



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

news & views

BSA Troop 31 State College, PA

Nov/Dec 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

Can you feel it? It's coming...

Troop 31's Annual Holiday Campout

The annual holiday campout is around the corner! Watch your email inbox for an announcement with permission slip soon.

We plan to have the customary turkey dinner on Saturday evening along with our fun-filled gift exchange.

Gift exchange

Please remember to bring a wrapped gift for the exchange. Anyone can participate. Scouts, adults, and family members should bring an appropriate, wrapped gift worth about \$10.

What to bring

Be prepared! Scouts are encouraged to camp outside for some winter camping experience. Plus, we will have a hike or other outdoor activity planned. You're also invited to bring your favorite board game to play.

Families are welcome!

Troop 31 is a scouting family. This campout is a time to celebrate an amazing year that lies behind us, and the better year that lies ahead.

Calling all turkeys!!

The big Saturday dinner meal is turkey. The Dining hall has 6 ovens and we will gladly accept donations of thawed or fully cooked birds. They can be delivered at departure on Friday evening uncooked; or please bring a cooked turkey to camp by 5pm.

Please contact Anne Messner (messnerski@gmail.com) and let her know if you are willing to donate.

(Cover photo this issue from Cherry Springs Campout – submitted by Frank Savino)



WE WANT YOU!

To turn in your membership form and dues!

Deadline is the troop meeting on December 1, 2015. This form is good for the 2016 membership year. See p 10 >



Fundraising announcements

Great job scouts! Scouts earned money through successful wreath and popcorn sales again this year. Find out how well we did and when you can pick up your goods—inside!>

Congratulations to new Eagle Scout

Jordan Hillsley:

Jordan crossed over from Cub Scout Pack 383 to Troop 31 in March of 2010. Over the years he made steady progress with rank advancement, and also earned 34 merit badges along the way.

For his Eagle project, Jordan helped design, plan, and supervise the construction of a rescue bird shelter that is now currently in use at the Centre Wildlife Care facility. This project involved recruiting dozens of volunteers and totaled 252 hours of service.

Jordan's Troop leadership positions included being a troop guide for several terms, and most recently the Troop instructor. Jordan participated in the Philmont High Adventure, and went to Northern Tier twice.

Jordan is a Junior at State College Area High School, is an honor student, and a member of the swim team.

Please join us in congratulating Jordan as the 178th Eagle Scout in Troop 31!



Above: Jordan and crew with the project beneficiary, Ms Robyn Graboski and her owl "Aurora", in front of the finished shelter at Centre Wildlife Care.



Jordan and crew work together to build and erect the shelter. The project totaled about 252 hours of service.

Fall camp report

Despite all the rainy weekends this fall, Troop 31 got outdoors for some fun campouts. Plus the Hiking MB group went on 5 hikes of 10+ miles each! Here's what you missed:

Cherry Springs Campout - September

Cherry Springs State Park is nearly as remote and wild as it was in the days of William Penn. Its exceptionally dark skies make it one of the best places on the Eastern seaboard for stargazing. Though the rain made it difficult to view the stars during the Black Forest Star Party, scouts made the most of the weekend and had some great food. See the cornbread pictured at right!



Cornbread from Cherry Springs Campout.

World's End Campout and Hike - October

Four members of the hiking merit badge class and enjoyed an 11.5 mile hike on the beautiful World's End Trail and the Loyalsock Trail in Forksville PA. They also camped in World's End State Park for one night.

Webelos Woods/Iron Chef Campout – October

The campfire of Rimmey Lodge was filled with the delectable scent of Dutch Oven Pizza, chicken asparagus with cheese sauce, and chicken dumplings. What a tremendous fare for the brave Troop 31 Iron Chefs. The evening rain put a damper on the cobbler plans; although, one patrol still made theirs without cooking it!

The scout leadership did a fantastic job providing a program for the Webelos scouts which also included a nature hike and games.

Information from: Bill Sundstrom, Jeannie Peters, and Ed Brezovec



Photos from World's End State Park and hiking the World's End/Loyalsock Trails. Photos from Jeannie Peters.

Cherry Springs Campout photos

From Frank Savino



SPRING CAMPOREE

Save the Date:

April 29-May 1, 2016

- **Why:** Troop 31 is hosting the Nittany District Spring Camporee and we'll need everybody's help to carry out our plans!
- **Location:** PA Military Museum Grounds, Boalsburg, PA
- **Theme:** Keystone to Liberty – to be based around PA Military history.
- **Questions:** Contact [Dave Heatwole](#).



Troop 31 Alumni Snapshot:

Eagle Scout #169: Taylor Baird

From Tim Baird

I thought you might like to hear about what my son, Lance Corporal Jonathan Taylor Baird has been up to since he left State College for the USMC. Taylor was, I believe, the first Eagle Scout in State College who was already enlisted in the Marine Corps at the time he received his Eagle Scout Award. He enlisted in the early entry program and went to Parris Island in October of 2013. He is stationed at Camp Pendleton and is an infantryman machine gunner (240) with the 2/4.

His first deployment was to Okinawa where he did jungle training, sailed around the pacific on a short deck carrier (and learned firsthand why he's glad he's not permanently on a ship!), and trained with the Korean Marines. While at Pendleton, he has trained twice in the desert at Twentynine Palms in 120 degree heat, and once at Bridgeport in the mountains alongside the British Royal Marines, special ops units like the Seals and Rangers, and other foreign forces. He carries his 240 and M-16 along with anywhere from 100 to 150 pounds of ammo and other gear.

