



Celebrating 2022



Our Mission

Our mission is to collect, preserve, share and interpret the history and significance of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in the upper Midwest.

Objectives and Impact

The North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting seeks to place the history of the two organizations in the context of both history and the present. Enabling our audiences to see and understand the importance and contributions of the organizations to youth, adults, and the country.

Service Range

The Museum's collections and exhibits cover the area encompassed by the original Region 10. The area ranged west from western Wisconsin into eastern Montana and from the Canadian border to Iowa and Nebraska. We work with a variety of Boy Scout and Girl Scout councils and local troops and packs.

Facilities

The museum located in North St. Paul houses exhibits, offices, and educational spaces. Our excess collections is now



containing examples of numerous toys produced to interest members of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts over the last century.



A new, outstanding temporary exhibit is now on display. Thanks to the generosity of Clint Vorhees, the Museum has a new two-case exhibit



In June, the Burchard family of Somerville, MA visited the Museum. While dad stayed in the car with a sleeping two-year old, other family members from Troop 3 toured with the Museum's Interim Director Kurt Leichtle.



Girl Scouts of Troop 57876 enjoyed their excursion to the Museum. They had the chance to try on vintage uniforms.

Excursions, Visitors from Afar and a Temporary Exhibit

Volunteers ...

... are crucial to the Museum. At present the Museum is run by a board of volunteers and staffed by volunteers. One paid employee takes care of administrative tasks and bookkeeping and acts as a contact point. The Museum welcomes members and people of all interests and skill levels who wish to become volunteers.

Board of Directors

(A Volunteer Board)

Lorena Palm - *Chair*
Sandy Craighead - *Vice-Chair*
Barb Herrmann - *Secretary*
Jim Stevenson - *Treasurer*

Members

Natalie Broshar
Idelle Erickson
Gary Gorman
John H. Guthmann
David Novy
Thomas Welna
Emily White

Board Member Emeritus

Bonna Scherer

Kurt Leichtle, PhD - *Interim Executive Director*

Carissa Meyer - *Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper*



The Museum held 249 merit badge workshops with 207 youth participating. A new workshop on Electronics was presented by Board Member Natalie Broshar.

Types of merit badges earned: Citizenship in the Community, Nation, Society, and World; Communications; Personal Management; Programming; Radio; and Rifle.

Other Presenters included: Tim Arimond, Natalie Broshar, John Capecchi, Richard Clem, Bob Elliott, Mike Fratto, John Guthmann, John Kysylyczyn, Sara Kysylyczyn, Kurt Leichtle and Dennis Stolp.

Other Volunteers

Terri Anderson
Tim Arimond
Mike Bagstad
Paul Bartyzal
John Capecchi
Jon Carlsson
Chuck Clausen
Judy Clausen
Richard Clem
Russ Edhlund
Bob Elliott
Becca Emmons
Steven Foster III

Mike Fratto
Connie Fullmer
Bob Hannah
Mike Herrmann
Jack Johnson
Dan Kuntz
John Kysylyczyn
Sara Kysylyczyn
Jimmy Longoria
Mike Lund
Don Marose
Mary McMenomy
Nell Nere

Biz O'Mara
Cole Peterson
Bob Pettitt
Stephanie Pommier
Dennis Stolp
Sarah Strommen
Dean Thompson
Renee Thompson
Beth Voermans
Clint Vorhees
Kristie Wanstrom
Joshua Wickert

VOLUNTEERS ★★ 2022 ★★ ANNUAL REPORT

The Museum works closely with the Heritage Group of Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys Council and the Archives Committee of the Northern Star Council BSA. In 1976 a group of Scouters (adult Boy Scout volunteers), who were also collectors worried about what would happen to their collections and what could be done with them to benefit the BSA and the public, formed North Star Scouting Memorabilia, Inc. The group were largely members of the St. Paul Council which became Indianhead Council and is now part of Northern Star Council. The group created traveling exhibits to tell the story of Boy Scouts both to the Boy Scouts and to the general public. For the next thirty years their exhibits were a feature at council-wide events. One volunteer, Dick Carroll, learned the skills necessary to begin to organize the collection made up of the original members' collections. They also continued to collect items, adding to the base for the present Museum collection. On Carroll's death he left his house to create a fund for the organization. That gift opened the next phase of the Museum's history. In 2005 the Museum moved into its present quarters with its first professional staff. Claudia Nicholson became the Executive Director. She led the Museum into its next stage. The Museum grew, developed programming and built its new presence in the Boy Scout and Girl Scout communities, and it continues to this day.

housed at Robert's Properties on Buerkle Road, White Bear Lake, MN.

