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Hands-on History Soon to Be a Reality



Hands-On History gallery exhibit plan

You may recall that, through Crowdtilt, the Museum raised \$7,500 in 2013 for use by the consulting firm *Museology* to conceptualize a design for a hands-on history space at the Museum. The whole idea is to provide a fresh approach to Scout history in order to capture the imagination of our youngest visitors. Every youngster wants to hold, touch, and get involved--you know, the thing that gives archivists gray hair. Now, thanks to a \$90,000 three-year grant from the Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation, hands on history will soon be a reality.

The first installment of the grant should arrive soon. Since the exhibit is divided into discrete units, portions of the exhibit can be constructed, tested, and rolled out over the next three grant years. This pace gives the Museum the opportunity to "do it right" while

at the same time providing something new and exciting to promote each year. Some of the plans are pictured with this article. If you would like to get involved in the planning and construction of the exhibit, just give Claudia Nicholson a call. With your help, our young

visitors may soon be using our exhibits to learn Morse code, flag signaling, identifying animals by their tracks, or *maybe* even learning to tie up a burglar with just eight inches of rope, as early Girl Scouts did.

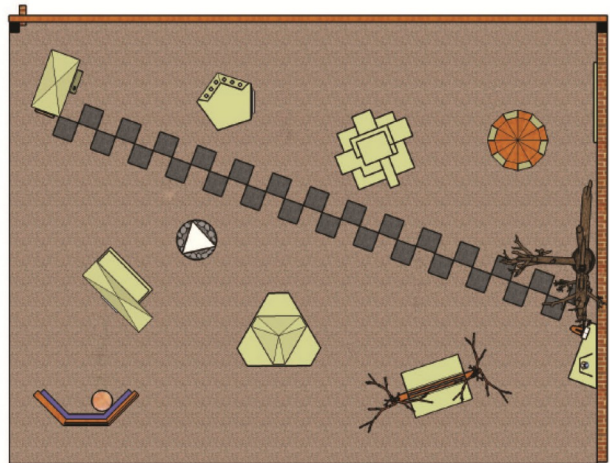


Exhibit floor plan

The Skunks Reunite



Keynote speaker Jon Pederson makes a point at the Skunk Reunion. Master of ceremonies Jim Rupert is at his left.

If it is fetid, it must be time for the Skunk Reunion. Indeed, on May 31, 2014, a fragrant faction of twenty-four Skunks and guests enjoyed excellent weather and fine fellowship at Fred C. Andersen Scout Reservation's Swanson Lodge. During the gathering time, many enjoyed the excellent displays and Scouting artifacts. A number of unique and rare items were brought in by John Andrews, Scout Executive of Northern Star Council

As we have come to expect over the years, the program was excellent. It was led by master of ceremonies Jim Rupert. It all kicked off with introductions and the survey of years in Scouting by those present. This year the veterans accounted for 1,057 years in Scouting, or twenty-four years per person (some pikers, like Claudia, pulled down the average, which should have been *much* higher). Next, Claudia Nicholson brought everyone up to date on all of the exciting happenings at the Museum in her "State of the Museum" address.

The keynote was delivered by long-time Scouter, Jon Pederson. Of course, he kicked things off with a song and got everyone involved. Jon delivered a talk that skillfully intertwined his personal Scouting experiences with his insights into leading a troop and the benefits of Scouting in our society. He covered a lot of ground, from his introduction to



The Skunks in attendance enjoyed some fellowship before the program began.

Scouting, to his leadership of Troop 579, sponsored by the Osseo American Legion Post, to the six World Jamborees he attended. The 1995 Netherlands Jamboree was his first and he is planning for the upcoming World Jamboree in Japan. Jon added a second song and the program concluded with Scout Vespers.

But, before Scout Vespers, the 2015 Skunk of the Year was awarded. Chuck Clausen, a/k/a Santa Claus, is a long-time Scouter and inexhaustible Museum volunteer. His Scouting pedigree is lengthy. Congratulate Chuck next time you see him - true stinker if you ever saw one.

