

DECEMBER
2023

NORTH STAR MUSEUM
OF BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING
Museum News

Inside this issue:

How to Be a Unicorn	2
Celebrate Girl Scout Week	2
The Cruzers are Coming, the Cruzers are Coming - We Need You!	3
Tribute & Memorials	3
The Cars Ran Fast at Derby Night 2023	4
Scenes From Derby Night	5
The Museum Appreciates Your Generosity	6
Scenes From the GLOW Party	6
The Museum was Hop, Hop, Hoppin'	7
December 26-December 29 Merit Badge	8

Welcome Kristina Viktora-Croke!

As of December 6, 2023, the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting has a new Executive Director. Welcome, Kristina Viktora-Croke!

Kristina has a great background for the job. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in marketing management from the University of Saint Thomas, board experience with several nonprofit organizations, and extensive fundraising and grant writing experience.

Kristina also has a strong background in Girl Scouting. She has been a Girl Scout troop leader for twelve years, and she has been both an employee and council-level volunteer of the Girl Scouts River Valleys Council. In addition, her son was a Cub Scout.

Do you think you recognized Kristina? She is no stranger to the Museum. The last two years she participated in Derby Night at the Museum, winning the Best Derby Hat trophy each time. Check out her 2023 award-winning hat in the photo accompanying the Derby Night article.



Kristina Viktora-Croke

Get to know Kristina. She certainly wants to get to know you. Say "hello" next time you are at the Museum.

Sign Up Now for 2023 Year-End Merit Badges at the Museum

The last week of 2023 is a perfect time to pick up a merit badge or two before 2024 arrives. The North Star Museum is offering six different merit badges between December 26 and December 29. They are all Eagle-required merit badges. Think of this as an opportunity to complete a 2024 New Year's Resolution before the new year even begins. All of the merit badges will be taught in person at the Museum. Get the word out to all of the Scouts you know before all of the slots are gone. Registration is easy at nssm.org! **See the schedule on Page 8.**

How to Be a Unicorn



Just for Brownies! Join us at the Museum for a magical and enchanted event specially tailored for Brownie Girl Scouts where we will explore the connection between the Girl Scouts and unicorns.

As you learn "How to Be a Unicorn", you will be immersed in a world of fun, games, songs, and crafts that explores the mystical realm of unicorns and how it aligns with the core values of the Girl Scout Law.

Dress Code: Girls are encouraged to wear their favorite unicorn-inspired clothing or Girl Scout attire, showcasing their commitment to embodying the Girl Scout Law and unicorn values.

Join us in creating a world where honesty, fairness, friendliness,

helpfulness, consideration, courage, strength, and responsibility shine through, making the world a better place—one unicorn and one Girl Scout at a time.

Who: Brownie Girl Scouts

Date: March 14, 2024

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Where: North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting

Cost: \$15 per Brownie and \$6 per leader or supervising adult

Register: Online at <https://www.nssm.org>

Celebrate Girl Scout Week

**GIRL SCOUT DAISIES, BROWNIES, AND JUNIORS:
Get Ready to Shine Bright!
Join us at the Museum
on Tuesday, March 12, 2024
6:30-8:30 p.m.**

For all Brownies, Daisies, and Juniors! On March 12, 2024, come to the Museum to celebrate the Girl Scout Birthday and Girl Scout Week with a spectacular Glow Party! Dive into a luminous world of fun and games under the enchanting glow of black lights.

Learn about Girl Scouts U.S.A. Founder Juliette Gordon Low and why she shines! Illuminate the night with your brightest smiles! Let's light up the evening in honor of Juliette!

Don't miss out on the glow-tastic festivities! The cost is only \$15 per Girl Scout and \$6 per leader or supervising adult. Register as an individual or a troop online at <https://www.nssm.org>



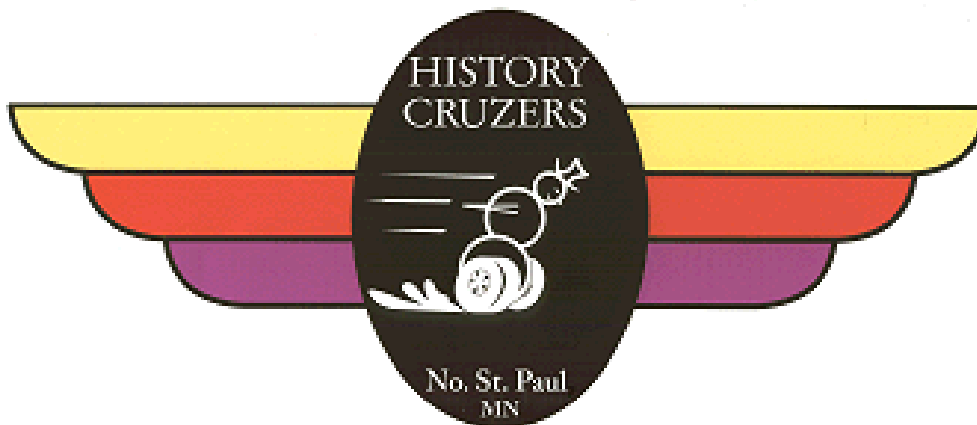
The Cruzers are Coming, the Cruzers are Coming - We Need You!

