

NORTH STAR MUSEUM

BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING

Museum News

April 2012

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE 2012 SKUNK REUNION

Last year, when you first read about the Skunk Reunion, it was difficult to imagine because we were still under feet of snow. What a difference a year makes. By the time June 2 rolls around we will be near the end of one of the earliest and longest springs in years. Is there a better way to enjoy it all than in the outdoor splendor of the Swanson Lodge at Fred C. Andersen Camp? Be there to join your fellow Skunks in fun, fellowship, food and ceremony at 10:30 a.m. on June 2, 2012.



Did you know that if you are reading this article, you are probably a Skunk and that you should plan to attend the Skunk Reunion? Yes, anyone who has been a Scouter for 15 years or more and is a member of the Museum is a Skunk. I guess that is you after all. There is no better way to renew your old Scouting acquaintances and make some new friends—in an enjoyable setting to boot. Just to make sure you have plenty of friends at the event, why don't you bring a few with you? The more the merrier (and smellier).

Thanks to long-time stinker, Charlie Opp, brunch will again be served at the Skunk Reunion. This year, to make registration easier, we are including the registration form as an insert page in this issue of Museum News. Please fill it out and send it in right away. The cost is unchanged from last year, only \$13. If transportation is an issue for you, let us know when you register and we will match you up with a ride. We really want to see you!

At each Skunk Reunion, a worthy Scouter is named Skunk of the Year based upon long and outstanding service to Scouting. Last year's double recipients were Art Marty and Paul Bartyzal. Right now, we are accepting nominations for the 2012 Skunk of the Year. If you know someone who would be a worthy recipient of the award, please submit a nomination form. The deadline for consideration is May 6, 2012. The Skunk of the Year nomination form is on the back side of the registration form in this issue. So, when you fill out your registration form, also submit a Skunk of the Year nomination.

The registration form is on page 3 of this issue of the *Museum News* and the nomination form is on page 4. Both the registration form and the nomination form will also be placed on the Museum website at nssm.org. Register for the Skunk Reunion and nominate a Skunk today. To help with meal planning, the deadline for submitting your registration is May 30, 2012. We look forward to seeing you at the Skunk Reunion on June 2, 2012.

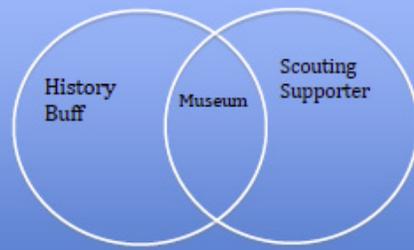
From the Director

Many of you have been asked to respond recently to a member's survey. This survey was commissioned by our Membership Committee as a way to gauge your interest in different aspects of the Museum program, and to find out how you came to be members of the organization.

In my seven years at the Museum, I have always assumed that our primary audience was that sliver of people in the middle of a two-circle Venn Diagram, where people with an interest in history are in one circle and people who are interested in Scouting programs is in the other. How wrong I have been! Instead, 87% of you have said that your support of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting was paramount in your becoming a museum member, followed by 44.4% who are interested in history (the survey allowed you to cite more than one reason for joining). The truth is that the entire Venn Diagram consists of potential museum supporters! As icing on the cake, the number that gratified me the most was that 27.8% of you joined because you were asked to do so by a friend.

There is no discounting the fact that when you combine a love of Scouting and an interest and respect for history with a personal ask to join, the Museum gains more members. And, members are something of which a museum can never have too many. So, I am going to ask something of all of you . . . bring someone to the Museum and ask them to join us. Remember, this doesn't have to be a history fan, although an affinity for Boy Scouting and/or Girl Scouting helps a great deal. Tell them why you joined and what you like about us. If you call me in advance, I will give you and your guest a personal tour of the Museum, including a glimpse into our challenging back rooms! We would like to grow our membership substantially. The most effective way to grow membership is to get people in the door and ask them to join. You can help us!

Where I Used to Think Museum Members Come From



A “Boffo” Engagement at the Great Girl Gathering!

On March 10-11, 2012, the Girl Scouts of the Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys celebrated the Girl Scout Centennial in grand style with the Great Girl Gathering at the Mall of America. And, the North Star Museum was there! Thousands of current Girl Scouts, Girl Scout alumnae, and their families invaded the MOA for a terrific experience.

There was plenty to do and see at the event. On Sunday, the entertainment included Disney stars, China Anne McClain and the McClain Sisters. And, the Museum was there! As Executive Director Claudia Nicholson said following the event, “After spending twenty four of the last forty eight hours at the Mall of America, I can safely say that our presence at the Great Girl Gathering was a smart move. Over two days, we saw 3,156 people, an estimated 95% of whom did NOT know about the Museum prior to this event. If a fraction of the people to whom we handed brochures and Girl Scout program flyers to respond over the next two months, we will be swamped.”

