



news & views

BSA Troop 31 State College, PA

August 2023

NITTANY VALLEY DISTRICT, JUNIATA VALLEY COUNCIL * CHARTERED BY SC DOWNTOWN ROTARY CLUB

UPCOMING

Summer Camp

Twelve scouts from T31B and T31G attended Bashore Scout Camp July 16 - 22 in Jonestown, PA. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the awesome counselors, staff and very good dining hall food (including a great salad bar!). The weather was beautiful with the humidity giving way to more comfortable conditions mid-week, and the rain storms mostly coming through at night while in our tents.

The scouts kept busy earning approx. 50 merit badges, including Space Exploration, Climbing, Kayaking, Lifesaving, Astronomy, First Aid, Wilderness Survival, Fishing, Emergency Preparedness and Leatherwork among others. In the evenings, there were fun activities throughout the week including opening and closing campfires, a WWII equipment and gear demonstration, a shotgun demonstration, an evening chapel service, a night hike to escaped slave Joseph Johns hut, camp-wide games and the scoutmaster splash competition.

Scouts and leaders from T31B&G participated in the Polar Bear Plunge going for an early-morning dip in the lake on several mornings, and also completed the mile swim. In addition, several of the scout leaders took the aquatics supervision training for swimming & water rescue and paddle craft safety, and all of the leaders earned the "Scoutmaster Merit Badge Award."

Scouts attending were Grizz R., Zofia S., Katie S., Mackie S., Emerson R. Ceci S., Marek S., Rishi B., Lincoln S., Cole S., Evan R. and Louie K. Leaders attending were Ms. Rand, Ms. Cahill, Mr. Sandoval-Strausz and Mr. Hillsley.



UPCOMING

August 1

Adult Leaders Mtg, 6pm, St. Paul's
PLC/Rankup, 7pm, St. Paul's

August 5

Ice Cream Fest, 10:30-3:30 downtown

August 6

Scout Day at DelGrosso's

August 8

Biking, 6:30pm, Spring Creek Park

August 9

Committee Meeting, 7pm, St. Paul's

August 11-13

Biking Campout, Great Allegheny Passage
OA Fall Ordeal

August 13

Personal Fitness MB, 6pm, SCAHS track

August 15

Annual Planning, 6:30pm, Circleville Park

August 22

Meyer Dairy Tour, 7pm

August 29

Court of Honor, 6pm, Circleville Park

September 15-17

Beach Campout, Cape Henlopen, DE

Ice Cream Fest

We need ice cream scooper volunteers for **Saturday August 5th downtown** from 10:30-3:30! Downtown Rotary is our Charter Organization and without them, there would be no Troop 31 B or G. To sign up, go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0449A5A62FA6FB6-2023>

Scout Day at DelGrosso's

Scout Family Fun Day at DelGrosso's Park & Laguna Splash is **August 6, 2023**.

Vouchers must be picked up at Pavilion #3 from 10:30am-4:00pm the day of the event. Registered Youth will receive 1 free voucher for a wrist band. Adults and Non-registered BSA youth will be given a voucher and pay \$20 at the ticket booth for their wrist band.

Personal Fitness Merit Badge

The personal fitness program continues at the SCAHS track on **Sunday, August 13 at 6pm**. This program is open to ALL Scouts, whether working on rank advancement fitness requirements or Fitness merit badge requirements, or both. All Scouts from all Troops are welcome to participate.

Troop 31G Scoutmaster Needed

We will soon be in need of a Scoutmaster for the girls' Troop. The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible for the image and program of the troop. The Scoutmaster and their assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts. The importance of the Scoutmaster's job is reflected in the fact that the quality of their guidance will affect every youth and adult involved in the troop.

The Scoutmaster must be at least 21 years old and is appointed by the head of the chartered organization. If you are interested in applying for this position, please see Jeannie Peters and/or Kelly Walker.

Biking Campout

We'll be taking our bikes along for our August campout. The Great Allegheny Passage is one of America's premier bike trails with one of the craziest vistas around.

