



news & views  
 BSA Troop 31  
 State College, PA

December 2019

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

IN THIS ISSUE

## Farewell to Mr. Eng

Congratulations and thank you to Mr. Eng for his service to Troop 31 as Committee Chair. He was recognized at the Summer Court of Honor for his commitment and dedication to the Troop. He is now the Council President for the Juniata Valley Council.



-Photo submitted by Craig Colwell

## Thank you Mr. Brezovec

Mr. Ed Brezovec, Scoutmaster for Troop 31B, has resigned from his role as Scoutmaster. The Committee and St. Paul's have accepted his resignation.

Mr. Brezovec provided great service to the Troop for many years and has transitioned to Committee Member so that he may continue to serve the Troop. He also serves as the Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 31G.

Mr. Frank Savino, current Committee Member and Troop 31 Scoutmaster from 2011-2014, will dust off his Scoutmaster skills and serve as Acting Scoutmaster. We are still looking for a Scoutmaster for 2020.

Farewell/Thanks.....Page 1

Campouts.....Page 2

Webelos Woods.....Page 3

Scouting for Food.....Page 3

Eagle Scouts.....Pages 4/5

Scoutmaster Minute.....Page 5

Photos.....Page 5

Calendar.....Page 6

Volunteer Opportunities.....Page 6/7

Leadership.....Page 7

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Cover photo from Webelos Woods at Seven Mountains Scout Camp

## Survivor Campout

The weekend after Labor Day, the Troop headed to Camp Karoondinha (aka Camp K) for our annual Survivor Campout. Camp K was new to most of the Troop and we spent some time exploring, talking to members of the local OA Lodge, shopping at the Trading Post and



experiencing the camp with a view of possibly returning for Summer Camp 2020. But the main attraction was the Survivor challenges; over twenty competitors began the event, eventually being winnowed down to four,

then two, and finally to the winner of Survivor 2019: Caroline Vancura. During down time on a very temperate weekend, Scouts enjoyed lounging in their hammocks, exploring the camp and of course, cooking and KP.



-Submitted by Kurt Baker

## Bike the Pike Campout

Under clear skies, 18 scouts, 7 adults and a sibling enjoyed the scenic abandoned PA Turnpike just outside of Breezewood. We covered over 16 miles on bike, 6 miles before lunch (including a 1.3 mile tunnel) and 10.6 miles after lunch (including a 0.7 mile tunnel). A few bumps along the way included a couple flat tires and some minor cuts, but this showed how resourceful and prepared our scouts were for the trip. We were able to patch a tube (thanks, Mitchell) and replace another (thanks, Sam), as well as utilize some first aid skills (great job, Abby and others).



-Submitted by Kevin LeVan

## Fall Camporee

Troop 31 had great attendance at the Nittany District Fall Camporee Oct 11-13 at Greenwood Furnace State Park – 23 scouts and 6 leaders, along with several Webelos scouts and parents from Pack 375 and Pack 31. The



weather was perfect, and all enjoyed the tent camping with the other District troops and packs along the park picnic loop. The Camporee theme, “Iron Scouts – Where Brains and Brawnze Became One,” was put into action with the scouts working as patrols to complete various challenges to demonstrate their scout skills – knots and lashing, campfire cooking, plant and tree identification and orienteering. The Campfire Kings patrol won the “Iron Spoon” award for their dutch oven chili for lunch. Thanks to Mr. Saylor for pulling the troop trailer and to all the parents and leaders for helping out. See everyone at the next campout!

-Submitted by Ken Hillsley

## Webelos Woods

Nineteen Webelos and eight parents/grandparents from Packs 383, 31, 375 and 67 joined us on a crisp, clear Saturday morning. To start the Scout-led program, youth and adults gathered in a circle where everyone introduced themselves to the group. Scout Ethan B. reviewed the plan for the day and we moved to the flag poles for morning flag raising.

Following the salute to the flag and the recitation of the Scout Oath and Law, senior Scouts, led by incoming Senior Patrol Leader Oliver P., formed Patrols by blending the T31 Scouts and the Webelos Scouts together, and then dividing them into four Patrols. Activity stations, including the ever-popular fire building, were assigned and the Patrols rotated between throughout the day.



Webelos adults were given the option to tag along on the activities or stay at the beautiful new Kurtz Cabin to learn more about Scouts USA from Troop Committee members. All adults were treated to hot meals and a chance to watch the PSU football victory over Indiana, made possible by a technological triumph of cell phones, a Hulu subscription, adapter cables, a projector and a 60-year old screen!

