



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

news & views

BSA Troop 31 State College, PA

April 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome New Scouts and Parents: Spring Creek Canyon Hike 3/25 and New Scout Campout 3/31-4/2

Spring Creek Canyon

A mighty crew of scouts hiked along Spring Creek Canyon and enjoyed the sights and sounds of Spring! We honed up on our compass skills, identified trees/plants and identified animal evidences. It was a very productive and enjoyable hike. We look forward to the next one perhaps more challenging with 1000-ft elevation change... Mt Nittany anyone?

Attending Scouts:

Asher Collens, Brendan Donnelly
Sasha Andrzhevsky, Patrick Williams
David Cahoy, Roman Corl
John Cho, Zac Brezovec

Supporting Cast:

Mr. Collens, Mr. Donnelly
Aiden Donnelly, Mr. Andrzhevsky
Ms. Williams, Izzy Williams
Mr. Brezovec, Mr. Eng

New Scout/New Parent Campout

New Scout Training

1. Campout gear inspection
2. Tent Setup
3. Campfire Safety/Starting a Campfire/Fireman Chit
4. Patrol Kitchen & Stove Setup/Cooking
5. Ax Yard Setup/Toten Chip/Pocket Knife use
6. Rope Uses/Knot Tying
7. How to conduct a Flag Ceremony
8. Basic First Aid Training
9. Outdoor Code/Safe Hiking - Buddy System

New Parents' Orientation

Each year we provide a Troop 31 Orientation for the new scout parents. This is an all-day/overnight event hosted by the Troop Committee.

(Cover photo this issue from Baltimore Big City Trip – submitted by Jen Brauser)



New scouts complete their 5 mile hike requirement at Spring Creek Canyon. *Photo submitted by Ed Brezovec.*

See what the Troop's been up to so far this year

We traveled to Baltimore, competed at Klondike, baked Stromboli, fished at Minsi, camped, hiked, ranked up, celebrated, and much more! The common denominator among them all? We had FUN! **Photos and more inside>**

Register for the 2nd Annual Troop 31 5K

Saturday May 13th at Tudek Park! Prizes and fun!
Details on page 6>

District & Council Recognition Dinners

New Troop MVP: Jeannie Peters

Every year the Troop Committee elects one of our many adult volunteers to be the Troop MVP--most valuable person. I am very pleased to announce that Jeannie Peters has been selected this year. Jeannie is part of our wonderful Assistant Scoutmaster team, and is very active and helpful in so many ways. She rarely misses a campout or hike, and is one of the adults that will be attending Philmont this summer with many of our Scouts.

Jeannie was recognized at the Juniata Valley Council dinner on Feb 8th and at the February Family banquet and Court of Honor.

Please join me in thanking and congratulating Jeannie for all that she does for our Scouts and Troop!

-David Eng, Committee Chair



Nittany Mountain District 2016 Annual Recognition Dinner

On January 12, the Nittany District held their annual recognition dinner to present the District Award of Merit and celebrate the Eagle Scout class of 2016. Eight of the district's 40 Eagle Scouts attended, including 2 of Troop 31's Eagles: Erik Norloff and Tobin Sundstrom.



Big City Trip 2017 recap:

Baltimore

The 2017 Big City Trip to Baltimore did not disappoint! We started the excursion by hiking at the Carrie Murray Nature Center just outside of Baltimore; the second largest urban park on the East Coast and only surpassed by Central Park in NYC. Then we headed to Fort McHenry to step back in history and learn the beginnings of our National Anthem: a memorable experience. Did you know that there are four stanzas to the Star Spangled Banner and the meaning of the word 'Spangled'?!

Finally for the day we traveled downtown to visit the Baltimore Basilica, America's First Cathedral, and satisfy our Scout duty of reverence. The following days we concentrated our activities in Baltimore's inner harbor at the National Aquarium and other sites that Baltimore had to offer. To round out the three day trip, a group headed to *Ripley's Believe It or Not* to see exhibits of the tallest human, Robert Wadlow at 8' 11.1" tall and other unusual attractions from the world-over. Thanks for all the leadership support from the scouts and adult leaders. Where are we going to go next year?

