



Vol. 23 Dedicated to Preserving the Memories of T.M.R. Campers No. 9

# The Newsletter of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum - September 2023

This issue of Smokes Signals is packed with exciting news and articles. You will read that the TMR Scout Museum has been featured in the International Scouting Collectors Association Journal. Our council President and CEO shares an experience from her week at TMR this summer and talks about her vision for TMR's and GNYC's future. Scouting co-founder Ernest Thompson Seton's granddaughter, Julie Seton participated in this month's Steakout and we have a report about that. We report about a troop that recently hiked the TMR Trail and earned the Historical Trail Award. Also, we have a final report of the summer of 2023 from Aquehonga, Family Camp, and Keowa. We hope you will enjoy it all.

If you have a TMR memory you would like to share please email it to us.

[Join the TMR Scout Museum](#)

---

## From the Chairman - Mitchell Slepian

On September 9, we kicked off the 2023-2024 scouting year at the Steakout at Alpine Scout Camp. The museum was there in full force. I am happy to report several members, including Dr. Gene Berman, Johnny Gonzalez, David Malatzky, Frank Mullane, Bill Mulrenin, Ira Nagel, Frank Rickenbaugh, and Anthony Zalak, attended on behalf of the museum. Johannes Knoops did double duty with us and the TMR Alumni Association. Kudos to Ira for being a great salesman. Thanks to Bill for bringing the Kintecoying Lodge #4 Ten-Year Anniversary patch collection. Scouts and Scouters were delighted to see patches from our well-loved legacy lodges and our decade-old lodge. We will again be at Alpine for the Kintecoying Lodge #4 Trade-O-Ree in a few weeks. We always look for volunteers to help us at events and, of course, at the museum. If you are interested, don't hesitate to contact me





Bill Mulrenin and Johnny Gonzalez



GNYC President and CEO Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez

# International Scouting Collectors Association Highlights TMR Scout Museum in Journal

by Dr. Gene Berman



The International Scouting Collectors Association (ISCA) publishes a Quarterly Journal, a magazine that is issued to members 4 times a year. It contains articles of interest to patch collectors, and articles that tell the history of Scouting and various parts of Scouting history, sometimes not patch related but often through the patches that were issued. One of the recurring columns in the journal is called, "ON THE ROAD TO SCOUTING MUSEUMS", written by Rick Stewart from Sycamore, Illinois. Rick has travelled the country in search of the best Museums, and we are honored that he considers us one of the best worthy of being written up by him for his Journal article.

Scout Museums have sprung up like weeds all over the country in the past 30 years. Some are council run and operated, some are privately owned and operated and some are independent but are affiliated with their local council. Some museums have local themes and some expand to national and even international displays.

For the longest time Rick has known about and recognized the TMR Scout Museum as one of the finer Museums in the country and has wanted to visit and do an article about our Museum. But owing to the fact Rick lives in Illinois and the fact that we are only open summers and some weekends during the year, the schedules were never able to jive, UNTIL THIS YEAR.

Rick told me he would be traveling east to Rhode Island with his wife for a convention in early April and he would be passing not that far from TMR and he wanted to know if I could arrange a visit to the Museum in order to do a feature article in one of the upcoming Journals. Arrangements were made with Co-director at the time, Glenn Pontier, to meet Rick and his wife and give them a tour of the Museum by Glenn. I filled in the background history of the Museum as to its origins and our basic themes as well as Glenn providing the up-to-date touring information for visitors both Scouts and non Scouts such as hours of operation, current standing exhibits and new exhibits. David Malatzky, our Associate Curator also contributed enhancing information on some of the exhibits we had done or are contemplating doing and I provided driving directions to be sure Siri or Waze did not give him a bum steer.



