



news & views

BSA Troop 31 State College, PA

April 2022

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

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New Adult Leadership



• Scoutmaster

During the March 2022 Committee meeting, Mr. Hillsley was nominated and unanimously supported by the Committee to be the next Troop 31B Scoutmaster. Ken Hillsley has spent a lot of time in Scouting starting with his sons in Pack 383 and then continuing with Troop 31B. Ken Hillsley is also an Eagle Scout, along with two of his sons with a third son thinking about it. Ken has many experiences with the Troop including High Adventure, campouts, and Eagle Advisor.

Please congratulate Ken Hillsley as our next Troop 31B Scoutmaster to be effective later this spring. The official transition date from Mr. Messner to Mr. Hillsley is yet to be determined, but will occur in the next two months. Please provide support to Mr. Hillsley as he takes on the role of serving Troop 31B as the next Scoutmaster.

• Committee Chair

Mrs. Walker was nominated and unanimously supported by the Committee to be the next Troop 31B Committee Chair. Kelly Walker has spent a lot of time in Scouting starting with her son in Pack 82 and then continuing with her son in Troop 31B. Kelly's daughter was also a Scout with Troop 31G. Kelly has graciously volunteered when help has been needed by the Troop including this leadership position. Please welcome Kelly Walker as the next Troop 31B Committee Chair and when she asks for support please consider giving your time.

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www.facebook.com/Troop31StateCollegePa/

Cover photo:

Klondike Derby, Seven Mountains Scout Camp, January 21-22, 2022, photo by Mr. Messner

Congratulations to our newest Eagle Scouts!

Ethan Brauser - #219

I am very pleased to announce that on January 23, 2022 Ethan Brauser successfully completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review. Ethan began his Scouting career in Cub Scouts with Pack 67 and continued with the Troop after earning his Arrow of Light. During his time with the Troop he participated in summer camp, Seabase and Philmont High Adventures and community service. Ethan earned 32 merit badges and provided leadership as the Senior Patrol Leader in addition to completing his Eagle Project.

Ethan's Eagle Project has helped an important community asset, Sunnyside Paddle Park. He designed, coordinated, and built an attainment device to assist new paddlers to get their kayak upstream. He also included basic maintenance in Spring Creek in his project. With his diligence he found the project challenging to develop a plan necessary to complete the work and led a team of 12 Scouts, 5 registered adults and 5 adults who collectively worked 243 hours.



Brendan Locke - #220

I am very pleased to announce that on March 13, 2022 Brendan Locke successfully completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review. Brendan began his Scouting career in Cub Scouts with Pack 82 and continued with the Troop after earning his Arrow of Light. During his time with the Troop, he participated in summer camp, Seabase High Adventure and community service. Brendan earned 21 merit badges and provided leadership as the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, in addition to completing his Eagle Project.

Brendan's Eagle Project has helped an important community asset, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center. He designed, coordinated and built a table and bench set to provide a new seating area for the center's programs. His work also included leveling the new seating area. With his diligence, he found the project challenging to develop a plan necessary to complete the work and led a team of 6 Scouts and 5 adults who collectively worked 130.5 hours.



Luc Schrauf, Eagle Court of Honor, 2/1/22



Rik Bhattacharyya, Eagle Court of Honor, 3/22/22

Klondike Derby



Troop 31B and G participated as a team known as the "The Spider Monkeys". This group knows how to cook and received 98 points at the cooking station. They also know how to shoot an arrow with 100 points.

Finally, despite the cold, they visited Leopold and got a 100 at Mystery Campsite that was also run by Troop B and G.



-article by Mrs. Messner, photos by Mr. Messner

Ice Fishing/Skiing Campout

February 18-20, 2022



Photos by Brian Brandenburg, Adam Smith and Kelly Walker



Mask Update

It is very encouraging to see the very significant improvements in the COVID-19 transmission rate in Centre County, and the shift of Centre County to a CDC Green status. At this time, the Borough of State College has revised the indoor masking requirements to be mask optional, unless required by the property owner. St. Paul's United Methodist Church has also decided to shift its masking policy as of March 13 to be mask optional.



Our troops will also shift to this approach, encouraging any scouts/scouters to wear a mask if they wish, but not requiring masking for anyone who does not wish to wear a mask. We ask that everyone be respectful of the concerns and decisions of others as we shift to this new status.

