



Left to right (years of service) - Ken Hillsley(15), David Eng(22), Rick Marboe(23), Jody Vender(7), Jeannie Peters(11), Frank Savino(25), Craig Colwell(25), John Messner(13)
 Holiday Campout - Court of Honor, December 5-7, 2025, photo by Mr. Savino

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

news & views

BSA Troop 31 State College, PA



January 2026

UPCOMING

Scout/Adult Registration Renewal

Please check my.scouting.org to confirm your email is correct and check when your registration expires. You should receive an email 60 days before your expiration, giving you plenty of time to renew. **A parent or guardian must renew their children.** If you have questions, please contact Monena Hall.

**Auto Renewal Membership
Family/Self Pay**

- An email notification and a renewal link will be sent 60 days before membership expires.
- The link provided in the email will direct individuals to a renewal form on My.Scouting
- If registered in multiple positions, select the primary position. Renewing the primary position will automatically renew multiple positions.
- The individual pays with a credit card and submits the renewal.
- The unit will approve the membership renewal.

Annual Troop Dues

Annual Troop dues are for *youth only*. For 2026, annual dues per scout are **\$55** and are **due by Jan. 31, 2026**. Dues may be paid by check to the Troop or debited from a Scout's Troop account.



A job well done and sincere THANKS to Ms. Kelly Walker for your leadership and devotion to the Troop! Welcome our new Committee Chair, Monena Hall! The Troop thanks you for stepping into this important role. Please check Nov. 25' newsletter and Leadership Chart on p.4 for 2026 updates *. Photo by Kevin.

January 1

Roundtable, 7:30pm-8:30pm, 113 E. Pine St.

January 4 & 18

Fitness Reqs MB, 4:30pm, SCAHS S. Track

January 6

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

January 13

Troop Skiing & Tubing, 7-8:30pm, Tussey Mt.

January 14

Committee Meeting, 7-8:30pm, St. Paul's

January 20

Troop Klondike Prep and Cold Weather Training, 7-8:30pm, St. Paul's

Personal Management MB Workshop, 6pm, Timberland Federal Credit Union in Pleasant Gap

January 24

[Klondike Derby](#), 8am-4pm, 7MSC

January 27

Troop Eagle Trail PPT, 7-8:30pm, St. Paul's

Holiday Campout recap

Our once a year bash, where we eat lots of good food, relax, play games, relax some more. This year was on December 5-7 at Seven Mountains Scout Camp. We had a great turnout “camping out” in the 7MSC dining hall. Sleeping forts were built and games were played on Friday.

On Saturday, we took some time out of gaming to give back and to help around the camp. A small group of scouts helped re-mapping the camp map. Some of us participated in the Orienteering course which helped with the First Class requirements. That evening we welcomed more parents, friends, and family to celebrate our court of honor and enjoy our annual turkey dinner. Followed by a fun white elephant gift exchange.



At the Court of Honor this month, we had a great Red Jac-Shirt Presentation by committee member, Mr. Craig Colwell, “A long tradition in Scouting is the wearing of the red wool “Jac-Shirt”. It is not really a jacket, and not really a shirt, but something in between. The awarding of a Jac-Shirt has become a tradition in Troop 31, State College PA, as a special way to recognize individuals who have made substantial contributions of time and talents to the Troop over a long period of time.

The red jac-Shirt goes back to the first days of the Philmont Scout Ranch in the 1940s and the Wilderness Grace, also known as the Philmont Grace, which is a meal blessing that gives thanks for, among other things, “raiment”. Raiment is an Old French word for a formal garment. The Jac-Shirt has been used for years to recognize explorers including the Apollo astronauts, who trained to go to the moon at Philmont using the various types of soils and rocks found at the Scout ranch and all received a red Jac-Shirt as pioneers in their own right. The next time you see a Scouter wearing the red Jac-Shirt, know that there is a real story that comes with wearing this unique raiment.”

A big shout out to Ms. Goldberg for cooking and organizing the adult volunteers in the kitchen. She

coordinated a delicious menu of fresh food for breakfast, lunch, and an amazing turkey dinner. A hearty thank you goes out to everyone who lent a hand in and out of the kitchen.

