10/28 – S'mores with Juliette/Birthday Celebration, 6:30–8 pm

Saturday 10/29 – University of Scouting/Osseo

### NOVEMBER

Saturday 11/12 – Founders Hall, 11:00 am–2:00 pm

### DECEMBER

Saturday 12/10 – Holiday Hop and Bazaar, 10:00 am–3:00 pm

### *New Members*

### *Since February*

**2016**

- **Boy Scout Troop 9218**
- **Daniel Carlson**
- **Gene & Kathy Johnson**
- **Peter & Cindy Sanders**
- **Elizabeth Spittle**

### *Gift In Tribute to*

***Jim Rupert &***

***Charlie Opp***

- **Mary Ann Corbey**

## Super Merit Badge Workshops Are Coming Your Way this Summer!

It is not too early to plan for the 2016 edition of Super Merit Badge Weeks at the Museum. As always, we will pack as many merit badge opportunities as we can into each week. This year, you should plan your schedule around a week of merit badges during the weeks of June 20, July 11, and August 8.

The workshops will be announced when registration opens about a month before each of the weeks. We are currently signing up counselors. However, based on past years, we hope to offer one or more sessions of the following badges: Citizenship in the Community; Citizenship in the Nation; Citizenship in the World; Collections; Textiles; Personal Fitness; Hiking; Family Life; Medicine; Communications; Personal Management; and Genealogy. Watch the Museum website and your e-mail in-box (if you are an individual or unit member) for the announcement of our schedule. The merit badge classes often sell out. So, if you are a Scout, you want to sign up quickly, and if you are an adult, get the word out to the Scouts you know.

We are always looking to expand our list of merit badge offerings. If you are a registered Northern Star Council merit badge counselor and have a current youth protection training certificate, you are eligible.

Registering as a counselor with NSC is easy with this link: <http://www.northernstarbsa.org/AdvancementAwards/BoyScout/MeritBadgeCounselors.aspx>. We would like to add you to our powerful arsenal of counselors. Just call John Guthmann (651-276-2133) or send him an

e-mail ([jguthmann@msn.com](mailto:jguthmann@msn.com)). You could find yourself on the schedule this summer for a rewarding counseling experience. Spread the word—Super Merit Badge Weeks are coming!



Come to the Museum eager to learn when you attend a Merit Badge Workshop.



Will Sulzbach maps out the hike plan for Hiking Merit Badge.

## Tales of Valor through the Eyes of History

Throughout the long history of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting, there are many stories of acts requiring amazing courage. Acts of daring, quick thinking, and fearlessness. North Star Museum is full of these stories of valor and adventure, and they are all waiting for you to experience them. An excellent example is the Museum's exhibit honoring an Minnesota Eagle Scout, Order of the Arrow member, and Priest - Father Timothy Vakoc. He served our country in Iraq as a member of the Army's Chaplain Corp. He was injured in an IED explosion and returned home to the states only to die of his wounds. A Scout is Brave and this exhibit details his adventures in courage and his ultimate sacrifice.



Learn about the courage of Father Tim at the Museum.

In the Museum gift shop, you can acquire a brand new book that details many acts of courage and daring. *Running Toward Danger*, by Michael S. Malone, is a chronicle of the astounding acts of bravery performed by Boy Scouts recognized by the organization's heroism awards. A number of the stories, including some of the earliest heroism

award recipients, feature Minnesota Boy Scouts. One of those Minnesotans is Edward Grout, a 14-year-old Scout from Dayton's Bluff, who saved fellow Scout Floyd Rogers from falling to his death while climbing along the cliffs of Battle Creek. As Malone writes in the book, *"Shouting Floyd's name, Grout reached out his left hand and caught the other boy by the wrist. At the same moment, he reached back and grabbed the only thing he could to save himself – a small oak sapling growing out of the rocks. . . . As in a scene from a movie, Edward Grout gripped the tree while Floyd Rogers dangled over the precipice, clinging to him, while below their fellow scouts looked up in horror."* This book, as well as the many artifacts and stories in the North Star Museum, is, indeed, a testament to the profound impact Boy Scouting has on young lives.

The Girl Scouts are no exception. Hailed for their service to home and country during World War II, the Girl Scouts continue to generate inspiring stories of valor, courage, and ingenuity. Just look at the story of Sophia Goettke, a recent Girl Scout River Valleys Gold Award Recipient recognized for her unique project on disaster resilience. Her Gold Award Project, *Expect the Unexpected*, focused on making her hometown of Rochester, MN more disaster resilient. As Sophia wrote:

"None of us are immune from life's challenges. Sometimes these challenges are small, and sometimes [they are] large, but they are often unexpected, unplanned, and sometimes even unimagined. But what if we thought differently? What if we expected these challenges and anticipated how we might be better prepared?" Now there's a Girl Scout who outsmarts a dangerous situation by giving people tools to circumvent the potential hazard. Here is a link to Sophia's web site: <http://www.xpecttheunexpected.org/>



Sophia Goettke and her Gold Award project.

When you visit our Museum, plan to immerse yourself in tales of valor, the stories of courage, and the life lessons that are only found in the adventures of a Boy Scout or a Girl Scout. We are a destination museum for you, your Pack, your Troop, your Alumni, for families, and for the entire community.

