



news & views  
BSA Troop 31  
State College, PA  
  
September 2020

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

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## St. Paul's Awards

Each year, St. Paul's presents two awards to high school seniors who are active in the congregation. Both of this year's recipients are Troop 31 Scouts!

- This year's recipient of the Helen McKain Hays Memorial Award is **Erik Norloff**.
- This year's recipient of the Oscar and Nora Kimmel Scholarship is **Travis Hahn**.

Congratulations to both Erik and Travis on this recognition.

*-Submitted by Kurt Baker*

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## New Senior Patrol Leader

Congratulations to Ethan Brauser who was elected in August as the new Senior Patrol Leader. He will replace the current SPL, Rik Bhattacharyya, beginning December 1.



Follow Troop 31 on Facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/Troop31StateCollegePa/](https://www.facebook.com/Troop31StateCollegePa/)

*Cover photo: Kriner Lodge at Seven Mountains Scout Camp, submitted by Brooke Repine*

## Congratulations to our newest Eagle Scouts!

### Tynan Butler - #208

I am pleased to announce that on August 28, 2020 Tynan Butler successfully completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review. Tynan began Scouts with Troop 31. During his time with the Troop he participated in campouts and service. Tynan earned 25 merit badges, provided leadership as Scribe and a lengthy leadership role as Historian to complete a Troop Historian Project with former Scoutmaster Ed Brezovec, as well as, completing his Eagle Project .

Tynan's Eagle project has helped a frequently used community asset, Shaver's Creek. He developed, coordinated and constructed chimney swift tower for birds. With his diligence he found the project challenging to develop a workable design and construct the structure. To add to the challenge, he had to work around the impacts of COVID-19 to complete this project including the temporary closure of Shaver's Creek. Tynan led a team of 22 Scouts and adults over several months. He lead this project with the volunteers who collectively worked 303 hours.

### Jacob Messner - #209

It is my pleasure to announce that on Sunday, September 13th, Jacob Messner successfully completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review. Jacob began his Scouting career as a Cub Scout in Pack 383, and crossed over and joined Troop 31 in March 2014. A very active member, Jacob rarely missed any Troop outings, and most notably served as the Troop Senior Patrol Leader not just once, but twice. BSA High Adventure appealed to Jacob as he participated in Philmont Scout Ranch and Florida Sea Base. During his trail to Eagle Jacob earned 32 merit badges.

For his Eagle Community Service Project, Jacob provided the leadership to design, and recruit volunteers to build and install a Free Little Library that is now in use at the Mt. Nittany Elementary School. This project resulted in a total of 97 hours of community service.

Jacob is a senior at State College Area High School, and is one of the captains of the Cross Country Team. He is considering his college choices and is planning to major in biology and perhaps pharmacy.



Eagle Scout Matt Brownstead, from CRPR Facebook page



Ben Dworsky, Eagle Scout recognition, Court of Honor, 8/25/20



## Summit Experience

Troop 31 continued its excellence to provide High Adventure activities each year by attending The SBR Summit Experience in the wilds of West Virginia. A small but mighty crew attended the Summit Bechtel Reserve



Photos by Ed Brezovec and Kelly Walker

on August 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Neo, Sam, Zac, Brandon, and Aiden met the challenge to experience a white-water rafting adventure, a full day of shooting sports, climbing, rappelling, mountain biking, skateboarding, BMX biking, canopy zip line and the ¾ mile long Big Zip. Everyday was an adventure, and every evening we listened to the coyotes howling at 3AM, deer grazing, and one night with a mother and bear cub visit; that tent will to be need repaired. An excellent team receiving the Summit Duty to God and Sustainability Awards by the end of week. Thank you for the support of Ed and Bernadette to provide guidance to the youth leadership for a successful week.