Another shoutout goes to our Holiday Camp turkey donors: Ms. Smith, Ms. Goldberg, Ms. Graif and Ms. Vender. Also, thanks to everyone who brought a delicious dessert - they were all so good! Lastly, thanks to Mr. Baker (Campmaster) and Ms. Cahill, Mr. Sullivan and all of the adult leaders.

Are You Fully Trained?

Our Scouts deserve nothing less than a fully trained corps of Adult Leadership.

Don't know what you need? Go to your my.scouting.org profile and check in My Training.

Court of Honor Update Dec 06, 2026

Congratulations on the following rank advancements at the Court of Honor. Other awards included 13 merit badges.

Scout rank: Blake Shulman.

Tenderfoot: Benjamin Roberts, and Georgia Wright.

1st Class: Nela Sullivan.

Eagle: Marek Sullivan.

Eagle Bronze Palm: Gavin Humphrey.

Eagle Bronze, Gold & Silver Palms: Rishi Bhattacharyya

Klondike Derby

Our first outdoor/camping experience of 2026 will be the annual Klondike Derby at 7 Mountains. The troop does not have a cabin but the troop may have the opportunity to winter camp depending upon available adult coverage, weather, and having proper gear. The troop will be there all day Saturday running a station and will hopefully have a sled (or two) competing. Scouts have the opportunity on Saturday to assist at a station (organized by ASM Jodi Vender) or to participate in the competition. More details to follow but we need to know who is interested. **Please RSVP by January 13th** so we can organize the sled team(s). Final troop registration deadline will be the troop meeting on January 20th (Klondike Prep/Cold Weather Training meeting).

The 2026 Klondike Derby continues to be a long-standing tradition of winter activities for our Council. For this event, Patrols pull a customized sled around Seven Mountains Scout Camp to compete in various scout skills challenges. A patrol's performance at each event will be scored for their level of knowledge or accomplishment and for teamwork. Two divisions exist: one for Webelos / AOL Dens and another for Scouts BSA Troops & Crews.

When: Saturday, January 24th, 8am to 4pm

Where: Seven Mountains Scout Camp

Theme: The Fires of Freedom

T31 Organizer: Christine Clouse

Pricing Per Participant, no refund:

- Early Bird fee is \$17.00, by 5pm on Fri., 1/16
- Regular fee is \$20.00, by 5pm on Thurs., 1/ 22
- Late/same day fee is \$25.00, by 5pm on Sat, 1/24 (Derby Day)

Scout BSA Division equipment list P. 13 in

https://scoutingevent.com/Download/497168111/OR/Leaders_Guide_2026_Klondike.pdf

Klondike Derby Troop 31 signup form

<https://forms.gle/PjqoxmsDu57KwDsU9>

Troop 31 Camping Health form and Behavioral Expectations Permission Form to follow at a later date.

<https://www.troop31.us/document-library>

Algonquin Provincial Park Signup for Summer 2026

If you will be a Star Rank and 13 years old or 12 years old and have completed 7th Grade, you are eligible to join this adventure. We are trying to determine which scouts and adults are interested in attending Algonquin Provincial Park. This will mostly be canoeing, with some portages (carrying canoes/gear).

Here is a non-binding signup. <https://forms.gle/9aK5eAy6VDxwPxCe9>



Ice skating at the Pegula Ice Arena, 12/19/25, Photo by Mr. Baker

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

Visit www.troop31.us for more information.

Save the dates:

- 1) **Personal Management Merit Badge Workshop** starts on 1/20 then biweekly
<https://scoutingevent.com/497-108256>
- 2) **NYLT 2026** 4/24 - 5/3, 7MSC, 13yos+ and 1st Class and up, Have completed Intro to Leadership Skill for Troops, Crews, or Ships (ILST, ILSC, ILSS)
<https://scoutingevent.com/497-107966>
- 3) **IOLS: Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills 2026**, 5/1-5/2, 7 Mtns. Scout Camp
<https://scoutingevent.com/497-107620>
- 4) **Wilderness First Aid Training**, 5/16-17, 7 Mtns. Scout Camp
<https://scoutingevent.com/497-108924>

Leadership 2026

(t) Fully trained for position, (w) Wood Badge,  Troop shed key, *new

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