

APRIL
2023



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Come to the Museum's Annual Meeting

The North Star Museum is holding its annual members meeting on Thursday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m. So, why should you come? The real question is why shouldn't you come? The answer? There is no reason for you to miss the annual meeting. Read on.

At the annual meeting, we will review the events of the past year and you will get a chance to see our written annual report. Every attendee gets a copy. If the report is anything like recent reports you will be impressed by both the look and the content. You will also get an update on the finances of the Museum (thanks to your generosity, they are sound) and our plans for the next year and beyond (they are exciting).

You are important. So, we plan to devote some annual meeting time to hearing from you. What do you think the Museum and its programs should look like now and five years from now?

High quality exhibits are a central part of

any good museum's program. We are no different. The annual meeting will give you one of the first public opportunities to see our nearly complete Homefront exhibit. The exhibit, which is taking almost as much time to build as the U.S. took to enter WWI, focuses on Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting activities during the two world wars. Come to the annual meeting and find out what exhibits may be next on the docket.

Finally, there is food, or more specifically, dessert. We got you with the food, didn't we? Over dessert, you will have a chance to see old friends (if nothing else, please ask them to come) and watch our program of volunteer recognition—one of them might be you. If the program energizes you, as we think it will, perhaps you may be inspired to volunteer or volunteer more at the Museum. There are plenty of opportunities. So, plan to be at the annual meeting at the Museum on May 18 at 6:30. No pre-registration is necessary. See you there.

2023 ORDER OF THE ODOR REUNION - CALLING ALL SKUNKS!

Spring is in the air and it is time for all loyal Skunks to emerge from their winter hibernation and prepare to attend that most aromatic gathering of our esteemed and pungent Order of the Odor—the annual Skunk Reunion. The 2023 Skunk Reunion gathering will take place on Saturday, May 13 at Fred C. Andersen Camp's Swanson Lodge (Upper Level). Check in begins at 11:00 a.m. The

program will begin at 11:30. If you are so equipped, come attired in your finest Skunk regalia. Nose plugs are optional and the registration fee is once again only \$15. Read on to see what you can expect to see, hear, and smell on May 13.

Remember, you may be a Skunk and not even know it. Do you occasionally won-
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2023 ORDER OF THE ODOR REUNION—CALLING ALL SKUNKS!

(Continued from Page 1)

der why people ask about your unique and pungent aroma? Well, anyone who has been affiliated with Scouting, USA, Girl Scouts of the USA, or the North Star Museum for at least three years, and is a current member of the Museum, IS A SKUNK. There's your answer. Come to the reunion on May 13. Become part of our common stench and enjoy some food and fellowship.

Program Highlights

Panel Discussion

A panel discussion will be led by Kurt Leitchle, a PhD in History, and Jack Johnson, a former museum curator. They will lead an important discussion on two subjects relevant to the North Star Museum:

1. What makes a good museum memorable?
2. What do we need to do differently to be more successful?

Please think about these questions and come to the reunion with your ideas.

Display of New Collection Items

A couple of ancient Skunks have been sniffing around the Museum warehouse this past winter and their nose did not let them down. They uncovered some unique and historic items that were recently added to the Museum's collection. Gary Gorman and Russ Edlund will display and explain the significance of these items.

Presentation of the 2023 Skunk of the Year

The highlight of the day will be the presentation of this year's Skunk of the Year. Nominations for this great honor are now being accepted. This issue of the *Museum News* includes a Skunk of the Year nomination form. Please complete the enclosed nomination form and submit it no later than April 28.

The Annual Computation

Total up the years you have devoted to Scouting as a youth and adult. We will count the years

for all those in attendance and generate a grand total. This is always an impressive number.

Luncheon

After the program, it will be time to enjoy a good meal. Your registration includes a box lunch. During lunch, you will get a chance to continue the fellowship, swap Scout stories, and renew old friendships.

How to Register

To make things easy, this issue of the *Museum News* includes a registration form. Just, complete the enclosed registration form and return it to the Museum no later than April 28 with your \$15 check and your nomination for Skunk of the Year. If you would prefer to register on line, we expect to include the registration on the Museum's website – nssm.org.

Loyal and odorous Skunk you have been summoned. See you at Swanson Lodge on May 13!

SLIDING INTO HISTORY

By Gary Gorman - Skunk Patrol Scribe

When I began working with the Museum's Boy Scout collection, I was just a little bit curious about what I would find. But, over the last year and a half I have moved from curiosity to a deep dive – make that a “slide” - into certain aspects of Scouting history. Case in point is my recent discovery of the Neal Manufacturing Com-

pany of Biddeford, Maine. The company produced neckerchief slides during a twenty-five-year period in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970's. Sadly, the company was sold in 1977. During its twenty-five years of existence, this small family business made an estimated two to three million necker-

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Two stylish Neal products; a bolo and a slide.

