



# NORTH STAR MUSEUM

## OF BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING

### Museum News

**Inside this issue:**

Washington County Fair 2

Girl Scout Memory 3

New Members 3

Volunteer Corner 4

Volunteer Appreciation Night 5

Values Kept Here 6

Brownie Overnight 6

MN Field Trip Expo 7

Super Summer for Merit Badges 8

### Annual Meeting and Open House: T-Minus Seven Weeks to Blast Off!

Save the date for this year’s Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 11 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The North Star Museum has experienced tremendous growth and numerous successes: new programs developed and implemented, visitor traffic is up 65% over last year, deep diving into our collections, and getting things inventoried. We also have several amazing new projects poised for lift-off. Included are projects like our Order of the Arrow Anniversary Exhibit and breaking ground on our new hands-on history exhibit this fall which will significantly

change the visitor experience for youngsters.

Join us for a lovely brunch, our annual business meeting, and a “Current Status of the Mission” from Executive Director Claudia Nicholson. The meeting will also include the Board of Directors election results and you will have a chance to meet new and current members of the Board of Directors. The cost for the Annual Meeting is \$20 per person and covers all food, refreshments, and materials for the meeting, including our latest Annual Report.



**Ready for BLAST OFF! - vintage neckerchief slide from the Museum collection**

After the Annual Meeting, stay for our second annual Open House. The Open House will run from noon to 3:00 p.m. The Annual Meeting and Open House will provide perfect opportunities for you to see all that is new at the Museum.

### Plan Your Fall at the Museum

Wow! The North Star Museum has quite a fall planned for you. Now is the time to put some of these key dates in your calendar so you don’t miss the excitement. Just check out what we have in store for you and your family:

#### **The History of Scouting - Scout Leader Training, Thursday, September 25, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

Join Lifetime Boy Scout and Historian Kurt Leichtle for a unique leader opportunity! Learn the history of Scouting – critical knowledge for the fullness of your Scouts Scouting experience. Boy Scout Leaders and Girl Scout Leaders – don’t miss out on this new educational opportunity! \$5 per person to cover materials. RSVP to Stephanie at sweiger@nssm.org

#### **Annual Meeting and Open House, Saturday, October 11**

The Museum’s Annual Meeting will take place from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Thereafter, enjoy our Open House. It runs from noon to 3:00 p.m. See the full article above for more details.

#### **Jamboree on the Air, Saturday, October 18, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm**

Folks cannot wait for this event. For the third year in a row, you can join us at the North Star Museum with Radio Expert Tim Arimond as we search the air waves for Scouts on the air! In addition to the



**(Continued on Page 2)**

## Plan Your Fall at the Museum (Continued from Page 1)

JOTA, watch for details on a planned offering of some related Merit Badge Workshops that same day.

### S'Mores with Juliette Birthday Celebration, Friday October 24, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Come out to the Museum to celebrate the birthday of Girl Scout Founder, Juliette Gordon Low. It will truly be a very special edition of "S'mores with Juliette." The cost is only \$6 per person to cover materials and refreshments. Join us for Victorian parlor games, "The Golden Eaglet" movie, and a birthday cake ablaze with candles!

### Founders Hall, Saturday, November 1, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Join us for a day of celebration as we honor the newest inductees to our Founders Hall. The honorees are: Professor James Drew, George Allen, Sandy Klas, Orem Robbins, Lorena Palm, and the Knuth Family. The cost for this inspiring program and lunch is \$25. Help us honor our brightest of stars! RSVP to Stephanie at [sweiger@nssm.org](mailto:sweiger@nssm.org).

In addition to these events, look for an announcement of our fall schedule for Merit Badge Workshops. As always, if you would like to book a unit tour, Court of Honor, business meeting, or family birthday party at the Museum, just contact Stephanie at [sweiger@nssm.org](mailto:sweiger@nssm.org). See you this fall at the Museum!



Birthday cake for Juliette!



Founders Hall

## NSSM at the Washington County Fair

Once again, the Museum made its presence known at the Washington County Fair. Volunteers Bonna Scherer and Kurt Leichtle manned the booth this year and they shared the wonders of the North Star Museum with all the fair goers who stopped by to say "hello." We met some new folks and saw many old friends – it was a great day! Thanks Bonna and Kurt! We love our volunteers!



Kurt Leichtle and Bonna Scherer at the Washington County Fair



North Star Museum booth at the Washington County Fair

## Girl Scout Memory of the Month



**Maureen Twining Farrell and friend "Bruce the Moose"**

One of the great things about presenting the history of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting out in the community is we attract so many alumni and current volunteers. You never know who you will run into. Former Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are everywhere. Case in point—long-time Girl Scout and Girl Scout Leader, Maureen Twining Farrell, stopped by our booth at the MN Field Trip Expo.

