



# news & views

## BSA Troop 31 State College, PA

### December 2021

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

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## High Adventure - Summer 2022

### *Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario Canada*

Enjoy canoeing and camping in the beautiful Canadian backcountry this summer. Pre-trek will include a visit to Niagara Falls.

**Dates:** Leave Wed Jun 29, and Return Fri Jul 8, 2022

**Cost:** \$900

Scouts and leaders signed-up so far include Logan, Preston, Ryan and Sam, Caroline V, Mr. Baker, Mr. Brandenburg and Mr. Huber, Mr. and Ms. Hillsley.

Email Mr. Hillsley ([klh124@psu.edu](mailto:klh124@psu.edu))

if you would like to attend. Sign-up deadline will be early January. *Participants should start now with getting passports current.*



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Cover photo:  
Seven Mountains Scout Camp, Holiday Campout

## Congratulations to our newest Eagle Scouts!

### Rik Bhattacharyya - #216

I am very pleased to announce that on October 3, 2021 Rik Bhattacharyya successfully completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review. Rik began his Scouting career in Cub Scouts and continued with Troop 31 after a move to State College. During his time with the Troop, he participated in summer camp, camping, community service and Seabase High Adventure. Rik earned 23 merit badges, provided leadership as Senior Patrol Leader, as well as completing his Eagle Project.

Rik's Eagle Project has helped a frequently used community asset, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center. He developed, coordinated and built trail markers and also developed a new E-Trail guide for the Boardwalk Trail. With his diligence, he found the project challenging and rewarding to develop a plan necessary to complete the work and led a team of 5 Scouts, 4 registered adults and 1 adult who collectively worked 79.5 hours.



### Jake LeVan - #217

I am very pleased to announce that on October 4, 2021, Jake Levan successfully completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review. Jake began his Scouting career in Cub Scouts and continued with Troop 31 after earning his Arrow of Light. During his time with the Troop, he participated in summer camp, camping Seabase High Adventure and community service. Jake earned 21 merit badges, completed God and Me and provided leadership as Senior Patrol Leader, as well as completing his Eagle Project.

Jake's Eagle Project has helped a frequently used community asset, Calvary Mountain Bike Course. He developed, coordinated and built the kiosk to display a map of their frisbee golf course and new mountain bike trail. With his diligence, he found the project challenging to develop a plan necessary to complete the work and led a team of 2 Scouts, 3 registered adults and 3 adults who collectively worked 73.5 hours.

### Luc Schrauf - #218

I am very pleased to announce that on November 14, 2021, Luc Schrauf successfully completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review. Luc 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. Luc earned 21 merit badges, and provided leadership as the Order of the Arrow Troop Representative in addition to completing his Eagle Project.

Luc's Eagle Project has helped an important community asset, Mount Nittany Middle School. He designed, coordinated, and built the shelving for students to safely store their personal items during lunch time. With his diligence he found the project challenging to develop a plan necessary to complete the work and led a team of 5 Scouts, 1 Youth, 2 registered adults and 2 adults who collectively worked 400 hours.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Summer Camp at Seven Mountains Scout Camp  
July 17 – 24, 2022**

\*\*\*Registration Coordinator Needed! Contact Anne Messner at [messnerski@gmail.com](mailto:messnerski@gmail.com)

## Penn Roosevelt Campout

On the last weekend of September, the Troop camped at one of Pennsylvania's smallest (but nicest) state parks; a location that the Troop hadn't visited in several years. Originally a CCC camp, the park is hidden in a tiny valley within Rothrock State Forest. One of the weekend's surprises presented itself when we were notified that the park potable water system was not operating; so, we had to take our own supply for the weekend. This challenged the Scouts to conserve, while still cooking, cleaning, staying hydrated, etc.



Several Scouts completed cooking requirements, as well as other rank requirements. Great food, a blazing campfire, a nighttime glow stick game, bake oven ruins from CCC days and a surprise rain shower made this a memorable weekend for all who attended. *-photos and article by Mr. Baker*



## Webelos Woods

In November, we had great attendance for our annual Webelos Woods camp out at Camp Anderson. We introduced our troop to 5 Cub Scouts while helping them complete requirements for their Castaway Elective (including starting a fire without matches, cooking 2 recipes without pots and pans, learning 2 ways to treat drinking water to remove impurities, and building a shelter).