## Backpacker Lite

For the Troop's August campout, we did some light backpacking; as in a Backpacker Lite. A nice mix of Philmont veterans, some of next year's Philmont attendees and first time backpackers headed out onto the Ironstone Trail along Shaver's Creek. Luckily, after a scorching summer, the weather was warm but not outrageously hot, which



Photos courtesy of John Messner and Jeannie Peters

made for an enjoyable hike. Scouts were able to decide whether their boots fit correctly, how their backpack fit and what they preferred to eat. We all greeted a sinister-looking turtle as it crossed our path and listened as a whippoorwill or two drowned out the sound of crickets at night. Two Scouts even conquered the 1000' climb that they needed for Camping MB. A Sunday morning wake-up, breakfast and short hike back to the pick-up point wrapped up a short, but fun weekend for Troop 31 Scouts and Scouters.



-by Kurt Baker



## Pirate Campout

There were signs of pirates at Poe Paddy State Park on the weekend of 11-13 September. Indications of sword fights, hidden treasure, feats of physical endurance and yea, even some bragging. Scouts of Troop 31 had a great weekend in the vast distant reaches of Centre County. What does a railroad tunnel have to do with pirates? No idea; but there was a treasure chest hidden nearby. In addition to demonstrating pirating skills, much good food was cooked. Was the sight of hot, glowing coals the sign of impending torture of an English merchant sea captain captured on the high seas? No! Just getting ready for some dutch oven cooking. The spirit of friendly competition was seen throughout the weekend with the winners being:

1<sup>st</sup> place - Henry

2<sup>nd</sup> place - Josh

3<sup>rd</sup> place - Caroline

4<sup>th</sup> place – Connor

Congratulations!



-Article submitted by Kurt Baker, photo by Sekhar Bhattacharyya

## Photo Collage



Court of Honor at Firelight Circle, submitted by Brook Repine



Merit Badge recognition at Court of Honor, submitted by Jen Brauser



Congrats to Greg and Christina Stangel, Troop 31B MVPs, COH  
Jeannie Peters was recognized as Troop 31G MVP, 8/25/20



10 mile hike, Allegheny Front Trail, 8/15/20, by Sekhar Bhattacharyya

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## Scout leadership positions – OPEN

### Outdoor Ethics Guide

- \* Have a thorough understanding of and commitment to Leave No Trace principles and Tread Lightly! guidelines.
- \* Help the troop plan and conduct an outdoor program that effectively practices the principles of outdoor ethics.
- \* Help Scouts improve their outdoor ethics decision-making skills to minimize impacts as they participate in outdoor activities.
- \* Support Scouts who are working to complete the relevant requirements for the Scout through First Class ranks.

### Historian

- \* Gather pictures and facts about past activities of the troop and keep them in scrapbooks, wall displays, or information files.
- \* Take care of troop trophies and keepsakes.
- \* Keep information about troop alumni.

### Chaplain's Aide

- \* Keep troop leaders apprised of religious holidays when planning activities.
- \* Assist the troop chaplain or religious coordinator in meeting the religious needs of troop members while on activities.
- \* Encourage saying grace at meals while camping or on activities. Lead worship services on campouts.
- \* Tell troop members about the religious emblems program for their faith.

All positions according to BSA are to set a good example. • Wear the Scout uniform correctly. • Live by the Scout Oath and Scout Law. • Show and help develop Scout spirit. Please speak to the Senior Patrol Leader if you are interested.

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## Treasurer position - OPEN

At the end of this year our Treasurer Rob Butler will retire. He has provided a great service to the Troop but now is the time to find a new one. Below is a brief description of the Troop Treasurer position.

The Troop Treasurer is responsible for overseeing the finances of the Troop. Duties include balancing the Troop's checking and savings accounts; receiving, depositing, and tracking funds for various Troop activities; writing checks to vendors and to Scout families for reimbursement of activity costs; overseeing the Troop accounts for Scouts and disbursing funds as requested; working with high adventure leaders and fundraising coordinators to manage funds for these activities; entering all transaction information into TroopLedger; closing out each fiscal year after Sept. 30; and serving on the Troop Committee and presenting monthly financial updates to the Committee.

Rob has kept very good records. We are looking for someone to take those records and move into the role quickly. Rob's email is in the cc line. Please send him an email if interested in serving the Troop as the next Treasurer, [rx22@psu.edu](mailto:rx22@psu.edu).



