



# news & views

## BSA Troop 31 State College, PA

### December 2022

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

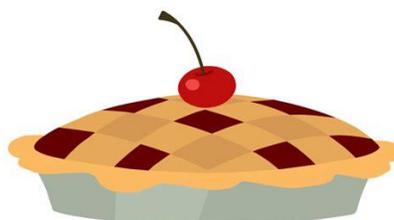
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## Rotary Pie Sale

Our new charter organization, State College Downtown Rotary, is once again partnering with the Pie Shoppe to offer a wide variety of freshly baked, individually packaged pies and breads. The **Rotary Holiday Pie Sale** will be **accepting orders until December 9** and the **fresh pies will be delivered on December 22** just in time for Christmas.

As well as selling pies for gatherings, gifts, or our own delightful consumption, they have also agreed to purchase at least 300 pies for donation to the YMCA Anti-Hunger Mission. These pies will be delivered to families in need across the county in their winter food distributions. Mel Curtis, the director of the Anti-Hunger mission, expressed great gratitude for their previous efforts and how much it is appreciated by the families. He also noted that they are seeing drastic increase in demand and 300 is a low-end estimate. So if nothing else, please consider making a purchase for donation. Last year, they sold 675 pies with 364 donated to the Anti-Hunger Mission.

The Rotary Club has graciously agreed to donate \$2 for every pie ordered through the Scouts to the Scouts BSA Troop 31G. Payment is expected at time of order and there is no online ordering option. Questions? Contact Heather Ross at 814-880-6926.



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New monthly format  
coming in January!



Follow Troop 31 on Facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/Troop31StateCollegePa/](https://www.facebook.com/Troop31StateCollegePa/)

Cover photo:  
Holiday Campout, 12/3/22, Seven Mtns Scout Camp

## Congratulations to our newest Eagle Scout!

### Youngjin Ryoo - #221

I am very pleased to announce that on October 24, 2022 Youngjin Ryoo successfully completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review. Youngjin began Scouts with Troop 31 in 2016. During his time with the Troop, he participated in Sea Base, campouts and service. Youngjin earned 23 merit badges, provided leadership as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader, as well as completing his Eagle Project.



-recognition at Holiday Campout, 12/3/22

Youngjin's Eagle project was stewardship of the Barrens-to-Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor, wherein he, 7 adults and 2 other Scouts removed invasive species and created fence enclosures for tree sprouts. The 42 collective hours of Youngjin's project ultimately will improve the biodiversity of the trail, incentivize healthy competition within its ecosystem, and the location will serve to assist in an ecological study comparing the survival rate of aspen trees in enclosures vs. unenclosed aspens.

## Court of Honor Update

Congratulations on the following rank advancements at the Court of Honor on December 3, 2022:

*Tenderfoot:* Cole S.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Class:* Michael H., Evan R., Ceci S.

*1<sup>st</sup> Class:* Marek S.

*Star:* Theo O., Simon S.

*Life:* Austin H., Zofia S.

*Eagle:* Youngjin R.

Other awards included 29 merit badges.



## New Leadership

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

- Riley T., Senior Patrol Leader, Troop 31B
- Zofia S., Senior Patrol Leader, Troop 31G



## Webelos Woods

So what's a little rain? Scouts and Scouters from Troop 31 hosted area Cub Scouts on what started as a slightly soggy weekend at Camp Anderson, however good use of the pavilion and a huge tarp kept most Scouts mostly dry. The same couldn't be said of Scouters, one of whose tents was set up in a dry lake bed that didn't stay dry for long and others who were up after midnight dealing with the canopy that had collapsed on their tents.

But that was just the start. Troop 31 Scouts helped Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts in skills such as knot tying, shelter construction, fire building and cooking. Games included the always popular capture-the-flag and gaga ball. Hopefully the Cub scouts and their parents had a great time with us and we'll see more of them soon. Special thanks to Mr. Ross and Mr. Vath for pulling the trailer. Wildlife sighted: a black and yellow salamander.