When Maureen saw our "Bruce the Moose" Club Bruce display, a wonderful memory was triggered! (That happens with the North Star Museum – we trigger memories!) Maureen shared a story of when she was canoeing with her troop up in the Boundary Waters years ago. Her daughter Tara was in the canoe with her. Maureen noticed a large branch ahead of them in the water and told Tara to be careful of the branch. Her daughter calmly replied, "But that branch is moving, mom." At that moment the "branch" was suddenly the rack of a very large moose that rose out of the water right in front of their canoe! He ignored them and continued to munch on his lunch of water vegetation as they smoothly slipped by him, holding their breath. Now THAT'S a close encounter—and an enduring memory.



### *New Members Since June 2014*

- *Susan L. Hofeld*
- *Craig Saline*
- *Ann M. Schnaith*
- *Terri Swenson*
- *Jen Westpfal*

*Know of anyone  
interested in joining?*

**Contact:**

**Stephanie Weiger**  
651-748-2880 or  
[sweiger@nssm.org](mailto:sweiger@nssm.org)

## Volunteer Corner

By Gary Gorman  
Volunteer Team Leader

This month, the volunteer spotlight falls on Midge Andreas. Midge, like all our volunteers, is an important thread in the wonderful fabric that makes up the North Star Museum's volunteer workforce. Each volunteer brings to our Museum their unique talents, qualities, and character. Taken together, they have produced a beautiful tapestry of service to the Museum.

Midge was born in Duluth, Minnesota, but grew up in North St. Paul. As a young girl, Midge was introduced to Girl Scouting through her babysitter, who was a Brownie leader. Midge spent several years as a Brownie but in senior high she left Girl Scouting and joined the Civil Air Patrol. Midge came back to Girl Scouts as a Brownie leader when her daughter was in first grade, at which time Midge and her family were living in Mahtomedi, Minnesota. She continued as a troop leader, accompanying her daughter along the Girl Scout road from 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade! Her service to girls started in 1975 and ran through 1987, when the troop went to Europe for six weeks as a tip of the cap to their time as girl members.

Midge also served as a Service Unit cookie chair and Service Unit manager (seven years), and she co-managed the Service Unit with her daughter Kim for another three years. Midge was also a trainer, including all levels of basic leader training, first aid (she was an RN), and, her favorite, outdoor training, from basic outdoors to advanced backpacking. She also had fourteen years of day camp experience as a counselor, camp nurse, and cook. Her cook duties involved bringing out boxes of food for campfire lunches



Midge Andreas

based on menus that each troop prepared.

Midge began her Museum-related work as a member of the St. Croix Valley legacy council's Archives Committee, which is now called the Heritage Committee. Midge met Museum Executive Director Dick Carroll in 2001 and got more involved with Girl Scouting preservation work. In 2002, Midge and several other women attended the National Girl Scout Preservation School located at Camp Edith Macy, in New York State. This was a two-week-long course in preserving and displaying Girl Scout material. Midge worked directly with Dick and Museum Volunteer Joan Henry in putting together the Girl Scouts' 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibit in 2002, which was displayed at the Ramsey County Historical Society's Landmark Center gallery. Midge developed her expertise in framing and mounting pictures and other materials from Dick. She remembers him as a very patient mentor.

When the Archives Committee lost its work and storage space in the St. Paul council office, Dick invited them to share space at our Case Street location. Midge stated that the Heritage Committee is now digitizing its own material and has grown to more than fifteen members. In 2011, Midge was

involved with the Museum's Boy Scout and Girl Scout centennial exhibit project, where she and husband Bob put in dozens of hours creating the panels in the exhibit. Midge also helped research and prepare the Girl Scouts River Valleys' 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibit, which was introduced to the public at the Mall of America in 2012 during the "Great Girl Gathering." It is currently on exhibit at the Museum. Midge explained that the exhibit took three years to research and prepare. Museum exhibit building sometimes calls for creative and unusual solutions. Midge recalls that a major obstacle for the Heritage Committee was how to transport the dressed mannequins to the Mall of America without damaging the uniforms they were wearing. The solution was body bags, provided by one of the committee members!

Midge, thanks for all you have done for the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting!

## Volunteer Appreciation Night—Our Shining Stars!



**On Volunteer Appreciation Night, Claudia called the names and Gary Gorman provide the pins to our stars**

On the evening of Tuesday, June 17, the North Star Museum sparkled with all of our “shining stars” - our volunteers! No non-profit can function without a dedicated and hard-working group of devoted volunteers. The evening program was designed to show our volunteers how appreciated they truly are. The program included a summer bar-b-que menu, an inspiring slideshow, and an abundance of accolades and gratitude.

Following the great meal and fellowship, Executive Director Claudia Nicholson gave thoughtful summations on each volunteer as they received their volunteer pin. Volunteer Team Leader Gary Gorman had the honors of pinning each volunteer. The volunteer pin was a dazzling depiction of the Little Dipper with a sparkling “star” in the North Star position. Afterwards it was time for more fellowship and ice cream. Many thanks to our volunteers for all the amazing contributions of time, talent, and treasure that they give to the North Star Museum!

