



TROOP 31

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

2011 **OCTOBER** 2011

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What an opening month! Things sure have been busy around here! Hopefully we're all back to our "normal" routines.

The Troop has been "re-patrolled," and both the regular Monday Troop meeting and the Wednesday Dragon & Lightning Patrol meetings are on track. There have been several Troop events, and we've assisted the Packs in their programs. The new Leadership Team is getting down to business, so it's finally time to get our program rolling. There are great opportunities to complete rank requirements on the next few outings, and **outings need strong participation** from both Scouts and parents to be a success!

Fall really brings out the best in the Scouting Program. There are events where we can enjoy nature in all its glory. We're beginning to anticipate the holidays and time with our families. Troop 31 is hitting the road this month. Make an effort to attend an outing. These are the times we'll all remember. **Happy memories with good friends are just an overnight away!**

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

C O R N E R

Upcoming Events Mark-Your-Calendar 6 weeks out (details on following pages)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>Where & how</i>
Monday, 10/10 Wednesday, 10/12	>	NO MEETINGS	Nowhere, nohow.
Saturday, 10/15 – Sunday 10/16	Sat 8A - Sun 11A	Palisades Overnight Hike	Outing details below and in permission slip \$39 & permission slip to ASM Keosayian by October 7!
Monday, 10/17	7– 9P	Troop mtg: Scavenger Hunt “Back to Scouting” parent meeting	Ramsey High School Scavenger Hunts require Class B uniform and flashlights!
Wednesday, 10/19	7:30– 9P	Dragon & Lightning Patrols mtg: Scavenger Hunt “Back to Scouting” parent meeting	Ramsey Rescue Squad building Scavenger Hunts require Class B uniform and flashlights!
Sunday, 10/23	4P	Court of Awards	Masonic Lodge; dinner will be served!
Monday, 10/24	7:30 – 9P	Troop mtg & Scout Skills Camp prep meeting	Ramsey Rescue Squad building
Wednesday, 10/26 Monday, 10/31		NO MEETINGS	
Thursday, 10/27	7:30P	Committee Meeting	Ramsey Municipal Building
Wednesday, 11/2	7:30 – 9P	Dragon & Lightning Patrols mtg	Masonic Lodge, 24 N. Franklin Tpke.
Friday 11/4 – Sunday 11/6	Fri 4P - Sun 4P	High Adventure Overnight Hike (older Scouts)	Outing details below and in permission slip \$12 & permission slip to ASM Keosayian by October 17
Saturday 11/5 – Sunday 11/6	Sat 7A – Sun 12P	Scout Skills Overnight @ Camp Glen Gray (younger Scouts)	Outing details below and in permission slip \$25 & permission slip to Scoutmaster McKiever by October 19
Monday, 11/7	7:30P	PLC	Ramsey High School
Monday, 11/14	7:30 – 9P	Troop Meeting	Ramsey High School
Wednesday, 11/16	7:30 – 9P	Dragon & Lightning Patrols mtg	Masonic Lodge, 24 N. Franklin Tpke.



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 sjayzee@aol.com or at **201-394-6187**.



Outings details

- 1. October 15 - 16: Palisades hike.** This is a good 12-mile, advanced-beginner hike that follows the Hudson River along some beautiful picturesque areas of the Palisades, from the George Washington Bridge to Camp Alpine in New Jersey. It can also count as a **10-mile hike towards the Hiking Merit Badge.** **Itinerary:**
 - [Permission slips](#) were due to ASM Keosayian Friday, 10/7!
 - We'll start Saturday morning from the GWB hiking to Camp Alpine in New Jersey,
 - spend Saturday night camping under the stars, and
 - return home on Sunday morning.
 - *Questions?* ASM Keosayian keosayian@verizon.net
- 2. November 4 – 6: High Adventure Overnight Hike.** This hike, for about 12 older boys and/or experienced Scouts, will provide another hike towards the total for the Hiking merit badge, and another night of camping if you need it for the Camping badge, ***Full participation is strongly advised!*** Participation for our first couple of outings, which were planned in response to direct Scout request, was discouragingly low. Now that the typically hectic weeks of September are past, we can all ***step it up!*** So:
 - **Complete the [permission slip](#) and return/email to ASM Keosayian by Monday, October 17.** This hike will take us
 - along the Appalachian Trail from Bear Mountain, NY, across the Bear Mountain Bridge, and hiking about 8 to 10 miles north,
 - spending the night on the trail, then
 - returning back to our cars on Sunday.
 - *Questions?* ASM Keosayian keosayian@verizon.net
- 3. November 5 – 6: Scout Skills Overnight at Glen Gray.** *If your rank is Scout, Tenderfoot, or 2nd Class, this camping trip is for you!* In this program, the SPL, an ASPL, both Troop Guides and the Instructor will go over the 38 Scouting rank requirements and

