



news & views

BSA Troop 31 State College, PA

September 2021

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Summer Camp

We had a great week at Summer Camp! Our scouts and scouters enjoyed many diverse activities including sailing, swimming, scout crafting, a special night hike, campwide games, boating, shooting sports, and, of course, the trading post, along with many other activities. Camp Bashore provided a great program. Our scouts earned 77 merit badges and 8 partial merit badges, 1 rank advancement, 3 leaders trained in multiple aquatic supervision areas, and several other awards, including the only troop at camp our week to receive the Troop Award of Excellence with all three patrols earning the Baden-Powell Patrol Award!

We had a total of 20 scouts and 4 adults on the trip. I'd especially like to thank Mrs. Vender, Mr. Hillsley and Mr. Opperman for spending the entire week at camp, Mrs. Hill for all the coordination/planning, Mrs. Witt for organizing the medical forms and Mr. Wrye for coordinating all the advancements. I'd also like to thank all the parents for their support and cooperation with travel plans. And finally, a very special thanks to all the scouts for making the week such a great success, with recognition to Henry Smith for his leadership as SPL, along the other patrol leaders and ASPLs.

- article by Mr. Messner



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Cover photo:
Troop 31 at Bashore Summer Camp

Eagle Courts of Honor

On Sunday, August 15, St. Paul's United Methodist Church hosted an Eagle Court of Honor to recognize three Troop 31 Scouts who completed their Eagle Boards of Review a year ago.

Benjamin Dworsky, Tynan Butler, and Jaden Rigg were joined in the celebration by family, friends, and Troop 31 leaders, along with other family members viewing a live stream of the ceremony graciously provided by St. Paul's.

During his Scoutmaster Minute remarks, Mr. Messner commented that the three new Eagles were among the first in the Troop to have their Eagle project work impacted by the pandemic and that they secured BSA-approved extensions to complete their projects.



-photo by Brooke Repine

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Benjamin Dworsky is the 207th Eagle in Troop 31 history. He led the construction of bullpens for the State College Teener League fields for his Eagle project. He is a sophomore in the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences majoring in Community, Environment, and Development.

Tynan Butler's Eagle project is a chimney swift nesting tower and informational kiosk, which stands next to the Klingsberg Aviary at the Shaver's Creek Environmental Center. He is the 208th Eagle in Troop 31 history and is a sophomore majoring in Voice Performance in the School of Music at Ithaca College.

Jaden Rigg is the 210th Eagle Scout in Troop 31 history and his Eagle project involved restoration of concrete planters and pillars in the Boalsburg Diamond. He is a sophomore at Rose Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana and recently completed a software programming internship in Indianapolis this summer.



Oliver Paulson and
Jacob Messner

Erik Witt,
John Brownstead,
and Peter Relkin



Order of the Arrow

Congratulations to the following Scouts who became members during the Fall Ordeal, August 13-15 at Seven Mountains Scout Camp.

Order of the Arrow members:

Preston Brandenburg, Cooper Brumberg, Christopher Hill

Brotherhood members:

Logan Huber, Henry Smith





Congratulations!

Congratulations to Mr. Butler who was named the Troop 31B MVP for dedicating five years of service to the troop as Treasurer. He will be recognized at the Juniata Valley Council 2021 Volunteer Recognition Dinner for his efforts. His proud family includes wife Darcy and sons Tommy and Tynan.

-photo by Mr. Messner

Canoe Campout

As the old Royal Navy recruiting song says, we took our canoes "through Gib-a-ral-ter to France and Spain." Well, not really. But we did paddle around Sayers Lake, went swimming, saw bald eagles and somehow managed to avoid the thunderstorms that were in the area (or rather, they avoided us). As usual, Scouts cooked up some fine offerings for mealtime. With all of this, there was still time for advancements: some ax and saw work, Cooking Merit Badge, swim tests and getting prepped for Scoutmaster conferences and Boards of Review.

