



NORTH STAR MUSEUM

BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING

Museum News

August 2012

PLAN YOUR FALL AT THE MUSEUM: START WITH THE ANNUAL MEETING

Coming off an incredibly successful summer, the Museum's staff and volunteers are already thinking about fall. You know, back to school, changing colors and the North Star Museum Annual Meeting.

Plan to attend this year's Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 6 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Museum, the newly-named Rosene Center. Prior to the business meeting, the Guthmann Family Gallery will be open for viewing. If you have not seen the new Girl Scout display, this is your chance. As you know, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America are wrapping up their Centennial as 2012 comes to a close.

For the third year in a row, the Annual Meeting will also feature a silent auction to benefit the Museum. The silent auction is usually filled with items ranging from the functional and eclectic to the collectible. You will have an opportunity to go home with something interesting and help out the Museum at the same time. If you have something to donate to the silent auction, just give Claudia a call or drop her an e-mail.

Annual Meeting (continued on Page 2)



Pictured above are attendees serving up their catered lunch at the 2011 Annual Meeting

ENJOY SOME QUALITY TIME AT THE MUSEUM THIS FALL

The Museum has some new programs in the offing this Fall. We are planning something for everyone.

First up are two programs for new Boy and Girl Scout leaders: "Boy Scout History for New Leaders", to be held on Thursday, September 20, from 7-8:30 p.m. This program, led by Museum board member Kurt Leichte, will focus on the founding and 100-year history of Boy Scouting in the United States. Then, on Thursday, November 8, from 7-8:30 p.m., Board member Robbi Moore will lead our "Girl Scout History for New Leaders" program. The workshop will focus on the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting in the United States, and the movement's early history. These programs present a great opportunity for new leaders to either brush up on or learn for the first time the long and honorable history of Boy and Girl Scouting.

Fall (continued on Page 6)
Museum News - Aug. 2012

Annual Meeting (continued from Page 1)

After enjoying your look at some of the new items in our gallery, you will be able to move over to the Founders Hall for the annual business meeting. There, we are planning to announce the results of the annual Board of Directors election and recognize our volunteers. In addition, we are planning a guest speaker and Claudia will bring us up to date on “the State of the Museum.”

Following the meeting, enjoy a catered lunch. Although the Annual Meeting is designed as a member’s event, you should also think about bringing your friends to show off our institution. More details will appear in the members mailing, which you will receive shortly. The mailing will include the Annual Meeting registration form the Board of Directors election ballot. We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting!

THIS MUSEUM IS HOPPING!

The North Star Museum has been hopping all summer. Through a variety of events, ceremonies, celebrations and workshops, hundreds of people have been through our doors. In addition, by way of our Museum Without Walls program, the Museum had a presence at a number of area events. Here is our rather impressive list of the key activities this summer, including a couple of traveling exhibit events:

- Skunk Reunion on June 2 (see June Museum News)
- Court of Honor for six Eagle Scouts on June 3 (see June Museum News)
- Traveling BS/GS anniversary exhibit was back in Windom for Riverfest and the Cottonwood County Fair in June and August, respectively
- Pause to Celebrate on June 14, where we burned the mortgage, celebrated paying off building and named our building and gallery (see June Museum News)
- Northwest District roundtable on the evening of June 14
- Super Merit Badge Week, June 26-29
- Twilight Camp, July 10, 17, 21, 28, and August 7
- Super Merit Badge Week, July 17-20
- Pause to Recognize on July 21 to recognize the Girl Scout Council Archivists and the opening of our Girl Scout Centennial exhibit (see article in this issue)
- S’mores with Juliette on July 27
- Portable displays at the El Sol District event at Base Camp on July 28
- We made our fourth consecutive appearance at the National Order of the Arrow Conference in Michigan by sending a display case with a 1915 uniform
- Great Rivers District Fall Recruiting Kick-off on August 2
- Super Merit Badge Week, August 13-17
- Great Rivers District Program Kickoff/Roundtable, August 16

What a list! According to Executive Director, Claudia Nicholson, “this is the busiest summer we have had since I came to the Museum. And what made the summer even more exciting was the diversity of activities that had some appeal for everyone.” Of course, by the time you are done reading this issue of Museum News, you will see that we are also planning a busy fall. See you soon at the Museum.

PAUSE TO CELEBRATE HONORS HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Our local Girl Scout Council and their legacy councils have a fine tradition of preserving Girl Scout history. The North Star Museum first established a relationship with the volunteer archivists of the St. Croix Valley Council nearly ten years ago. With the help of these enthusiastic volunteers, a substantial and changing Girl Scout exhibit space has been a major focus of the Museum since we opened our North St. Paul building.

Thus, it was more than fitting that we honored the Heritage Committee at our Pause to Celebrate on July 21. The Heritage Committee is made up of the Council Archivists from each of the five Legacy Councils that now make up the Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys. When the councils (St. Croix Valley, Greater Minneapolis, Cannon Valley, Peacepipe and River Trails) were separate, they each had a group of volunteers who collected and used historical material relating to their councils. When the councils were realigned and River Valleys was formed, this group banded together to quintuple the resources and ideas.

Today, each group remains responsible for the material that they have collected. However, they work together on projects like the anniversary exhibit that debuted in March at the Great Girl Gathering. That exhibit is now featured at the Museum. The women of the Heritage Committee are dedicated, well-trained, and very knowledgeable about Girl Scout history, both locally and nationally. Over thirty enthusiastic members and their guests gathered to recognize the efforts of the Heritage Committee at the Pause. Their exhibit is one of the many reasons to visit the Museum this fall. And, if you were not at the Pause and should run into a member of the Heritage Committee, don't forget to thank them for their work and dedication.