And of course, the scouts had the opportunity to play several games (Gaga ball and ultimate frisbee) as well as other fun activities. A couple of the cub scouts even tented with us for the weekend. A special thanks to all who attended, helped the Cub Scouts learn new skills, were welcoming and friendly, as well as all of the points of the Scout Oath and Law.



*-photos and article by Mr. LeVan*

## New leadership

Congratulations to the new leadership who assumed their roles on December 1<sup>st</sup>:

- Asher Collens, Senior Patrol Leader, Troop 31B
- Lilly Peters, Senior Patrol Leader, Troop 31G



## Court of Honor Update

Congratulations on the following rank advancements at the Court of Honor on December 4, 2021. Other awards included 43 merit badges.

*Scout rank:* Cole Steffie

*2<sup>nd</sup> Class:* Theo Opperman, Simon Smith, Marek Sullivan, Tim Vath

*1<sup>st</sup> Class:* Theo Opperman

*Star:* Rishi Bhattacharyya

*Life:* Riley Thorndike, Lilly Peters

*Eagle:* Rik Bhattacharyya, Jake LeVan, Luc Schrauf, Caroline Vancura

## Photo Collage



Patrol Box cleanout, 9/28/21, photo by Kelly Walker



Centre County YMCA food packing, 11/20/21, photo by Hyeseon Kim



Video game playing, Holiday Campout, 12/4/21  
photo by Kelly Walker



Service to Seven Mountains, Holiday Campout, 12/4/21  
photo by Anne Messner



Holiday dinner, Holiday Campout, 12/4/21  
photo by Kelly Walker



Gift exchange, Holiday Campout, 12/4/21  
photo by Sekhar Bhattacharyya



# Holiday Wish List



## Summer Camp Registration Coordinator – **Needed ASAP!**

Attend camp meeting (February-March timeframe) with leaders. Prepare emails to the troop regarding summer camp details and payment schedule. Work with the Troop to make sure all information is collected in a timely manner (merit badges, family nights, permission, health forms, drivers and adult leaders). Attend troop meetings as needed in March, April and May to collect payments and answer questions. Arrange with Treasurer timely payments. Ensure that the medical forms coordinator receives the medical forms.



## Hospitality Members

This is a year-round effort and it is desirable to have two main contacts to coordinate events. There are 3 main events to coordinate with the troop committee to help meet their needs for food and supplies. These include August Court of Honor, Webelos Woods/Arrow of Light campout and Holiday campout. Additional events will be dependent on needs such as Klondike Derby, Eagle Courts of Honor or other programmed events. Responsibilities can be delegated to hospitality volunteers or to adults at large with sign-ups. Responsibilities include shopping for food, preparing and/or serving food, setting up or cleaning up (with additional assistance from Scouts if needed).



## Young/New Scout ASM – **Needed ASAP!**

Help advise the Troop Guide and Troop Instructors to get newer scouts to First Class. Coordinate with the SPL, Troop Guide and Scoutmaster to schedule activities for rank advancement. These activities can be held on weekends, at Troop meetings, or campouts. This is a year-round position. The most programming occurs in spring as new Scouts transition to the Troop, but we do have New Scouts join throughout the year.



## Fundraising



## Popcorn Chairperson – Shadow for 2022 with taking over in 2023

This is not a year-round effort, usually August through early December time commitment. Work with JVC to help scouts sell the popcorn products. Attend summer popcorn kick-off meeting, email scouts and families sale information, distribute and collect order forms, check/tally online orders, pick up products and distribute to the scouts. Consider 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.



## Mickman Wreaths

This is not a year-round effort, usually August through early December time commitment. In August, email scouts and families vital information for the sale, distribute, collect, and tally orders. Coordinate product delivery, sorting and distribution to the scouts. After the sale, collect all money and work with troop treasurer to deposit the money and distribute funds to Troop accounts.