After the smooth and silky voices of the singing Skunks faded with our camp fire, lunch was served. Charlie Opp returned this year to cap off the festivities with the fresh odors of a fine lunch and home-made cookies. It was quite a reunion, not at all fetid - or was it?

May Pause was a Mooseworthy Event



Margaret Dexter and Dr. Michelle Carstensen of the DNR enjoy a token of our appreciation.

Our May 12 "Pause That Refreshes" was positively wild as we welcomed two researchers from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Moose Mortality Team. Margaret Dexter and Dr. Michelle Carstensen shared their latest data on why our Minnesota moose population is plummeting and what their team is hoping to achieve for the future of wildlife in Minnesota. The slideshow presentation was very compelling and brought many questions and comments from the group. Margaret also passed around various telemetry tools that the team uses to track moose in the wild, such as the large radio collars that the moose wear. After the program, Executive Director

Claudia Nicholson presented the moose researchers with a beautiful wildlife print of a moose in the woods, courtesy of a friend of the museum.

This Moose Pause topic brought a measure of diversity to our audience that we have not had before, as we had visitors from the University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine, and the Executive Director from Audubon of the North Woods.

What is the "moose connection" to the North Star Museum, you might ask? Our Museum mascot is "Bruce the Moose", the original preserved moose head that graced the dining hall at old Camp Neibel. Bruce the

Moose has become the face of our new kids Museum membership program, "Club Bruce." As a way of giving back to our community, we donate a portion of Club Bruce proceeds to the DNR moose research team. In return, the DNR is happy to provide public relations support for the North Star Museum and Club Bruce. *Our Bruce the Moose approves!*

In the weeks ahead watch for a web link to the DNR's Moose page (and they will have our web link on their page). Until then, if you'd like to learn more about this important moose project please visit: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/moose/>

[index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/moose/index.html). In addition, if you missed this Pause event, watch for it on your local community cable station later this summer and watch for a link to YouTube to view it there. The video was kindly donated by Gary Perreault of Mentha Media Productions.



A large and diverse crowd enjoyed the DNR presentation at the May 12 Pause That Refreshes.

New Members Since April 2014

- *Ryan McDonald*
- *Teresa Kothbauer*
- *Keenan and Denise Raverty*
- *Marla Schiller*
- *Jennifer Tonder*

Know of anyone interested in joining?

Contact:

Stephanie Weiger
651-748-2880 or
sweiger@nssm.org

Get Your Merit Badge On

For the fourth summer in a row, the North Star Museum has the antidote for Boy Scouts in fear of getting bitten by the dog days of summer. Once again, there will be a week of merit badges in June, July and August.

Did you know that merit badges have been an integral part of the Scouting program since the start of the movement in the United Kingdom on August 1, 1907? They remain important elements of the uniform and insignia of the Boy Scouts. After Scouting came to the United States in 1910, the BSA quickly issued an initial list of fourteen merit badges. In 1911, the BSA manufactured the first official fifty-seven merit badges and began awarding them. The number of badges available has been as high as 127 in 1975 and again in 1987. As of March 2014, the number of badges available is 134.

This year, eighteen work shops and thirteen separate merit badges are being offered. Many of them are required for Eagle. Here is the schedule listed by date, badge, counselor, time, and registration limit:

June 25: Personal Management – Jim Stevenson (9:00 A.M. to Noon) (limit 12)
Family Life – Carrie Gott (7:00 P.M. to 8:15 P.M.) (limit 20)

June 26: Scouting Heritage – Will Sulzbach (9:00 A.M. to Noon) (limit 10)

June 27: Geneology – Claudia Nicholson (9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.) (limit 12)
Collections – Claudia Nicholson (2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.) (limit 10)

July 15: Citizenship in the Community – John Kysylczyn (9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.) (limit 15)
Citizenship in the Nation – John Kysylczyn (1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.) (limit 15)

July 16: Personal Fitness – Carrie Gott (7:00 P.M. to 8:15 P.M.) (limit 20)
First Aid – Craig Aasen (2:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.) (limit 12)

