



news & views

BSA Troop 31 State College, PA

April 2021

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

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Welcome New Scouts

Troop 31 recently welcomed the following new Scouts during their crossover ceremonies from Cub Scouts:

- Simon Smith – from Pack 67, February 28, 2021
- Nick Searles – from Pack 31, March 21, 2021
- Wyatt Stimer – from Pack 375, March 27, 2021



New Senior Patrol Leader

Congratulations to Henry Smith who was elected in March as the new Senior Patrol Leader. He will replace the current SPL, Ethan Brauser, beginning June 1.



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www.facebook.com/Troop31StateCollegePa/

Cover photo: Color Wars Campout, February 26-28, photo by Ed Brezovec

Congratulations to our newest Eagle Scouts!

Peter Relkin - #213

I am very pleased to announce that on February 21, 2021 Peter Relkin successfully completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review. Peter began his Scouting career in the Hawk Mountain Council. He moved to our troop 2 years ago. As part of his time with both Troop 241 and 31, he participated in numerous camps, community service and Philmont High Adventure. Peter earned 30 merit badges, provided leadership as Webmaster with Troop 241 that involved maintaining and posting Troop events. He completed his Eagle Project while a Scout with Troop 31B.

Peter's Eagle Project has helped a local church that was in need of assistance. Trinity Lutheran Church was in need of a new Outdoor Chapel. The work included construction of a new Outdoor Chapel to replace an old one and included developing, planning and constructing the new chapel. In order to complete this project, Peter developed, coordinated and worked on this project despite COVID restrictions. When work went faster than planned, he directed volunteers to help with other church needs that included much needed yard work. With his diligence he found the project challenging to develop, plan and complete the work. Peter led a team of 4 Scouts, 1 youth, 5 registered adults and 5 adults who collectively worked 103 hours.



Peter Relkin's SM conference, photo by Anne Messner

John Brownstead - #214

I am very pleased to announce that on March 7, 2021 John Brownstead successfully completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review. John began his Scouting career with Pack 375 and continued with Troop 31 in 2015. During his time with the Troop he participated in summer camp, camping, community service and Seabase. He plans to attend Philmont High Adventure this summer. John earned 22 merit badges, provided leadership as Troop Guide, Webmaster and Historian (with a project to improve documentation of Troop history), as well as, completing his Eagle Project.

John's Eagle Project has helped a frequently used community asset, Millbrook Marsh by removing old boards from picnic tables, cleaning and painting the metal supports, installing new boards for the picnic tables. He developed, coordinated and restored the picnic tables despite COVID restrictions. With his diligence he found the project challenging to develop a plan necessary to complete the work and led a team of 5 Scouts, 6 youth, 4 registered adults who collectively worked 230 hours.

-submitted by Anne Messner

Mr. Baker Earns Honorary Jacket

A long tradition in Scouting is the wearing of the red wool “Jac-Shirt”. It is not really a jacket, and not really a shirt, but something in between. The awarding of a Jac-Shirt has become a tradition in Troop 31, State College PA, as a special way to recognize individuals who have made substantial contributions of time and talents to the Troop over a long period of time.

The latest honoree to receive a Jac-Shirt is Assistant Scoutmaster Kurt Baker. Mr. Baker is the longest-serving ASM in the Troop and he has been on countless campouts, BSA High Adventure treks and training courses while serving in the roles of PLC advisor, Duty to God advisor and many others for the 107-year old Scouting unit.

Surprised at his home while participating in a weekly Troop Zoom meeting, Mr. Baker was presented his own red Jac-Shirt with his name embroidered on the front along with the Philmont Duty to God patch, Troop 31 100th Anniversary patch and a 50-miler award. Pictured here is Troop Committee Member Craig Colwell presenting the Jac-Shirt to Mr. Baker at his residence. Adding to the unique presentation was the fact that Mr. Baker’s son Sam, Troop 31’s 168th Eagle Scout, was able to join the Zoom call and share in the congratulations.



Apollo astronauts pose for a group photo at Philmont Scout Ranch during a geology field trip in June of 1964. Pictured from left to right, they are: Pete Conrad, Buzz Aldrin, Dick Gordon, Ted Freeman, Charlie Bassett, Walt Cunningham, Neil Armstrong, Donn Eisele, Rusty Schweikhart (behind Eisele), Jim Lovell, Mike Collins (partly hidden behind Lovell), Elliot See, Gene Cernan (behind See), Ed White, Roger Chaffee, Gordon Cooper, C.C. Williams (behind Cooper), Bill Anders, Dave Scott, Al Bean.

