

# HISTORY OF TROOP 20

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For the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration---1999

The year was 1933. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was president, Adolf Hitler came into power, and the Boy Scout Troop Twenty was started. However, the Troop had a rough start. Weekly meetings were held for only about a couple years, and then ceased altogether. Three years later, the Troop was up and running again, but it was not to last. Both of these lapses were probably caused by the Great Depression. Finally, in 1942, the economy was stable and nationalism was high due to World War II. Troop Twenty started again on October 30, 1942. At this time, the Troop's future first Eagle Scout, Carroll Dyer, joined. He was already involved in a church group, the Willing Workers, and wanted to help his community more.

The Troop met in the basement of the Penningtonville Presbyterian Church in Atglen. Mr. Dyer has fond memories of many campouts and hikes. Bob Alexander served as Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, but he had to leave for college. So Mr. Dyer took over. There were two patrols, the Owl patrol and the Hawk patrol. Eventually, the Troop became so large that they had to send some of the scouts to meet in a schoolhouse, which is now an apartment building, across from the graveyard behind the church. The scouts also planned to build a headquarters near Fox's Meadow in 1951. However, it was not finished due to lack of time and funds. Mr. Dyer served as Scoutmaster at this time. Mr. Dick Brown and his friend, Scott Greenfield, were scouts in the Troop. Mr. Brown has fond memories of Camp Horseshoe, Camporees, and marching in parades. Both Mr. Brown and Mr. Greenfield achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

Mr. Calvin Trice took over from Mr. Dyer in 1957. The troop grew larger. Scouts from Mr. Trice's time fondly recall camping at Horseshoe, Indian dancing with the Order of the Arrow, trips to Philmont and to the Sommers Canoe Base in Minnesota. The troop program was strong. Ten scouts earned Eagle in the 1960's and early 1970's. Mr. James Gawthorp, retired scoutmaster of Troop 53 in Kennett Square, fondly recalls the years his troop shared a summer camp site at Horseshoe with Troop 20 and Mr. Trice.

In 1978, Mr. Mitchell King was working for the Boy Scout Chester County Council as a District Executive. It was his job to make sure that Scouting programs got started in the area. Mr. King learned that Troop Twenty was no longer meeting. So, Mr. Dick Brown and Reverend Bob Andrews, the minister of the Presbyterian Church, helped Mr. King restart Troop Twenty. Mr. King took over as Scoutmaster and on October 15, 1979, the first meeting of the new Troop was held in the basement of the Penningtonville Church in Atglen and has been meeting there ever since.

Many people feel that Troop Twenty is one of the best Troops in this area. Mr. Ben Chappell, current Committee Chairperson, is in charge of sales and fund-raisers. Mr.

Chappell likes how 25-30% of the scouts in Troop Twenty become Eagle Scouts and the variety of trips the Troop goes on. The Troop has a different activity each month, and activities include trips to Camp Horseshoe, indoor rock climbing, trips to the Pennsylvania Renaissance Fair, trips to the USS Massachusetts and other World War II vessels, deep-sea fishing trips, campouts at Kaiser's Woodlot, and many others. The Troop also goes on a High Adventure Trip every year. High Adventure is for boys of fourteen years of age or older and consists of trips to places such as Philmont, New Mexico; the Florida Sea base; canoe trips in Algonquin and Adirondacks; and others.

Mr. Keith Williams, a committee member and Assistant Scoutmaster, thinks very highly of Mr. King's leadership. Mr. Williams takes care of many financial matters inside the Troop. Dr. Jim Brofee, who used to serve as Committee Chairperson, enjoyed how Mr. King allowed the boys to be responsible and run things, rather than the adults doing it. Mrs. Pam Diller, who served as Treasurer, thinks it is very important that boys learn how to survive in the wilderness and how to react in an emergency. Mr. Dick Brown, who was a scout in the old Troop Twenty and served as Committee Chairperson, thinks that the Boy Scouts is a very worthwhile organization, and likes how the parents are involved in the Troop. Dr. Raymond "Chip" Ewing, who was a committee chairperson, enjoyed the variety of trips that Troop Twenty goes on.

Mr. Carroll Dyer, who was Troop Twenty's first Eagle Scout and held many leadership positions within the Troop, thinks very highly of Boy Scouts because it teaches you many different skills and lessons.

In conclusion, Troop Twenty may have had a rough start, but we are certainly doing very well now. With good leaders, involved parents and enthusiastic boys, Troop Twenty should continue to do well for a long time.





## TROOP 20 SCOUTMASTERS & SPONSORS

<u>Year(s)</u>	<u>Scoutmaster</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
1919--??	Rev. Herbert O. Frey (Atglen Troop 1)	
1934—1936	John W. Hogg	Home & School League of Atglen
1939—1940	Donald W. Scott	Penningtonville Presbyterian Church
1942	Haines Newswanger	Group of Citizens
1943	John J. Newswanger	Group of Citizens
1944—1946	Donald S. Deaver	Group of Citizens
1946	Haines Newswanger	Group of Citizens
1947	William D. Hogg	Group of Citizens
1948—1949	Clinton D Forrester	Atglen Christian Brotherhood
1950—1951	Carol R. Dyer	Atglen Christian Brotherhood
1952—1954	Carol R Dyer	Group of Citizens
1954—1957	Carol R Dyer	Cochranville-Atglen Rotary Club
1957—1973	Calvin Trice Sr.	Cochranville-Atglen Rotary Club
1974	Dan Bronson	Cochranville-Atglen Rotary Club
1975—1977	David G. Miller	Atglen Scout Sponsorship Committee
1979—Present	G. Mitchell King	Penningtonville Presbyterian Church