



news & views
 BSA Troop 31
 State College, PA

December 2020

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

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Order of the Arrow

Congratulations to the following new Order of the Arrow members:

*** Fall Ordeal:**

Kevin Burns, Youngin Ryoo, TJ Limegrover, Lilly Peters, Derek Bucholtz

Brotherhood member: (not pictured)
Liam Peters

Elangomat:
Abby Serefine

Honorary T31:
Jack Serefine



*** Woodchuck Ordeal:**

Henry Smith

Brotherhood member:
Ethan Brauser



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Troop 31 coaster, branded at Holiday Campout

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www.facebook.com/Troop31StateCollegePa/

Cover photo: Court of Honor at Holiday Campout, December 5, submitted by Jen Brauser

Congratulations to our newest Eagle Scout!

Jaden Rigg - #210

I am very pleased to announce that on October 18, 2020 Jaden Rigg successfully completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review. Jaden began Scouts with Troop 31 in 2015. During his time with the Troop, he participated in Philmont High Adventure, campouts and service. Jaden earned 21 merit badges, provided leadership as Troop Guide and Patrol Leader, as well as, completing his Eagle Project.



Recognition at Holiday Campout, 12/6

Jaden's Eagle project has helped a frequently used community asset, the Boalsburg Diamond planters and pillar rehabilitation. He developed, coordinated and rehabilitated these items, despite COVID restrictions. With his diligence, he found the project challenging to develop a plan to make necessary repairs by cleaning, repointing and painting the items. To add to the challenge, he had to work around the impacts of a vehicle crashing into one of the planters that resulted in a change of scope in coordination with Harris Township Manager. Jaden led a team of 9 Scouts and adults who collectively worked 62 hours.

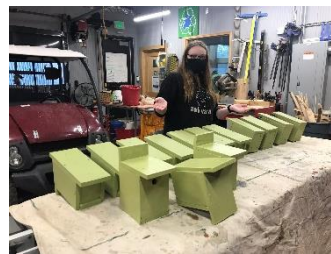
Community Service



This year, we have had a lot of challenges but one thing the Troops have been able to complete is community service. For the Troops, community service is built into the calendar but is also part of ranking up, completing merit badges and, of course, the Eagle Project. While not all inclusive, the Troops this year have provided service to the Jana Marie Foundation, Centre Wildlife, Red Cross, Saint Paul's UMC, SCASD Food Services, Scouting for Food, Centre Region Parks and Shavers' Creek. Here are just a few photos of Scouts providing service. Thank you Scouts and families for contributing to our community!



- by Anne Messner



Scouting for Food

Thanks for every Scout and Scouter who participated in our annual Scouting for Food effort. For all troops that dropped at the Nittany Mall, the Food Bank was clearly overwhelmed and increased collection by 60% more than last year! Donations came in a whopping 42,199# shattering the mark from previous years. Scouters Craig Colwell, Joe Davidson and Ed Brezovec were on-site at the Nittany Mall SFF collection point while many other Troop 31 Scouts, Scouters and adults canvassed our assigned neighborhoods for donations. Brezovec served as Coordinator for the entire District. Colwell and Davidson managed traffic flow at the Mall.



Photo Collage



Family Campout, Seven Mountains, October 11, submitted by Sekhar Bhattacharyya



Annual Planning, Circleville Park, October 25, submitted by John Messner



Bike safety, 11/29, submitted by Sekhar Bhattacharyya



EScience MB with Mr. Smith, 11/7, by Jen Brauser



Fire building challenge at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, November 10, submitted by John Messner



Annual adult planning, Slab Cabin Park, 11/15

Golden Pond Campout

Troop 31 crossed over Tussey Mountain to spend a beautiful November weekend at Camp Golden Pond in Huntingdon County. Saturday morning kicked off with a delicious pancake breakfast. Some Scouts set up canopies, while others cleaned out patrol boxes. A few had some good, clean fun,



when dish soap was used in the dishwasher,

which emanated gobs of frothy soap bubbles! The Scouts welcomed two Webelos that came up for the day. Afternoon activities included some fishing and (physically-distanced) bonding around the campfire, and some great looking chicken kabobs for dinner.

- by Mr. Collens



submitted by Sekhar Bhattacharyya

New leadership



Josh Fragin, Henry Smith, Asher Collins, Rik B. – ASPLs

Congratulations to the new leadership who assumed their roles on December 1st:

- Ethan Brauser, Senior Patrol Leader
- Rik Bhattacharyya, Asher Collins, Josh Fragin, Henry Smith – Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders



Ethan Brauser – SPL

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.

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.

Adult position – OPEN

OA Advisor

The advisor to the youth representative so that the Scout succeeds in their role as the communication and programmatic link between the unit and the Lodge. The adviser helps to include the Order of the Arrow ideals and activities in the program of the troop. Contact Anne Messner at messnerski@gmail.com if interested.

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.



Holiday Campout

This year's Holiday campout was much like the ones that came before: Court of Honor, movies, games, fantastic food, gift exchange. There was one important difference though; we spent the entire weekend outside instead of in the Dining Hall. Never to let a little adversity to get in the way of a silver lining, the Troop added activities such as branding, Traffic Safety MB, ePrep MB, a roaring fire in the pavilion's fireplace (it's named "Fire Light", after all). Groups of Scouts hiked around and explored camp; we even ordered pizza for lunch. One of our newer Scouts was heard to remark, "I don't know what the big deal about the Dining Hall is; this was GREAT."

Special thanks to the kitchen crew of Mr. Stangel, Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Messner

for planning, preparing and serving the great dinner; and also to Mr. Brauser for towing the Troop trailer.

-by Mr. Baker



Jacob Messner, Eagle Scout recognition, submitted by Sekhar Bhattacharyya



Merit badge recognition, submitted by Sekhar Bhattacharyya



Video games, by Jen Brauser



Turkey dinner, submitted by Jen Brauser



Calendar for December 2020/January 2021

Tuesday, December 8	6:30pm	G: Rank Adv. – Art or Nature MB
	7pm	B: EPrep MB, Zoom meeting
Wednesday, December 9	7pm	Troop Committee Meeting
Saturday, December 12		ILST - Zoom
Tuesday, December 15	7pm	B/G: Mafia Zoom
Tuesday, December 22	7pm	B: Online patrol meetings via Zoom, G: No meeting
Tuesday, January 5	6pm	Adult leaders meeting via Zoom
	7pm	PLC meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, January 12	7pm	B: Sledding or online games, G: Sledding or Cit in Comm MB
Wednesday, January 13	7pm	Troop Committee Meeting
Sunday, January 17	2-4p	Klondike Derby Prep
Tuesday, January 19	7pm	B/G: Cit in Comm/Nation MB
Saturday, January 23		Klondike Derby
Tuesday, January 26	7pm	B/G: Moon gazing

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

Leadership

(t) Fully trained for position

(w) Wood Badge

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Megann Relkin (t) (w)

Rustin Relkin (t) (w)

Christopher Solo

Gregory Stangel (t)

Neil Sullivan G (t)

Aaron Vath

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(open)
Fundraising Chair

(open)
Volunteer Coord.

ADVISORS

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Chaplain Advisor

Anne Messner (t)
Scribe Advisor

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David Heatwole, until 12/31/20 (t)
OA Advisor B

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jennifer Brauser (t)
Bernadette Brezovec (t)
Ed Brezovec (t)
Tracy Burns (t)
Bienvenido Concepcion
David Eng (t)
Scott Huber (t)
Hyeseon Kim (t)
Jonathan Pitt (t)
Frank Savino (t)
Jacqueline Serefine G



troop shed key