



TROOP 31

SERVING THE YOUTH OF RAMSEY, NJ SINCE 1912
WWW.BSA-TROOP31.ORG

2011 **NOVEMBER** 2011

“Be prepared”: This phrase took on an extra meaning the past few weeks as our community struggled to keep our heads above water (literally!). Many Scouts and their families were without power and clean water for several days. Some even had structural damage to their homes or businesses. It was a rough time for many. Hopefully, all are now safe and getting their lives back to normal.

I have been contacted by several neighbors informing me that our Scouts had helped neighbors in their time of need. Tree limbs, branches, and other debris were removed from yards and driveways. Trips to the store for an elderly person were made. All the "Scouty" traditions were called upon and our Troop answered the call.

This reminds me of a lesson of another group helping out people in their time of need. It happened many years ago, and a great American tradition later arose to commemorate it. Thanksgiving is that tradition, and this year, we have lived through a modern retelling of that story. While our training helped us to Be Prepared for the storm and its aftermath, it also enables us to Be Helpful in reaching out to help others, in good times and bad. Times like this past week remind us all that we must try our best to be a little more "Scouty" in our lives.

I wish all our Scout family a Happy Thanksgiving!


Yours in Scouting, *Mr. M. McKiever* ~ Scoutmaster, Troop 31



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Upcoming Events Mark-Your-Calendar 7 weeks out (details on following pages)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>Where & how</i>
Monday, 11/14	7:30 – 9P	Troop Meeting	Ramsey High School
Wednesday, 11/16	7:30 – 9P	Dragon & Lightning Patrol: Scavenger Hunt!	Rescue Building
Monday, 11/21	7:30 – 9P	Troop Meeting	Ramsey High School
Wednesday, 11/23		NO MEETING	Be Prepared for family, thankfulness, and feasting! A Scout is helpful!
Thursday, 11/24			Over the river and through the woods. Or not. Happy & yummy! (A Scout is <i>still</i> helpful!)
Friday, 11/25	7ishA	Christmas Tree unloading	Ramsey High School tennis courts
Saturday, 11/26	8A - 1P/5mi. OR 3P/10mi.	10th Annual 5-or-Dime Hike	Harriman State Park, Lake Tiorati, NY. Permission slip & \$0 to Mr. Sundermann by 11/24
Sunday, 11/27	1P	Eagle Court of Honor	Ramsey High School
Monday, 11/28	7:30 – 9P	- Troop Meeting - Christmas Tree Sale setup	Ramsey High School tennis courts
Wednesday, 11/30	7:30 – 9P	Dragon & Lightning Patrol meeting	Masonic Lodge
December			
Saturday, 12/3	Sign up for duty slots!	Christmas Tree Sale starts!	Ramsey High School tennis courts
Saturday, 12/3		Home for the Holidays Parade	Details to come
Sunday, 12/4	Sign up for duty slots!	Christmas Tree Sale	Ramsey High School tennis courts
Monday, 12/5	7:30 – 9P	PLC	Ramsey High School tennis courts
Thursday, 12/8	7:30P	Committee meeting	Municipal Building
Saturday, 12/10	Sign up for duty slots!	Christmas Tree Sale	Ramsey High School tennis courts
Sunday, 12/11			

Monday, 12/12	7:30 – 9P	Troop Meeting	Ramsey High School
Wednesday, 12/14	7:30 – 9P	Dragon & Lightning Patrol meeting	Masonic Lodge
Thursday, 12/15	DEADLINE	Signup for <i>Camp Turrell Overnight Winter Cabin Camping</i>	Dow Drukker Reservation, Cuddebackville, NY. Permission slip and \$35 to ASM Baxer
Friday, 12/16	DEADLINE	Signup for the Saturday, 1/7 <i>Cradle of Liberty Council's Cold Weather Training Seminar</i> (no cost for the training seminar)	Firestone Resource Center, Wayne, PA. Permission slip & \$0 to ASM Baxer. This is mandatory preparation for the 2/17 – 2/19 <i>100th Annual Valley Forge Pilgrimage and Encampment</i> outdoor winter tent camping weekend (permission slip and \$60 due to ASM Baxer 1/18). One adult leader and one youth leader must participate or the entire event will be canceled.
Saturday, 12/17 Sunday, 12/18	Sign up for duty slots!	<i>Christmas Tree Sale</i>	Ramsey High School tennis courts
Monday, 12/19	7:30 – 9P	Troop Meeting	Ramsey High School
Wednesday, 12/28	3 – 6P	<i>Annual Indoor Rock Climbing</i>	The Gravity Vault, Rt. 17N, Ramsey Permission slip AND waiver and \$22 to ASM Keith Kaplan by 12/22.



