



news & views

BSA Troop 31 State College, PA

April 2015

NITTANY VALLEY DISTRICT, JUNIATA VALLEY COUNCIL * CHARTERED BY ST. PAUL'S UMC

IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss this campout: CSI-themed District Camporee

Not your "as seen on TV" event... Investigate the opportunities to introduce your scouts to the world of Forensic Sciences.

The forensic sciences are used around the world to resolve civil disputes, to justly enforce criminal laws and government regulations, and to protect public health.

Join us for this scouting-oriented CSI adventure...

The Penn State Forensic Science program will be offering two forensically enhanced merit badge programs: Finger Printing and Photography. These will not be your traditional merit badge programs. Lift prints from a crime scene, document crime scenes with photography, and maybe even take tire track impressions.

Additionally, the PA Game Commission will be offering a wildlife-related forensic program.

Registration

[Sign up online](#) by Thursday April 16th to pay the lowest rate of \$30 and make sure you get a patch and t-shirt.

Turn in your permission slip and payment.

Cost & Other Details:

\$30 per scout before 4/16.
\$35 after.

Camping at Grange Fairgrounds, Centre Hall, PA

Meeting and departure:

6:00pm Friday May 1st at Boalsburg Military Museum.
Scouts will be returned home on Sunday, May 3rd around noon.

Contact Jon Pitt for more information.



St. Paul's Coffee Hour

Troop 31 supported our chartering organization in March and April. We served at coffee hour and helped with the fire at the Easter sunrise service. Find out about upcoming service project opportunities inside.>

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Check it out

New scout campout was a hit! Welcome to all new scouts and congratulations new Eagles. Plus, see what events are coming up>

Congratulations New Eagle Scouts

Kevin Donceszcz and Tommy Butler

We are pleased to announce two new Eagle Scouts at Troop 31.

Eagle Scout #174, Kevin Donceszcz has been one of our most active Scouts. He participated in all three BSA High Adventure trips to earn the very rare Triple Crown Award.

Kevin served the Troop in numerous leadership positions, including two terms as our Senior Patrol Leader. For his Eagle service project, Kevin designed and led the construction and installation of an information kiosk at Homestead Park in Ferguson Township. This project resulted in over 170 hours of community service.

Kevin is a Senior at State College Area High School, and plans to enroll at Penn State's engineering program this fall.

Tommy Butler is Eagle Scout #175. He held several Troop leadership positions including Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

For his Eagle service project, Tommy organized, helped design, and provided leadership to completely rebuild and refurbish the bird study area at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center. He and his volunteers contributed 250 hours of community service.

Tommy is a Senior at State College Area High School, and will begin studies at Penn State's College of Communications this summer.

Congratulations Kevin and Tommy!



Thank you

5 MILE HIKE * MARCH 28



New scouts John Brownstead & Jake LeVan hiked along Spring Creek Canyon to strengthen compass skills and identify trees and plants. Also joining them were Mr. Brezovec and Zac Brezovec (pictured), Mr. LeVan, and Mr. Sundstrom.



Backpacking is fun—even on the coldest night in March! Backpacker photos contributed by Ed McCash and Dave James.

Backpacker Lite * March 28-29 2015



On Saturday morning, we started off near the dam at Stone Valley. The scouts navigated us to the nature lodge at Shaver's Creek where we stopped for lunch on the outside deck.



Then we headed off into the afternoon, reaching our camp around 3 pm. We hiked about 4.5 miles and set up camp at a picturesque site on a bend of the creek. Scouts learned how to enjoy Philmont meals, hang a bear bag, set up a gear fly, and other backpacking essentials.

Attending were:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Ben Brauser | Liam Peters |
| Tyler James | Matt Allgeier |
| Jordan Rigg | Tristan Crossman |
| Jadon Wilson | Thomas Stangel |
| Bryant Stangel | Jacob Stangel |
| Jake Barnes | Erik Norloff |
| Mr. Baker | |
| Mr. McCash | |
| Mrs. Peters | |

We awoke Sunday morning with the mercury easily 15 degrees below the freezing mark but had a great time!

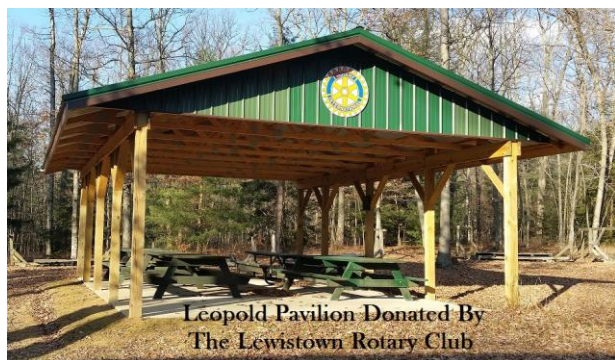


Working together for a new pavilion

The Troop Committee and PLC have joined forces to raise \$5,000 in support of constructing another permanent pavilion at the Rhodes campsite at 7 Mountains Camp. Our troop uses this campsite at summer camp as well as other events throughout the year.