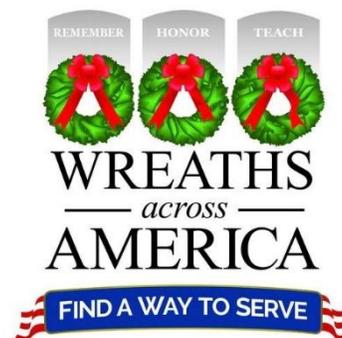


-photo and article by Mr. Baker

## Wreaths Across America

Troop 31 will be participating in a unique service project during December. For the first time, we'll be taking part in Wreaths Across America, an effort to remember and honor veterans at National Cemeteries across the United States and abroad.

We will be participating at Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery near Lebanon, PA on Saturday, December 17. We'll be camping at Camp Bashore on Friday the 16th, then after we're finished at the cemetery will drive back to State College on Saturday evening. Watch your email for more details.



## Pizza and Ice Cream

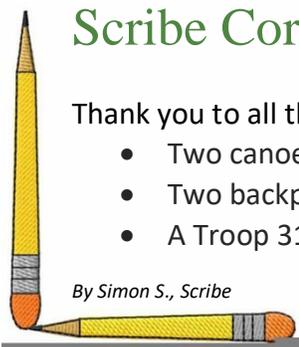
Troop 31 will once again be hosting Troop 945 from Maryland during the Klondike Derby weekend at the Boalsburg Fire Hall. Mark your calendars for **6pm, Saturday night, January 28<sup>th</sup>** at the **Boalsburg Fire Hall** to enjoy pizza and ice cream with them after the Derby.

## Scribe Corner

Thank you to all the donors these past 6 months. We received:

- Two canoes
- Two backpacks and one PFD
- A Troop 31 history book

By Simon S., Scribe



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## Troopmaster – [tmweb.troopmaster.com/Login](http://tmweb.troopmaster.com/Login)

As many of you know, Troop 31 has been using Troopmaster Web 2.0 software to track all of our Scouting Advancements, etc. for the past several years. If you are new to the Troop or have not logged on to check out this program, this is a reminder to do so. **You will be able to check and edit your Scout's and family's personal information (address, email, phone, etc.). You will also be able to view advancement information, view your Scouts Troop Account – Ledger, view Troop Activities log, view merit badge counselors and view and print various reports.**

If you are interested and need login information for this web-based program, please send an email with your name, your Scout's name, and his/her email to Alan Wrye at [awwrye@comcast.net](mailto:awwrye@comcast.net). He will generate the logins and password information, which will be sent from Troopmaster to each person for whom an email was provided.

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## Merit Badge Reminders

### How do I earn a merit badge?

Did you know that there are more than 135 merit badges available for you to earn? But how do you really start and finish a merit badge anyway? Here is a quick guide for scouts new and old:

1. **Pick a merit badge:** If you're having trouble choosing a subject, talk to a scoutmaster or other adult leader about your interests, and they can help you select a merit badge.
2. **Find a merit badge counselor:** Contact one of your scoutmasters or Mrs. Brumberg to let them know which merit badge you are interested in, and remember to copy a second adult on your email. They will then give you a list of merit badge counselors within Troops 31B & G that are registered to guide you through your requested merit badge. Please note that Scouts BSA indicates that scouts should contact their leaders and merit badge counselors; parents should not contact them on their scout's behalf. This gives the scouts an opportunity to practice and hone their communications skills.
3. **Scout buddy system:** You must have another person with you at each meeting with the merit badge counselor. This person can be your parent or legal guardian, or another registered adult. Within Troops 31B & G, there are many opportunities for groups of scouts to work on merit badges together.
4. **Get a blue card:** Ask your scoutmaster for a blue card, and complete the scout information on the blue card. The scoutmaster will then sign the blue card and hand it to you for you to begin your work with your merit badge counselor.
5. **Do the work:** Work with your merit badge counselor to review what is required for your merit badge and how to complete the requirements and demonstrate an understanding of the subject.
6. **Finishing a merit badge:** When you have finished the requirements with your counselor's direction, they will sign your blue card, and they will give that blue card back to your scoutmaster.
7. **Obtaining your merit badge:** Merit badges are typically awarded to scouts during a Court of Honor. Troop 31 holds several courts of honor throughout the year to recognize the scouts' achievements.

