

Sheeprock Trek History

Today marks the 96th year of Sheeprock Trek, an annual observance first described in a 1929 Allentown *Morning Call* article as “a novel undertaking.” Bill Shoemaker, a local civic leader, state legislator, and founder of the first Macungie Boy Scout Troop, organized the Trek in 1929 as an activity sponsored by the Young People’s Council of Solomon’s Reformed Church. Sheeprock was chosen for the annual pilgrimage because from that point on the mountain “a magnificent view over all the territory north, east, and west may be enjoyed.”

The origin of the name Sheeprock, or Sheep Stable, was derived from local folklore, when a farmer, caught in an unexpected storm, led his sheep to shelter in a cave below the rocky summit of the mountain. This cave served as a stable, or shelter, from the cold north wind.

The Sheep Stable received national attention in the 1915 novel, *Katy Gaumer*, by local author Elsie Singmaster: “at the summit of the little mountain, there was a rough pile of rocks which formed a tiny cairn or cave. Before it was a small platform, parapeted by a great boulder. Generations past had named the spot... the Sheep Stable.... Far to the right lay the county seat; ...far away against the horizon rose the Blue Ridge with its three gaps where the Lehigh and the Schuylkill and the Delaware Rivers made their way through its barrier to the sea. Directly below lay [Macungie], thickly shaded, still.”

Macungie historian O.P. Knauss chronicled the Trek during the early years, writing; “Few scenes anywhere are as glorious and inspiring, and at early sunrise the view is particularly beautiful.” That fact is as true today as it was in 1929, and is the single most reason that this Thanksgiving service has survived for the past 96 years. As we once again gather together in observance of this unique Macungie tradition, let us give thanks for the opportunity to again enjoy what Knauss first called “a scene which never fails to incite wonder and delight.”

Sheeprock Trek is a **NO SMOKING** event. Please join with Troop 71 and make a positive impact on nature by removing all trash as you participate in this unique Macungie Thanksgiving tradition.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



96th ANNUAL SHEEPROCK TREK and THANKSGIVING SUNRISE SERVICE November 28, 2024



**Sponsored by
Boy Scout Troop 71
Macungie, Pennsylvania
Matt Wieder, Scoutmaster**



WELCOME: Joshua Luey
Assistant Scoutmaster, Boy Scout Troop 71

OPENING PRAYER: Allen Meck
Grace Lutheran Church

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsive Prayer)

For all the people at home and around the world who struggle to overcome the constant burden of hunger, poverty, and disease on a daily basis; Lord in your mercy;

Hear our Prayer.

For all of the young men and women of our Armed Forces, who are now defending our country through their service around the world; and for the families and friends of those who have given their lives to protect our freedom; Lord in your mercy;

Hear our Prayer.

For all of the people in our community who serve as volunteer and emergency personnel, and who generously and unselfishly aid us whenever we require their service; Lord in your mercy;

Hear our Prayer.

For all of us who are gathered here this morning, as we celebrate another annual observance of this unique Thanksgiving tradition, let us all be truly thankful for the freedom and prosperity of this great nation, for the love of our families, and for our friends and neighbors who gather with us today; Lord in your mercy;

Hear our Prayer.

THANKSGIVING HYMN: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come!*

**Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in
Ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come, to God's own temple, come;
Raise the song of harvest home.**

**All the world is God's own field,
Fruit unto his praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown,
Unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear,
Then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we,
Wholesome grain and pure may be.**

THANKSGIVING MESSAGE: Donald Smith, Jr.
Director of Communications / 9-1-1 at County of Lehigh

PATRIOTIC HYMN: *America the Beautiful!*

**O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!
O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years.
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!**

CLOSING REMARKS: Joshua Luey

CLOSING PRAYER: Allen Meck

Please remember that properties surrounding the Sheepprock area are privately owned. Respect their privacy and use the designated hiking trail to the Macungie Volunteer Fire Department for Hot Chocolate and Doughnuts provided by Boy Scout Troop 71.