



NORTH STAR MUSEUM
OF BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING

Museum News

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Come Have S'More S'mores—A 90th Anniversary Celebration

If you like chocolate, marshmallow, and graham crackers alone or in the unique combination known as the s'more, you need to set aside August 10, 2017 for a trip to the Museum from 6:30-8:30 p.m. At that time, we will be celebrating the 90th anniversary of one of America's favorite treats in a very "hands on" way.

No one knows when "some mores", now known as "s'mores" were first concocted or who invented them. What we do know is that the first recipe for the scrumptious dessert was published by the Girl Scouts in a 1927 book called *Tramping and Trailing with the Girl Scouts*. Although the recipe was credited to a woman named Loretta Scott Crew, internet sources indicate that her involvement, and even her existence, is swirled in controversy.

If s'mores are controversial, we are all in trouble. They are just darn good.

The name "some mores" can be found in publications up until 1971, but at some point, it was shortened to its contracted form, s'mores. Of course, they are a special dessert treat around Girl Scout, Boy Scout, and family campfires worldwide.

According to Internet sources, the largest s'more ever made weighed 1,600 pounds and used 20,000 marshmallows and 7,000 chocolate bars. That was in 2003. Since then, the Guinness World Record category for largest s'more was retired. A larger s'more was made in 2007 to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Virginia State Parks and it measured 1,936 square feet, using 55,000 graham crackers, 40,000 marshmallows and 8,000 Hershey's chocolate bars.

Although we cannot speak for you, the Museum has no plan to set a Guinness World Record. However, we do plan to celebrate the 90th anni-

versary of the s'more on August 10, which is National S'mores Day. Come join us in celebrating this gooey and delectable treat. The cost is only \$5 for Museum members if you are registered by July 20 and \$10 for members who register after July 20. For non-members, the cost is still a very reasonable \$15. All participants will receive the new Museum patch for attending and all the s'mores they can eat. Since you should not be touching the artifacts in our exhibits anyway, we have no fear that you will cover everything with marshmallow. Just join us for an evening of fun and take the opportunity to enjoy the Museum's fine exhibits. See you on August 10. Don't forget to save room for dessert!



Calling All Gardeners and Would Be Gardeners

The North Star Museum has opportunities for individual or groups to adopt an outside service opportunity. The Museum property is rather beautiful and if the grounds are taken care of, it really enhances the look of our building. Here are your service opportunities:

- Cleaning and filling the bird bath in the spring and then checking it periodically during the summer - 30 min. per time.
- Planting the sign box planter box each spring – 90 min once a year.
- Watering and weeding the planter box and pulling weeds when necessary (weather dependent) - 30 min. per time.
- Cleaning up and weeding the front flower bed in the spring - 2 hours.

- Clearing up and weeding the side flower garden in the spring—2 hours for 2 people or 4 hours for one.
- Periodically weeding the front flower bed during the summer –as needed - 1 hour.
- Periodically weeding the side flower bed during the summer – as needed - 1 hour.
- Weeding and cleaning up around the flower bed and shrubbery near the employee entrance - 2 hours.

For those who wish to be involved, but do not feel comfortable doing the tasks described above, consider the following:

- Donating red mulch for the fire ring area. Currently, we could use another 12 bags.

- Donating cypress mulch for the three flower beds. Currently, we need another 8 bags.
- Purchase flowers in the spring. This year, 3 carriers of Petunias were donated at a cost of \$6.99 per carrier.
- Grass seed suitable for both sun and shade.
- Scotts top soil for lawns.
- Miracle grow potting soil - the moisture holding type.

If you have any question about these great volunteer and service opportunities, either contact Barb Herrmann at 651-338-7615 or barbherrmann@comcast.net, or Mike Lund at mlund@nssm.org. With your help, we can keep the Museum and its grounds beautiful!