The youth cooked and ate as Patrols for Saturday lunch, dinner and Sunday breakfast. A highlight of the evening meal was the Dutch Oven cooking with peach and apple cobblers, cheesecake and pizza being cooked over/under the fire coals in the old school cast iron ovens.

Saturday ended with an evening flag ceremony, followed by dinner and then a well-attended campfire that featured skits and songs, with a traditional closing of singing "Scout Vespers". We all hummed the tune as we silently walked away from the campfire.

It was a cold but clear night with a full moon rising as former SM Ed Brezovec led a star-gazing session before everyone activated their hand and toe warmers and crawled into their tents and sleeping bags.

Having survived the night, Sunday morning brought quick breakfasts, Patrol boxes cleaning and the breakdown of the campsite. Everyone circled around the now-cold campfire ring to celebrate the event with our regular sharing of "Roses, Thorns and Buds", followed by the Scoutmaster Minute and a fervent wish that "May the Great Master of all Scouts be with us until we meet again."



## Scouting for Food

For two Saturdays in November of strong effort by everyone, we far exceeded last year's collection at a ton more food - yes, that's right 2000 pounds = 1 ton more this year. Troop 31's collective efforts added 7971 pounds of food to the State College Food Bank. Congratulations!

*-Submitted by Ed Brezovec*



*-Photo submitted by Kelly Walker*

## Congratulations to our newest Eagle Scouts!

### **Jacob Stangel - #201**

Jacob began Scouts in Pack 67 and continued his Scouting career with Troop 31. During his time with the Troop he participated in many campouts, the Philmont High Adventure, as well as, completing his Eagle Project. He provided leadership to the Troop as a Senior Patrol Leader and Troop Guide.

Jacob's Eagle project was to give back to a very special place for the Stangel family known as Deer Valley YMCA camp. Here Jacob designed and constructed 2 benches for the camp. These benches are used by all visitors of the camp and can seat 7 to 9 people. Jacob's project included design, construction, delivery and installation of the benches to the Deer Valley camp. He was able to complete this project with 9 volunteers who collectively worked 86 hours.

### **Bryant Stangel - #202**

Bryant began Scouts in Pack 67 and continued his Scouting career with Troop 31. During his time with the Troop he participated in many campouts, Seabase High Adventure, as well as, completing his Eagle Project. He provided leadership to the Troop as a Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader.

Bryant's Eagle project was to provide support to the Boal Mansion by developing a Colombian Exchange exhibit. Here Bryant designed flip boxes to hold objects from the mansion's collection. As part of this project, Bryant researched information to create signs for the slide boxes. Bryant's project included design, construction, delivery and installation of the flip boxes and signs for the Boal Mansion. He was able to complete this project with 7 volunteers who collectively worked 81 hours.

### **Thomas Stangel - #203**

Thomas began Scouts in Pack 67 and continued his Scouting career with Troop 31. During his time with the Troop he participated in many campouts, the Philmont High Adventure, as well as, completing his Eagle Project. He provided leadership to the Troop as a Bugler and multiple times as as a Patrol Leader.

Thomas's Eagle project was to provide service to Harris Township by improving Fasik Nature Trail that he knows very well. Here Thomas worked with the township to revive an old trail brochure and signage for use by the community. As Thomas developed his project, he also proposed a bench along the trail and close to the trail stream. Thomas's project included design, construction, delivery and installation of the bench, as well as providing the brochure and updated signs along the trail. He was able to complete the project with 9 volunteers who collectively worked 80 hours.

### **Ben Brauser - #204**

Ben began Scouts in Pack 67 and continued his Scouting career with Troop 31. During his time with the Troop, he participated in many campouts, earned 33 merit badges, attended the Sea Base and Philmont High Adventure Camps, as well as, completing his Eagle Project and his Brotherhood for the Order of the Arrow. He provided leadership to the Troop as Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader.

Ben's Eagle project is very useful for years to come. He developed, designed, coordinated and installed an outdoor seating area for his church Good Shepard Parish. Ben led a team of Scouts and adults over several work days to complete the seating area that included a fire pit. This project also included reuse of materials available on the property, as well as a donation of gravel for the seating area. He was able to complete this project with 12 volunteers who collectively worked 127 hours.

### **Tristan Crossman - #205**

Tristan began Scouts in Pack 31 and continued his Scouting career with Troop 31. During his time with the Troop, he participated in many campouts, earned 24 merit badges, attended the Sea Base High Adventure Camp, as well as completing his Eagle Project. He provided leadership to the Troop as Troop Instructor and two terms as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

Tristan's Eagle project is very useful for years to come. He developed, designed, coordinated and installed a large bird enclosure (8ft by 16 ft) for Centre Wildlife Care. Tristan led a team of Scouts and adults over several work days to complete the enclosure. This project also included leveling and spreading gravel for the floor of the enclosure. He was able to complete this project with 15 volunteers who collectively worked 126 hours.