The red Jac-Shirt goes back to the first days of the Philmont Scout Ranch in the 1940s and the Wilderness Grace, also known as the Philmont Grace, which is a meal blessing that gives thanks for, among other things, “raiment”. Raiment is an Old French word for a formal garment. The Jac-Shirt has been used for years to recognize explorers including the Apollo astronauts, who trained to go to the moon at Philmont using the various types of soils and rocks found at the Scout ranch and all received a red Jac-Shirt as pioneers in their own right.

The next time you see a Scouter wearing the red Jac-Shirt, know that there is a real story line that comes with wearing this unique raiment. Congratulations to Kurt Baker, the latest Troop 31 Scouter to be recognized with a personalized Jac-Shirt.

-submitted by Craig Colwell



photos by Craig Colwell

Color Wars Campout

February 26-28th was one of those special weekends to enjoy the outdoors with Troop 31. 17 scouts and 12 leaders settled-in to the 7 Mtns Firelight Pavilion for another winter camping adventure. The scouts maintained a high activity level to beat the cold and compete in our first Color Wars campout Blue vs. Red. I admit that I don't really know who won, but in truth it was never about that; just a great



photo by Phil Thorndike

opportunity to take advantage of a long school weekend and participate in some outdoor activity. Very nice coming together, still in masks, but an exceptional social event to include the Saturday afternoon visit from our Philmont crews for their first O-trainer meeting. Whether it was hiking through the camp, participating in games, working on advancement skills or sitting down for a nice warm Dutch oven meal and dessert, enjoying the energy of the weekend was outstanding.

I appreciated all the scout leadership that was in attendance and look forward to the next one. It was especially nice to meet new faces to include Riley and Phil Thorndike who were visiting T31 and fit into the Troop 31 mold – resourceful, helpful, and fun. Let's welcome them to Troop 31!

-submitted by Ed Brezovec

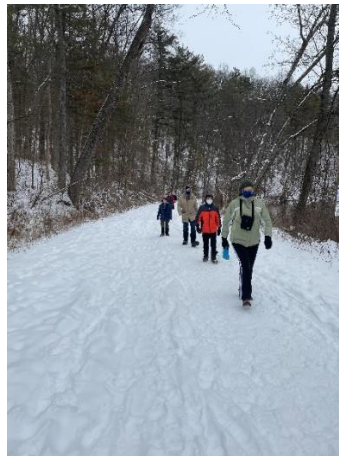


photo by Ed Brezovec

Photo Collage



Sledding at Slab Cabin, 2/9/21, photo by John Messner



Winter hike, Spring Creek Canyon, 2/13/21
photo by Anne Messner



Egg stuffing, Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 3/23/21
photo by Jen Brauser



Flag retirement ceremony, Survival Skills Campout
3/20/21, photo by John Messner



Canoe cleanup, 3/28/21, photo by Hyeseon Kim



Canoe cleanup, 3/28/21
photo by Phil Thorndike

Scouts Visit Museum



Troop 31 Scouts Henry and Simon Smith recently visited the Medici Museum of Art in Warren, Ohio. It currently exhibits all 65 of Norman Rockwell's Scout paintings. They enjoyed the artwork and a personal tour by the museum's curator. Interested in attending? Visitors should call (330) 856-2120 to schedule an appointment. Admission is free, though donations are accepted. More information about the exhibit can be found at medicimuseum.art or blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/12/18/



Tshirt sale

We are planning to order new Class B for Troop 31 scouts. If your scout needs a Class B, please sign up below. This sign up is open until **April 20, 2021**. Please be specific in the sign up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A45AAA623A75-troop>

Adult position – OPEN

OA Advisor

The advisor to the youth representative so that the Scout succeeds in their role as the communication and programmatic link between the unit and the Lodge. The advisor helps to include the Order of the Arrow ideals and activities in the program of the troop. Contact Anne Messner at messnerski@gmail.com if interested.



Happy Easter!

WANTED

ADULT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Meet 10 times a year
- Second Wednesday of the month, 7pm
- Troop 31B, contact Anne Messner at messnerski@gmail.com
- Troop 31G, contact Nick Peters at nickjp121@gmail.com

Thompson Woods Cleanup

Twenty-eight Scouts and Scouters took part in a service project to help out Centre Parks and Rec. Gathering at Thompson's Woods (our Park Partner for many years), they cut back brush in preparation of the busy spring hiking season and reconstructed a split rail fence by replacing rotted wood support and crossbeams. A passing dog-walker thanked us for our effort and the Centre Parks coordinator said, "Looks great!"