## Other Fundraising

This is not a year-round effort. There has been interest by families for additional fundraising opportunities. Ideas are welcome but we need a person to manage the fundraising. Some ideas include Moe's, Sweet Frog and Marianna's. After event, collect all money and work with troop treasurer to deposit the money and distribute funds to Troop accounts.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please let Anne Messner know at [messnerski@gmail.com](mailto:messnerski@gmail.com).

## Giving Thanks

Troop 31B would like to recognize a few people who have had 10 or more years of service to the Troop. They have been a huge asset to our organization in keeping things running smoothly. These people are:

- Kurt Baker - 14 years
- Ed Brezovec - 16 years
- Craig Colwell - 21 years
- David Dunklebarger - 22 years
- David Eng - 21 years
- Ken Hillsley - 11 years
- Rick Marboe - 17 years
- Ed McCash - 14 years
- Frank Savino - 26 years
- Alan Wrye - 31 years



Also, we are featuring three Troop adults who have provided great service to the Troop and we are thankful for their time. More adults will be featured in future newsletters.

- **Craig Colwell** has held many adult positions for the Troop. This includes ASM, Committee Chair, Committee Member and Quartermaster Advisor. Each position he has held has been with great enthusiasm guiding both Scouts and Adults to address Troop needs. He now returns to Committee Member and will continue to provide assistance when he is not visiting his family out west.
- **Wendy Davidson** has held positions with the Committee that include Transportation Coordinator, Webelos Woods Coordinator and Community Service Coordinator. She will be moving on to activities outside of Scouting in 2022.
- **Christina Hill** has been busy in the few years that she has been part of the Troop. She has been Summer Camp Coordinator, coordinated the wreath fundraiser and will continue as Troop 31B Treasurer.



## Looking for a Scoutmaster for Troop 31B in 2022

Our current Scoutmaster, John Messner, has indicated he would like to return as an ASM sometime by mid-2022 for Troop 31B. Therefore, it is time to initiate a search for the next Scoutmaster for Troop 31B.

Senior Committee members and our COR have been extremely helpful in the past and will again be part of the selection committee for the next Scoutmaster for Troop 31B.

Our selection committee for the next Scoutmaster will consist of Joe Davidson, Rick Marboe and Frank Savino.

If interested, please contact Anne Messner for an application by January 31, 2022. She will then forward to the selection committee. The committee will review the applications and determine when they can make a recommendation to the Troop Committee for review, consideration and approval. Thank you for your patience as we move forward with this time of transition.

## New Eagle-Required Merit Badge: Citizenship in Society

*excerpted from Scouting Magazine, November 1, 2021*

The first new merit badge for youth in the Scouts BSA program since 2017 officially launched November 1, 2021. Called **Citizenship in Society**, it provides Scouts with opportunities to learn more about our world by encouraging them to explore information on diversity, equity, inclusion and ethical leadership — and to learn why these qualities are important in society and in Scouting.

To earn the merit badge, Scouts must conduct research; explore resources; have conversations with merit badge counselors, peers, parents and community members; and identify actions they can take to ensure inclusivity and belonging in Scouting and society in general.

One of the unique features of Citizenship in Society is that there is no merit badge pamphlet with prescribed approaches or ideologies. There also are no requirements meant to drive a particular response or lead a Scout down a path toward a predetermined conclusion.

Instead, Citizenship in Society encourages Scouts to embark on a journey of discovery. In this case, it's a journey of self-discovery as they explore a variety of topics around diversity, equity and inclusion and belonging, and then discuss how they apply their findings to life as a Scout and as a good citizen in society.

The merit badge will become Eagle required on **July 1, 2022**. If a Scout has all of the requirements for Eagle completed by June 30, 2022 except for the Board of Review, then this merit badge does not have to be earned.



## Calendar for December 2021

Check [www.troop31.us](http://www.troop31.us) for more information and calendar updates!

December 7	6pm	Adult Leaders Meeting, St. Paul's Church
	7pm	PLC Meeting/Rank-up, St. Paul's Church
December 14	5:30pm	Ice Skating, Pegula Ice Arena (5:45 – 6:45 ice time)
December 21	7pm	Sledding, Slab Cabin Park
December 28		NO MEETING

Happy Holidays

# Leadership

(t) Fully trained for position

(w) Wood Badge

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troop shed key