Partners

Life at the Museum

The past year brought the Museum to a pre-covid schedule. We were open more regularly, particularly Wednesdays and Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. While we learned during Covid how much we could accomplish via Zoom, we are enjoying the return to in-person meetings including merit badge workshops and JOTA (Jamboree on the Air). Participation in the community events, such as North St. Paul Holiday Hop, resumed.

The Escape Room was able to open as Covid issues faded. Six units have escaped from the rooms, and expect more units and groups enjoying this experience.

We have hosted pinewood derbies and Eagle Courts of Honor, as well as other events. A new activity began in 2022 as several troops overnighed at the Museum. In addition several units have held one of their monthly meetings onsite. More programs, more visitors and more volunteers are expected to grow.



Veteran Scouter (Skunk) Reunion

Russ Edhlund presented the Skunk of the Year award to Bob Hannah. Keynote Speaker Jack Johnson, a small museum expert, shared his experiences. Key takeaways were for the Museum focus on: 1) Becoming an interpretive museum; 2) Increasing the use of technology; and 3) Recruiting younger volunteers. To read Jack's keynote, see pages 4-7, Museum News, August 2022 at [Museum Newsletters - North Star Museum \(nssm.org\)](#).

The Skunks also have a service patrol where they catalog items for the collection. They meet Tuesdays at the storage facility. On average they put in 125 hours per month!

Behind the Scenes ... The Collection

During the pandemic, many people decided to clean house. These folks literally delivered boxes and boxes of possible treasures of Boy Scout and Girl Scout items to the Museum. A stand-alone version of the museum database software, PastPerfect, limited the number of volunteers who could add information about items received. Now all collection information has been moved to a cloud version of the software. It took over 1,061 hours to review, clean up and migrate the data to the cloud. Now we're well on the way to completing a huge cataloging task where many volunteers can enter information on the new items into the databases.

We will now be able to access every single item of the more than 150,000 items that make up the collection!

Valiant Volunteers include: David Novy (Chair), Paul Bartyzal, Rebecca Emmons, Charles Clausen, Judy Clausen, Russ Edhlund, Gary Gorman, Bob Hannah, Kurt Leichtle, Michael Lund, Cole Petersen, Robert Pettitt, Beth Voermans, Joshua Wickert.

Saying "Goodbye" to a Good Friend

Tim Jopek
August 2022



Eagle Service Projects

These types of projects abound at the Museum. Aiden Mashaal built a gateway to the Campcraft Exhibit using buckthorn — an invasive bush species that looks beautiful.

You — our donors and friends — make us a success!

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Mike Aeling
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Will You Escape?

Yes! The much anticipated Escape Room was tested by two brave groups of boys and girls who are active in Scouts BSA and Girl Scouts of America units.

Great fun was had by all in solving the mysteries of Ancient Egypt thanks to the creativity of our volunteers is outstanding: Emily White, Nell Nere, John Guthmann and Kurt Leichtle.

The Founders Hall Recognition and Celebration

Nearly fifty enthusiastic supporters attended this first large event since 2018. Keynote Speaker MN Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Sarah Strommen talked about her love of the outdoors and our unique MN outdoor resources. The newest Builder was Hugh Gwin, was introduced by his sister, Beth March. We learned

about Hugh as one only can from a sibling, and we learned about what a solid Boy Scout and Girl Scout family the Gwins are.

The newest Trailblazer was Sharon Reece. She was introduced by Sandy Craighead. Sharon has infectious enthusiasm, and also has roots in both the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts.

Attendees also explored the new exhibits at the Museum.

Our gratitude abounds for this top-notch group of volunteers for putting together this event: Sandy Craighead (Chair), Barb Herrmann, Stephanie Pommier, Kurt Leichtle, Bonna Scherer, Sarah Strommen, Kristie Wanstrom.



Derby Night at the Museum!

What an exciting race! What an enthusiastic crowd of 30! And don't forget the great food, and silent auction!

Special thanks to our event sponsors: North St. Paul History Cruzers, T.A. Schifsky & Sons, Inc., Berwald Roofing & Sheet Metal, and Arthur O. Haukland VFW Post 1350.

At the top right, Acclaimed Artist Jimmy Longoria shows and auctions off 5 specially designed cars. Big race winners were John Victora-Croke (2nd), Tom Welna (1st), and Josh Bitz (3rd). And Kristina Victora-Croke won Best Derby Hat.

A heartfelt thank you to the Derby Committee and Other Volunteers: Connie Fullmer (Chair), Paul Bartyzal, John Guthmann, Barb Herrmann, Mike Herrmann, Kurt Leichtle,



Nell Nere, Bonna Scherer, Dean Thompson, Renee Thompson, Kristie Wanstrom and Emily White.

