



# news & views

## BSA Troop 31 State College, PA

### February 2023

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

UPCOMING

## Klondike Derby

Several T31 scouts and leaders enjoyed a beautiful night of tenting/cabin camping Friday night with snow on the ground, clear skies and seasonable temperatures. The geography station was busy the entire day with sled teams stopping by to solve a puzzle of matching 20 locations along the "Great Wagon Road" with the names of 20 towns, rivers and mountain ranges. (This puzzle was quite challenging, and took teams more time than expected.) A roaring campfire, delicious chili and hot cocoa, and the terrific sunshine made for a great time for all - derby participants and station volunteers.



-photo by Mr. Hillsley

After the Klondike Derby, T31 enjoyed spending time with T945 of Damascus, MD at a pizza and ice cream social at the Boalsburg Fire Hall. Following our meal, Mr. Davidson gave a tour of the Fire House and all the trucks to scouts and leaders - this was a big hit for all.



-photo by Mr. Messner



-photo by Mr. Thorndike

Special thank yous to Mrs. Vender for leading the derby geography station at Leopold Cabin, Mrs. Walker for coordinating the hospitality station, Mr. and Mrs. Ross for the yummy chili, Mr. Vath for pulling the trailer to/from 7 Mountains, and Mr. Davidson, Mrs. Messner and Mrs. Walker for coordinating our social with T945.

-article by Mr. Hillsley

### February 7

PLC/Rank-up, St. Paul's, 7pm

### February 12

Scout Sunday, St. Paul's, 10:30am

### February 14

31B: Snowman building, Good Shepherd, 31G: Cupcake making, St. Paul's, both at 7pm

### February 18

Everything Home Expo, The Centre, 1-4pm

### February 21

Tubing/Skiing, Tussey Mountain, 7pm

### February 28

Night Hike, Musser Gap, 7pm

### March 4

Elks Hoop Shoot, Bellefonte Area High School, 9am

### April 22

Watershed Cleanup, Bald Eagle

### April 28-30

Spring Camporee, Ag Progress

## 2022 Wrap Up

During 2022:

- Over 40 Scouts completed 148 merit badges. 16 Scouts accomplished at least one rank advancement.
- Troop 31 completed 14 service projects equaling 1,062 service hours.

## Welcome

Please welcome Chris Rand as the new Troop 31G treasurer. Chris is a project manager for a local land holding company whose portfolio includes the EDGE and several other student towers, a hotel, and an exciting new hotel project downtown. When not at work, he enjoys landscaping and gardening with native plants, lots of types of music, fantasy sports, cornhole, the local food scene, and cooking great scratch meals. He and his wife Jen live in State College with their daughter Emerson who is a member of Troop 31G.

## Merit Badge College

The Susquehanna Council will be hosting a 'Merit Badge College' at Penn College of Technology in Williamsport on Saturday, **February 18th from 8am to 4:30pm.**

21 Merit Badges are being offered.: American Labor, Architecture, Chemistry, Composite Materials, Dentistry, Digital Technology, Drafting, Electricity (2 periods required), Electronics (2 periods required), First Aid (2 periods required), Landscape Architecture (2 periods required), Metalwork (must take ALL 3 periods), Photography (2 periods required), Plumbing (2 periods required), Sculpture (2 periods required), Search and Rescue (must take ALL 3 periods), Soil and Water Conservation, Sustainability (2 periods required), Textile (must take ALL 3 periods), Welding (must take ALL 3 periods).

Registration closes Feb 6th. As this is not a Troop event, families will be individually responsible for their own registration and payment. Please visit [susquehannabsa.org](https://susquehannabsa.org) for more information.

## Ski Trip

Troop 31 Ski Campout 2023 to Holiday Valley in Ellicottville, NY was a success the weekend of February 4. Despite Saturday morning's cold-snap of 1 degree, folks came prepared and dressed for the weather, and by night skiing, it was in the 20s for perfect ski temperature.