Medical form updates! The BSA now requires that the Troop hold copies of all Scouts' medical forms and carry them on all outings (day or overnight) in which a Scout participates. Their latest medical form for all scouts and adults **is now available on the BSA site**. Please make sure you **have an updated form on file** with the Troop in order to be eligible to **participate in all outings!** *Questions?* Please contact **Stuart Zweighaft** at sjavzee@aol.com or at **201-394-6187**.

Outings details

- 1. November 26: 10th Annual 5-or-Dime Hike.** Need a 5- or 10-mile hike for the Hiking merit badge? On November 26, you'll have the opportunity **test your legs, work off those Thanksgiving calories, and warm up for the hectic holidays!** Attend the 10th annual 5-or-Dime Hike in nearby Harriman State Park.
 - [Permission slip](#) & \$0 to ASM Sundermann by 11/24
 - *Questions?* ASM Sundermann
- 2. December 28, 3P – 6P: Annual Indoor Rock Climbing.** What are you doing this holiday break? Rather than “climbing the walls” at home while the snow accumulates outside, come join Troop 31 at the Gravity Vault on Wednesday December 28th for a fun-filled afternoon of indoor rock-climbing. Whether you're a first-time climber looking to "learn the ropes" or an experienced outdoorsman just yearning for a clear day to get some climbing in, the Gravity Vault offers a variety of challenges suitable for any climber. New climbers will be trained in proper rock-climbing technique and will have plenty of opportunity to become proficient climbers by day's end.
 - [Permission slip](#) AND [waiver](#) with \$22 to ASM Keith Kaplan no later than 12/22.
 - All participants should wear sneakers and comfortable clothing.
 - Harnesses will be provided.
 - Please feel free to bring a friend to accompany you and perhaps introduce to the excitement of scouting (this outing satisfies First Class requirement #10).
 - *Questions?* ASM Keith Kaplan
- 3. Break in your new 2012 calendar with Winter outings and camping events.** Troop 31 provides year-round opportunities for Scouts to get outdoors, have fun, and work on Scout skills. It's never too early to plan ahead and make sure that

you're available for our great winter outings and camping events. For additional information, see Assistant Scoutmaster Mr. Baxer at a Troop meeting.

- **January 9, 5:45 – 8:15P: Snow Tubing at Campgaw Mountain!** What is more fun in the winter than tubing with your friends! Save time to sip hot cocoa by the fire, too! Just what the doctor ordered to overcome those post holiday/back-to-school blues.

Itinerary:

- Return permission slip to ASM Odin by 12/19.
- We'll meet at Campgaw Mountain at 5:45P on 1/9.
- Be sure to have your guardian sign the Campgaw tubing release form. The form may be available prior to the event online at the Campgaw website: <http://www.skicampgaw.com>
- Guardian pick up at Campgaw Mountain at 8:15P.
- Bring money for some hot cocoa if desired.
- ***Questions?*** ASM Odin at odinj01@excite.com
- **January 7, 2012: Cradle of Liberty Council's Cold Weather Training Seminar**, Firestone Resource Center, Wayne, PA, in mandatory preparation for the 2/17 – 2/19 *100th Annual Valley Forge Pilgrimage and Encampment* outdoor winter tent camping weekend. See below.
 - [Permission slip](#) & \$0 required by Friday, 12/16 to ASM Baxer.
 - ***Questions?*** ASM Baxer
- **January 14 - 15, 2012: Return to Peterson Lodge for an overnight winter cabin camping trip!** The Lodge is located in Camp Turrell, part of the Dow Drukker Scout Reservation in the southern Catskills in Cuddebackville, NY. Last year, we had a great time on this outing, with a roaring fire, sledding down a camp trail, walking across the entire frozen lake, exploring wild animal tracks, and having a snowball fight at the rock quarry!
 - The trip will be limited to the first 18 scouts and 6 adults that return the [permission slip](#) with \$35 by December 15 to ASM Baxer.
 - As usual, the daytime activities will depend on the weather.
 - Of course, you will also have the excitement of cooking on open stoves in winter weather.
 - Peterson Lodge sleeps 24 and has mattresses, electricity, and a wood-burning stove.
 - ***Questions?*** ASM Baxer
- **February 17 - 19, 2012: The 2012 Pilgrimage and Encampment in the Valley Forge National Park.** This **outdoor winter tent camping weekend** event is run by the Cradle of Liberty Council and is the longest continuously running Scouting event in the world. This year will be the 100th annual visit to Valley Forge, and the theme of the weekend will be to honor General George Washington. You will get to explore the Park, stop in at the Visitors Center, and attend the program events set up by Cradle of Liberty Council. This event is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate your Scout skills! **The Council and the National Park**