## Popcorn Sales

Covid is bringing major changes to the sale of popcorn this year. First of all, our district has changed to a new company called Camp Masters. We are switching to Camp Masters because in part they offer more units at lower cost than our prior provider. Second there will be no site sales. Your popcorn sales this year are going to have to rely on either door to door or internet sales.

There are a number of door to door strategies that are being advocated, those include leaving flyers or door hangers that are similar in nature to what have used for Scouting for Food.

Internet sales are going to be your best resource this year. Camp Masters is facilitating this with from what I understand is going to be free shipping. Please use the resources they offer both in terms of training and sales on line. I highly encourage you to reach out to me to set up an online account for your Scout. In this manner they can set themselves up for online sales. Questions? Contact Scott Huber at [scotth57@icloud.com](mailto:scotth57@icloud.com)

### Deadlines:

**October 13** – Paper forms and money DUE

**October 19** - end of selling for 2020, unit and prize orders DUE

**November 6** – Popcorn distribution

**November 17** – Money collected on delivery DUE



## Wreath Sales



This year we will again be selling beautiful and long lasting Mickman Brothers wreaths and greens. With each sale, Scouts will earn funds for their scout accounts, as well as help support the troop and council. Scout accounts money can be used to pay for high adventure, camping, dues, equipment, or any other scout related purchase.

Please read the sales materials carefully. The greens can be sold using the order form and select greens products can only be ordered using “gift” order forms. Gift sales are a great way to buy holiday gifts for friends and family. Remember to review your sales materials before selling, please wear your Class A uniform and do not sell alone or after dark.

**Do not collect any money until you deliver the products. EXCEPTION: You must collect payment for the greens “gift” order forms when you make the sale.**

**All order forms need to be returned no later than October 20<sup>th</sup>.** If possible, please **bring one check written to Troop 31** to cover wreath sales. If individual customers pay you by check, please have them write the check to you.

The wreaths will be delivered during the week of November 16<sup>th</sup>. The exact day and time will be communicated by e-mail and I will not have the exact date until the delivery week. I will get a call from the delivery truck about 4 hours before it arrives, then I will e-mail the troop with pick-up information.

Pick-up location: 51 Greenmeadow Lane, Port Matilda Pa 16870

If you have wreath questions contact Christina Hill at (814)241-9687 or [chill9687@gmail.com](mailto:chill9687@gmail.com).

## Troop 31 B&G Dues

This year we will be asking for 2021 registration earlier due to the additional coordination that seems to be needed without us being able to meet at the church on Tuesdays. We would like to have registration complete and our 2021 fee paid by **November 15, 2020**. This allows the Troops to complete the recharter process with room to spare in early December.

The fee for all Scouts is the same as last year - **\$89**. Adult registration had to go up by \$2 to \$47. If you have funds in the Troop account, they can be used toward the 2021 fee. If you are not able pay at this time, please notify your respective Committee Chair. The registration form will be distributed soon.

Troop 31B registration contact person Anne Messner, Committee Chair Troop 31B email: [messnerski@gmail.com](mailto:messnerski@gmail.com)  
Troop 31G registration contact person Nick Peters, Committee Chair Troop 31G email: [nickjp121@gmail.com](mailto:nickjp121@gmail.com)



## Calendar for September/October 2020

Tuesday, September 22	6:30pm	B: Bicycling, G: Advancement
Tuesday, September 29	6:30pm	B: Patrol meetings, G: Bowling
Saturday, October 3		Hiking MB: 15 mile hike
Tuesday, October 6	5:30pm	Adult Leaders Meeting
	6:30pm	PLC Meeting
Tuesday, October 13	7pm	Fall Scavenger Hunt, <b>POPCORN FORMS DUE!</b>
Wednesday, October 14	7pm	Troop Committee Meeting
Saturday, October 17		Hiking MB: 20 mile hike
Tuesday, October 20	7pm	Corn Maze, <b>WREATH FORMS DUE!</b>
Tuesday, October 27	7pm	Night Hike, Jo Hays Vista

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

## Happy Fall!



# Leadership

(t) Fully trained for position

(w) Wood Badge

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## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Tracy Burns (t)

Bienvenido Concepcion

David Eng (t)

Scott Huber (t)

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Frank Savino (t)

Jacqueline Serefine G

troop shed key