

TRAILS OF TROOP 48

DECEMBER
2025

Pine Hill
District-
Garden State
Council

Doing more before breakfast than most people do all day.

MnM

Court of Honor

Troop 48 hosted its Annual Court of Honor and commemorated its 61st birthday on Wednesday, December 10. The Court of Honor is where scouts are recognized for their advancements, the merit badges they've earned, and the contributions they made to their community and others, among other things.

There were 29 rank advancements this year! Five scouts progressed to Scout, six to Tenderfoot, three to Second Class, three to First Class, two to Star, one to Life, and three to Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Scouting.

Additionally, the troop as a whole received 46 merit badges. Seven Scouts earned the Collection Merit Badge, which was this year's most popular badge.

Troop 48 completed 661 service hours and spent 289 nights camping. The MS City-to-Shore was the most popular service initiative and trip.

Following the Court of Honor, the scouts enjoyed some delicious holiday sweets and participated in their holiday Polyana!



Pictured Above. Scouts enjoying themselves after the Court of Honor.



Scouts and Leader of Troop 48 after the Court of Honor ceremony. Pictured above.

Mike McCormick

Mike's Minute

Many Troop 48 Scouts have had Eagle Board of reviews. One of them, Steven Hale, after finding out he had made Eagle, he was driving back to the shed with two young adults who'd been in Scouts with him and who'd taken him for his Board of Review. They were happily celebrating together.

They stopped at a stoplight. Suddenly, a man on a bike whizzed past their car, hit the curb on the other side, and lay on the ground.

In moments, the three young men had sprung into action. One called 9-1-1. Another checked on the man to provide first aid. The third directed traffic safely around the victim.

Police and EMTs arrived quickly and took over taking care of the man, and the three Scouts resumed their journey back to the shed, their "good turn daily" having been accomplished.

Scouts is fun and full of adventure, but what we learn and practice here is important. You never know when the skills you acquire here could help solve a problem, or even to save someone's life.

Social Media

The latest updates

The Troop has a Facebook page, Instagram, and TikTok! Please remember to continue to post, like, tag and share! Doing this helps with spreading the word on all the amazing things our scouts do!

Birthday's

Troop 48 Scouts and Leaders

Jonathan December 14th
Joshua December 16th

Troop 48 celebrated its 61st Birthday!

Next Camping Trip

Klondike Derby

Lots of adult help needed for this campout to run our event! If you are not a registered leader you are still able to come out and help for the day on Saturday. You just need to have your current Youth Protection training. The training is an online class that takes about an hour.

Abe M

The Philadelphia Day Trip

July Day Trip

The Philadelphia day trip was on July 11. We hopped on a train and got off at Franklin Square Station. We went to the waterfront first and then went to see the last remaining set of steps that William Penn planned for the city. After that we went to the Fire Fighter Museum. They had several cool old fire engines and some fire suits you could put on. Next the scouts went to the Mint stopping at Ben Franklin's grave as we walked past. The Mint was cool and we got to see how they make coins! After that we stopped by the Constitution Center which had an interesting presentation. Then we saw the Liberty Bell and rushed to Independence Hall. There was a tour that we did there. Then we went back on the train to New Jersey. The Philadelphia day trip was a fun day trip that we will do again!



Pictured Above are Scouts in front of the National Constitution Center. Pictured to the left. Wearing some gear at the Fire Fighter Museum.



Pictured Above. Elijah, Greg, Nathan, DJ, Christopher, Jonathan, Abe, and Desmond.

Abe McCormick

The Pennsylvania Railroad Museum

July 19th

On the 19 of July the troop went to the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum. There were a ton of trains ranging from steam engines to high power electric engines.

The scouts spent more than two hours looking at them. One of the most popular engines was the John Bull replica.

One of the scouts' favorite spots was the hands-on area. You could shovel fake coal, find the best set of wheels, and learn about couplings.

The museum also had multiple model train sets, including one where the scouts could control the trains! The Pennsylvania Railroad Museum was a fun adventure for Troop 48!

MnM

Washington DC

December Trip

The Scouts traveled to Washington, DC for their December Trip where they camped for two nights at Greenbelt National Park. They visited places such as Fords Theater, the Museum of Natural History, and the Washington Monument. They also visited the Jefferson Memorial at sunset. On their trip home they made a quick pit stop in Baltimore to visit Edgar Allen Poe's grave.



Top Picture. Scouts at the Museum of Natural History. Bottom Picture. Scouts admiring the Washington Monument.

MnM & Mike McCormick

Vermont Summer Trip

Day 1-3



Pictured Above. Scouts at Mount Defiance, overlooking Fort Ticonderoga.

On the first day of the summer trip to Vermont we left bright and early! We drove to Saratoga National Historic Park, the location of what may have been the most significant fight of the War for Independence. On their way to camp, some scouts veered off course and discovered a ship from the War of 1812 and a Bigfoot Sanctuary. After setting up camp and eating dinner, the troop went to a French and Indian War camp by lantern light.

Day Two of the Vermont Summer Trip! Some Scouts went to see the World's Tallest Filing Cabinet, little Stonehenge, and an earth clock. Then we reunited and went to tour the Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory, which included the well-known Flavor Graveyard, and we all received a cool treat at the end!

Swimming, fishing, and surprise fossil digging at Lake Champlain were substituted for the late afternoon excursion due to the unusually high afternoon temperatures of 92 degrees. At night, there were card games, fire cooking, and a large group watching the meteor shower, some of whom ended up sleeping outside under the stars!