Thank You for Answering the Call to History

The Museum's third Call to History took place on Wednesday, April 26, 2017. This year, there was a single noon-time event that filled the Museum with over fifty enthusiastic supporters. From the moment Will Sulzbach sounded his bugle to kick off the event, those in attendance knew that it would be a real celebration.

Executive Director Brenna Barrett followed the bugle call with a welcoming message. We then focused on service with Erin Barwis discussing the culture of service and Kurt Leichtle intro-

ducing the Museum's exciting new Service Learning Project concept. Nancy Randall Dana energized the group with an inspiring message and "The Peanut Song." Let's just say that a piece of paper does not do justice to the lyrics. Sandy Craighead asked us all to make a difference with our gifts and Barb Corti Herrmann expressed a sincere "thank you" on behalf of the Museum staff and Board. Will Sulzbach ended the event by sounding "Retreat" on the bugle.

Thanks to your participation and contributions, the Museum en-

joyed a successful Call to History. The Museum raised over \$30,000, which nearly matched last year's total despite going from two events to one. Moreover, every dollar raised is going directly into Museum program because all event expenses were sponsored and paid for. An extra "thank you" goes to Call to History Chair Kristie Wanstrom, the corps of table hosts, and all of the volunteers that made Call to History a singular event. Special thanks also go to Anchor Bank and its employee Shauna Meyer for their help making the event a success.

A Special Grand Opening

On May 19, the Museum hosted a sneak preview of its latest exhibit. Nearly thirty members and other friends got the first look at *Getting Together: 80 Years of Jamborees and Roundups*. This exhibit celebrates the Boy Scout and Girl Scout traditions of Roundups and Jamborees. Many of those in attendance had themselves attended these special events. The exhibit not only stands on its own merits, but also provides a unique opportunity for groups to schedule their Roundup or Jamboree reunion around a trip to the Museum.

The exhibit officially opened to the public on May 20. If you attended one or more of these events, we hope you will share your memories with others, and be on the lookout for a reunion of your Jamboree/ Roundup. Do you have friends you know will be interested? Encourage them to join the Museum so they can be included in these special opportunities. Also, schedule your Roundup or Jamboree reunion at the Museum and build your reunion program around the new exhibit.



Pictured above are Museum members at the sneak preview of *Getting Together: 80 Years of Jamborees and Roundups*. The top photo was taken in the Jamboree section and the second photo was shot in the Roundup section of the exhibit.

Memorial/Tribute Gifts

These gifts came through the Call to History

- Tribute to Anthony Yang – given by Anonymous
- Memorial for Midge Andreas – given by Trish Bolger
- Memorial (Sponsorship) in memory of Midge given by her husband Robert

Returning Members

- Clint Voorhees has returned as a member, and is volunteering weekly working with artifacts

Loss of a Builder

On May 1, 2017, the Northern Star Council's oldest Eagle Scout and Founders Hall Builder Orem Robbins passed away. He was 102 years old. He continued to attend Scouting events, particularly the annual Gathering of Eagles, until the very end of his life. What follows are excerpts from his published obituary. Orem, we will miss you.

Robbins, Orem Olford February 5, 1915 May 1, 2017 Orem Robbins was a big man. At six feet four inches he was imposing physically, but that wasn't what made him big. It was his big heart. Whoever was with him felt like the most important person in the world. It was his big vision. He thought there was nothing that was impossible and made others believe that too. It was his big smile. His positive outlook was undiminished by age and adversity. At the age of 101 I asked him if he was getting tired of the effort. He replied, "Every day is a challenge but I like a challenge." He was a big, big man. Born in Minneapolis, to Douglas Ford Robbins and Grace Rorem Robbins, he was the second of three children. His given name was his mother's maiden name with the "R" deleted. Family experiences helped form two key aspects of his character: The iron willpower to rise above his circumstance of the moment; and the commitment to live happily within his means whatever that level was. He was an Eagle Scout learning lessons that stayed with him until the end of his life. He

