



# TROOP 31

SERVING THE YOUTH OF RAMSEY, NJ SINCE 1912  
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## 2011 **SEPTEMBER** 2011

**Greetings and welcome back!** Hard to believe that summer is over and we're starting a new Scouting year. The Troop is ready for an exciting year, one filled with all sorts of adventures and fun things to do! If the summer trips (Mr. Rutkowski's High Adventure Trip and NoBe) are any indication of things to come, we're in for a great year.

There will be some necessary changes this year. The meeting place for September has been moved to the Ramsey Rescue Squad Building (right across from the High School). There were time conflicts with the HS and the Lodge, but there will be enough room for what we have planned at the Squad's building. Once October starts, we're back at our usual locations, the HS Cafeteria on Monday nights and the Masonic Lodge on Wednesday nights. The Patrols will also have to be adjusted, which will give the Scouts a great opportunity for leadership positions. The Senior Patrol Leader is also looking for Scouts to fill out the rest of his Leadership Team. Matt Lynch, your Senior Patrol Leader, has been working on his plan for the year. The Scout Calendar is full of fun outings and events. Several are scheduled for this month, so take the time to check out our website and see what the future holds!

There is a buzz around the Troop this year. It's very special, and plans are being made. Does anyone have an idea what is so special? Let me know what you think it is when we meet as a Troop. Until then, the ASMs will be working hard on providing the best Scouting Program possible.

*It's great to be back!*

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

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>Where &amp; how</i>
Saturday, 9/10	9A – 9P	<b>Ramsey Day Fundraiser Booth</b>	<a href="#">S. Island Ave.</a> , in front of Ramsey High School, in 2-hour shifts, B-class uniform; each person brings 2 bags of ice and 1 roll paper towels
Monday, 9/12	7:30 – 9P	First Troop meeting for 2011-2012	<a href="#">Ramsey Rescue Squad (Litchult) Building, S. Island Ave.</a> , in front of Ramsey High School
Monday, 9/19	7:30 – 9P	Troop meeting	Ramsey Rescue
Friday 9/23 - Saturday, 9/24	Fri: 4P Sat: 8:30A- 5P	<b>Glen Gray Beaver Day, optional overnight</b>	Camp Glen Gray, <a href="#">Glen Gray Rd., Oakland NJ &gt; Midvale Mountain Rd., Mahwah, NJ</a> / <a href="#">Permission slip</a>
Saturday, 9/24	TBD	<b>Leadership Training</b>	<a href="#">Hawthorne Masonic Lodge, 24 N. Franklin Tpke.</a>
Monday, 9/26	7:30 – 9P	Troop meeting	Ramsey Rescue
Friday, 9/30 – Sunday, 10/2	>	<b>Canoe Trip: Pine Barrens</b>	Details below; meet for departure behind the <a href="#">Ramsey Municipal Building</a> (that is, across Shuart Lane from the Presbyterian Church). See permission slip (troop website).
Monday, 10/3	7:30P	Patrol Leader Conference (PLC)	<a href="#">Ramsey High School (Prospect Street entrance)</a> PLCs require SPL, ASPLs, Scribe, QM, and all Patrol Leaders.
Wednesday, 10/5	7:30P	First <b>Wednesday</b> patrol meeting	<a href="#">Hawthorne Masonic Lodge, 24 N. Franklin Tpke.</a>
Monday, 10/10 & Wednesday, 10/12		NO MEETING	
Saturday, 10/15 – Sunday 10/16	>	<b>Palisades Overnight Hike</b>	Details below; meet for departure behind the <a href="#">Ramsey Municipal Building</a> (that is, across Shuart Lane from the Presbyterian Church). See permission slip (troop website).
Monday, 10/17	7:30 – 9P	Troop meeting	Ramsey High School
Wednesday, 10/19	7:30 – 9P	Wednesday patrol meeting	Masonic Lodge
Sunday, 10/23	TBD	<b>Court of Awards</b>	TBD
Monday, 10/24	7:30 – 9P	Troop meeting	Ramsey High School



**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](mailto:sjayzee@aol.com) or at **201-394-6187**.

## Outings details

**1. September 10: Ramsey Day! (Rain date: Sept. 11) *Get sticky!*** By a quirk of the 2011 calendar, Ramsey Day falls before our first Troop meeting, but we still look forward to great Troop turnout for this famously fun, annual townwide event! Our fundraising booth for pretzels, lemonade, and sno-cones needs to be manned by both Scouts and adults in six 2-hour shifts throughout the day from 9A to 9P. Get sticky, show Community and Troop spirit, and help fund our Troop activities all at the same time. **Here's how:**

- **Sign up for a shift.** Pick your slot and email Marymartha Becher ASAP at [marymartha\\_becher@yahoo.com](mailto:marymartha_becher@yahoo.com).