-by Ed Brezovec; photos from Jen Brauser



Event RECAP

Stromboli fundraiser

We raised more than \$900 this year with the Stromboli and bake sale fundraiser. All scouts who volunteered will receive a portion of the proceeds in their scout account! Thank you to all volunteers and to Eileen Lang for organizing!



Klondike Derby

Troop 31 attended the 2017 Klondike Derby at 7 Mountains Scout Camp with 2 crews and staffed the Knot tying stations for Webelos and Scouts.

The Scouts participating were:

Unicorns

Thomas Stangel, Thomas Dolheimer, Declan Flanagan & Jake Barnes

Nova

Michael Solo, Mitchell Peoples, T.J. Limegrover & Ben Dworsky

Thank you to all who volunteered to staff the knot tying stations including: Scoutmaster Mr Brezovec, Zac Brezovec, Mr. Stangel, Mr. Solo, SPL Jacob Stangel, Mr Colwell, Mrs. Limegrover, Hayden Davidson, Mr. Sinding and Mr Savino. And a special thank you to Mrs Stangel for assisting and providing chili and hot chocolate.

-article and photos from Frank Savino



Calendar for April/May 2017

Tuesday, Apr 4th	6pm	Adult Leaders Mtg & Easter Egg Stuffing!	Tuesday May 2 nd	6pm	Adult Leaders Meeting
	7pm	Troop Meeting		7pm	PLC
Tuesday, Apr 11th	7pm	Swim Test @ YMCA	Tuesday May 9 th	7pm	Night Hike
Tuesday, Apr 18th	7pm	First Aid Skills	Saturday, May 13	9am	Troop 31 5K
	7pm	Troop Meeting: Klondike Prep	Tuesday, May 16	7pm	Orienteering
Saturday, Apr 22nd		Watershed Cleanup	Fri-Sun, May 19-21		OA Ordeal
Tuesday, Apr 25 th	7pm	Knot Tying	Tuesday, May 23	7pm	Philmont Trainer 3
Fri-Sun, Apr 28-30		Spring Camporee	Sat-Sun May 27-28		Shelter Building
		Philmont Trainer 2	Tuesday, May 30		Backpacker Lite
					Trash to Treasure Service


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

(t) Fully trained for position (w) Wood Badge

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 troop shed key

Second Annual Troop 31 5K Run/Walk: Saturday, May 13, 2017

Register now!

Last year we had our first—and very successful—5K Run/Walk. The Troop was able to raise around \$800 to go towards the pavilion at Seven Mountains. I am happy to announce the Second Annual Troop 31 5K Run/Walk will be held **May 13, 2017** at **Tudek Park**.

Check in and race-day registration will open at 9am and the race will begin at 10am. The cost of registration will be \$20 per person or \$15 for Eagle Scouts and Children 6-10. The cost will increase \$5 if you sign up on the day of the race. Registration forms are available now and you can also register online via the Troop website. *Prizes will be provided to the top runners in each age group. NEW FOR 2017: PRIZE FOR THE FASTEST EAGLE SCOUT.*



Please consider running or walking this event—but if you can't, you can still help make it a success! We need volunteers to help with registration, course set-up and finish line on the day of the race. More information on that will come closer to the event.

Please forward this information to anyone you know that is an avid runner or walker and wishes to support Troop 31. It will be a fun event with great people and lots of post-race refreshments. Please mark this on your calendars and plan to attend!

--Hayden Davidson

Winter Camping & Ice Fishing

10 scouts and 5 leaders traveled to the Poconos in February to enjoy the Minsi Trails Council's 2017 Ice Fishing Extravaganza & Campout in the Pocono Mountains. They also got to observe a U.S. Navy cold water rescue.



Philmont Trainer 1

All four Philmont crews hit the trail on Saturday March 25th to begin training for their high adventure trip in July. They completed just over 10 miles with backpacks on this day hike. The group will be working hard over the next few months to get ready!