Rick Stewart

Rick was interested in the fact that our Museum is themed not only as a traditional Scouting Museum with history and memorabilia exhibits but local area history as well, and as an archeology museum, a natural history Museum. With David Malatzky our associate Curator providing valuable background information and Michael Drillingier and his Curatorial committee enriching the exhibits it provided much "fodder" for a great article. Rick was also impressed with the fact we had salvaged and reconditioned old buildings that were not in use and decaying on the property that we brought to the Museum and which now form a "Museum Compound". for visitors to enjoy. We offer a historic medal for hikers, we have a store to purchase souvenirs, and now I will let Rick's article tell you his impressions and observations.

Rick Stewart- Column Author- ON THE ROAD TO SCOUTING MUSEUMS  
Jim Ellis-Editor of Journal of the International Scouting Collectors Association

Thank you to ISCA for permission to reprint excerpts (or the whole article as you choose) of the article which appears in the September 2023 edition.

Link to ISCA website <<https://scoutTrader.org>>

Dr. Eugene Berman is the founder of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum, its first Chairman of the Board of Trustees for 17 years (1997-2014) and currently Chairman Emeritus.

Dr. Berman is also a founding member of the Board of Directors of ISCA serving for 15 years as an at-large Director (2000-2015). He is also a Life Member of ISCA.

**We have posted the full article on the Museum website.**

**You can read it by [clicking here.](#)**

# My Adventure At TMR

By Saroyan Friedman-Gonzalez  
CEO/President, Greater New York Councils, B.S.A.

It was a beautiful day at the Ten Mile River Scout Reservation (TMR). The sun was shining, the trees were as green as ever, and the air smelled fresh, earthy, and cool. I was in a calm and content mood, a feeling I had all week while staying on the famous Ten Mile River property and waking up to a sunrise beaming over a still-glass lake. The adult leader's meeting ended, and I was invited by the staff to try out the Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (COPE) Area. I could share many stories about my myriad experiences at TMR this summer, but I am going to share this one because it defines the timelessness of being a Scout and why every young person should have Scouting in their lives.

Walking up the helicopter ladder to take my place on the wooden ledge before jumping off the Zip Line seemed easy. Easy enough until I began my ascent. My big black boots could barely squeeze into the tiny narrow ladder that swayed side to side with each step up. About halfway up the ladder, petrified to look down, my heart started to pound harder and deeper in my chest. The naive overconfidence I felt before the journey upward was replaced by a realization that going down or up the ladder was equally hard at this stage and so the only sensible action was to continue moving up the ladder and finish what I started. Below me were some of the kindest and most supportive faces and voices, shouting words of encouragement to keep on climbing, assuring me with, "You can do this, you got this".



Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez



When I finally got to the wooden landing my knees and whole body felt weak with nervousness and I was questioning if I could jump off the platform at all.

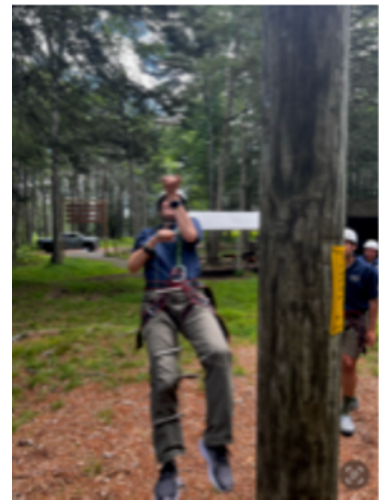
Looking across the vast green treetops, I felt that I had made a mistake. I am way too old for this, I thought. My negative self-talk and fears were consuming my thoughts. A young man, likely half my age, calmly explained how I would safely jump off. At the bottom - seeing my fear and hearing me say how scared I was - staff encouraged me to just sit down and jump from a seated position. I took their advice. No sooner did I sit down - with my hands clutching the handle grip- did I wish I had stayed standing instead. This felt even worse and even more scary; could neither climb down nor jump. I was stuck and not sure what to do.

Just as I was about to give up entirely, in the distance I saw three staff members waiting to catch the fall - but dancing in the kindest and warmest of ways. They were trying to make a scary situation look fun by creating a bit of levity, likely a skills that they apply to every young Scout in a similar situation.