The summer of 2024 promises to bring new excitement to the North Star Museum and you can be a part of it. For the first time, the Museum is collaborating with the North St. Paul History Cruzers.

Who are the North St. Paul History Cruzers? The Cruzers celebrate the wonder of antique cars by putting them on public display every Friday night during the summer months. The Cruzers started on a Friday night in 1996 with about 25 cars near the intersection of 7th Avenue and Margaret Street in North St. Paul. The event has grown significantly and now draws 700-1,800 cars each week. Each week, the cars park along a half-mile stretch of 7th Avenue and fill many adjacent parking lots. The street is closed to other traffic for the night and a fair-like atmosphere prevails with street vendors, music, and food.

In 2024, the Museum is getting involved in all of the fun and we need

volunteers to help staff our efforts. For sixteen Friday nights during the summer of 2024, the Museum will be open from 6:00-8:00 p.m. to take advantage of the 10,000 people walking on 7th Avenue in front of our main entrance. In addition to giving thousands of people the opportunity to learn about the Museum and its programs for the first time, we will also be offering people a special Derby Car competition for adults culminating in a race on August 23. To manage our facility and make a visit to the Museum meaningful for the Cruiser crowd, we need at least three volunteers each of those sixteen Friday nights. If you like to meet new people and want to help us out, please send an email to Lorena Palm at lpalm@nssm.org to get more information. Help us staff those evenings! Come early or stay late to enjoy the Cruiser cars, food, and music.



Tribute & Memorials

*From Gerald & Beth Voermans
- in honor of Becca Emmons
for her hard and extensive
work on the collections
committee*

*From Mary A. Anderson - in
memory of Alex Guthmann*

*From Mary Degel - in memory
of Scott Degel*

*From Emily White - in memory
of Wendy Shermann and
Alex Guthmann*

**Know of anyone
interested in joining?**

Contact:

**Carissa Meyer at
651-748-2880 or**

carissa.meyer@nssm.org

The Cars Ran Fast at Derby Night 2023

On November 4, a boisterous crowd of racers and spectators assembled at the Museum for Derby Night. Our “funraiser” had it all – 19 cars entered in the big race, a hearty hors d’oeuvres, desserts, wine, beer, soft drinks, a silent auction, and a live auction. Thanks to our community sponsors, the event was even more successful. Our sponsors this year were the North St. Paul History Cruzers, T.A. Schifsky & Sons, Inc., Berwald Roofing & Sheet Metal, Thrivent Financial, Sandy Craighead, and Arthur O. Haukland VFW Post 1350.

This year’s race featured some real speed. With the help of Paul Bartyzal on the finish line and Dean Thompson at the starting gate, the Museum’s state-of-the-art Pinewood Derby track was running like a finely tuned watch. In addition to the speed, it is fun

to see racers try to outdo their previous designs each year. This year’s top three finishers were Blake Kirchner, Judy Hunter, and Robert Schwartz. Blake Kirchner had the fastest heat, running the equivalent of 196.79 mph in the sixth heat. His car was fast, but it was still a whisker slower than Tom Welna’s fastest heat in 2022, which was 197.93 mph. Natalie Broshar’s car #5 took home the trophy for best derby car design.

There were other success stories as well. For the second year in a row, the recipient of the Best Derby Hat award was Kristina Viktora-Croke. Not long after Derby Night, Kristina was named the Museum’s new Executive Director. For more on that story, see the separate article on the front page of this issue of the *Museum News*. Congratulations times two!

Bonna Scherer was the winner of the “heads and tails” coin toss event. The live auction included two custom-made Tom Welna cars. Tom promised that his cars were “tuned” for speed on the Museum’s track. Also auctioned live by Auctioneer Joe Glenski was a “Silk” limited edition print from Heidi Pinkerton of Root River Photography.

Thanks to everyone who helped make Derby Night at the Museum 2023 a success. In addition to the names mentioned above, our thank you is extended to Kristi Wanstrom, Emily White, Bonna Scherer, Lorena Palm, and Judy Hunter. Plans are already being made for Derby Night at the Museum next year. Spread the word. Start working on that special speedy car. See you at Derby Night 2024!