Pictured above from left to right are Nancy Klemek, Joan Henry, Lois Gardner, Joan Maronde, Sharon Reece, Bonna Scherer, and Midge Andreas--all members of the Heritage Committee of Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys.

SUMMER TREASURES REVEALED

From time to time, wonderful new collections are donated to the Museum. The Museum News has reported on some of these gifts in the past. However, we also occasionally find items of incredible interest and value in our existing collection of which we have no institutional memory, could not find or did not realize were in our possession. This summer, we made two great finds in the collection.

The first discovery is a copy of a manuscript written in 1931 by Leon Blehart. Leon was one of four boys who hiked from St. Paul, Minnesota, to San Francisco, California to attend the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, pulling a trek cart almost the whole way. This beautifully-written manuscript describes the whole journey of two of the boys (who split with the rest of the group in Colorado). He told a very amazing story. We intend to make this manuscript, aptly titled *My 3000 Mile Trip to San Francisco*, available to a wider audience one way or the other.

Our second discovery is set of small photographs taken at Camp Tonkawa, called "Glimpses of Camp Tonkawa." The Minneapolis Area Council Camp was on an island in Lake Minnetonka, and is still utilized as a camp today (although not by Boy Scouts). The ten tiny photographs show activities and important places at the camp like the lodge and the dining hall.

We knew that we had both of these items somewhere in the collection, but it took quite a while to uncover them. Who knows what other treasures await rediscovery as we work through the collection? If you would like to see either of these items on your next visit, just ask.

ANOTHER SUCCESS FOR SUPER MERIT BADGE WEEKS

Last year the Museum experimented with a new week-long educational concept for boys during the summer—Super Merit Badge Week. Uncertain whether we could draw boys inside to a museum during the summer, we were pleasantly surprised by the huge influx of boys and many sold-out sessions. Of course, that emboldened us to grow the effort in 2012.

Our second summer of Super Merit Badge Weeks featured three weeks of offerings instead of two. There was one week in June, July and August. Again, there was strong support from our cadre of dedicated volunteer counselors so the offerings were excellent. Thirteen different merit badges were offered through twenty merit badge classes during the three weeks. We succeeded in getting 171 boys into the Museum for an educational experience along with a chance for the boys, and many of their parents, to see our galleries.

Keep your eyes on the website as we plan our fall offering of merit badge workshops. In the meantime, an enthusiastic thank you is extended to our 2012 Super Merit Badge Week counselors: John Capecchi; Bob Dahl; Mike Fratto; Carrie Gott; Tim Jopek; John Kysylyczyn; Claudia Nicholson; Will Sulzbach; and, Dennis Stolp. Also thanks to Merit Badge Workshop Committee member and registrar Carol Forrest and committee members Tim Jopek and John Guthmann.

Museum News - Aug. 2012



Pictured above are a group of boys concentrating at the Coin Collecting Merit Badge Workshop on August 16

Musings from Your Board Chair
By Barb Herrmann



“Wow, you own the building lock, stock and barrel. You received a large grant for the lighting project. You are doing amazingly well.” That seems to be everyone’s reaction. Mine is, “Now what?” Yes, we own the building and yes, we received a large lighting grant from the Minnesota Legacy Fund. But now we need to figure out how to pay salaries, insurance, utilities and programs. The grant money cannot be used for any of those things: it can only be used for the lighting project. We do not receive any funding from either the Boy Scout or Girl Scout Councils. Until the present we have been living on the funds from Dick Carroll’s estate and the generous donations made to the program division of our Journey Campaign. These funds have been largely expended.

Running an effective museum even on a bare-bones budget is costly. Salaries for one and a half staff positions, insurance, utilities and supplies total about \$151,000 per year. Add to that capital needs such as a copier (we currently pay outside vendors for copies) and replacement of computer equipment that dates from the Dick Carroll era and you realize how much help we need from you, our members.

Programming also costs money. We are charging fees for events, but that does not cover the infrastructure cost that makes the program or the event possible. Granted, our institution has come a long way from the humble beginnings of a museum without walls. We are grateful—and proud. However, we continue to need your support. If you are not a Sustaining Member, become one. It is simple: go to <http://givemnr.razoo.com/> and sign up. It is amazing how you don’t miss that money when it comes out of your credit card or bank account monthly. If you are a current Sustainer, consider increasing your monthly amount. Other ways to support the Museum include giving during the annual campaign, which is going on now, and the year-end appeal. The \$35 that it costs for a basic membership pays only a small portion of the benefits you receive. If you are unable to support us financially, consider volunteering your time and talent.

Yes, we own the building, but now we need to keep it open. With your help, we will!



Fall (continued from Page 1)

Girl Scouts should plan to be the Museum on Saturday, September 29, from 10 -11:30 a.m. At that time, we will provide an opportunity for troops and individual girls to complete the water quality activities portion of the requirements to earn the Centennial Day of Service participation patch. The Museum program compliments what the River Valleys Council plans for October 13. That day, environmental projects to improve water quality will be carried out across the council as a wrap up to a year of Centennial events.

Also for adults, we are planning a collectors group, to meet every other month on Saturday mornings. The collectors group presents an opportunity for both Boy Scout and Girl Scout collectors to meet and learn about aspects of their hobby that are of mutual interest (for example, care of collections, insurance, display, and research). The organizing meeting of the collectors group will be held on Saturday, November 17, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Finally, make your plans now to participate in our regular events. These include: the Annual Meeting (October 6); S'mores with Juliette (October 19); the Founder's Hall Recognition (November 10); and, our schedule of fall Merit Badge Workshops.

Further details about all of these events and much more, are available at the Museum's website: www.nssm.org.

Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, 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.

© 2012 North Star Scouting Memorabilia Inc

First Class