Finally, I took a big deep breath and said, " You can do this - everyone is rooting for you". And then just like that I slipped off the wooden platform and began gliding through the air. Two feet into my plunge, I was already feeling safe, and my eyes stayed fixated on the kind people waiting for me - dancing still - at the other end of the line. When I finally arrived at the end of the Zipline I felt a rush of joy. I was proud of myself for facing and conquering my fear but equally grateful to be surrounded by a community of uplifting and supportive people. I could never have done this without the support of the staff. As I took off the gear and made my way back to my car, I was reminded of how Scouting brings

together people of all ages without judgment and how community combined with personal growth is what young Scouts experience every day.

Driving down Crystal Lake Road - heading towards another Camp, I thought about how lucky I was to lead an organization that values kindness, community, and personal growth. I thought about my two kids who were likely with their own Troop and building memories of their own. Out in nature, away from the bustle of the city, I understand why TMR has become so vital to preserve and keep alive. It is not just its beauty that makes it special; it is the memories it holds of experiences that transform people. It is the community of Scouts, Staff, and Leaders - young and old - brought together to support each other, irrespective of what sets them apart. Over the past several years many changes have impacted the Greater New York Councils, BSA, and Ten Mile River. But even with all the changes that have occurred, what remains the same is that it is one of the most special places to be and will continue to be for many years to come.



To experience TMR is to truly understand why it's so special. It was not until I had the opportunity to witness the property in full swing this past summer - with Scouts, staff, and volunteers - that I could fully appreciate the magic and greatness of Ten Mile River. The memories and history are palpable and on full display in the museum - with videos playing in the background of the original camps from the 1920s narrated in a voice - over reminiscent of the 1950s - all cementing its historical significance and place in history.



But nothing defines the TMR camp experience better than the community rallying behind it. It's an intergenerational program - of new and long-time adult volunteers from all walks of life supporting a program that emphasizes inner personal growth, trust, skill-building, kindness, helpfulness, bravery, and being friendly. We need more of these qualities in everyone, and it is my goal to introduce this amazing program to more youth and families.

As I look to the future, I hope to grow Scouting in New York City by engaging new families who have limited exposure to the benefits of Scouting while retaining our most loyal and multi-generational Scouting families - the nearly 5 million young people who have been positively transformed by our program over the years.

To effectively carry out this vision, our Council must raise adequate funding to support our growth - which includes investing in our camp properties and program and getting more positive stories out into the world about how Scouting has made a meaningful impact in the lives of millions of youths and families.

The Greater New York Council is the only Council of its kind that provides financial assistance to over 80% of its Scouts and Explorers each year. Without this support, most of the young people we serve would not have the opportunity to attend camp and participate in our outdoor leadership development programs.

Over the next several years, we want to continue to remain the only urban Council in the movement that serves the most diverse communities of New York City. As many families are grappling with the perils of technology and social media, post-pandemic-related isolation, and mental health challenges, the Greater New York Council is uniquely positioned to continue to do what it has done well for over one hundred years - to prepare young people for success in school, career, and life through skill-building activities, outdoor adventure, and camping.

# Troop 71 Completes Kodiak Challenge at Ten Mile River!

by Rob Boquist, Troop 71



Troop 71 Kodak Challenge crew and staff visit the TMR Scout Museum

(from left: Jithu K., Lukas L., Rich Lotito (SM), Mitav M., Alec Oates (ASM), Rob Boquist (ASM), Sam H., Nate D., Theo L.)

In their last week before returning to school, Scouts from Troop 71, Washington Crossing Council, PA, traveled to Ten Mile River (TMR) to take on a unit-level Kodak Challenge while completing a 50-miler on the TMR Historic Trail.

Six Scouts and three Scouters planned a five day trek at TMR consisting of day hikes, backpacking, and some intense trail work. Among their goals were to complete requirements for the Kodak Challenge, the TMR Historic Trail Medal with 50-miler pin, the TMR Trail-Work Pin, the BSA 50-Miler Award, the BSA Historic Trails Award, and the BSA Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award.