The scouts are working on fundraising ideas including the possibility of hosting a spaghetti dinner at St Paul's. We will also need your help to meet our goal. More details to come soon.

The pavilion will include a plaque acknowledging the Troop's gift and would look similar to the photo at right. The photo below shows a completed pavilion in the Leopold site.



Pictured above is the new pavilion built in the Leopold campsite at Seven Mountains.

A Scout is helpful. . .

Please mark your calendars now and join us for these important service projects.

Spring Creek Cleanup Sat, April 25

The annual Spring Creek Cleanup is our chance to do a good turn for Central Pennsylvania's beautiful waterways. Scouts and adults are needed to canoe and pick up debris.

Sign up here:

<http://goo.gl/forms/IBBuvOM5FS>

Thompson Woods Cleanup Sat, May 9

Troop 31 is a park partner for this preserve in State College. Please be sure to lend a hand during our spring workday at this site.

More details and signups TBA.

Carpe Diem: Get these important items done NOW

Summer camp may be not be until July 19-25th, but the time to register is NOW. If you want to pay the lowest rate, please pick up a summer camp registration packet, fill it out, and return it to Jean Brownstead **no later than April 28th**!

Don't forget to schedule those physicals and return your completed BSA Health and Medical Record to Kathryn Witt. These are required annually and you will also need this to attend camp.

Please attend the meeting on Tuesday May 26th to get your summer camp bluecards filled out, signed, and ready for camp. **Leaders & parents:** Please sign up to provide additional support throughout the Troop's summer camp week.

2015 Camp Costs. Please contact Jon Pitt for more information about camperships.

2015 Registration	Before May 1st, 2015	Before June 1st, 2015	After June 1st, 2015
Boy Scout Camp Registration	\$305.00	\$340.00	\$375.00
Second Son Discount	\$265.00	\$290.00	\$320.00

LAST CALL for troop dues and registration fees

If you haven't paid your BSA registration fee and dues yet, please do so ASAP. If you prefer, you can choose to use your scout account to cover these costs. Simply contact Troop Treasurer Annie Doncescz or Rob Butler (see back page for contact information).

Help us solve this popcorn sale mystery

If you made an online sale during the fall 2014, please contact Annie Doncescz so we can properly credit your scout account.



The Troop Committee Needs You!

We are very thankful for the volunteers who help Troop 31 as leaders and behind the scenes in a variety of ways. Currently, we are seeking volunteers for the following positions:

- **Wreath Fundraiser Lead**- Works with Fundraising Chair and leads the annual wreath sale in the fall.
- **Hospitality Co-Chair** – Assist with planning and organizing Troop hospitality events.
- **Hospitality Committee Members** – Assist with hospitality at Troop events (Primarily Courts of Honors-held quarterly)
- **Historian Advisor** – Committee position. Work with the troop historian to update the display case, digital presentation, and other troop history items.
- **Community Service Coordinator**- This position is a committee position. This position attends committee meetings 1x a month and will be in communication with the Scoutmaster. This position is ongoing and year round.
- **Assistant Scoutmaster**- This position works directly with Scouts and ideally involves attending weekly Scout meetings, monthly PLC meeting, and several campout/weekend events. This position is ongoing and year-round.

We would love to have these positions filled soon. Questions about the positions? Feel free to contact Lisa Kerchinski, Jonathan Pitt, or David Eng.

Calendar for April/May 2015

Tuesday, April 21, TBD pm
 Saturday, April 25
 Sat-Sun, April 25-26
 Tuesday, April 28, 7pm
 Fri-Sun, May 1-3
 Tuesday, May 5 6pm
 7pm

Bike ride to Meyer Dairy
 Spring Creek Cleanup
 Northern Tier Trainer
 Backpacking Demo
 District Camporee
 Adult Leaders Meeting
 PLC

Saturday, May 9 9am
 Thompson's Woods Cleanup
 Tuesday, May 12
 Cycling Merit Badge
 Fri-Sun, May 15-17
 OA Spring Ordeal
 Sat-Sun, May 16-17
 Northern Tier Trainer
 Tuesday, May 19
 Cycling Merit Badge – Bike shop
 Tuesday, May 26
 Camp Bluecards/Amer.Herit. MB @ Circleville
 Tuesday, June 2
 Court of Honor

Check www.troop31.us for more info and calendar updates!

(t) fully trained for position (w) Wood Badge

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