graduated Cum Laude from the University of Minnesota, and then got his Bachelor of Law degree and Juris Doctor. Ultimately, he was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States and the U.S. Court of Military Appeals. Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1941, he worked on General McArthur's staff in the Philippines ending his active duty as a Lieutenant Colonel. He stayed in the reserves for another 20 years finishing his service in 1966 as a full Colonel. For his extraordinary service, he was awarded the Legion of Merit, the nation's second highest service award. Orem started as an agent for Connecticut General and quickly became the best. He achieved the Chartered Life Underwriter, and Million Dollar Round Table designations, the National Quality Awards year after year, Chartered Financial Consultant and Principal with the National Association of Securities Dealers. In May 1956, he started the first life insurance company that had been chartered in the state of Minnesota in over 30 years Security Life Insurance Company of America. From humble beginnings, it grew into a multifaceted financial services company called Security American Financial Enterprises or SAFE. He was also President of Life Insurance Leaders of Minnesota and a chapter of Chartered Life Underwriters. Orem was chairman of the Methodist Hospital Foundation,



Orem Robbins, Founders Hall Builder 2014

raising enormous capital for the hospital and donating a sculpture out in front of joyous children playing, and was Chairman of the board of Hamline University, where the Orem O. Robbins Science Center resides. He was a life member of the board and president of Family and Children's Services and member of the board and Treasurer of Goodwill Industries. He maintained his community service efforts throughout his distinguished career. He sponsored a scholarship to Hamline for Eagle Scout applicants each year and supported a family in Kenya for over 20 years with such a powerful influence that they named their son Orem. He dreamed of things that seemed too big to most, then set progressively higher goals until the dreams became reality. He was indeed a big man.

Super Merit Badge Weeks are Back

Super Merit Badge Week is the Museum's oldest and most popular educational program. Well, we are not messing with success. The program is back for the summer of 2017. Once again, the Museum is offering an array of merit badges concentrated in a single week during the months of June, July, and August. By press time, June will be in the record books but keep your eyes open for the announcement of merit badges for the weeks of July 10 and August 7. When registration is opened, be sure to act fast because these sessions typically sell out very quickly.

The 2017 offerings include at least eleven classes and eight separate merit badges. The workshops include: Citizenship in the Community; Citizenship in the Nation; Citizenship in the World; Personal Fitness; Bugling; Scouting Heritage; Personal Management; and, Rifle Shooting. More sessions may still be added.

Get the word out about Super Merit Badge Weeks at the Museum. Encourage all you know to watch for the registration announcement so the boys you know don't miss out. Registration opens about a month before each week of sessions, so if you have not been notified, call the Museum to see if registration is open. Or, with our efficient online registration system, you can go directly to eventbrite.com and search on North Star Museum to find our workshops. The base cost for each session is \$15 per youth, or \$12 for Museum members. Some merit badges may carry a slightly higher cost due to material or lunch expenses—these additional costs will be listed on the page for sign-up. Sign up as soon as you can. As we like to say: "Don't be left out in the cold during the heat of summer!"



Twice the Stench—Your 2017 Skunks of the Year

By John Guthmann, Russ Edhlund,
and Barb Corti Herrmann

During the 2017 Skunk Reunion, those assembled were privileged to witness a relatively rare event: the presentation of two Skunk of the Year Awards. The fragrant recipients were Tom Turba, presented by Joe Reding, and Mike Lund, presented by Barb Herrmann.

Tom's 34 years as a registered Scouter have been long and distinguished. He has served as a Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster, is an Order of the Arrow member, and is Wood Badge trained. Tom has also been recognized with the District Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver Award, and the National Medal of Merit. He is a James West Fellow, a member of the Council's President's Cabinet, and a member of the Council's Centennial Commission. Tom's most notable and well-known Scout service has been in International Scouting. He served as the Council International Representative for 25 years and both led Scout contingents and planned Scout travels to many foreign countries. He has also frequently hosted visiting Scouts and Scout leaders from other countries. Tom is truly the face of International Scouting in Northern Star Council. In addition to his numerous Scouting activities, Tom is a community volunteer who was recognized with the Outstanding Service to

Youth Award from the Youth and Family Services Association.