Other questions? Feel free to contact Troop 31's merit badge counselor coordinator, Katie Brumberg, at [katie.brumberg@gmail.com](mailto:katie.brumberg@gmail.com)

## Available Troop 31 Positions

Parent involvement creates opportunities and it takes many hands to make a Troop run smoothly. Those who may yet be seeking a role are encouraged to lend their experience and expertise in any of the following positions. Anyone who may be interested in helping to support the Troop by filling one of these important roles is encouraged to reach out to either Committee Chair, Kelly Walker (T31B) at [kelmick@aol.com](mailto:kelmick@aol.com) or Nick Peters (T31G) at [nickjp121@gmail.com](mailto:nickjp121@gmail.com).

### ✓ **Secretary**

The Troop has been without a Secretary for the Committee for some time. At the Adult Annual Planning, the suggestion was made that it might be easier to have a lower volume of emails going out. A solution might be a Committee Secretary.

This role is focused on:

- Keeping minutes of Committee meetings/sending out meeting notices
- Handling publicity
- Coordination of email messaging/tracking

### ✓ **Hospitality/Special Events Chair**

The Hospitality Chair is responsible for:

- providing refreshments
- Coordinating volunteers, if needed
- reserving facilities (like CRPR pavilions, Seven Mountains for Holiday

for Troop events such as Webelos' Woods, Troop Courts of Honor (2x per year) and Holiday Camp. Their assistance/support may also be called upon from Eagle families for Eagle Courts of Honor. This role may be best served by co-Chairs, so that availability/workload is made easier.

### ✓ **Outdoor Activities Coordinator**

This is another specific role that our Troop has unofficially cobbled together, usually from an attending Scoutmaster or Asst Scoutmaster. The duties of this role are:

- Help in securing permission for use of campsites
- Transportation coordinator for outings/campouts
- Promote attendance at campouts, camporees, and summer camp.
- Secure any necessary permits for troop activities
- Adult Leaders meeting/PLC

### ✓ **Patrol Advisors**

For Assistant Scoutmasters, this role will help grow leadership with our Scouts. Duties include:

- Attending as many Troop meetings as possible.
- Working with Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader on goals for their position.
- Encouraging Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol leader to stay on track with their goals.
- Setting up regular meetings/check ins to provide support to Patrol Leader and the Assistant Patrol Leader to see how things are going to complete their position responsibilities/goals.
- Report to the Committee

## ✓ Summer Camp Coordinator

This person is responsible for coordinating summer camp registration, merit badge selections and health form submissions. He/she is also in charge of collecting deposits and payments, as determined by the camp schedule. Next year's summer camp is at Bashore Scout Reservation. The exact week in July 2023 is still TBD.

## Cubmaster Needed for Pack 31

Cub Scout Pack 31 is in dire need of assistance within leadership. We have been approached by Nittany Mountain District Commissioner Amy Harden to see if any of our Troop adults might be willing to step in to advise and shepherd some of the Pack parents into taking leadership roles of their own. In short, the most urgent need is for a temporary Cubmaster. The Pack is small, but as they are also being chartered with Downtown Rotary, they are a natural feeder Pack for our Troop.

We are all very busy and already devote a lot of time to the Troop, but for the right persons (or people!) this is an opportunity to:

1. Support the Cubs in a "partner" Pack.
2. Support and guide the Pack parents to run it successfully.
3. Increase crossovers to Troop 31.
4. Open up Den Chief opportunities.
5. Do a good turn.