**Volunteer Pin**



**At Volunteer Appreciation Night, Jim Rupert (left) presented Chuck Clausen (right) with his Skunk of the Year award**

## Values Kept Here

Many Museum members and supporters have extended families representing a variety of age groups. When you are thinking about things to do around town with your relatives, don't forget the opportunities that await you at the Museum.

For example, past North Star Museum Board Chair Barb Corti Herrmann recently brought her grandson Xander to the Museum for some family research. Barb discovered that her father, Alexander Corti, had written to Dan Beard and the letter was published in a 1922 issue of Boys Life magazine. Dan Beard was one of the "founding fathers" of the Boy Scouts of America. Well, the Museum has an extensive collection

of Boys Life magazines. Barb found the magazine containing her father's letter in the Museum's collection!

Donning white gloves and a sense of adventure, Barb and Xander opened the delicate pages of the 1922 issue and scanned the magazine for the article. When they found it, they shared a wonderful moment of their joint Scouting history. It was a multi-generational experience and a poignant reminder of why we are here: To connect generations, share the memories, and tell the stories. As a Club Bruce member, Xander is no stranger to the North Star Museum,



**Barb Corti Herrmann and grandson Xander**

but now he has a deeper understanding of his family's role in Scouting history. There just might be a similar experience awaiting you and your family at the Museum.

## Brownie Overnight at the Museum!



**Brownie Girl Scouts and leaders from Troop # 56280**

Brownie Girl Scouts and leaders from Troop #56280 enjoyed an overnight camping adventure on July 19 – 20 at the Museum. What a wonderful time we all had! The girls were kept busy with crafts and activities. The highlights of the evening were the history scavenger hunt and wearing glow bracelets around the campfire while discussing the Girl Scout Law. The Brownies were especially intrigued with the movie "The Golden Eaglet" and were captivated with all the old

traditions of Girl Scouts and camping. Afterwards, Volunteer Nell Nere helped some of the girls turn their modern sleeping bags into "bedrolls" so they could experience what it might have been like to wear a bedroll while camping and hiking.

Night time fell with a soft hush as the girls and leaders settled in to the gallery for the night. As usual, Bruce the Moose came off the wall and checked on the kids as they slept to make sure

all was safe and quiet.

When morning arrived, it did not take long before the girls were running about searching for animal tracks in the gallery and making camp journals. After pancakes, juice, and fruit, the Brownies and leaders packed up camp. Before departure, we did the Girl Scout Circle hand squeeze and shared our favorite parts of the overnight adventure. It was a WONDERFUL time for all!



**Two Troop #56280 Brownies pose in front of the Museum's mural of past Girl Scout trailblazers**

## NSSM Takes a Field Trip to the MN Field Trip Expo!

For the past couple of years, the Museum has raised its profile by participating in the Minnesota Field Trip Expo. This year, the event took place on August 5 at Champions Hall in Eden Prairie and we were there!

The Field Trip Expo is designed to give vendors that operate programs for youth and families an opportunity to advertise what they do. Consumers of youth and family programming like the Field Trip Expo because it is a one-stop shop for assistance in planning future activities.

This year, there were over 120 vendors in attendance as the hall filled with teachers, homeschoolers, church groups, youth groups, and Scouts. Executive Director Claudia Nicholson and Director of Institutional Advancement Shirley De la Torre both greeted visitors to the Museum booth, answered questions about our programs and handed out lots of information. We also collected a many names and connected with folks interested in learning more about us. Last year's Field Trip Expo was a big success and generated significant foot traffic at the Museum. We expect that this year will be no different! Thanks to Mark Peterson and the team at Minnesota Field Trip Library for putting on another wonderful Expo.



2014 MN Field Trip Expo



North Star Museum booth



Mark Peterson gives a morning brief to exhibitors

**2014 MN Field Trip EXPO**

AUGUST 2014

North Star Museum  
of Boy Scouting  
and Girl Scouting  
2640 East 7th Street  
North St. Paul, MN 55109

Phone: 651-748-2880  
E-mail: [cnicholson@nssm.org](mailto:cnicholson@nssm.org)

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

## It was a Super Summer for Merit Badges

For the fourth summer in a row, the Museum offered a full week of merit badges during the three summer months. This time, Scouts could sign up for Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Collections, Communication, Family Life, First Aid, Genealogy, Medicine, Personal Fitness, Scouting Heritage, and Swimming. Seventeen separate classes were offered. A total of 175 boys registered for the classes.

None of the workshops would be possible without our dedicated and loyal group of merit badge counselors. A special thanks is extended to our 2014 Super Merit Badge Week counselors: Carrie Gott, John Kyslyczyn, Dr. George Smith, Claudia Nichol-

son, Will Sulzbach, Jim Stevenson, Craig Aasen, Mike Fratto, Karen Leichtle, and Kurt Leichtle. It is also important to recognize Merit Badge Workshop Committee Member and Registrar Carol Forrest, who is the glue that holds the program together. The Museum is presently planning the fall offering of Merit Badge Workshops. Look for an announcement of the schedule soon.



*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.*

© 2014 North Star Scouting Memorabilia Inc.