



# news & views

## BSA Troop 31 State College, PA

### January 2023

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

UPCOMING

## Wreaths Across America Recap

In mid-December, Troop 31 took part in a unique and meaningful service event. Wreaths Across America coordinates the laying of evergreen wreaths at veterans' graves in cemeteries across the U.S. and abroad. After spending the night at Camp Bashore, we headed to Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery where we joined thousands of volunteers (including many Scout Troops) for the opening ceremony honoring all veterans, Gold Star families and the Armed Services.



Volunteers then fanned out across the cemetery to lay over 42,000 wreaths at individual grave markers. At each grave, while laying the wreath, we were encouraged to say the veteran's name aloud, pause to say a prayer or meditation, and reflect for a moment on this one person's life and service. It

was pointed out during the opening that "They say you die twice. One time when you stop breathing and a second time, a bit later on, when somebody says your name for the last time". This event hopefully ensures that the second time never comes for these veterans. Each Scout and Scouter on this trip came away feeling that they had spent an especially worthwhile day.

*-photo and article by Mr. Baker*

### **January 10**

Board Games, St. Paul's, 7pm

### **January 17 & 24**

Klondike Prep, St. Paul's, 7pm

### **January 22**

Seabase Trainer #0, St. Paul's, 2pm

### **January 27-28**

Klondike Derby at Seven Mountains

### **January 28**

Pizza & Ice Cream Party w/Maryland Troop at Boalsburg Fire Hall, 6pm

### **January 29**

Personal Fitness MB Book Work, St. Paul's, 1pm

### **January 31**

First Aid Rank up, St. Paul's, 7pm

### **February 3-4**

Holiday Valley Ski Campout, Ellicottville, NY

### **February 12**

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

### **February 18**

Everything Home Expo, The Centre, 10:30am - 3:30pm

## Klondike Derby

**January 28th, 2023** will mark the 51st annual Klondike Derby at Seven Mountains Scout Camp. This year's theme is Travelin' Down the Great Wagon Road. The Great Wagon Road began as a collection of Native American Indian trails, was eventually used as a pack road by mule trains, and then was improved and widened for Conestoga wagons. It stretched 800 miles from Philadelphia to Georgia. By the time of the American Revolution, it was said to be the most heavily traveled road in America.

BSA Troops (Conestoga Division) and Webelos (Dray Division) will compete to see who can get their 6-8 member teams and sleds through all designated stations successfully, while transporting and trading valued Colonial era commodities along the way. Do you have what it takes to travel the Great Wagon Road? The Troops will have **Klondike Prep meetings on January 17<sup>th</sup> and January 24<sup>th</sup>.**

## 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.

## Summer Camp

This year's summer camp will be held July 16-22 at Bashore Scout Reservation in Jonestown, PA. **A \$50 deposit will be due by February 15.** If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to Mr. Hillsley at [klh124@psu.edu](mailto:klh124@psu.edu)



We are still looking for a summer camp coordinator. If interested, please contact Kelly Walker at [kelmick@aol.com](mailto:kelmick@aol.com).

## Gingerbread House Contest

In December, the patrols held a friendly gingerbread house competition and here is the winning design. Congratulations!



-photo by Mr. Sandoval-Strausz

## Rotary Pie Sale Update

A total of 33 pies were sold during the Rotary pie sale in December. This resulted in a donation of \$66 to Troop 31G from our charter organization. A big thank you to all who participated!



-photo by Mrs. Brumberg

❄️ This month's theme: Cold Weather ❄️

Follow Troop 31 on Facebook at:  
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Visit [www.troop31.us](http://www.troop31.us) for more information.

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(t) Fully trained for position

(w) Wood Badge

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