## Matt Brownstead - #206

Matt began Scouts in Pack 375 and continued his Scouting career with Troop 31. During his time with the Troop he participated in many campouts, earned 27 merit badges, attended the Sea Base and Philmont High Adventure Camps, as well as, completing his Eagle Project. He provided leadership to the Troop as Troop Guide.

Matt's Eagle project is very useful space for years to come. He developed, designed, coordinated and installed a 20 foot by 30 foot tanning deck for visitors of the Park Forest pool. This platform is a seating area for pool visitors in a very convenient location near the pool. Matt led a team of Scouts and adults over several work days to complete the platform that included digging footers along with installing a railing. He was able to complete this project with 24 volunteers who collectively worked 220 hours.

*-Eagle write ups from Anne Messner*

## Scoutmaster Minute

*from Mr. Savino*

### What we all have in common

All of us reading this have something in common  
 All of us in this town have something in common  
 All of us in the country have something in common  
 All of us in the world have something in common  
 But, what sets all of us in this world apart?

What do we have in common? Time  
 We all have 60 seconds in the minute  
 We all have 60 minutes in an hour  
 We all have 24 hours in a day  
 That's what we all have in common.  
 What sets us all apart?  
 How we spend that time.



Chess merit badge



Five mile hike at Galbraith Gap, 11/28/19

*-Submitted by Kelly Walker*



Pumpkin carving



Knot tying



Venture patrol backpacker on the Allegheny Front Trail  
*-submitted by Jeannie Peters*



Five mile hike on the Ironstone Trail, 10/27/19  
*-submitted by Jeannie Peters*



Troop 31 participants learn about Woodworking  
*-submitted by Frank Savino*



## Calendar for December 2019

Tuesday, Dec 3	6pm	Adult Leaders Meeting
Tuesday, Dec 3	7pm	PLC/Rank-up
Thursday, Dec 5	7pm	Personal Management Merit Badge meeting #6
Fri-Sun, Dec 6-8		Holiday Campout, Seven Mountains Scout Camp
Tuesday, Dec 10	7:30pm	Ornament making
Wednesday, Dec 11	7pm	Troop 31 Committee Meeting - <b>VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!</b>
Thursday, Dec 12	7pm	Personal Management Merit Badge meeting #7
Tuesday, Dec 17	7:30pm	Ice Skating, Pegula arena
Thursday, Dec 19	7pm	Personal Management Merit Badge meeting #8

Check [www.troop31.us](http://www.troop31.us) for more information and calendar updates!

## Volunteer Opportunities



**Community Service Coordinator** - This position is ongoing and year round. Serves as the liaison between the Troop and various non-profit organizations. Gathers information about event, confirms participation with PLC and committee. They do not necessarily need to coordinate and

attend each event once the service project is scheduled but it would be helpful to attend if possible. Examples of ongoing events include Easter Egg stuffing, Watershed clean up, Trash to Treasure, Thompson Woods clean up, and Toys for Tots gift wrapping. A list of possible volunteer events is available from the Committee Chair.

**Chaplain Advisor** - Work with the Scout Chaplain. This is a year round position that works primarily with the Scout to help them plan and coordinate events and services. Attend monthly PLC meeting to meet with Chaplain. Serve as advisor to Chaplain to assist them with planning upcoming events including Scout Sunday, which is the first Sunday in February. Encourage Scouts to sign up, plan, and lead the worship services during campouts to help them complete the Communications merit badge requirement.

**Historian Advisor** - Committee position. Work with the troop historian to update the display case, digital presentation, and other troop history items.

**Hospitality Co-Chair** - Assist with meal planning, organizing and some attendance, such as Weblos Woods (Fall), Klondike Derby (January), New Scout Campout (Spring) and other events where adults and guests are needed to be fed. Menus are already available for planning purposes and can be modified based on the dietary restrictions that exist at the time of the event.

**Treasurer for Girl Troop** - The Girl Troop is in need of a Treasurer. This position is an active position throughout the year. This position is in coordination with the Boy Troop Treasurer. The main tasks include keep up-to-date financial records. Enter all income and expenditures under the proper budget item. Credit each Scout with payment of dues at recharter time. From time to time, compare the records with adults to be sure they agree. Give leadership in developing a coordinated record-keeping system in the troop.

If interested in any of these positions, please contact Anne Messner at [messnerski@gmail.com](mailto:messnerski@gmail.com)

## Leadership

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

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