SLIDING INTO HISTORY (Continued from Page 2)

chief slides out of an early type of plastic called Bakelite. These slides may still be found for sale on eBay with as many as 400/500 hundred varieties usually available. They can fetch prices of \$9.95 or more. These prices are a far cry from the one or two dollars they originally sold for at camps and Scout shops.

What moved me from curiosity to the deep “slide” was an extensive collection of Scouting “stuff” donated to the Museum last year by a Mr. Brick, a scouter from the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area. The Collections Committee needed five or six meetings to sort through and process this large collection. The Brick collection introduced me to the Neal Manufacturing Company, where included in the “stuff” was a faded local newspaper article about the history of this home-grown company.

After seeing that old article, I had to know more. With my interest piqued, I did some research. I discovered that the company produced over 931 different standard and custom designs in multiple colors along with seventeen standard bolo tie slides. The slides were sold at Scout camps all over the country as well as at council Scout shops. For a while, they were sold by the National Scout Supply Service. Neal neckerchief slides were also shipped to England and Japan and a few other places outside the USA. Neal slides could be purchased either fully painted or unpainted. Because of their many va-

rieties and colors, they have become highly collectible.

The company was founded by a veteran local Scouter named Charles Millard Neal. He started the business in his basement in 1953 or 1954. After a couple of years, the business moved to a large two-story garage. At the height of its production in the mid-1970s, Mr. Neal employed as many as eighteen employees during the summer camping season. During this peak period, the company manufactured as many as 1,500 slides per day! Standard slides, when ordered in large quantities of 500 or more, sold for just 38 cents each in the 1970s. Custom slides cost more. The company’s motto was: “FOR A REAL SLIDE GET A NEAL SLIDE.” Thanks to fellow Skunk Bob Hannah, I was able to locate *A Neal Slide Guide*, a rare reference book published in 2015.

Finally, if this story seems at all interesting to you, please consider joining the Museum’s Collections Committee. The committee meets for a weekly work session each Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Museum’s White Bear Lake warehouse. If you are interested in Girl Scout collecting, the Girl Scout collection group meets on Thursdays at about the same time. Join us for one session, or make them all. *Scouting Fellowship is the norm.*

P.S. Don’t forget that other Museum volunteer positions are available. Please JUST ASK!!

**Know of anyone
interested in joining?
Contact:
Carissa Meyer at
651-748-2880 or
carissa.meyer@nssm.org**

Skunk of the Year Nomination Form



Nomination for Skunk of the Year due by April 28, 2023

Section One:

Award Criteria: This award is presented to a person who has been affiliated with Scouting, USA, Girl Scouts of the USA, or the North Star Museum for at least three years, and is a current member of the museum.

| |
|--|
| <p>CANDIDATE/ Name of individual being nominated: _____ Current museum member? Yes / No Registered member of Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts? Yes / No Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____ Phone number: _____ Email: _____</p> |
|--|

| |
|---|
| <p>Nominator's name: _____ Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____ Phone number: _____ Email: _____ Best time to reach you: _____</p> |
|---|

Section Two:

Please provide a statement of support for the individual being nominated. The statement should address the award criteria and this individual should receive this award. Include tenure with the museum, special or extraordinary things done during the year, other Boy Scout/Girl Scout activities he/she may be involved with, and the amount of time spent on museum activities. Use an extra sheet of paper if necessary.

Section Three: (optional)

Attach a letter of recommendation supporting your nomination from a person other than yourself. This person may be a museum member, Boy Scout or Girl Scout, adult volunteer in Boy Scouting or Girl Scouting, or someone else who knows of the individual's contributions.

Nominator's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Mail nominations to:

Selections Committee
 North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting
 2640 E. Seventh Avenue
 North St. Paul, MN 55109

This form can also be downloaded from: www.nssm.org

Greetings to all Museum Members

Veteran Scouters and Skunks

2023 Skunk Reunion



It's time to get together, swap stories, and report on the progress of the Museum.

Who: People who are Museum members and have been registered in Boy Scouts of America or Girl Scouts of the USA for three or more years.

When: Saturday, May 13, 2023

Where: Fred C. Andersen Scout Camp, former St. Croix River Camp. This year we will be back in the Swanson Lodge located on the upper level of the camp.

Time: 11:00 am Fellowship, beverages provided
 11:30 am Program
 12:00 Noon Lunch

Cost: \$15.00 per person. Preregistration is mandatory!

Registration: You can register online by going to www.nssm.org, calling the North Star Museum between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm Tuesday-Thursday or mailing a check into the North Star Museum at 2640 Seventh Avenue East, North St. Paul, MN 55109.

Directions: Take Minnesota 36 across the new St. Croix River crossing and proceed on highways 35/64 to the Andersen Scout Camp Road (follow the signage). The camp is 1.2 miles further. Once in camp follow the signs.

The deadline for registration is April 28, 2023

My name is _____

Yes, I'm coming! Put me down for the reunion. Here is my \$15.00.