help you get started working on them. These will be sessions where you work on and complete your requirements – not watch someone else do them. (For NoBe veterans, this will be like FCA at NoBe, but on a smaller scale.)

- **Complete the [permission slip](#) and return it to Scoutmaster McKiever by October 19.**
- Remember to **stay after the Troop meeting on Monday, October 24, for the prep meeting** for this outing.
- Uniforms are not required, but dress appropriately to the season and the weather, and ***be prepared*** with your rain gear – just in case.
- Please review personal equipment lists in the Scout Handbook and Troop Website. Don't forget your Totin' Chip and Firem'n Chit!
- **Questions?** Scoutmaster McKiever mmc57@optonline.net

4. 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. The permission slip will be on the website soon!

5. Break in your new 2012 calendar with winter 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 you're available for our great winter camping events. Mark the dates now and look for more information and permission slips in early November. In the meantime, if you want additional information, see ASM Baxer at a Troop meeting.

- **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 New York State. 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!
- **February 17 - 19, 2012: The 2012 Pilgrimage and Encampment in the Valley Forge National Park.** This **outdoor 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 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!

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

Meeting schedule & locations.

- Troop (“Monday patrols”): 7:30P at [Ramsey High School](#)
- Dragon & Lightning (“Wednesday Patrols”): in October, 7:30P at the [Rescue Squad Building](#); in November, 7:30 at the [Hawthorne Masonic Lodge, 24 N. Franklin Tpke.](#)
- 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

A friendly and important reminder from ASM Keosayian:

As Mr. McKiever stated at the last meeting, Scout Spirit is important for rank advancement, and *participation is a REQUIRED part of the rank advancement requirements*. Outings allow our boys to experience the true meaning of the Scouting Life, and they cannot be done with only a handful of boys, and without parent participation. We learn so many amazing new things by actually participating in the outdoor program, for which you all have requested planned outings, and have opportunities for fun with our friends that only arise in the new and exciting environments that outings take us to! Remember: The Trail to Eagle leads right through the Great Outdoors!

YIS - Paul Keosayian, Assistant Scoutmaster: keosayian@verizon.net

October 17 & 19, 7:30PM: “Back to Scouting Night” parent meeting. Scouting is about developing not only tangible skills but also strong communication, character, and leadership assets that our boys will apply throughout their lifetimes. Annually, the Troop’s patrol leaders bring their ideas and desires to determining the meeting and outings schedules for the upcoming year; to realize their vision, they need the active support of *many* adult volunteers, resulting in many opportunities for parents to participate in your sons’ scouting careers with varying levels of commitment. Please come to either the October 17 (High School) or October 19th (Rescue Squad Building) meeting for an overview of the coming year and an opportunity to ask questions and learn how you can assist the Troop. If you are interested in volunteering but cannot attend either meeting, please contact Mary Ellen Endress: MaryEllen.Endress@td.com

October 23, 4 PM: Court of Awards. [Hawthorne Masonic Lodge, 24 N. Franklin Tpke.](#) Distribution of badges and other Troop awards earned June thru September. Please come out in uniform, in support and appreciation for your fellow Scouts (and for a great dinner)!

November 27: Eagle Court of Honor. Details to come!

2012: 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.