When: Weekend of 11-13 August 2023

Where: Camping at Laurel Hill State Park
Biking the Great Allegheny Passage
Optional stop at Flight 93 Memorial on the way home

Why: To have fun, see one of PA's most awesome vistas & maybe eat some ice cream along the way

Note: there will be the opportunity to complete a ride requirement for those working on Cycling MB. If you are planning on **starting** the Cycling MB during this campout, you **MUST** get a blue card signed by your Scoutmaster and talk to the Cycling MB Counselor (Mrs. Messner) **BEFORE** the trip.

OA Recognition

In July, the following scouts and scouters were recognized as Honored Campers and invited to attend either of the next two Yr 2023 Ordeal week-ends to earn membership in the Order of the Arrow.

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Michael H. | Ceci S. |
| Ryan H. | Nick S. |
| Isaac O. | Marek S. |
| Theo O. | Timothy V. |
| Evan R. | |
| Lincoln S. | Mrs. Hill |

The purpose of the OA is to:

- Recognize those campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and law in their daily lives,
- Develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit,
- Promote Scout camping.

Follow Troop 31 on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/Troop31StateCollegePa

Visit www.troop31.us for more information.

Seabase

More than thirty scouts and scouters from Troop 31 participated in this year's High Adventure in and around the Florida Keys. The weather was consistently warm and mostly sunny, with rain falling only occasionally in the afternoons and evenings. The mild weather made it possible for our crews to spend the maximum amount of time walking, canoeing, sailing, fishing, kayaking and snorkeling in the extraordinary natural environment of the northern Caribbean.

The ship captains said that that weeks' weather was among the calmest they had ever seen, making for great visibility. As a result, our scouts were able to see iguanas, bright-green lagartijas, key deer, skinny seagulls, galumphing cormorants, elegant great white herons, nurse sharks and dolphins, sea turtles and an amazing variety of brightly-colored tropical fish in huge schools that would sometimes surround you.

On the last day, the out island and sailing crews reunited for a trip to see (and, shortly thereafter, eat) real Florida gators, both in their natural everglade habitat, where we got joyously soaked zooming around on air boats, and in our hands (baby gators are actually softer to the touch than you'd expect). All told, a trip to remember.

-submitted by Mrs. Hill

Troop Equipment Update

The troop has two 10' x 20' canopies (temporary car ports size) w/ white top covers that set on an 8-leg pole-type frame. The pole-frames are fine, but the original tarp covers are around 20 years old, have torn grommets and are flaking off lots of white powder which you would get all over your clothes when trying to set them up.

The troop now has **TWO NEW TARP COVERS** to use on our existing pole-frame sets. One complete set is in the Troop Trailer w/ poles and connector knuckles on shelves inside and the NEW tarp cover in the tongue box. There is another set in the shed next to the Troop Trailer.

So on the next "rainy" troop campout, we'll have these available to use again. As with any temporary outdoor canopy, these are vulnerable to getting flipped over in the wind. So attention and care would still need to be taken to at least lower them during windy weather if they can't be tied down sufficiently with rope lines and stakes.

We have a 3rd canopy frame set that does not have a new tarp cover to go with it. The original tarp covers have all been discarded.

- submitted by Mr. Thorndike, Troop 31 Quartermaster

National Jamboree

The National Boy Scout Jamboree was held July 19-28 at Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. Over 15,000 Scouts attended from all over the country. Two Scouts from Troop 31 were part of Jamboree Troop 3236 from Juniata Valley Council: Henry S. and Nick S.

During the day, Scouts participated in mountain biking, rock climbing, skateboarding, shooting sports, zip lining, fishing, kayaking, paddleboarding and other aquatic activities. Evening bashes, an amazing drone show and patch trading kept them busy after dinner.

All Scouts experienced Leadership Heights and the Summit Apex (sponsored by the Order of the Arrow), and filled flood buckets for affected West Virginia communities.

Despite a 5-hour delay due a broken-down bus, Scouts returned home full of memories and new friendships.



Jamboree Troop 3236, 3am departure

Leadership

(t) Fully trained for position

(w) Wood Badge

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 troop shed key

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