I will be bringing guests Number of guests _____ x \$15.00 (Names: _____)

I need a ride.

I can pick-up supplies and/or help by driving Please call me at _____

Thanks for Supporting the *Call to History Road Show*

On March 18, the North Star Museum held its second *Call to History Road Show*. This fundraiser gives Museum supporters an opportunity to support the Museum financially while enjoying rare, interesting, and some seldom-seen objects in the collection—and their stories. Over thirty Museum supporters were in attendance.

The 2023 event featured a musical theme and displayed several treasures from the collection. Each story was separately narrated, and each story took the audience to another place and time. By the time we broke for lunch, our audience also came to realize that our members and supporters sometimes know as much or more about objects in the collection than our volunteer curators. The stories were:

- Sandy Berg Dickson spoke about the function of music in camping. To illustrate her

talk, we displayed some of the Museum's collection of Girl Scout song books and a couple of vinyl record albums.

- Kurt Leichtle spoke about the tradition of drum and bugle corps in Boy Scouting. To accompany his words were photos and uniforms from area drum and bugle corps, including a drum from the Willmar, MN corps, sponsored by the local Lions Club.
- A bass drum head from the National Order of the Arrow Conference's Brotherhood Band was part of the drum and bugle corps talk. However, the presentation took on an interactive flavor when Kurt wondered aloud about how the object came to the Museum. Thanks to Joe Glenski the audience was treated to the drum head's

entire back story. We will need to write up this story!

After the objects were shown and the stories were told, Nancy Dana came forward to encourage attendees to support the Museum. Her talk was spellbinding and it reached an even higher level when she led everyone in the best kind of sing along—a campfire tongue twister called, *The Peanut Song*. If you don't know the song, we can teach it to you.

You did not need to be at the *Call to History Roadshow* to support the Museum. To make an on-line gift, just use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/NorthStarMuseumGiveNow>. If you would like to view any of the items featured in this year's *Call to History Road Show*, let us know and a viewing can be arranged.



Pictured above are a group of Girl Scout song books and recordings from the Museum's collection. They were on display for the *Call to History Road Show*.



Sandy Berg Dickson spoke about the role of songs and singing in Girl Scouting at the *Call to History Road Show*.

More Images from the *Call to History Road Show*



Bonna Scherer kicked off the *Call to History Road Show* in front of an enthusiastic audience.



Kurt Leichtle spoke about drum and bugle corps in Boy Scouting and learned something new about the National Brotherhood Band drum head pictured on the right



Nancy Dana wrapped up the *Call to History Road Show* by leading everyone in *The Peanut Song*.

Sign Up for an Overnight at the Museum

On a recent Friday night, Brownie Girl Scout Troop 57939 from Chisago City had a fun overnight at the Museum. The girls were so excited to be spending the night. A big part of the fun was earning their Games Badge. Even though they picked one of our many Minnesota nights of heavy snowfall this winter, the weather did not dampen the fun for two reasons. First,

their tent was pitched inside the Museum in the Founders Hall. Second, they went outside to roast marshmallows for S'mores. That made the weather easy to forget.

Would you like to organize a similar event and have a much or even more fun than Troop 57939? Well, you can. The cost is only \$30 per girl and it in-

cludes admission and everything necessary to earn the Games Badge or possibly another badge. S'mores are always a part of the overnight as well. Call the Museum at 651-748-2880 for more information or to set up your overnight.



The girls of Brownie Girl Scout Troop 57939 enjoy making S'mores. What snow?



The girls of Brownie Girl Scout Troop 57939 pitched their tent in the Founders Hall.



After a warm night tent camping in the Founders Hall, the girls of Brownie Girl Scout Troop 57939 enjoyed the aftermath of the blizzard.

DATED MATERIAL



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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North Star Museum
of Boy Scouting
and Girl Scouting
2640 East 7th Avenue
North St. Paul, MN 55109
Phone: 651-748-2880

**We're on the web
www.nssm.org**

Your Official Teaser for Super Merit Badge Weeks - 2023 Edition

Get ready. Super Merit Badge Weeks will be back in the summer of 2023. Super Merit Badge Weeks is the Museum's most popular educational program. What better way to spend the dog days of summer when units are not meeting and camp only takes up a week or two of the three-month summer break when school is not in session. Fear not, the Museum is planning an exciting summer of merit badge offerings once again.

Put the dates in your calendar now so you are ready to sign up when the class schedule is announced. June merit badges will be scheduled during the week of

June 20-24. July merit badges will be scheduled during the week of July 18-22. The final summer week of Super Merit Badge Weeks will be the week of August 15-19. Each week of programming will be announced about thirty days before the scheduled week. As always, you can register and pay online at nssm.org. Prices remain unchanged -- \$15 per person or \$12 for Museum members. Be prepared for Super Merit Badge Weeks!



Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, John Guthmann, 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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