Joe Reding presents the Skunk of the Year to Tom Turba.

Mike Lund's 30 years of Scouting service is no less remarkable. For many years, he was Scoutmaster of Troop 216 on St. Paul's East Side and he is currently Assistant Scoutmaster. In addition to serving a troop, Mike has served in nearly every volunteer position you can think of: Webelos Den Leader; Unit Commissioner; District Commissioner; and, District Training Committee. He has received the Webelos Den Leader Award, Scout Leader Training Award, Scouter's Key, Distinguished Commissioner Service Award, the District Award of Merit, and the Silver Beaver Award. Mike has braved the essence of polecat and attended Skunk Reunions faithfully for many years. In addition, he is familiar face at the Museum. He keeps the place clean, well-groomed, and inviting. If you

need something, he'll get it for you; if you cannot find it, he can. He has worked tirelessly to improve the facility to make it the best it can be. For those who volunteer at the Museum, he can give you a proposed seating chart for an event neatly printed from the computer. He technically works part time at the Museum but he volunteers his own time and money to make sure events are successful. And, can you believe it, Mike does not own a cell phone!

The next time you see our ripe recipients, don't forget to hold your nose and congratulate them. These are accomplished men who are role models to us all.



Barb Herrmann presents the Skunk of the Year to Mike Lund.

What Was that Smell?—Why It was the 2017 Skunk Reunion

On June 3, twenty-six stinky Order of the Odor Skunks met in the woods of Fred C. Andersen Camp. Our annual reunion of fun, fellowship, and food quickly putrefied what was previously the fresh and clean odor of spring at the camp. But, that signature redolence is what the Skunks are all about.

Russ Edhlund called the meeting to order while Charlie Opp was busy in the kitchen preparing a fabulous lunch. Per recent tradition, Barb Herrmann helped the group “Count the Years” of Scouting in the room. The twenty-two skunks present for the count represented 959 years of Scouting service, or 43.6 years per person. Howard Guthmann and Gordon Meeker really moved the needle with their 82 years each.

Once the count was completed, Barb Herrmann spoke optimisti-

cally about the State of the Museum and its programmatic and fundraising successes of late. She and Gary Gorman reviewed the many ways Skunks can help the Museum with funding, volunteer time, and legacy gifts.

Our keynote speaker was Howard Guthmann, with a little help from son John. Howard put together a slide show of personal photos that illustrated his camping experiences with Troop 47 in the 1930’s and early 1940’s. He focused on the St. Paul Area Council Camps during that era: Square Lake, Neibel, and St. Croix (now Fred C. Andersen). Some of the photos he shared showed scenes that most did not know were preserved. It was fun to learn about what summer camp was like 70 years ago, what has changed, and what has not changed.

Following Howard’s presenta-

tion the event reached an even greater peak when it was announced that we not only had one but we had two Skunks of the Year. (Read more about the awards to Tom Turba and Mike Lund on page 6.)

Following our salute to the two Skunks who had “gone home” this past year, Orem Robbins and Roland Wilsey, the formal program concluded with Scout Vespers. We adjourned to that great Charlie Opp meal, which was capped off by fresh-baked chocolate chip cookies. Ahhhhhh. They smelled perfect, you stinkers. See you next year.



Russ Edhlund introduces keynote speaker Howard Guthmann.



The Skunks enjoyed a great lunch, courtesy of Charlie Opp

DATED MATERIAL



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JUNE 2017

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More From A Call to History



Nancy Dana delivered an inspiring message and a song during the Call to History.



At the May Board meeting, event Chair Kristie Wanstrom and Barb Corti Herrmann received a thank you gift in recognition for making the Call to History a success, and due to a catering snafu, for rebuilding all of the lunches during the event without impacting the tight schedule.

Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, Brenna Barrett, 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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