On day three we got up early to ascend Mount Ellen, Vermont's third-highest peak, more than 2000 feet! After we cooled down at Bartlett Falls' a local swimming hole. The Troop finished the day with their favorite food group ice cream! Because in Vermont, a "baby cone" is the size of a large back home. Although many attempts were made to finish the large few were successful!

MnM & Mike McCormick

Vermont Summer Trip

Day 4

Day Four! The Troop visited Fort Ticonderoga, which saw combat during the Revolutionary and French and Indian Wars. Employees do demonstrations and depict life in the fort by dressing in period attire. We next drove up Mount Defiance to get a view of the fort from above. After that, we visited the Heritage Museum, where we learnt about papermaking and Ticonderoga pencils, which are made in New Jersey. After seeing the Crown Point ruins, we went for another swim in Lake Champlain. At night the Scouts went back to the lake to watch the Perseid Meteor Shower which was incredible!



Pictured Above. Scouts swimming at Bartlett Falls.



Pictured Left. The Scouts along with two Troop 48 alumni Mike and Tim Farrell at the top of Mount Ellen. Pictured Right. The Scouts enjoying some well deserved and needed ice cream at the Ben and Jerrys Factory.

Vermont Summer Trip

Day 5-7

Day Five! We got up early and kayaked six miles down the Lamoille River. Scouts checked out a covered bridge, caught crawfish, and did their best to avoid the weather during sporadic rain showers. After that, we traveled to the neighboring town of Jericho to visit the Snowflake Bentley Museum, which honors the man who is renowned for his early camera-era snowflake photographs. Then the Scouts enjoyed dinner along with a few rain showers at the campsite complete with a rainbow! Scouts had more ice cream for dessert (of course!) after there were some stars and meteors emerging from the clouds to cap off the evening!

Day Six! We began our morning by visiting the Lake Champlain

Maritime Museum before heading to the Vergennes Falls. After that, some Scouts worked on improvements while others visited Crown Point State Park for a little hike and geocaching expedition. Traditional last-night summer trip skits, packing up the kitchens, the trip's final supper, and, most importantly, the trip's best star gazing.

Day Seven! Our trip home. We had to go on one last adventure before heading home though, so we made a stop at Bear Mountain State Park and traveled via the Trailside Zoo on the Appalachian Trail All Scouts and Leaders returned home safely and enjoyed their 60th Troop Summer Trip!



Pictured Above. Troop 48 at MS City to Shore.

Upcoming Events/Trips Important Dates and Reminders



- Wednesday, December 17 - Holiday Party @ "the shed"
- Wednesday December 24 - No Meeting tonight!
- Wednesday, December 31 - No Meeting tonight!

A Peak Ahead to January 2026!

- Saturday, January 3 - Charles Agnew Eagle Court of Honor - Berlin VFW, [34 Chestnut Ave, Berlin, NJ](https://www.google.com/maps/place/34+Chestnut+Ave,+Berlin,+NJ). Troop 48 recognized Charles Agnew for earning Scouting's highest rank... Eagle Scout! All Scouts and families are invited to celebrate. Set up at 1 PM, ceremony starts at 2 PM. Scouts are asked to please dress in their "Class A" uniforms with Scout pants or dress pants or to wear nice clothing. No jeans or sweatpants please.

- Wednesday, January 7 - Meeting @ "the shed" at 7 PM. Klondike Prep - Map Skills and Orienteering!
- Wednesday, January 14 - Meeting @ "the shed" at 7 PM. Klondike Prep - Fire building and Knots!
- Wednesday, January 21 - Meeting @ "the shed" at 7 PM. Klondike Prep - Packing Sleds and preparing gear.
- Friday to Sunday, January 23 to 25 - Pine Hill District Klondike Derby - Pine Hill Scout Reservation, Pine Hill, NJ. **THIS IS THE PLAYOFFS OF THE SCOUTING WORLD** - All Scouts are highly encouraged to attend this event, as their patrols compete against patrols from Troops across the Pine Hill District in a series of Scout skills challenges.
- Wednesday, January 28 - Patrol Leaders Council Meeting @ "the shed" at 7 PM. Our Patrol Leaders will plan upcoming meetings and events. Other Scouts are welcome to work on advancements, merit badges, patrol projects, or to practice Scout skills.

February 2026:- Saturday, February 7 - Gregory H Eagle Court of Honor - [11 Wilkins Station Rd, Medford, NJ 08055](https://www.google.com/maps/place/11+Wilkins+Station+Rd,+Medford,+NJ+08055) - 2 PM to 4 PM.

- Friday to Sunday, February 13 to 15 - Rodney Scout Reservation Cabin Campout - Northeast, MD
Proposed Activity - Rifle Shooting (Rifle Range is run by NRA

“A Scout is never taken by surprise; he knows exactly what to do when anything unexpected happens.”

- Robert Baden-Powell

Range certified instructors from Del-Mar-Va Council on a Scout rifle range).

March 2026:- March 13 to 15 - Gettysburg National Military Park Campout - Gettysburg, PA. Activity - hiking and exploring the battlefield.

April 2026:- Thursday to Sunday, April 9 to 12 - Batona Trail - Spring Backpacking Trip - Bass River State Forest, Bass River, NJ to Ong's Hat, Southampton Township, NJ. 52.7 miles of glory on South Jersey's premier (also only) long distance backpacking trail! Friday to Sunday, April 24 to 26 - Campout TBA *tentative*