Mystery Campout

March 26-27, 2022

photos by Mr. Messner



Mystery stop #1



Mystery stop #2



Mystery stop #3



Hickory Run State Park



Boulder Field

Thank you



Kevin Levan has been registered with the Troop for 6 years, but his history with Scouts predates that with Pack 82 and his time as a youth. He is stepping down this spring as the Webelos/AOL coordinator. Kevin Levan has worked tirelessly as an Adult Leader to maintain contact with Packs for crossovers and recruiting of Webelos/AOL (including keeping the Pack contact list up to date which is not an easy task.) He has helped coordinate attendance at numerous crossovers, facilitated service to the Elks for the Hoop Shoot. He has also lead and helped with numerous campouts, Scouting for Food and the Stromboli Fundraiser. Kevin has provided great value to the Troop as an Eagle Scout himself and mentoring his boys Alex and Jake to earn Eagle Rank. Kevin, thank you for your service to Troop 31.

Photo Collage



Ice skating @ Pegula, 12/14/21, photo by Kevin LeVan



Laundry Night, 2/8/22
photos by Kelly Walker



Scout Sunday, 2/13/22, photos by Kelly Walker, Adam Smith



Elks Hoop Shoot Flag Ceremony, 3/6/22
photo by Katie Brumberg



HENRY SMITH
 Age: 14
 Hometown: State College, Pennsylvania
 Scout Rank: Life Scout (Troop 31, State College)
 Made Headlines: For competing at the 2021 USATF National Junior Olympic Track & Field Championships in the 13-14 Boys Javelin event, Henry placed seventh with a throw of 135 feet, 1 inch. He was also named the 2021 USATF Youth Athlete of the Year in the age 13-14 category.

Headliner
 Congratulations to Life Scout Henry Smith for his recognition in the March issue of *Scout Life* magazine!



Alumni Corner

Bobby Johns, aka Robert L. Johns III, became Eagle scout #176 with Troop 31 on April 19, 2015. He was recently promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade in the United States Navy. We should all be proud of him for serving our country.



-article and photo submitted by Frank Savino

Let us know your alumni stories. Email Lori Smith at lasmith723@gmail.com with updates.

Needed: Popcorn “Kernel”



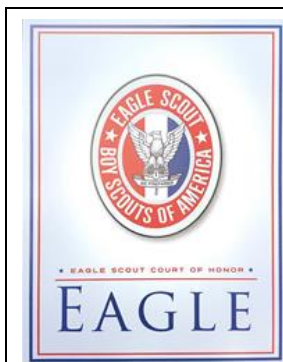
This is not a year-round effort, usually August through early December time commitment. Duties: Work with JVC to help scouts sell the popcorn products, attend summer popcorn kick-off meeting, email sale information to scouts and families, distribute and collect order forms, check/tally online orders, pick up products and distribute to the scouts, consider and organize show and sells. After the sale, collect all money and work with troop treasurer to deposit the money and distribute to Troop accounts. This needs to occur for the Troop to conduct other fundraising.



Calendar for April 2022

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

April 1-3		Algonquin Trainer #1
April 5	6pm	Adult Leaders Meeting, St. Paul's Church
	6pm	Egg Stuffing, St. Paul's Church
	7pm	PLC Meeting/Rank-up, St. Paul's Church
April 9	11:30am	Ethan Brauser Eagle Scout Court of Honor
April 12	7/7:30pm	Swim test, YMCA
April 19	7pm	Canoe Familiarization, Colyer Lake
April 23		Watershed Cleanup
April 26	7pm	Backpacking Prep, St. Paul's Church



You are cordially invited to help us recognize Ethan Brauser's achievement of earning the rank of Eagle Scout with Troop 31. Ethan's Eagle Scout Court of Honor will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2022, 11:30 am at Good Shepard Catholic Church, 867 Gray's Woods Blvd. Please join us immediately following the ceremony for a luncheon reception at the church. Please RSVP for the luncheon by Sunday, April 3rd jjbrauser@comcast.net

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(t) Fully trained for position

(w) Wood Badge

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Hyeseon Kim (t)
Frank Savino (t)
Jacqueline Serefine G

 troop shed key