



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](http://www.bsa-troop31.org)

### March 2010

[Click here to print a copy of this newsletter!](#)

#### Important Dates to Remember

- |            |   |            |  |
|------------|---|------------|--|
| Mar. 10    | <b>Troop Meeting</b><br><b>Welcome New Scouts!</b><br><i>Dater School – 7:30 PM</i> | Mar. 31    | <b>PLC (No regular Troop Meeting)</b><br><i>Dater School – 7:30 PM</i>                 |
| Mar. 11    | <b>Committee Meeting</b><br><i>Municipal Building – 7:30 PM</i>                     | Apr. 7     | <b>No Meeting</b><br><i>Spring Break</i>   |
| Mar. 13    | <b>Scouting for Food</b><br><i>Deliver bags to family and friends</i>               | Apr. 10-11 | <b>Valley Forge Camping Trip</b><br><i>Marlborough Township, PA</i>                    |
| Mar. 13-14 | <b>Challenger Center Overnight</b><br><i>Suffern, NY - Sat 5pm–Sun 10am</i>         | Apr. 14    | <b>Troop Meeting</b><br><i>Dater School – 7:30 PM</i>                                  |
| Mar. 17    | <b>Troop Meeting</b><br><i>Dater School – 7:30 PM</i>                               | Apr. 16    | <b>Xtreme Sports/Adventure</b><br><i>NNJ Council Event</i>                             |
| Mar. 20    | <b>Scouting for Food</b><br><i>Collection Day – 9AM-2PM</i>                         | Apr. 16-18 | <b>Canoe Trip Weekend</b><br><i>Atsion, NJ</i><br><i>Friday 5:30pm – Sunday 5:00PM</i> |
| Mar. 21    | <b>Court of Awards</b><br><i>Masonic Lodge – 12:30-4:00PM</i>                       | Apr. 21    | <b>Troop Meeting</b><br><i>Dater School – 7:30 PM</i>                                  |
| Mar. 24    | <b>Troop Meeting</b><br><i>Dater School – 7:30 PM</i>                               | Apr. 24    | <b>Beaver Workday</b><br><i>Camp Glen Gray</i>   |
| Mar. 27    | <b>Thunder Mountain Skeet Shooting</b><br><i>Ringwood, NJ – 8:30AM-12:15PM</i>      | Apr. 28    | <b>Troop Meeting</b><br><i>Dater School – 7:30 PM</i>                                  |

#### On-Deck Events:

- 5/8 – Geocaching at Ramapo Reservation
- 5/13 – Boy Scout Swim Test @ RCC Pool
- 5/14-16 – Merit Badge Fair @ Camp Glen Gray
- 5/15-16 – New Scout Tent Camping @ Camp Glen Gray

July 17-24 – West Virginia High Adventure Camping  
August 1-7 – Summer Camp @ NoBeBoSco

## **WELCOME NEW SCOUTS!**

We would like to welcome into our Troop the following Scouts:

Anurag Ayyagari  
Brendan Borbone  
Eric Boyd  
William Cabral  
Sean Coyne  
John Daino  
Ryan Engels  
Nicholas Kaczorowski  
Liam Kane  
Philip Keating  
Matthew Keosayian  
Connor Koch  
Alexander Kurdyla  
Gabriel Landes  
Shawn Murphy  
Alex Osani  
Amrit Priya



Amrit Ramesh  
Joey Salemo  
Ryan Salvo  
Franklin Shobe  
Brian Smith  
Matthew Spagnoletti  
Nicholas Stecyna  
Aidan Telfer  
Collin Telfer  
James Thumm  
Jonathan Turk  
Ryan Valente  
Stephen Van Osten  
Alexander Von Rohrscheidt  
Stephen Weinpahl  
Bryon Zabala

Welcome to the Troop! You have joined an active Scouting Unit, one that is very proud of its traditions. We live by the Scout Law and take the Oath seriously. As a Troop 31 Boy Scout, you will camp under the stars, see nature first-hand, learn what it takes to be a good citizen and embark on many fun adventures. You will make many new friends and learn valuable skills. To put it simply, you are now a Boy Scout!

## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

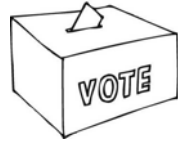
1. The Merit Badge Fair permission slip will be posted soon. The cost includes the \$10 MB Fair fee and the Price Cabin fee. New Troop 31 Scouts will attend the Tenderfoot Camping and should use that permission slip. Both will be on our website.
2. The NoBe registration form will also be posted on our website. All attendees must have their medical forms up to date.



## **TROOP ELECTIONS**

It's almost that time again! Hard to believe, but we will be holding our Troopwide elections soon. If you have any interest in running for a Leadership position, please contact Scoutmaster McKiever.

The Leadership positions include Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader. The Senior Patrol Leader will be in place for NoBe, as is our tradition.



## **TROOP 31 SCOUTS 24/7!**



Congratulations to Senior Patrol Leader Jarrett Floyd and the Ramsey H.S. Bowling Team who are the North Bergen Interscholastic League Champions! Jarrett rolled an impressive 235 and 231 in the crucial final games against Pascack Hills!



Congrats also go out to Christopher McKiever of Suffern H.S. for being named Top Freshman in the 300 meter and High Jump for the past Indoor Track season by the Armory in Manhattan.

## **TROOP LIBRARY**

Scouts of Troop 31:

Now that I have collected all the checked out library books and cataloged them into a database, I can now start collecting donations. Do not simply start handing random merit badge books to me at meetings: I am only looking for specific pamphlets. The goal is to stock the library with more recent revisions. Below you will find a list of the merit badge books that the library is in need of. Do not go out of your way to buy pamphlets listed only for the purpose of donation; it is a waste of money. Also, please make sure that all the books the library receives are in reasonable condition. If you have any questions, you can contact me at 201-818-7899. Thank you in advance for all of your help.



YIS,

Daniel Knipp, Troop Librarian

### *Needed books for library*

( \* indicates we will perhaps need more than one)

Archaeology  
Art  
Aviation  
Backpacking  
Bird Study

Camping\*  
Cinematography  
Citizenship of the Community\*  
Climbing  
Coin Collecting

Communications\*  
Computers  
Cooking  
Cycling  
Disabilities Awareness  
Dog Care  
Electronics  
Emergency Preparedness\*  
Energy  
Engineering  
Environmental Science  
Family Life  
Fingerprinting  
Fire Safety  
Fish and Wildlife Management  
Fishing  
Forestry  
Golf  
Hiking\*  
Horsemanship  
Indian Lore  
Insect Study  
Lifesaving\*  
Mammal Study  
Nature  
Oceanography

Orienteering  
Personal Fitness\*  
Personal Management  
Pets  
Photography  
Pioneering  
Public Health  
Radio  
Railroading  
Reading  
Reptile and Amphibian Study  
Rifle Shooting  
Rowing  
Safety  
Salesmanship  
Scholarship  
Shotgun Shooting  
Soil and Water Conservation  
Space Exploration\*  
Surveying  
Swimming\*  
Traffic Safety  
Weather  
Wilderness Survival  
Woodcarving

## **SCOUTING FOR FOOD**

Hello Troop 31 Scouts and Parents,

We have turned our calendars to March, so guess what? It's time to start preparing for our annual Scouting for Food drive. Please mark these dates on your calendar:



3/10 - Scouting for Food bags will be distributed at the Troop meeting.

3/13 - Scouts are to deliver their SFF bags to friends and family.

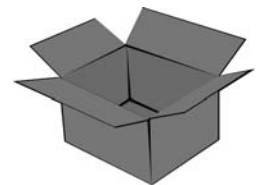
3/20 - Scouting for Food Collection. Scouts will collect their SFF bags and bring them to the Stephen household (221 West Oak Street in Ramsey) between 10 AM- and 2 PM. Scouts will earn 30 minutes of service hours for delivering and collecting the food bags. Additional hours can be earned on 3/20 by staying to sort and box up the collected food. Stay for a little while or the entire time, whatever

you can do to help is appreciated.

Who Needs Service Hours? - We need Scouts to assemble the collection bags. Depending on how many volunteers, this can take 2-6 hours. In addition, we will need an older Scout to supervise the sorting and boxing of food on the 20th from 9am-2pm. Please contact Mrs. Stephen by phone at 201-934-4941, email at lstephen@dialamerica.com or text 551-804-7407.