-submitted by Kurt Baker



photo by Jen Brauser



HAPPY BIRTHDAY BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA!

**111 YEARS OLD
FEBRUARY 8, 1910**



Calendar for April/May 2021

April 6	6pm	Adult Leaders Meeting, Zoom
	6:45-8:15	Swim test @ YMCA
	7pm	PLC Meeting, Good Shepherd Catholic Church
April 9-11		WFA Training
April 13	7pm	Troop Olympics
April 14	7pm	Committee Meeting
April 16-18		Philmont Trainer 2
April 20	7pm	Survival Skills
April 24		Watershed Cleanup
April 24-25		Bald Eagle Campout
April 27	6pm	Court of Honor, Tudek Park
May 4	6pm	Adult Leaders Meeting
	7pm	PLC Meeting
May 11	7pm	Troop Meeting
May 12	7pm	Committee Meeting
May 14-16		OA Spring Ordeal
May 18	7pm	Troop Meeting
May 21-23		Possible Council WFA Class, Possible New Scout/First Class Campout
May 25	7pm	Rank up, Troop Meeting
May 28-31		Philmont Trainer 3

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

Leadership

(t) Fully trained for position

(w) Wood Badge

SCOUTMASTERS

John Messner (t) 272-5328

j.messner@me.com



Kelly Walker (t)
Hospitality

kelmick@aol.com

Jeannie Peters (t) (w) G

jpp198@gmail.com



Lori Smith
Newsletter

lasmith723@gmail.com

ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTERS

Kurt Baker (t) 867-5702
Program

kfb3@psu.edu



Katie Brumberg (t)
MB Coordinator

katie.brumberg@gmail.com

Jason Collens (t) 814-360-9950
New Scout Scoutmaster

jason.collens@gmail.com



Jean Brownstead (t)
Adult Volunteer Clearance Coord.

jbrownstead@live.com

Ed Brezovec G (t) 570-932-0586

edward.brezovec@gmail.com

Christina Hill (t)
Summer Camp Coordinator

chill9687@gmail.com

Ben Brauser

Greg Brauser (t)

Cale Brownstead (t)

Hayden Davidson

David Dunklebarger (t)

Paul Haris

David Heatwole (t)

dave@heatwolegolf.com

Karen Peoples (t) 404-0386
Webelos Coordinator

gpeoples@comcast.net

Christina Hill (t)

Jordan Hillsley (t)

Ken Hillsley (t) 234-3674

kh124@psu.edu

Gargi Bhattacharyya
Trading Post

gargi.bt@gmail.com

Kevin LeVan (t) 404-9916

kevin.levan@gmail.com

Wendy Davidson (t)
Community Service. Coordinator

wendyjoed@aol.com

Ben Locke

Amber Martin G (t)

Edward McCash (t)

Kathryn Miller G (t)

Brian Opperman

Jeannie Peters (t) (w)

jpp198@gmail.com

(open)
Fundraising Chair

Megann Relkin (t) (w)

Rustin Relkin (t) (w)

Christopher Solo

Gregory Stangel (t)

Neil Sullivan G (t)

Aaron Vath

(open)
Volunteer Coord.

TROOP COMMITTEE

Anne Messner (t) 571-7673
Chair - Boys

messnerski@gmail.com



Jodi Vender (t)
HA/Historian Advisor

jvender@gmail.com

Nicholas Peters (t) 852-9468
Chair - Girls

nickjp121@gmail.com



Greg Brauser (t)
Chaplain Advisor

Joe Davidson (t) 466-6024
Chartered Org. Rep.

ccrod@comcast.net



Anne Messner (t)
Scribe Advisor

messnerski@gmail.com

Alan Wrye (t) 237-0108
Advancement

awwrye@comcast.net

David Heatwole, until 12/31/20 (t)
OA Advisor B

dave@heatwolegolf.com

Rob Butler (t) 861-8474
TreasurerB

rx22@psu.edu

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jodi Vender (t)
TreasurerG

jvender@gmail.com

Jennifer Brauser (t)

Bernadette Brezovec (t)

Ed Brezovec (t)

Tracy Burns (t)

Bienvenido Concepcion

David Eng (t)

Scott Huber (t)

Hyeseon Kim (t)

Jonathan Pitt (t)

Frank Savino (t)

Jacqueline Serefine G

Craig Colwell (t) 777-2999
Quartermaster

ccolwell17@gmail.com



troop shed key