



news & views

BSA Troop 31 State College, PA

September 2022

NITTANY VALLEY DISTRICT, JUNIATA VALLEY COUNCIL * CHARTERED BY ST. PAUL'S UMC

IN THIS ISSUE

New Charter Organization



As some of you may already be aware, the leaders of the United Methodist Church have recently finalized their decision that UMC member churches may no longer serve as Chartering Organizations for Scouting groups. It was put forth that local Councils might step in to fill the gap, but unfortunately, due to the large number of local Troops and Packs that have been chartered with area UMC's, the onus of chartering and other aspects of that responsibility would overwhelm Juniata Valley Council.

Joe Davidson, Troop 31's Chartering Organization Representative, has been working diligently behind the scenes with Club President Don O'Connell to have the State College/Downtown Rotary Club become the new Charter Organization for all three BSA groups: Troop 31B, Troop 31G and Pack 31. Mr. O'Connell and Rotary are very keen to support the Troops and the Pack and we are very thankful to have their support!

St. Paul's, our former Charter Organization for over a century, wants very much to be able to assist our BSA groups in other ways. To that end, the Church has agreed that we may still use the building for meetings, storage space, and for other events like Merit Badge Midways.

It is the end of an era in a way, but we can look forward to a bright future! We are indeed very fortunate to have these solutions made available to us through the tireless efforts of Mr. Davidson, Mr. O'Connell and State College/Downtown Rotary, and St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

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*Cover photo:
Summer Camp 2022, Seven Mountains Scout
Camp, photo by Kelly Walker*

Court of Honor Update

Congratulations on the following rank advancements at the Court of Honor on August 30, 2022:

Tenderfoot: Austen C., Ceci S., Lincoln S., Nick S.

1st Class: Simon S.

Star: Grizz R., Zofia S.

Life: Rishi B.

Other awards included 147 merit badges. Recognition was also given to those who completed their Order of the Arrow Ordeal (see page 3) and those who participated in the Algonquin Provincial Park trek (see below).

Algonquin

June 29 - July 8 this summer, Troop 31 made its high adventure canoeing and tenting trek through beautiful Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada north of Toronto. Driving from State College, the crew took pre-trek tours of the Zippo Lighter/Case Knife Museum in Bradford, PA and Niagara Falls (Canada side), camping overnight at nearby Scouts Canada Camp Wetaskiwin.



The crew then spent 8 days and 7 nights canoeing ~65 miles through Algonquin Provincial Park, paddling and portaging from lake to lake. Scouts and leaders tented and hammocked at campsites, cooked meals using Jetboil stoves, pumped water into Nalgene's, and played cribbage and card games by the campfire. Wildlife highlights included listening to many calling loons, watching a moose feed on

creek grass for ~20 min, hearing a pack of wolves howling in the middle of the night, catching a few (smallish) fish, seeing many frogs resting on lily pads and leeches squirming through the water. The scouts worked well as a team sharing in the work each day, and learned valuable camping, canoeing and cooking skills, with several scouts earning Canoeing MB. All-in-all a wonderful trip!



Trek participants included scouts **Cooper B., Preston B., Logan H., Sam W., Tim V. Marek S. and Ryan H.** Leaders included **Mr. Brandenburg, Mr. Huber, Mr. Vath, Mr. Baker, Mr. Sullivan, and Mr. and Mrs. Hillsley.**

Photos and article by Mr. Hillsley

Order of the Arrow

Congratulations to several of our Troop 31 Scouts and Scouters who have successfully completed their Ordeal Membership into the Order of the Arrow, this year. They are:

Scouts:

Grizz R.
Brennan S.
Zofia S.
Sam W.

Scouter:

Mr. Brian Brandenburg



Several other scouts/scouters have been elected to join this rank of BSA honored campers and have one more opportunity left to secure their Ordeal membership this year. This next Ordeal is during the OA Woodchuck Weekend, October 14-16th. Register now to attend. If candidates miss this date, they may have the opportunity to be elected next year by satisfying the camping and other requirements next Spring.

Popcorn

Popcorn sales are underway! Every scout should have received a popcorn order form, which was mailed directly to them. You are invited to get out and sell popcorn, whether to friends and family or door to door. Mr. Huber also has popcorn on hand to help facilitate immediate sales. Contact Mr. Huber if you are interested or have any questions: scotth57@icloud.com



Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) Training for Adults

Working as patrols, this hands-on course provides adult leaders the practical outdoor skills they need to lead Scouts in the out-of-doors. Upon completion, leaders should feel comfortable teaching Scouts the basic skills required to obtain the First Class rank. Along with Scoutmaster Specifics this course is required of all direct contact leaders registered in Boy Scout Troops and Varsity Scout Teams, in order to be considered "trained."