We've now completed the double play of staying in Bald Eagle's regular campground and primitive rustic campground in the same year. Scouts had lots of fun, which is the main reason for going. The only disappointment was that one of Mr. Vath's locomotives didn't come through the campground. Special thanks to Mr. Colwell and Mr. Vath for handling trailer duty.



-article and photo by Mr. Baker

Save the Date – Fall Camporee

- October 8-10, 2021
- Bald Eagle State Park
- Hosted by Troop 375
- First Camporee in 2 years



Popcorn Sales

Our sales will be at St. Paul's United Methodist Church along College Avenue. We will be holding sales on the Saturdays of Penn State home games, unless it conflicts with one of our campouts or another Troop event.

September 11 game is a 3:30 kickoff. Sale will start at 9am and end at 2pm. Sign up link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F49ABA929A0FC1-september>

September 18 game is a 7:30pm kickoff. Sale will start at 10am and run until 6pm, if we have signups.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F49ABA929A0FC1-september1>

We will need two adults present at all times per church requirement. We will be able to set up with our chairs and popcorn in front of the church on College Avenue. We will not have access inside the church for bathrooms. As a result, 1 hour time slots are scheduled so that breaks can be worked in. You can schedule consecutive time slots, but keep needed breaks and adult coverage in mind. Questions? Contact Scott Huber at scotth57@icould.com

Still Wanted: Scribe Advisor

The Scribe Advisor is a registered adult with the Troop that provides guidance for the Troop Scribe. The Advisor meets with the Scribe to set goals for their term of leadership and then guides the Scout for that term.

The Scribe Advisor follows the Troop Scribe who shows leadership by doing the following:

- attend meetings of the patrol leaders' council and keep a record of the discussions
- communicate with the Scribe Advisor and the Committee (on an as needed basis)
- records Scout attendance
- writes thank you notes as communicated by the Scribe Advisor
- sets a good example
- wears the Scout uniform correctly
- lives by the Scout Oath and Law
- shows Scout spirit



If interested, contact Anne Messner at messnerski@gmail.com

Still OPEN - Adult Clearance Committee position

The Troop is looking for someone to coordinate all volunteer clearances for the Troop, as Jean Brownstead will be stepping down in December. **We will need to fill this position by the end of the year.** See the Committee position description below. Any interested adult should contact Mrs. Messner at messnerski@gmail.com

- 1) Obtain a list of all active Troop 31 volunteers listed on our charter from the Committee Chair.
- 2) Maintain spreadsheet for Troop 31 B and Troop 31 G in accordance with PA State Volunteer guidelines that contains:
 - a. Volunteer Name
 - b. Member ID#
 - c. Email address
 - d. Position
 - e. Clearance expiration dates of [each is valid for 5 years]
 - i. PA State Police Criminal Background Check
 - ii. PA Child Abuse Clearance
 - iii. FBI Background Check OR Affidavit of 10-year Consecutive PA Residency
 - f. Youth Protection Training expiration date [valid for 2 years]
- 3) Record the **expiration dates** of clearances on the Troop 31 tracker spreadsheet.
- 4) Perform quarterly reviews of volunteer clearances and contact volunteers with expired clearances to alert them to renew.
- 5) Maintain communication with Angela Kaler at Juniata Valley Council on the status of our volunteer clearances.
- 6) Provide volunteer clearance status updates to Committee Chair and Scout leadership as requested for events.
- 7) Maintain "control sheet" with instructions and clearance documentation links for reference by new members.
- 8) Work with troop webmaster to upload the control sheet for reference to the troop website.



Wanted: Troop 31 G Treasurer

Contact Anne Messner at messnerski@gmail.com if interested.

Court of Honor Update

Congratulations on the following rank advancements at the Court of Honor on August 31, 2021. Other awards included 141 merit badges and 1 special award. Special recognition was also given to Order of the Arrow Ordeal and Brotherhood members, as well as the 2 summer Philmont crews.