On their day of arrival, the Scouts met with Museum Director Ira Nagel, who gave a personal tour of the TMR Museum and shared many of his TMR memories. Then they met with Zachary Sweirat, Outdoor Program Director, who outlined some of the trail service work needed. He also updated the crew on current TMR conditions and information to help make their trek successful.

Using the TMR Headquarters (HQ) Lean-to site as a base camp, the crew completed two days of backpacking and three day hikes, totaling 50.2 miles. On each day of the trek, the crew incorporated leadership lessons for the Kodak Challenge, covering communication, team development, inclusiveness, values and ethics, and servant leadership. Along their entire trek, the Scouts learned navigation, first aid, hiking and backpacking techniques, and plant and animal identification - all while putting into practice the Outdoor Code and the seven principles of Leave No Trace.

On each of the four days, they completed 2 hours of trail work, for a total of 8 hours. Armed with a variety of woods tools the Kodak crew tackled over 75 downed trees that were obstacles on the trails around the HQ area. The crew also cleared overgrown vegetation along trails and removed some invasive species, such as multiflora rose and Japanese barberry. Finally, they moved brush to block many of the social trails.



Troop 71 Adult Leaders Size Up a Hazard Tree Along the TMR Trail



# Julie Seton and the 2023 GNYC Steakout

By David M. Malatzky



Julie Seton during presentation

There were some unusual things going on at the 2023 GNYC Steakout on Sept. 9th. For the first time, scouts were invited to attend a day full of programs. This included the option of attending an introductory morning session on Scouting Heritage Merit Badge, presented by Julie Seton, granddaughter of B.S.A Co-Founder Ernest Thompson Seton. In the afternoon, adult participants could attend one of three sessions by Ms. Seton on Ernest Thompson Seton and NYC Scouting.

The casual observer might ask, "What is going on here?" GNYC is not known for inviting historians to speak at its events. In fact, this was probably the first time it had happened. Ms. Seton is a resident of Las Cruces, NM, which is not exactly in the neighborhood. So, how did Ms. Seton show up at the 2023 GNYC Steakout? It's a long story, but I'll try to keep it short.

In June of 2022, Phil Sternberg told me about Ms. Seton, after she spoke about her grandfather at the Greenwich, CT Library. Phil grew up in Bronx Scouting and TMR and was Ranachqua Lodge Chief from 1964-65. At the time, Phil was Chairman of the Northeast Region, Jewish Committee on Scouting. He knew Ms. Seton for several years, after she spoke at one of the regional JCOS conferences that he ran in Pittsburgh.

Just the idea of bringing Ms. Seton to NYC Scouting was intriguing, since nothing remotely like this had ever been tried before. After some emails with her, I considered various venues, including a restaurant in Manhattan and the American Museum of Natural History. I ended up with the GNYC Office, because it could be obtained free-of-charge. Ms. Seton really wanted to talk with Scouts about Scouting Heritage Merit Badge (she is a counselor), and I wanted her to talk to adults about Ernest Thompson Seton and NYC Scouting, so she agreed to do both.



That fell through due to financial issues, so last September I approached GNYC about inviting Julie to the 2023 GNYC Steakout, and they agreed. She fit in well with their plans to invite Scouts to a full-day program and you can't beat Reeves Lodge for training. Last May, I proposed to GNYC that, if possible, we organize a get-together with Julie and all the NYC Scouting Heritage Merit Badge counselors, realizing that they don't usually attend Steakouts.

When Ms. Seton informed me in early August that she would spend a few days in NYC before the Steakout, mainly doing research, I pitched her on the informal Meet N' Greet and she agreed.

The Meet N' Greet took place Thursday, Sept. 7th at the GNYC Office, with a small turnout. Ms. Seton is an expert on both B.S.A. history and her grandfather, so the participants learned a lot of fascinating Scouting history. I organized an exhibit this past summer at the TMR Scout Museum on Ernest Thompson Seton, and it was brought down to the office by the summer staff for the Meet N' Greet. It then appeared again at the Steakout for Julie's talks. Thanks to Chris Guarniere for opening the office for us and Joe Varon for providing refreshments.