-article and photos by Mr. Thorndike



A truly rewarding trip is never complete without a few challenges to overcome, including negative 13 degree windchill we all dealt with at Friday night meetup to load people and gear, and later some frozen pipes. But it was warm enough traveling in the cars, and with good support from the property owner, we had water flowing properly again on Saturday morning.

## Summer Camp – Deposit due

Summer Camp will be held July 16-22 at Camp Bashore. If you are planning to attend, a **\$50 deposit is due February 7<sup>th</sup>**. Please make checks payable to Troop 31.

## Home Show

We have been given the opportunity to participate at the home show in two ways. This is a great opportunity for us to show others what Scouting is all about.

1. Scouts and Adults help with carnival games for the young visitors to the home show. Troop volunteers can attend for free. The games will be set up for us. Examples include ring toss and plinko. plinko. We need a minimum of 2 Adults and 8 Scouts.
2. A table will be set up for us to place recruiting materials during our time at the home show. It would be great to have adults to help with making materials for the recruiting table and attend.

Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a45aaab22a4fd0-home#/>

## Seeking Host Family

Troop 31's charter organization, Downtown Rotary, is seeking a host family for an exchange student from March 2023 through late June/early July 2023.

Gio is 17 years old, and is from Brazil. He speaks excellent English, is very well behaved and has been attending State College Area High School. He receives a stipend and school lunches are provided with no cost to the host family. The ideal host family would have a spare bedroom available for accommodation.

If any Troop 31 family is interested in helping, or if you know someone who is, please contact Don O'Connell for more information either by email [doconnell@t2binteriors.com](mailto:doconnell@t2binteriors.com) or by phone at (814)234-8880.

## Necessity Box

State College/Downtown  
**Rotary**  
Club 

### LITTLE FREE NECESSITY BOX

**Take what you need.  
Give what you can.**

Please help us fill our box with the following necessities:

- Toothpaste
- Packaged Toothbrushes
- Mouthwash
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Body soap
- Hand sanitizer
- Sanitary supplies (tampons, pads, pantyliners)
- Hand/body lotion
- Tissues
- Lip balm
- Mittens/gloves
- Hats
- Socks
- Face coverings
- Combs/brushes
- Laundry detergent packs
- Band-aids
- Mini containers of liquid dish soap
- Liquid hand soap



For more information on the State College Downtown Rotary's Little Free Necessity Box project, please email Danielle at [dstemple0524@gmail.com](mailto:dstemple0524@gmail.com).

Just a friendly reminder that the Necessity Box is in Park for donations anytime. *-photo by Mrs. Messner*

## Duty to God

On Dec. 1, 2022, 5 scouts finished God & Life at a meeting with Pastor Greg Milinovich and Counselor Karen Peoples. Mitchell Peoples, Cooper Brumberg Henry Smith & Kevin Burns have earned the 4 star award by completing all 4 levels of the P.R.A.Y. Series. Brennan Sitzabee completed God & Life.

On Dec. 18, 2022, 4 scouts completed God & Church at a meeting with Pastor Greg Milinovich, among them Simon Smith from Troop 31.

The awards will be presented on Scout Sunday, February 12, at St. Paul's UMC 10:30 am service.

## Points of the Scout Law

When we recite the Scout Oath, we say, "I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and **to obey the Scout Law...**" and we follow the Oath with the Scout Law, which tell us what traits exemplify a Scout. Let's look at three of them:

**A Scout is Friendly.** A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He offers his friendship to people of all races and nations, and respects them even if their beliefs and customs are different from his own.

**A Scout is Courteous.** A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows that using good manners makes it easier for people to get along.

**A Scout is Kind.** A Scout knows there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. Without good reason, he does not harm or kill any living thing.



This month's theme:  
**Winter Sports**



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

Visit [www.troop31.us](http://www.troop31.us) for more information.

# Leadership

(t) Fully trained for position

(w) Wood Badge

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 troop shed key

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