Thank you to our 2023 Derby Night at the Museum Sponsors



Pictured above are the two Tom Welna custom designed and track-tuned-for-speed cars that were auctioned off live at Derby Night.

Scenes From Derby Night 2023



The top three Derby Night “Big Race” finishers pose with their cars, their trophies, and the poster thanking our event sponsors. The winners are from left to right: Blake Kirchner, Judy Hunter, and Robert Schwartz.



The crowd went wild as cars sped down the Museum’s state-of-the-art track.



For the second year in a row, Kristina Viktora-Croke walked away with the Best Derby Hat trophy.



Joe Glenski served as the live auctioneer at Derby Night.



Natalie Broshar shows off her car and trophy for Best Derby Car Design.

The Museum Appreciates Your Generosity

Each year, many friends of the North Star Museum make year-end gifts to assist in their own income tax planning and to help the Museum. As 2023 draws to a close, we ask you once again to please remember the Museum! Read on to see how your donations are put to work.

The year 2023 was an active and exciting year for the Museum. We continued to draw crowds to our new Escape Room, hundreds of boys and girls earned merit badges through our educational Merit Badge Workshops, and Girl Scouts enjoyed unique programs tailored to their unit activities. In addition, we opened

a new Homefront exhibit focusing on Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting activities spanning the timeframe of WWI and WWII. On top of all of this excitement, just in the last two weeks, the Museum hired a new Executive Director. For more details, see the lead article in this issue of the *Museum News*.

The easiest way to make a year-end gift to the Museum is on our website. Just go to www.nssm.org. Thanks to your help, the Museum continues to grow in participation, exhibits, and program. Help us reach even more people with stories and displays about both Boy Scouting

and Girl Scouting through a year-end gift. Thank you!



Scenes From the Juliette Gordon Low GLOW Party



The Juliette Gordon Low Glow Party took place at the Museum on October 27. Before going into the “glow”, the girls made Juliette Gordon Low puppets.



And, when the lights went out and the dark lights went on, it truly glowed.

The Museum was Hop, Hop, Hoppin'

On December 2, 2023, the Museum again participated in the annual North St. Paul Holiday Hop. This year was the tenth anniversary of the Holiday Hop.

For those not in the know, the Holiday Hop is an all-volunteer celebration of the North St. Paul community that is put on by the businesses in North St. Paul. The purpose of the Holiday Hop is to keep the museums, restaurants, retail, industry, and other businesses of North St. Paul front and center in the minds of local citizenry during the holidays.

During this year's Hop, the Museum had over 170 visitors. Five Girl Scout Troops participated in a boutique for visitors and had many items to offer for sale. The North St. Paul Girl Scout Service Unit also offered two crafts to

kids old and young. In true holiday spirit, the Museum again offered punched tin ornaments for people to make.

The punched tin ornaments are becoming a Holiday Hop tradition at the Museum. To keep our tradition going, we can always use your unwanted juice can lids. Instead of throwing them away or recycling them, save them for the Museum. Bring them in when you can before the 2024 Holiday Hop. It is not too early to think ahead.

Our 2023 Holiday Hop was a success in great part due to the efforts of several key volunteers. A special "thank you" goes out to Nell Nere, Gina Dunbar, Suzanne Ericsson, and Jamie Joyce. Thanks for all you did during the 2023 Holiday Hop at the Museum!



A young visitor is shown making his very own punched tin ornament.



This year, Frosty the Snowman came to the Museum during the Holiday Hop. Although the kids warmed up to Frosty, he did not melt.



Two Girl Scouts from the North St. Paul Girl Scout Service Unit stand in front of the Museum to promote their Holiday Hop Boutique.

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

Sign Up Now for 2023 Year-End Merit Badges at the Museum

December 26-December 29 Merit Badge Schedule

Dec. 26 – **Scouting Heritage** – Kurt Leichtle from 9:00 A.M. to Noon (limit 10)

Dec. 26 – **Citizenship in the Nation** – Bob Elliott from 1:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
(limit 10)

Dec. 27 – **Communications** – Bob Elliott from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. (limit 10) (SOLD
OUT)

Dec. 27 – **Citizenship in the World** – John Guthmann from 8:30 A.M. to Noon (limit
10) (SOLD OUT)

Dec. 28 – **Citizenship in Society** – Mike Fratto from 8:30 A.M. to Noon (limit 15)

Dec. 29 – **Citizenship in the Community** – John Capecchi from 8:30 A.M. to Noon (limit
10)

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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