If anyone is interested, please contact Kelly Walker at [kelmick@aol.com](mailto:kelmick@aol.com).



## Troop 31 Volunteers



Troop 31 jumped in and assisted with several projects at Seven Mountains Scout Camp. One of the main projects was running new power lines to Stevie Horn campsite and the pavilion at Leopold. Digging a ditch around 200 feet with a backhoe, burying conduit and then pulling wire through the conduit to create a power source for the sites. Have you ever pushed a string uphill? We did it with the help of a leaf blower. Once the string was installed, the wire could be pulled. Rick Marboe, Craig Colwell, David Eng, JP Tambourine and Scouter Frank Savino donated their time to the project to help future campers enjoy the many facilities at Seven Mountains.

The camp continues to make improvements, especially upgrading sites with power for the devices we all use today for camping, communicating, star gazing and comfort. I can just see a series of crock pots for Klondike Derby in the future

Pictured here is Craig Colwell running a New Holland skid steer with a bucket on the front for backfilling the trench and David Eng assisting with the installation of a new power panel on the side of Leopold Cabin.



- Article and photos by Mr. Savino

# Photo Collage



Pumpkin carving, 10/25/22, photo by Mrs. Walker



Lite, 10/1/22, photo by Mrs. Jenkins



Pizza bake-off, 11/22/22, photos by Mr. Thorndike



Recycling crew @ Beaver Stadium,  
11/27/22, photo by M. Gartner



God and Life Class, 12/1/22, photo by Mrs. Peoples  
Scouts: Kevin B., Henry S., Cooper B., Brennan S.,  
Mitchell P., Mrs. Peoples, Pastor Greg



Asst. Scoutmaster Sitzabee  
**Thank you for your service!**  
photo by Mrs. Messner



Troop 31B servers @ Holiday Campout



Troop 31G servers @ Holiday Campout

photos by Mrs. Messner

## Annual Planning

Month	Theme	Event-Site	Dates
January 2023	Cold Weather	Klondike – 7MSC	Jan 27-29
February 2023	Winter Sports	Skiing – Holiday Valley (NY)	Feb 3-5
March 2023	Community Service	State Park – TBD	March 24-26
April 2023	American History	Spring Camporee	TBD
May 2023	Ocean	Beach Campout – Cape Henlopen (DE)	May 10-12
June 2023	Fishing	Project First Class	TBD
July 2023	Art	Summer Camp	TBD
August 2023	Parks	Summit (WV)	August 11-13
September 2023	Architecture	Gettysburg	September 8-10



## Calendar for December 2022

Check [www.troop31.us/t31-calendar](http://www.troop31.us/t31-calendar) for more information.

December 6	6pm 7pm	Adult Leaders Meeting PLC Meeting/Rank-up
December 13	7pm	Gingerbread House Patrol Competition
December 16-17		Wreath Laying @ Indiantown Gap
December 20	5:30-7:30 pm	Ice Skating @ Pegula (\$4 for skates)
December 27		NO MEETING



## Upcoming

- Klondike Derby/Pizza & Ice cream party with Troop 945 – Saturday, January 28
- Everything Home Expo – Saturday, February 18, 10:30-3:30, The Centre
- Elks Hoop Shoot – Saturday, March 4, 8:30-10:30, Bellefonte Area HS
- IOLS – April 29-30<sup>th</sup> – **REQUIRED for all ASMs to be fully trained and meet High Adventure requirements!**
- Spring Camporee – May 5-7

# Leadership

(t) Fully trained for position

(w) Wood Badge

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Aaron Vath

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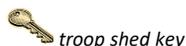
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Scott Huber (t)  
Hyeseon Kim (t)  
Frank Savino (t)  
Jacqueline Serefine G



troop shed key