The work of many volunteers who staffed the Museum exhibit was crucial to the success of the event. Special thanks to Robbi Moore, Kurt Leichtle, Tim Jopek, Lorena Palm, Barb Herrmann, Nora Slawik, and Paul Bartyzal for their hard work. You should also thank Nell Nere next time you see her. She made many of the more than 1500 museum swaps that were handed out to the girls. Girl Scouts, happy 100th!

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A Girl Scout and her parent enjoy the North Star Museum display at the Mall America during the Great Girl Gathering at the Mall of America. (Photo reprinted courtesy of Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys)

Greetings to all Museum Members, Veteran Scouters and Skunks!

2012 Skunk Reunion

It's Spring! Time to get together, swap stories,
and report on the progress of the museum



Who: Museum members and veteran Scouters
registered as a Scouter for 15 years or registered in
Scouting over 20 years.

When: Saturday, June 2, 2012

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

Times: 10:30 am Fellowship, beverages provided
11:00 am Program
12:00 noon Lunch

Cost: \$13.00 per person. **Pre-registration is mandatory.**

Directions: Cross the St. Croix River at Stillwater, go up the hill past the commercial area
on highway 64, then go one mile north and turn left on the Andersen Scout Camp Road.
The camp is 1.2 miles further.

The deadline for registration is Wednesday, May 30, 2012

My name is _____

Yes, I'm coming! Put me down for the reunion. Here is my \$13.00

I will be bringing guests Number of guests _____ x \$13.00

These are the names of the guests who will be attending with me.

I need a ride

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

Please fill in the form and return with your check to: North Star Scouting Museum
2840 Seventh Avenue East
North St. Paul, MN 55109

Skunk of the Year Nomination Form



Nomination for Skunk of the Year due by May 6, 2012

Section One:

Award Criteria: This award is presented to a person who has been affiliated with Boy or Girl Scouting or the North Star Museum for at least 15 years, and is a current member of the museum.

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:** _____

Nominator's name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone number: _____ **Email:** _____
Best time to reach you: _____

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

FEBRUARY BOY SCOUT CEREMONIES DRAW LOCAL MEDIA



All the Eagle Scouts in attendance are pictured joining Steve Lape in the Eagle Charge

Steve Lape Awarded Eagle Badge in Emotional Ceremony

On Sunday, February 12, nearly 100 people were on hand at a Court of Honor to see 53-year old Steve Lape receive his Eagle Award. Steve has Down Syndrome but thanks to the Boy Scout special needs program, Steve was able to continue his quest to receive the highest rank available from the Boy Scouts of America.

Troop 594 was founded in the 1970's and Steve has been a member of the troop from the beginning. Several troop members were close to completing their Eagle when it was discovered that Steve's health was declining. So, Steve, his fellow Scouts and the adult leaders of the troop focused on helping Steve fulfill his service project, which was conducted at the Museum last fall. Then, in a moving ceremony, Steve received his award.

A number of Museum members are actively involved in the leadership of Troop 594. They include: Jim Rupert; Charlie Opp; Tim Barrett; and, Faith Anderson. Presentation of the Eagle badge to Steve was particularly emotional for these committed leaders. See another photo of the troop on page 6 of the *Museum News*.

Steve received some well-deserved public attention in addition to the support of those in attendance. A representative of Rep. Betty McCollum's office was also on hand to present a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. and a certificate attesting to the flag's authenticity. In addition, the St. Paul Pioneer Press published a photo and an article. To top things off, KSTP sent a crew to film the entire event. The KSTP reporter also did a live feed right in front of the Museum's sign at 5:30. The story was repeated at 10 p.m. The piece was pretty great—for both Steve and the Museum.

Antonio Vandal's Heroism Recognized by Sen. Klobuchar

On February 18, just days after the Steve Lape Eagle ceremony, Antonio Vandal received a National Certificate of Merit for helping his father save a young man's life on a canoe trip. Very few boys of Cub Scout age receive this recognition in a given year, and Antonio was one of them. About 130 guests filled nearly every inch of the Museum. The event even drew Sen. Amy Klobuchar for her first Museum visit. This time, KMSP was present with a crew did a live shot from the Museum. The crew picked a perfect place for the interview, placing the Rosene canoe in the foreground! The event also drew reporters from the Pioneer Press and Lillie News. Once again, the coverage was nice—for both Antonio and the Museum.



Noemi Vandal, Rocky Vandal, Antonio Vandal, and Sen. Amy Klobuchar are pictured after Antonio receive his heroism award.



Pictured here are a number of members and leaders of Troop 594. Standing behind Steve Lape and Jim Rupert are, from left to right, Mike Opp, Al Imhoff, Jim Smith, Tim Barrett, Robert Kviberg, Charlie Opp, and John Beard.

Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, 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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First Class