Registration is at Seven Mountains Scout Camp from 8:00-8:30 a.m. on **Saturday, October 8**. The course concludes at 10 a.m. Sunday, October 9. Cost is \$25.00, if registered by October 1, 2022. Cost is \$30.00, if registered after October 1, 2022. Includes meals and materials. Please notify the Juniata Valley Council Office in advance of any allergies or special dietary needs. Go to <http://www.jvbsa.org/training-resources/training-opportunities/18152> to register.



**October 7-9:
District Camporee at
Seven Mountains**

**October 29 and November 5:
Scouting for Food**



Photo Collage



Trash Crews at Arts Fest, 7/15/22, photos by Mrs. Messner



White Water rafting trip, 8/19/22, photo by Heather Ross



White Water Rafting trip, 8/20/22, photo by Phil Thorndike



White Water Rafting trip, 8/20/22, photos by Phil Thorndike



Patrol Flag Night, 7/12/22



Beach Volleyball @ Circleville, 8/16/22
photo by Heather Ross



Annual Planning, Lederer Park, 8/28/22
photo by Heather Ross

Bad News...and Good News

Seven Mountains Scout Camp recently had an issue with the method to control the lake level. The device used to keep the lake at a constant level failed and the lake ended up draining. Plans are underway to determine what can be done to fix the issue, as well as clean up around the lake, remove old tires from the lake bed and potentially dredge some of the silt out of the bottom.

Now for the good news! Andrew Canich, Eagle Scout #118 from July 20, 2000 lost his k-bar knife in the lake at Seven Mountains that was presented at his Eagle ceremony around 20 years ago. Well, the knife was found in relatively good shape, though the sheath had rotted away. How do we know it was his? The engraving on the side of the knife had his name and date. The lesson here is, when you earn your Eagle and receive special recognitions, take care of them. The ending may not always be as good as Andrews'.



Calendar for September 2022

Check www.troop31.us for more information and calendar updates!

September 6	6pm	Adult Leaders Meeting
	7pm	PLC Meeting/Rank-up
September 13	7pm	Thompson Woods Clean-up
September 14	7pm	Committee Meeting, St. Paul's Church
September 16-18		Museum Campout, Washington D.C.
September 20	7 pm	AOL meeting
September 27	7pm	Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge

Leadership

(t) Fully trained for position

(w) Wood Badge

SCOUTMASTERS

Ken Hillsley (t) 814-360-8914
Jeannie Peters (t) (w) G

kh124@psu.edu
jpp198@gmail.com



ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTERS

Kurt Baker (t) 814-867-5702
Program

kfb3@psu.edu



Brian Brandenburg
Ed Brezovec G (t) 814-470-9542
David Dunkleberger (t)
David Eng
Paul Haris (t)
Christina Hill (t)

edward.brezovec@gmail.com



John Messner

j.messner@me.com



Brian Opperman
Jeannie Peters B (t) (w)
Andrew K. Sandoval-Strausz
William Sitzabee
Neil Sullivan G (t)
Phil Thorndike (t)

jpp198@gmail.com

Aaron Vath

TROOP COMMITTEE

Kelly Walker (t)
Chair – Boys

kelmick@aol.com



Nicholas Peters (t) 814-852-9468
Chair – Girls

nickjp121@gmail.com

Joe Davidson (t) 814-466-6024
Chartered Org. Rep.

ccrod@comcast.net



Alan Wrye (t) 814-237-0108
Advancement

awwrye@comcast.net

Christina Hill
Treasurer B

chill9687@gmail.com

Jodi Vender (t)
Treasurer G

jvender@gmail.com

Phil Thorndike (t)
Quartermaster

jpthorndike87@gmail.com



TROOP COMMITTEE

Rick Marboe (t) (w) 814-880-5199
Adult Training

rick@marboe.com

Kelly Walker (t)
Hospitality

kelmick@aol.com

Lori Smith
Newsletter

lasmith723@gmail.com

Katie Brumberg (t)
Merit Badge Coordinator

katie.brumberg@gmail.com

Emily Brandenburg
Adult Volunteer Clearance Coord.

Lori Smith
Summer Camp Coordinator

lasmith723@gmail.com

Tory Jenkins
Webelos Coordinator

tory.jenkins@gmail.com

Karen Peoples (t) 814-404-0386
Webelos Coordinator

qpeoples@comcast.net

Gargi Bhattacharyya
Trading Post

gargi.bt@gmail.com

Anne Messner
Community Service Coordinator

messnerski@gmail.com

(open)
Fundraising Chair

ADVISORS

Brian Brandenburg
Webmaster Advisor

Jodi Vender (t)
Historian Advisor

jvender@gmail.com

(open)
Chaplain Advisor

Anne Messner (t)
Scribe Advisor

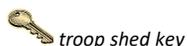
messnerski@gmail.com

Ed Brezovec
OA Advisor B

edward.brezovec@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bernadette Brezovec (t)
Ed Brezovec B (t)
Tracy Burns (t)
David Eng (t)
Mechteld Hillsley
Scott Huber (t)
Hyeseon Kim (t)
Frank Savino (t)
Jacqueline Serefine G



troop shed key