He was recently selected with three other machine gunners in his company to teach a machine gun course to 80 new Marines and has been selected as the only one in his company to attend skier assault training at Bridgeport in January after which he will train the rest of his company in February.

Clearances for volunteers

As you are well aware, there are now several mandatory child abuse and criminal clearances required for BSA volunteers in PA to obtain. Please review all forms and begin your clearance process as soon as possible. If you are already registered with the Troop, please send your clearances directly to the JVC and let Jon Pitt know you have done so.

If you are in the process of registering, or intending to register as an adult volunteer, please give hard copies to Jon Pitt to send along with your signed adult application.

Much more additional information is available at: <http://www.jvcbsa.org/risk-management/new-pennsylvania-child-protection-laws/59391>

We are in need of a parent to step-up and take the role of Registration Coordinator. The primary commitment would be to attend most meetings to collect paperwork and signatures, and coordinate delivery of forms to the council office. Please contact Jon and our volunteer coordinator, Lisa Kerchinski (esk10@psu.edu) if you are interested in serving in this position.



Important Note: It is the responsibility of each individual to complete these background clearances. We are here to help, but if you don't get these done in a timely manner, you risk having your registration dropped by the BSA.

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 and electives. 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 Committee Members** –Assist with hospitality at Troop events (Primarily Courts of Honors-held quarterly)
- **Adult Registration Coordinator**-Maintain a list of training requirements and help people get the training they need and know when to renew certifications.

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

Almost complete: New pavilion at Rhodes Campsite donated by Troop 31



Fall Fundraising News

Wreaths

The wreath sales went very well and thank you to all who participated! It is a great way to raise money for individual troop accounts. Wreath pick up will be sometime the week of Nov. 16-20. The exact date and time will be communicated via email during that week. Please let me know if you have any questions at melissawasson@comcast.net. Thank you for your support. Melissa



Popcorn

Great job scouts! This year, you sold more than 225 bags/boxes of popcorn and 11 military donations during the regular sale. In addition, scouts who participated in the show and sell days sold over 90 containers of popcorn. The total amount earned for the troop and scout accounts is \$1,900!

Popcorn should be ready for pick-up the evening of Friday November 13th, barring unexpected delays. Please watch your email for pick-up details. Council has requested a quick turnaround for payment so money should be turned in at the November 17th troop meeting. Thanks for your support! Lauren.



Be there – November 14th!

Thanks to everyone who helped distribute door hangers last Saturday for Scouting for Food. Collection day will take place on Saturday, November 14th and we need all hands on deck.

Meet at the Sutliff dealership to do a good turn then join us for the annual coffee can campout at Shaver's Creek!

Calendar for Nov/Dec 2015

Tuesday, Nov 10	7pm	Meeting, Music MB	Tuesday, December 1,	6pm	Adult Leaders Meeting
Saturday, Nov 14		Scouting for Food – collection		7pm	PLC
Sat-Sun, Nov 14-15		Coffee Can Campout	Fri-Sun, Dec 4-6		Holiday Campout
Tuesday, Nov 17	7pm	Meeting, Musical Performances	Tuesday, Dec 8	7pm	Meeting: YMCA Climbing Wall
Sunday, Nov 22		Service: Thanksgiving Sunday, St Paul's	Sunday, Dec 13		Service: IFHS Bell Ringing
		Coffee Hour, St Paul's	Tuesday, Dec 15	7pm	Meeting: Movie Night
Tuesday, Nov 24,	7pm	Meeting, Karaoke Night	Dec 18 or 22		Ice Skating
			Tuesday, Dec 29		NO MEETING
			Tuesday, Jan 5	6pm	Adult Leaders Meeting
				7pm	PLC


Check www.troop31.us for more info and calendar updates!
Coming up in January 2016: Big City Trip and Klondike Derby!!

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

SCOUTMASTER

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Chaplain

Anne Messner messnerski@gmail.com
Scribe Advisor

 troop shed key

Troop 31—2016 Registration Form (due December 1, 2015)

I would like to register for 2016: Yes No Not at this time

Please register my son. I will pay in _____

Name: _____ Scout Leader

Address: _____

Email: _____

Dues: \$75 per Scout

Payment:

Use Troop account

\$30 per Adult

Check no. _____

Cash

Yes I hereby assign and grant to the local council and the Boy Scouts of America the right and permission to use and publish the photographs/film/videotapes/electronic representations and/or sound recordings made of me or my child at all Scouting activities, and I hereby release the Boy Scouts of America, the local council, the activity coordinators, and all employees, volunteers, related parties, or other organizations associated with the activity from any and all liability from such use and publication.

I hereby authorize the reproduction, sale, copyright, exhibit, broadcast, electronic storage, and/or distribution of said photographs/film/videotapes/electronic representations and/or sound recordings without limitation at the discretion of the Boy Scouts of America, and I specifically waive any right to any compensation I may have for any of the foregoing.

No

Please return form & payment no later than 12/1/15.

Driver Information

Please complete if you are new to Troop 31 or if your information has changed since last year and you plan to drive Scouts to any event. This information is required to complete Tour plans, which are required for all off-site outings.

Driver 1 Name	Driver 2 Name
PA Driver's License #	PA Driver's License #
Phone:	Phone:
Email:	Email:
Vehicle 1 Year, Make, Model	Vehicle 2 Year, Make, Model
Owner	Owner
How many seatbelts? _____. Will you ensure everyone wears a seatbelt? Yes/No	How many seatbelts? _____. Will you ensure everyone wears a seatbelt? Yes/No

Does your insurance meet or exceed:

\$50,000/person

\$100,000/accident

\$50,000/property

Yes/No

Yes/No

Yes/No