Thirty NYC Scouts and adults attended Ms. Seton's Saturday morning lecture on Scouting Heritage Merit Badge, largely filling the room. Ms. Seton reviewed all the individuals and organizations that contributed to the organization of the B.S.A. in 1910. It was a real master class in early B.S.A. history. Each of the thirty Scouts received a signed and personalized certificate from Ms. Seton, proving that they attended her talk. They also satisfied some of the merit badge requirements and GNYC will give them proper credit.

After lunch, Ms. Seton put on three 40-minute talks on Ernest Thompson Seton and NYC Scouting in the Cub World Office, with about twenty adult participants overall. Participants learned all about Seton's life and the first months of organizing the B.S.A., which took place mostly in New York City.

Thanks to Chris Guarniere and Dick Davies for approving Julie's visit to the Steakout, Mike Lennon for organizing the 2023 Steakout, Phil Sternberg for informing me of Ms. Seton, Ira Nagel and Anthony Zalak for bringing my exhibit down from TMR, and Julie Seton for making all of this possible.

# TMR Camps Summer 2023



## Camp Aquehonga Summer 2023

Wow, I can't believe that another Summer has come and gone at Camp Aquehonga. This Summer was very successful in that we served over 900 campers and over 100 leaders at Aquehonga. Under the direction of volunteer Marty Mahr, an expanded Scoutcraft Area was opened and well received from our units. With the new Scoutcraft area also came our Iron Chief Competition. All the units who passed through our gates this summer had nothing but positive comments about camp and over 92% of them reserved a spot for next Summer. Next Summer, our waterfront will have a total makeover thanks to the efforts of Marty Maher. Things are looking up for Aquehonga and I can't wait to see what the future holds.



Anthony Zalak

Assistant Camp Director/Reservation Program Director





## Camp Keowa Summer 2023

I am so proud. I am so excited.

I am so proud of the staff we hired and the job they did this past summer. I am so excited for the level of enthusiasm in so many of them wanting to return.

I am so proud of the increase in campers. I am so excited about the level of growth looking towards 2024.

I am so proud of the impact we had - on campers, on troops and their retention rates, on our staff, and the impact we had on the beautification of the property.

I am so excited.

You can read about the first part of the summer up through Week 2 in the [July newsletter](#). The rest of the summer was just as special.

One proud moment was when we began a project to restore and beautify the Camp Keowa bell. We used a homemade method and got what seemed like 20 years of rust off. It looks like it did when I was a kid here! Still lots of work to go with that. Also planning on installing a small garden fence and researching further about cleaning bronze bells. (Any thoughts that might be helpful? Email me!)

This summer, we bought some signs to showcase the translation on the bell, provided by Scoutmaster David Cook of T414.

We revitalized our First Year Camper program and brought back the name of the "Dan Beard Society" and installed a new gateway to the area.

We are also excited to be continually improving staff housing. Our third staff cabin was funded and delivered towards the end of August.

We brought new programs to the property, like horseback riding at Teslin Farm, directly across from Aquehonga. At the end of the summer, we had 1,838 participants come through Camp Keowa. Thanks to all who helped in any way.

I am so proud. I am so excited. Looking forward to 2024! TWWAB (True We Will Always Be)

Scott Delloso | Camp Director  
Camp Keowa - Ten Mile River Scout Camps



# Family Camp at Lakeside Summer 2023

Lake Nianque is a beautiful spot with a magical atmosphere to camp with your family and friends! 20 cabins along the lake that sleep 5 in one living space, with a kitchen and bathroom.

We have an amazing Waterfront where you can enjoy a nice swim in the lake on a hot day or row the night away while the sun sets!

Check-in Sunday at 12 noon and come join us that evening for an ice cream social where you will learn about our camp, meet the staff, your camping neighbors and hear about our awesome programs like The Hike, Arts and Crafts, Bingo, The Bonfires, Potluck and so much more friends and family activities.

