



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

news & views

BSA Troop 31 State College, PA

July/August 2015

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Get ready for August events: Aviation MB Day & Gettysburg Campout

Aviation MB Day

National Aviation Day is on Saturday, August 8th. This is also the day Scouts can earn Aviation Merit Badge. Sign up can be done on our own web site at www.troop31.us.

This is a free event and lunch is provided. Please sign up early and join the fun. Contact Frank Savino with any questions.

End of Summer Campout Blow-out: This year at Gettysburg National Park

The Troop's annual End of Summer Campout Blow-out will be held August 28-30 at Gettysburg this year! This new venue will be fun, exciting, and full of historical learning opportunities!

Those of you looking to earn the Citizenship in the Nation badge, this visit will help you partially fulfill requirement 2. Get a blue card and contact MB Coordinator Deb Norloff if interested.

Remember from our Project First Class campout experience, please be prepared

for any type of weather on a campout! Scoutmaster Jon Pitt sent these helpful tips:

- 1) Always bring rain gear (rain coat or poncho) when you go camping
- 2) Check the weather before coming on a campout
- 3) When you arrive at a campsite and it looks like rain, put your gear under cover, and take only your ground cloth and tent to your camping area. If it rains, your gear will remain dry.
- 4) Put your tent on high ground, and not in a low spot!
- 5) Bring an extra pair of closed-toed shoes, and bring plenty of extra socks!
- 6) Bring plenty of extra socks! If you have them, wool or synthetic socks are the best as they don't deform and lose their purpose when they get wet.

(Cover photo this issue: Freeze Thaw Tour 5/19/15 from Sara Eyster)



WE WANT YOU!

Don't delay! Volunteer today!

Come on: It's fun! Still seeking new MB counselors and other committee volunteers. These positions just take a few hours of your time. See page 5 for details. >



Check it out

We had a lot of fun outdoors in June and July. Check out pictures from Northern Tier Trainers, Whipple Dam, Bike the Pike, Freeze Thaw, and many more!>

Northern Tier Trainers

Canoeing the Susquehanna

The Northern Tier crew has been training for their upcoming high adventure trip to Canada. Here are a few pictures sent in by Ken Hillsley.

Attached are a few pics from the first two Northern Tier trainers:

Trainer 1 – Bald Eagle State Park – weekend of April 25, 2015

Trainer 2 – West Branch of the Susquehanna River – weekend of May 16, 2015

A third trainer was held the weekend of June 6 at Camp Putt's at Raystown Lake, lead by Kyle Sinding and Kurt Baker.

The final gear check was completed on 7/14 and this group is ready to go. They leave for Northern Tier (in Bissett, Manitoba which is approx. 3 hours northeast of Winnipeg, Canada) Mon July 20 and return to State College Thu July 30.

Have a great time scouts and scouters! Look for pictures from their trip in the next issue of the newsletter!



Northern Tier participants are:

Hayden Davidson	Caleb Eyster
Jordan Hillsley	Ben Krantweiss
Sam Krantweiss	Jacob Witt
Ken Hillsley	Kyle Sinding

Below: Scouts play cribbage one night after training at Bald Eagle State Park.



FREEZE THAW BIKE SHOP TOUR



Scouts learn how to keep their bikes safe and in good condition while on a tour of the Freeze Thaw Bike Shop in State College. There were 22 scouts and 6 adults attending the May 19th meeting.



Personal Management MB Class

The Monday night class for Personal Management had a guest from Khan Academy. Laura Savino, a Mobile Software Engineer visited the class and discussed working as a Software Engineer. Many Scouts in the class and many students in State College take advantage of the on line education.

Laura is Frank Savino's daughter and sister of Troop 31 Eagle Scout Anthony Savino.

To learn more about Khan Academy, this is their web site:

<https://www.khanacademy.org>

The mission for Khan Academy is to "to provide a free, world-class education for anyone, anywhere"

The Scouts had a chance to ask questions about the company and hear first hand on the company's mission focusing on education. One of the requirements of personal management is to explore careers in various fields.

- From MB Counselor Savino.



Bike the Pike Recap

From: Kurt Baker

Eighteen Scouts and five adults traveled back through history to experience the outdoors in a most unique way. We rode our bikes on the old Pennsylvania Turnpike through the Ray's and Sideling Hill Tunnels. Lots of miles went under our tires; miles that have also seen the tires of DeSotos, Edsels, Packards, Nash's and many more automobiles of yesteryear. We hiked the railbed of a railroad that was never built and visited the place that housed CCC members, conscientious objectors and German prisoners-of-war.

Our campsite was bordered by a roaring stream that provided the background for two nights of sleeping in the outdoors. In between the biking, hiking and exploring Scouts cooked, ate, played Magic, frisbee, learned that sometimes you don't have a potable water supply and need to figure out how to provide water for yourself in the woods. We all had a great time, even including one resilient Scout who tested the strength of the tunnel wall and roadbed. (They don't give.)

Special thanks to Mr. Davidson for making two round trips to get the Troop trailer there and back.



Attending were: Scouts: Troy Heatwole, Bryant Stangel, Thomas Stangel, Jacob Stangel, Ben Brauser, Tyler James, Dylan Grupe, Eugene Ryoo, Tristan Crossman, Gabe Teti, Sean Cunningham, Hayden Davidson, Noah Witt, Brendan Locke, Caleb Eyster, Patrick Langs, Sean Kelleher, Ethan Locke Adults: Mr. Baker, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Heatwole, Mr. Locke, Mr. Stangel.

JVCBSA Golf Outing

Troop 31 Scouter Frank Savino lets two Scouts try hitting golf balls at the JVCBSA Golf Outing, held at Toftrees on June 15, 2015. Playing in the "Troop 31 Eagle Dads" foursome with Frank were Craig Colwell, David Eng and Pat Bisbey. The Annual event raises funds for the Juniata Valley Council.



Congratulations to the 2014 Troop 31 MVP Award winner: Paul Winkler! He was presented with the award at the Court of Honor on June 3 at Circleville Park.

Troop Meeting at Whipple Dam * June 23, 2015



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:

- **Merit Badge Counselors** – Needed for many Eagle badges. Inform scouts about subject matter. Ensure scouts fulfill requirements as listed in pamphlet/online. Fill out blue cards. This is a very flexible position that can be done when you have time and scouts are interested.
- **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)
- **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 July/August 2015

July 19-25
July 20-30
Friday, July 31

Summer Camp @ 7 Mts.
Northern Tier Trek
Scout Night @ Spikes

Tuesday, Aug 18, 6:30pm
Tuesday, Aug 25 7pm
Aug 28-30

Troop Olympics
Troop Olympics
Gettysburg Campout

Tuesday, August 4, 6pm
7pm

Adult Leaders Meeting
PLC
Aviation MB Day
Troop Scavenger Hunt
OA Fall Ordeal

Tuesday, Sep 1, 6pm
7pm

Adult Leaders Meeting
PLC

Sat, August 8
Tuesday, August 11
August 14-15

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

(t) fully trained for position

(w) Wood Badge

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Treasurer