We Need Drivers ...to deliver the cartoned food on March 20th to the Bergen County Public Safety Building on Campgaw Road in Mahwah. We can use the help of adult volunteers and older Scouts with their driver's license. Please contact Laurie Stephen if you can help out.

We Need Boxes - If anyone has access to sturdy cardboard boxes, please drop them off at the Stephen residence at 221 West Oak Street in Ramsey. You can leave the boxes at the front door. If you work in an office, the cartons that hold the copy paper are perfect (nab the top as well).



Scouting for Food is a very important service community service project. All collected food is donated to The Center for Food Action in Mahwah, NJ. Remember... A Scout is helpful, which includes helping his community. And as adults, we need to support our sons in their worthwhile endeavors.

Thank you,  
Laurie

## **THUNDER MOUNTAIN SKEET SHOOTING**

The Annual Troop 31 Skeet Shooting event is scheduled for March 27, 2010 at Thunder Mountain located at Ringwood State Park, Ringwood, N.J. We will leave the Ramsey Boro Hall at 8:45 am and return around 12:15 pm. You will need to dress for a late March outdoor event (hat and gloves, medium coat and/or heavy sweatshirt). The cost is \$22, and the [permission slip](#) is up on the Troop 31 website.



## **VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL PARK HIKE**

A trip to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania is being put together for the weekend of April 10-11. We will travel to the Cradle of Liberty Counsel Boy Scout Camp Delmont in the Musser Scout Reservation and set up our tents and camp equipment. After packing a lunch we will travel to the Valley Forge National Historic Park and hike through out the Park to see the Historic sites such as Mulenburg Brigade,



Washington's Headquarters, numerous monuments, finishing up at the Welcome Center. The hike will be approximately 9 miles. We will then travel back to the camp for a delicious scout-made supper and have a campfire if time and weather permits. After breakfast the next morning, we pack up our gear and return to Ramsey. Scouts are responsible for money for any snacks or souvenirs they may want at the Welcome Center. A permission slip is on the Troop 31 website. Please complete the permission slip and return it to Mr. Baxer by mail, e-mail, or in person at a Troop meeting by Wednesday, March 24, 2010. So mark these dates down now, April 10-11, and fill out that permission slip; you don't want to miss out on the great trip!

### **CANOE TRIP**

April is fast approaching. Time to dust off your canoe paddles and life jackets! We have reserved space at Goshen Pond and the Mullica Wilderness site for the weekend of April 16-18, 2010. Come enjoy the sights, smells and sounds of the Wharton State Forest and the beautiful Mullica River. We will canoe over 9 miles in 2 days. Space is limited so please let Mr. Sundermann know if you can attend. [Permission slip](#) is posted on the website.



### **WEST VIRGINIA TRIP**

Summer is fast approaching, and we are planning our annual week-long adventure summer trip. This year we will be going to Bluestone State Park, Hinton, West Virginia from July 17th to July 24th. Come join us for a week-long experience of adventure, camping, and fun located in the middle of the Appalachian mountains. Activities will include river and lake canoeing, hiking, an underground cave adventure, swimming, fishing, and of course gourmet camp cooking. If interested please contact Mr. Rutkowski with any questions: 201-825-4270 or stan88@optonline.net. [Permission slip](#) is posted on the website.



### **SCOUTMASTER CORNER**

It has been a very busy time for the Troop these past few weeks. Recently I attended two outstanding Cub Scout Blue & Gold Dinners. Many of the Webelos who were honored have crossed over to our Troop. It's such a wonderful experience to see Scouts starting off on their paths to Eagle. I welcome them to our family of Scouting and wish them lots of success. May they create many happy memories.



Some of those memories always revolve around Summer Camp. Start getting “prepared” for NoBe. Check out your equipment, make sure you have an idea what Merit Badges you’d like to earn. Don’t forget the medical! NoBe always has a way of sneaking up on us! We’ll go over everything you need to know about NoBe at several Troop meetings. We might even get another video from the Camp (does anyone have an idea what the theme might be?)



Check out the website and calendar. There is sure to be an outing you’d like to go on!

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

*Please make sure that we have your correct email addresses!!!*

*If you are not receiving the newsletter email check your spam filter for email from*

[Troop31@ebiztechonline.com](mailto:Troop31@ebiztechonline.com)

*If you wish, a paper copy of the newsletter can be mailed to you,  
please let the Webmaster or Scoutmaster know.*