



THE HISTORY OF TROOP 71

Macungie's first Boy Scout Troop was chartered on March 3, 1922, and sponsored by Solomon's Reformed Church. William A. Shoemaker, a Solomon's Church youth group and leader and Macungie schoolteacher, was Scoutmaster. Unfortunately, this Troop disbanded after approximately three years due to lack of interest.

The Troop was reorganized in November 1928 and again chartered with Solomon's Reformed Church as the sponsoring organization, Reverend Lamond G. Beers as Scoutmaster, and George Champlin as Assistant Scoutmaster. The Troop Committee include William Shoemaker as Chairman, Clyde Huber, Dr. H.R. Erdman, Irwin Kerchner, and Fred Acker. The Scouting membership included Roy Trexler and Clarence Backenstoe as Patrol Leaders, and Scouts Clyde Huber, Clifton Neumoyer, Samuel Bear, Donald Knauss, Paul Foster, Delmer Miller, Curtis Beidleman, Kenneth Strauss, Walter Huber, and LeRoy Miller.

Since reorganizing in 1928, the charter of Macungie Troop 71 has remained continuous for the past 74 years.

The Troop's first Eagle Scout award, dated December 29, 1931, was earned by Roy William Trexler, who later went on to serve the Troop as Scoutmaster. The awards ceremony was a first for the South Mountain District of Lehigh Council, and General Harry C. Trexler, a prominent Lehigh County legislator and businessman, made the presentation.

Throughout the years, the Eagle Scout badge has been awarded only forty-six times prior to today. The Troop's first twelve Eagle awards were presented over the first fifty years, while the last twenty years have raised that number to fifty-two.

Out list of Troop 71 Eagle Scouts includes seven sets of brother, seven sons of Eagle Scouts, and one family with three Eagle Scouts. Three of these Troop 71 Eagles went on to later serve the Troop as its Scoutmaster.