Service mandate 1 adult leader and 1 youth leader must participate or the entire event will be canceled. In order to attend the Encampment, you **must**:

- First, attend the Saturday, 1/7 *Cradle of Liberty Council's Cold Weather Training Seminar* (see above).
- Return the [Encampment permission slip](#) and \$60 to ASM Baxer by 1/18.
- *Questions?* ASM Baxer

Troop news ~ needs ~ no-no's ~ NOWs!

Meeting schedule & locations.

- “Monday Patrols” 7:30P at [Ramsey High School](#)
- “Wednesday Patrols”—Dragon and Lightning—7:30P at the Masonic Lodge
- PLCs: Beginning in October, PLCs are held on the first Monday of each month at 7:30P at Ramsey High School. PLCs require SPL, ASPLs, Scribe, QM, and all Patrol Leaders.
- *Questions?* Scoutmaster McKiever mmc57@optonline.net

Starting November 25: Annual Tree Sale! It's that time of year again!! Our annual tree sale is scheduled for 12/3-12/4, 12/10-12/11 and 12/17-18. It is held at the Ramsey High School Tennis Courts from 8A-5P. This is our biggest fundraiser and scouts get to earn money for their scout accounts to help pay for outings or camp.

- Our trees will be delivered Friday, 11/25 between 7A and 7:30A. **All scouts are expected to help unload the trees and ...**
- **Set up the A-Frame racks** on Monday, 11/28, 7:30P at the Ramsey High School tennis courts.
- For the actual sale (12/3-12/4, 12/10-12/11, 12/17-18), **every scout is expected to work two 3-hour shifts with a parent.** Signups will once again be done online on a first-come-first-served basis.
- Complete details about signups will be sent via email in the next few weeks.
- **We are in need of co-coordinators for this event.** Please consider stepping up: Trish has been running this event for over 10 years and has everything organized and ready to go. All that is needed is group of parents to work together to continue the tradition.
- *Questions? Volunteer to help?* Trish Bailey at rpmcrb@optonline.net

November 27, 1P: Eagle Court of Honor. All are cordially invited to our latest Eagle Court of Honor, Sunday 11/27 @ 1P at Ramsey High School Auditorium. Scouts should attend wearing Class A uniform. Congrats to Scouts Andrew Lynch, Christopher McKiever, Jesse Shearer, and Evan Sisti on their admirable accomplishments!

Troop 31 Turns 100! As you may know, Troop 31 is one of the oldest Troops in the country. *In 2012*, we will be celebrating 100 years of continuous service to the Scouts of the Ramsey community.

We have several activities planned throughout the year. Our activities include (tentatively):

- Beefsteak Dinner
- Centennial Reception
- Troop 31 Showcase at Finch Park (free to the public)
- Historical Journal (available throughout the year)

We have an immediate need for volunteers to help us make all our events successful. Please call Claudia Perkins at: 201-679-8545 to get your name on our list. Thank you!



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Please make sure that we have your correct email address! If you are not receiving the newsletter email, check your spam filter for email from Troop31@ebiztechonline.com Go green if you can, but alternatively, a mailed hardcopy newsletter can be requested through the Webmaster or Scoutmaster.