July 17: Scouting Heritage – Kurt Leichtle (9:00 A.M. to Noon) (limit 10)

July 18: Citizenship in the Nation – Mike Fratto (9:00 P.M. to Noon) (limit 15)

Aug. 12: Medicine – Dr. George Smith (9:00 A.M. to Noon) (limit 7)
Communications – Will Sulzbach (9:00 A.M. to 1:00 p.m.) (limit 6)

Aug. 13: Personal Fitness – Carrie Gott (7:00 PM to 9:00 PM) (limit 20)

Aug. 14: Medicine – Dr. George Smith (9:00 A.M. to Noon) (limit 7) (if first class fills)

Aug. 15: Citizenship in the Nation – Mike Fratto (9:00 P.M. to Noon) (limit 15)
Citizenship in the World– Kurt Leichtle (9:00 A.M. to Noon) (limit 12)
Swimming – Karen Leichtle (9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.) (limit 10)

Get the word out about Super Merit Badge Weeks at the Museum. Registration for August will open on July 21, so registrations for those workshops will not be accepted until after that date. Encourage all you know to sign up early as space is limited. The base cost for each session remains \$10 per youth, or \$7 for Museum members. Some merit badges may carry a slightly higher cost due to material or lunch expenses so ask when you contact the Museum to reserve a spot. Sign up today!



Membership Program Update

Not long ago we brought you the exciting news of our improved membership program. The changes in the membership structure were prompted by our incredible growth. As you may recall, the cost of a Museum membership has remained at \$35 for over ten years. A decade ago, we were a much smaller organization with a great collection and very little programming or staff support. Now, in 2014, we can step back and look at all the wonderful things that have come with your support: a new building, professional staff, new exhibits and displays, and innovative programs that bring more folks through our doors than ever before.

We have so much MORE that we offer now. And yet, we have held off adjusting our membership fees and levels—until now. It is with great confidence that we announce a new membership program *that offers you choices*. We have created different levels of participation so you can choose the level that best fits your budget. We also will continue to offer “Sustained Giving” opportunities (monthly payments) for those investing in an annual membership of \$120 or more. We hope you will agree that it is indeed time we stepped into the next level of success, and we want you to take this step with us!

These new membership program offers you just a bit more. Not only do you continue to receive the discounts you have come to expect (members-only invites, our bi-monthly newsletter, discounts on program, and a gift shop discount), you will now receive some very special additions to your membership benefits. Each level receives a membership pin and an item expressing our appreciation for your membership that is unique to each level. Here are the new levels and the gift that accompanies each:

BRONZE Level - \$50 to \$74 - Tall coffee mug with museum logo

SILVER Level - \$75 to \$99 - High-quality utility flashlight with museum logo

GOLD Level - \$100 to \$149 - Sportsman’s compass with museum logo

PLATINUM Level - \$150 or more - Journal with refillable papers, calendar, and pen

Of course, we will continue to offer our Club Bruce Kids Museum Membership at \$35, with the accompanying “Adventure pack.”

AFTER JULY 1, as your membership renewal date approaches, you will have the opportunity to renew your membership at one of these new levels of your choosing. Please know you certainly can opt out of receiving any of the incentive gifts, but we hope you enjoy them with our compliments. If you have any thoughts or questions about the Museum’s membership program when your renewal time comes, we invite you to call Executive Director Claudia Nicholson. She will be happy to assist you with your transition.

Our members are our closest allies, and supporters. There are benefits to being a member and we value each and every one of you. We look forward to bringing you more with this new initiative. The North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting – Values Kept Here!



There is a membership level for everyone, maybe even two. Here is Bob Rosene with a Club Bruce stuffed toy.