Learn about our sister Scouting Camps Keowa and Aquehonga. For an extra fee, schedule an outpost adventure, giving you the opportunity to travel through the 13,000 acres of Ten Mile River. Experience activities like shotgun, rifle, zip lines, climbing walls, motor-boating, archery, rappelling, and ATVs. (These outposts are only offered when our sister camps are open).

Some of my favorite memories are watching families and friend's week after week creating their own everlasting memories that they'll hold on to and cherish for the rest of time. I have my own special memories like sitting around the campfire with my family, and I'm honored to be a part of these memories each week with all different people from all walks of life that just want to enjoy a peaceful, relaxing, fun bonding camping trip with loved ones. Here at Lake Nianque, you're on top of the mountains surrounded by nature, whether it's the sunrise, deer grazing in the grass or making a wish on a shooting star in the night sky. Next summer join us with your family, friends, or yourself at Lake Nianque. We are one Family, and when you're with family you're Home. Summer program runs from June 30th, 2024 - August 24th 2024. To book a cabin you can email the Camp Director Joshua at [Jnally@tenmileriver.org](mailto:Jnally@tenmileriver.org) or our main office at: [greaternewyorkcouncils@247scouting.com](mailto:greaternewyorkcouncils@247scouting.com).

Cabins are \$735 from Sunday - Saturday, if you are paid in full by Feb. 15th, \$892.50 after early bird. The nightly rate is \$157.50. There is a 5% discount per reservation for any registered BSA member.

Sincerely,  
Joshua Nally (She/Her/Hers)  
LFC Camp Director



## The Museum's Website Store

Did you know that the Museum sells a variety of T.M.R. and Museum merchandise from our Website Store: <https://www.tmr-museum.org/online-museum-store/>

<p><b>\$6.00 download</b></p> <p>Download: The History of Queen's Council's Camp Emblems (1917-1938) \$6.00</p>	<p><b>\$9 + \$3 shipping</b></p> <p>Printed: The History of Queens Council's Camp Emblems (1917-1938) \$12.00</p>	<p><b>\$6.00 download</b></p> <p>Download: The History of Brooklyn Council's Camp Emblems (1913-1938) \$6.00</p>	<p><b>\$9 + \$3 shipping</b></p> <p>Printed: The History of Brooklyn Council's Camp Emblems (1913-1938) \$12.00</p>
<p><b>\$10 + \$4 Postage ea.</b></p> <p>Boy Scout Foundation 100th Anniversary Backpatch with FREE TMR 95th Dangle \$14.00</p>	<p><b>\$25 + \$4 postage</b></p> <p>Greater New York Councils/Boy Scout Foundation 100th Anniversary CSP Set \$29.00</p>	<p><b>\$10 + \$3 Postage ea.</b></p> <p>Boy Scout Foundation 100th Anniversary Backpatch DELIVERED VIA MAIL \$13.00</p>	<p><b>New - PAH included</b></p> <p>Ten Mile River Scout Camps Trail Map \$10.00</p>

This includes most every patch set issued by the Museum in recent years, the 2021 Guide to Memorabilia of the Ten Mile River Scout Camps, Indian Cliff puzzles, Scout Service Corps CSP's from 1996-2003, and the two new booklets on Brooklyn and Queens Council emblem histories.



## TMR Wall of Fame

Do you want to recognize some individual, group or organization for their contributions to the Ten Mile River Scout Camps and/or New York City Scouting? A custom-engraved tile on the T.M.R. Wall of Fame might be right for you.

[Wall of Fame - Learn More](#)

## Donate Scouting Memorabilia

Donations of T.M.R. and other Scouting memorabilia to the Museum by individuals like you are the main way the Museum grows.

These include, but are not limited to: photos, color slides, 8-mm film, videos, patches, neckerchiefs, neckerchief slides, uniforms, banners, menus, paper items, etc. We can also photograph items and return them to you, or photograph notable items at your home.

[Learn More](#)