Scout rank: Nathan Robbins, Nick Searles, Simon Smith

Tenderfoot: Oliver Brumberg, Connor Eltz, Evan Repine, Simon Smith

1st Class: Zofia Sullivan

Star: Preston Brandenburg, Ryan Hillsley, Gavin Humphrey, Sam Walker

Life: Derek Buchholz, Josh Fragin, Isaac Opperman, Brennan Sitzabee

Eagle: Caroline Vancura



ASMs, Court of Honor, 8/31/21, photo by Kelly Walker

2021 Philmont Trek – Crew 629-P-1

Lilly Peters, Caroline Vancura, Zofia Sullivan, Sam Walker, Mitchell Peoples, Luc Schrauf, Asher Collens, Austin Haris, *Adult Leaders:* Jeannie Peters, Nick Peters, Neil Sullivan, Paul Haris

2021 Philmont Trek – Crew 629-P-2

John Brownstead, Erik Witt, Ethan Brauser, Dominic Concepcion, Chris Hill, Cooper Brumberg, Preston Brandenburg, *Adult Leaders:* Cale Brownstead, Bienvenido Concepcion, Brian Brandenburg, Christina Hill



Calendar for September/October 2021

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

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|------------------------------------------------|
| September 7 | 6pm | Adult Leaders Meeting |
| | 7pm | PLC Meeting/Rank-up |
| September 8 | 7pm | Committee Meeting |
| September 10-12 | | Biking Lower Trail Campout |
| September 12 | 5pm | Personal Fitness merit badge |
| | | State High track |
| September 14 | 6:30-8pm | Frisbee Golf, Circleville Park |
| September 21 | 7-8:30pm | Night Hike, Jackson Trail |
| September 26 | 5pm | Personal Fitness merit badge, |
| | | State High track |
| September 28 | 6:30-8pm | Fire Building, Troop Shed |
| October 5 | 6pm | Adult Leaders Meeting |
| | 7pm | PLC Meeting/Rank-up |
| October 8-10 | | Fall Camporee |
| October 10 | 5pm | Personal Fitness merit badge, State High track |
| October 12 | 7pm | Troop meeting |
| October 13 | 7pm | Committee Meeting |
| October 19 | 7pm | Troop meeting |
| October 24 | 5pm | Personal Fitness merit badge, State High track |
| October 26 | 7pm | Troop meeting |



Bike Scavenger Hunt, 7/27/21, photo by Mr. Messner

Leadership

(t) Fully trained for position

(w) Wood Badge

SCOUTMASTERS

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Jeannie Peters (t) (w) G

jpp198@gmail.com



ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTERS

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Program

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Brian Brandenburg
Greg Brauser (t)
Ed Brezovec G (t) 570-932-0586
Cale Brownstead (t)

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Jason Collens (t) 814-360-9950
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Bienvenido Concepcion
David Dunkleberger (t)
David Eng

Paul Haris (t)
Christina Hill (t)

Jordan Hillsley (t)
Ken Hillsley (t) 234-3674
Kevin LeVan (t) 404-9916

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Edward McCash (t)
Brian Opperman

Jeannie Peters B (t) (w)
Megann Relkin (t) (w)

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Peter Relkin
Rustin Relkin (t) (w)

Frank Savino
William Sitzabee

Christopher Solo
Gregory Stangel (t)

Neil Sullivan G (t)
John Thorndike

Aaron Vath

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Fundraising Chair

ADVISORS

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Jodi Vender (t)
Historian Advisor

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Greg Brauser (t)
Chaplain Advisor

Anne Messner (t)
Scribe Advisor

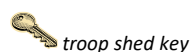
messnerski@gmail.com

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Bernadette Brezovec (t)
Ed Brezovec B (t)
Tracy Burns (t)
Rob Butler
Bienvenido Concepcion
David Eng (t)
Scott Huber (t)
Hyeseon Kim (t)
Frank Savino (t)
Jacqueline Serefine G



troop shed key