## Forever Green Breakfast Honors One of Our Own

Saturday, March 12, 2016 was not only the Girl Scout Birthday (Happy 104<sup>th</sup>!), it was also the date for this year's Forever Green Alumnae Breakfast. The program included presentations by Girl Scouts River Valleys CEO Tisha Bolger and was emceed by the vivacious A.J. Steinbring. Tisha Bolger gave a rousing update and Beth Voermans, Girl Scout River Valleys Board of Directors Second Vice-Chair and North Star Museum member, gave an outstanding reflection, recounting the Brownie story. The highlight of the cele-

bration was the announcement of the five recipients of the Forever Green Award. Announced by Kathy Scholer, North Star Museum Board Vice Chair Lorena Palm was one of the honored recipients. Lorena's extensive contributions to Girl Scouting were celebrated and the tribute Kathy recited ended with "Juliette Gordon Low would have enjoyed knowing and working with Lorena, she would have been proud to see Lorena dedicate her life to serving girls." Congratulations, Lorena!



Lorena Palm shares a smile as she receives the Forever Green Award.

## A Tribute Gift with Heart

On March 17, 2016, the Museum received a significant gift from Mary Ann Corbey in honor of Charlie Opp and Jim Rupert. For many years, both have worked with Troop 594, which is a unit for developmentally disabled and brain-injured men. One of those men was Steve Lape. It was only a few short years ago that Steve completed his Eagle project at the Museum. Then, when he earned his Eagle badge, the Court of Honor was held with great fanfare at the Museum. Sadly, Steve recently passed away. In honor of Charlie and Jim, and others who make Scouting available to disabled children and adults, Mary Ann, who is Steve Lape's aunt, made her tribute gift to the Museum.



The Eagle ceremony for the late Steve Lape was a meaningful and moving event at the Museum.

Mary Ann's own words best describe the significance of Charlie and Jim's work: "This gift is a very big thanks to Charlie Opp and Jim Rupert for the beautiful Scout Life they gave Steve and his family these past 40 years. . . . Charlie, Jim, and other leaders gave Steve a full life being a Scout. . . . May God bless them!" Well said, Aunt

Mary Ann. Well said.

If you would like to make a Tribute Gift in honor of someone special, go to our website at [www.nssm.org](http://www.nssm.org), scroll down to the bottom of the first page, and click on "Donate." Our secure donation site will walk you through a tribute gift.

## A Few Words from a Long-Time Museum Supporter

I cannot say that I have been connected to the Museum for all of its forty years. However, I do remember giving tours at the Museum's old Midwest Plastics facility. I also know I gave my father a tour in 1995 when he came to town for my Silver Beaver ceremony.

I am the reason that there is a tenure requirement to join the Skunks. Somebody told Gramps that he needed to find some younger members. They probably meant someone in their 60's. Instead, he recruited someone in his 20's. At my first Skunk Reunion, I think I pulled the average age down two years. They were kind enough to "grandfather" me in; probably the oddest use of that term ever.

Members and supporters of the North Star Museum, thank you for keeping Scouting history alive. Thank you for finding the right balance between a modern museum "experience" and that traditional pile of stuff leaving interpretation to the viewer.

The biggest struggle we face in our society today is that young people do not really believe anything they see. In 1989, I was Scoutmaster for an Indianhead Contingent Troop to the National Jamboree. One of our stops was the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. We were there a couple of hours and I was at the rendezvous location

early. One of the Scouts walked up and did not seem too impressed. I asked him if he had touched the moon rock, which was the only piece of the moon available to the general public anywhere in the world. He said "no" but after some urging he went over and touched it. The Scout returned somewhat impressed. I told him "do you understand that that silver plane hanging there is the actual plane that first flew the Atlantic, and next to it is the actual plane that first flew at Kitty Hawk? Everything you see here is real!" As I described these and other "real deal" museum items, a look of wonder crossed his face and I wished we could have stayed longer.

NASA struggles for a budget because anyone with a laptop has "been to Mars" and the pictures from "The Martian" are so much better than anything NASA can produce. Every Scout you can convince that the basic Scouting experience stays the same, despite equipment changes, is a success. Scouting is one of the few places a young person can experience a real society, where their decisions and actions effect not only themselves but those they are living with, and in many cases, responsible for.

Last summer a gentleman who belonged to our sponsoring church died. It turned out he had been a Scoutmaster back in



Long-time Museum member and supporter Joe Reding.

the day and often had asked our Institutional Rep how the Troop was doing. The Rep asked the widow if she would like the Troop to be involved in the funeral. She did and word was passed to the Scouts. I could tell the Scouts were confused by the situation. I told them Scouting is a society and one of a society's responsibilities is burying their dead. After the funeral, the Scouts carried his urn the seven blocks to the cemetery. I suspect it was the first funeral for some of the Scouts. I think they learned something that day.

I hope our Scouts learn something about the real world every time we get together. Thank you, North Star Museum, for recording the real past, sharing it with the future, and keeping it real.

Međ skátakveđju/Yours in Scouting

Joe Reding

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## Scouting Memory of the Month

Last month, Bailey Vanguilder, a Boy Scout from Troop 44 in the Voyageur Council visited the Museum with his mom Sue. They came to the Museum all the way from Duluth. Both had a wonderful time touring all the exhibits and absorbing the stories they tell.

As we do with many young visitors, Bailey was asked to share his own favorite Scouting story. He chose to describe a scary moment while camping with his troop at Camp Phillips. A strong storm came through the area. It was so powerful that trees were uprooted. In the middle of the night, a mighty birch fell perilously close to



**Bailey Vanguilder and his mom Sue.**

Second Class Scout Bailey. As he describes it, "I almost got killed!" Now that's scary. Thankfully, no one was hurt and the troop enjoyed the rest of its camping adventure.

Thank you for visiting us Bailey and Sue. We always welcome visits from Scouts in outlying councils. We also treasure the addition of your stories to the fabric of the Scouting tradition we share with visitors.

*Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, Shirley De la Torre, John Guthmann, Claudia Nicholson, 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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