



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

TROOP 31 RAMSEY, N.J.

SERVING THE
YOUTH OF
RAMSEY
SINCE 1912

Visit the Troop 31 website at www.bsa-troop31.org

December 2008

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Important Dates to Remember

Dec. 3	Christmas Tree Set-up High School Tennis Courts 7PM	Dec. 31	NO MEETING
Dec. 6-7	Annual Christmas Tree Sale High School Tennis Courts	Jan. 7	PLC Dater School – 7:30 PM
Dec. 10	Troop Meeting Dater School – 7:30 PM	Jan. 14	Troop Meeting Dater School – 7:30 PM
Dec. 13-14	Annual Christmas Tree Sale High School Tennis Courts	Jan. 17-18	Winter Cabin Camping Camp Turrell
Dec. 17	Scout Holiday Party Masonic Lodge – 7:30 PM	Jan. 21	Scout Snow Tubing Campgaw – 6 PM
Dec. 18	Committee Meeting Municipal Building – 7:30PM	Jan. 24	St. John's Soup Kitchen Newark – 6:30AM-12PM
Dec. 20-21	Annual Christmas Tree Sale High School Tennis Courts	Jan. 28	Troop Meeting Dater School – 7:30 PM
Dec. 24	NO MEETING	Feb. 7	Iditarod Crestwood Lake, Allendale
Dec. 30	Indoor Rockclimbing The Gravity Vault, Upper Saddle River, NJ		

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Attention all Scouts.... If you haven't signed up for your shifts for our annual Christmas Tree Sale, don't worry - there are still shifts available. *All scouts are required to work 2 shifts*, and remember you will receive double the \$ when your parent works with you. Please email Karen Clifford at karenjclifford@yahoo.com with your preferred days and times. Please give several days and times as most of the scouts have already signed up. Also include in your email if you have a pick-up truck that we can use either the day you work or if we can utilize the truck for deliveries on any other day. As a reminder the shifts run 8:30 -11:30am, 10:00-1:00am, 12:00-3:00pm and 2:00-5:00pm.



INDOOR ROCKCLIMBING

You can't keep a good scout down... Especially when he is ROCK CLIMBING!!!! Come join us for the annual Troop 31 rock-climbing adventure. We will be going to the Gravity Vault in Upper Saddle River for a fun afternoon of indoor rock climbing. The Gravity Vault is located just across Rt. 17 and is a great indoor rock climbing facility with climbs ranging from beginner to advanced. We will meet at the Gravity Vault on Tuesday, December 30th at 2pm. This activity is open to Webelos if accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please contact Mr. Knipp at 201-965-3983 (mail4pk@yahoo.com) with any questions. The [Permission slip](#) and [waiver](#) form can be found on the Troop website.



WINTER CAMPING

Are you looking for some fun in the frozen tundra? Look no further because it is time for our annual winter cabin camping adventure at Camp Turrell. We're leaving bright and early Saturday January 17, 2009 and will return in the late afternoon on Sunday, January 18th. We will be staying in the fabulous Kluge Lodge which is loaded with amenities such as a wood stove and running water. There is even electricity! During the day, we will have all sorts of activities depending on the weather. Hopefully there will be plenty of snow on the ground but if not, we'll have fun anyway. For information about Camp Turrell [click here](#). For questions, contact ASM Erik Endress at erikendress@optonline.net or via cell at 201-320-3216.



SNOW TUBING

January 21st - Stayed tuned for upcoming details!

SOUP KITCHEN

On January 24th, we will be heading down once again to St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark. Every year, the troop comes to St. John's to serve breakfast to homeless people. We also typically bring food with us. Shop-Rite has for several years donated food to feed over 200 people each year. Since St. John's has a limited budget to work from, we request that everybody who goes on the Soup Kitchen trip bring some basic household supplies, canned goods and other sealed grocery items. **Even if you cannot attend, please donate either food or adult sized coats, gloves, hats, blankets and sleeping bags as well. If you're interested in making a donation to St. John's, you simply make the check payable to St. John's Soup Kitchen.** More information will be coming out in the permission slip, or you can contact Tim Watters.



IDITAROD

Waqaa! That's Hello, in Yup'ik (an Eskimo language). Each year men and women compete in a dog sled race of over 1000 miles across the bitter frozen mountains and valleys of Alaska. This race is called the Iditarod. All Scouts from Troop 31 are invited and encouraged to participate in the Boy Scout version of this event:

The 2009 Iditarod Sled Race will be held Saturday, February 7th





across the frozen waste lands of Crestwood Lake in Allendale.
Learn about or improve your Scout skills in fire-building, cooking, orienteering, knot tying, and more as you pull a wooden sled full of the necessary Scout equipment in a one day event. The Iditarod race packet can be downloaded from here Event detail package or on Troop 31 website. Permission slip will be available on Troop 31 website (<http://www.bsa-troop31.org/>)

--**IMPORTANT**: Please indicate your interest to Mr. Welsh by email wwelsh123@hotmail.com and then return your registration form ASAP. Any team registered before Wednesday, January 14, 2009 will receive 3 bonus points! Teams consist of up to 8 Scouts; or Trekker Teams of up to 3 Senior Scouts. Let's race through and show off our Scouting skills. Deadline for registration is January 28, 2009. (but let's get those 3 bonus points for pre-registration!!)

SCOUTMASTER'S CORNER

Season's Greetings! This is a very exciting time of year. Everybody is rushing about, gathering up gifts and getting their decorations just right. The roads are crowded and the stores are festive. There is that certain "Holiday Feeling" in the air.

As Scouts, this is a great time to remember and live by the Scout Law. Let's all try to be helpful, courteous, cheerful and reverent. It all fits together so nicely right about now!

While we're at it, let's also remember those who are celebrating far away from their families. Many Americans, some who we know, are standing guard over watch fires. They are there so we can be at peace here, in our homes.



I'd like to take this time to wish all our Scouting Families a *Very Merry Christmas, A Happy Chanukah, and a Happy New Year!*

Yours In Scouting,
Mr. M. McKiever
Scoutmaster
Troop 31

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