You Too Can Be Night Owl

The Museum's new overnight camp-in program continues to be a marvelous success. The April overnight was reserved by Cadette Troop #15354. During the weekend, the girls worked on achieving their Night Owl badge. The itinerary for the evening included lots of special activities, such as a history scavenger hunt in the gallery...in the dark. There was also an astronomy session where the girls made star wheels and identified constellations. The highlight of the evening was a visit from The Raptor Center. Educator Kayla brought various rap-

tors that had special night-time adaptations. The Great Horned Owl was their favorite. The girls and adults alike learned so much over this special weekend and it was a blast. Leader Lisa Love said it was one of the best outings the troop has ever had and they would DEFINITELY recommend "Overnight at the Museum" as an activity for troops and families. For troops in particular, "Overnight at the Museum" is a great way to have fun and adventure combined with badge work. So far, the overnights have included programming the for



Kayla and the Great Horned Owl were a big hit.

First Aid Badge, Girl Scout Way, and now Night Owl!



There is nothing like a hunt through history--in the dark!



The girls of Cadette Troop 15354 work on their star wheels.

If you'd like to have a customized overnight adventure at the North Star Museum for YOUR unit or troop, contact Shirley De la Torre at sdela-torre@nssm.org. We have one remaining opening in December and we can put you on the list for next year's dates.

April Night Owls Bring May Baskets



Here are the Daisies of Troop 16440 with their Bruce the Moose paraphernalia.

Our overnight on May 3-4 saw a group of bright and happy Daisies from Troop #16440. The girls enjoyed all the activities that the Museum had to offer: crafts and decorating their stash bags, a history scavenger hunt in the gallery, a Juliette

Gordon Low memory game, a bonfire with Girl Scout Law, GORP, songs, and the Golden Eaglet movie from 1918 featuring Girl Scout Founder Juliette Gordon Low.

After falling to sleep in the gallery, snug in their sleeping bags and under the watchful eye of Bruce the Moose, the girls awoke to pancakes and juice. But we weren't done yet! The girls made animal tracks books and stalked through the gallery identifying animal tracks. The moose tracks they found were proof positive that Bruce the Moose came off the wall in the middle of the night and prowled the gallery as they slept. The morning concluded with making May Baskets and racing cars on our

Pinewood Derby track. Leader Kathy Pierson was delighted with the whole experience. The Daisies cannot wait for their next overnight.



The Troop 16440 Daisies appear momentarily puzzled tracking animals in the Museum.

Another Pause That Refreshes Success Story

The June 12 Pause That Refreshes with author Stacy Cordery was a huge success, with over 50 people attending. Stacy gave a wonderful presentation on the life of Juliette Gordon Low and her relationship with Robert Baden-Powell. Afterward, she signed books for folks for another hour or so. Then, that evening, Stacy entertained and educated a second group at Richfield Evangelical Lutheran Church.



Stacy Cordery signs a book for Jim Rupert
(photo courtesy of Myron Jacobson)



Stacy Cordery (photo courtesy of Myron Jacobson)



Stacy Cordery and friends enjoy lunch at the June 12 Pause That Refreshes.



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Scouting Memory of the Month

Boy Scout and Girl Scout memories run the gamut, from a favorite SWAP, a Pinewood Derby event, or attending a Jamboree. But for almost every Boy Scout or Girl Scout, their favorite memories revolve around camping! As we head into the camping season, it seems appropriate for June 2014 Scouting Memory of the Month to feature camp memories from a Boy Scout and Girl Scout who visited the Museum.

Girl Scout Alumnae Maureen Twining Farrell recently shared a memory from her camping days in St. Croix Valley in 1960's. She said her troop was camping near the St. Croix River when a major storm hit. Tornados and severe weather forced all the girls to sleep in the Troop Leader's station wagon. She said

it was a wonderful memory of teamwork in the face of adversity, and that there was lots of laughter and warmth amidst the safety of their "vehicular accommodations."

Boy Scout Jacob Marshik of T114 said his favorite Scout memory was also about a camping experience. He spent three weeks as a CIT at Tomahawk and that he made lots of new friends and had a ton of fun. His favorite activity was playing water polo.

The Museum has a special space for visitors to share their Scouting memories. Next time you come to the Museum, please leave us with one of your Scouting memories. You never know, it might appear in a future *Museum News*.

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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