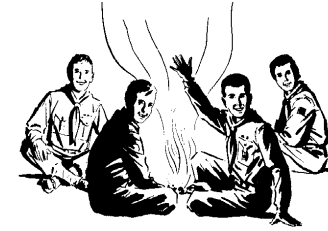
Shifts are available as follows:

- 9:00 - 11:00 (set-up)
  - 11:00 - 1:00
  - 1:00 - 3:00
  - 3:00 - 5:00
  - 5:00 - 7:00
  - 7:00 - 9:00
- **B-class uniform** (Troop T-shirts) is the dress code for the day.
  - **Bring 2 bags of ice and 1 roll of paper towels** to your shift at our booth on [S. Island Ave.](#), in front of Ramsey High School.
  - **Be sure to sign in, in order to receive credit!**
  - In addition to our booth—it's still Saturday! ... so the Scouts **assist with Recycling** throughout the day.
  - *Questions?* Marymartha Becher at [marymartha\\_becher@yahoo.com](mailto:marymartha_becher@yahoo.com)

**2. September 23 – 24: Glen Gray Beaver Day. *A Scout is helpful!*** What do scouts Andy Lynch, Chris McKiever, Mike McMahon, Jarrett Floyd, and Nick Mangeri have in common? ... Give up? They all did their Eagle Projects at Camp Glen Gray! In addition to being an awesome day getting dirty in the great outdoors with your friends, Beaver Day (usually 3 times a year) is the Troop's Work Day to give back to Glen Gray. We all benefit from Glen Gray's hospitality and enjoy its facilities, so we maintain our outstanding relationship with the Camp with our strong turnout on Beaver Days.

- **Options:**

- Camp under the stars Friday night at McMullen Field and work Saturday, or
- Come to Glen Gray as early as 8:30A Saturday (the Troop will try to arrange transportation) for
  - the day, or
  - however long you can help.
- Whichever option you choose, **this can count as service hours!**
- **Free lunch** provided by the Camp!
- **Bring work clothes and gloves**, as we may be painting or doing other potentially sloppy work.
- **Parents are welcome** to stay and lend a hand!
- [Permission slip Questions?](#) ASM Sundermann 201-760-0197 or [rwsunder@optonline.net](mailto:rwsunder@optonline.net)



**3. September 30 – October 2: Pine Barrens canoe trip.** Fall in the Pine Barrens: It doesn't get any better than that! Come take a nice leisurely paddle down some of the most beautiful and picturesque rivers in the northeast. See beavers, birds, and other wildlife. Gaze at the stars and mosey down the Mullica River. Watch out for that Jersey Devil! He's rumored to be around. *Sign up fast!* We have only boats. We can rent more if needed, but the price will then go up. **Itinerary:**



- We'll camp Friday night at Wharton Pond,
- get an early start on Saturday morning, taking all we need in our canoes, and
- camp Saturday night at a remote wilderness site,
- returning to Ramsey on Sunday.
- **Bring a fishing pole** if you like! There are some really nice spots to toss in a line and try your luck.
- *Questions?* ASM Keosayian [keosayian@verizon.net](mailto:keosayian@verizon.net).

**4. 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:**

- 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](mailto:keosayian@verizon.net).

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

**Meeting schedule & locations.** As in recent years, the Troop's meeting times and locations will differ in September from the rest of the year. This year, both the High School and the Masonic Lodge had scheduling conflicts with our September meeting nights. Once the Ramsey Rescue Squad heard about our situation, their leadership stepped up and offered their facilities to us. The Troop thanks them for their sense of Community Spirit! Please note the meeting schedule details carefully:

- Regular Troop meetings:
  - **September** Troop meetings will be on Monday evenings at 7:30P at the [Ramsey Rescue Squad Building](#), and
  - **Starting in October** will change to
    - Monday evenings at 7:30P at [Ramsey High School](#) **OR**
    - , for those who can't make Monday night meetings, Wednesday evenings at 7:30P at the Masonic Lodge. *Please email Scoutmaster McKiever ([mmc57@optonline.net](mailto:mmc57@optonline.net)) if a Scout cannot attend Monday Troop meetings and needs the Wednesday meeting.*
- PLCs: Beginning in October, PLCs will be held on the first Monday of each month at 7:30P at Ramsey High School.
- **Questions?** Scoutmaster McKiever [mmc57@optonline.net](mailto:mmc57@optonline.net)

**1. Registration Time!** It's time to register for the new Scouting year! The forms for Scouts and Adults are available on our website and will also be sent via email to all registered members of the troop.

- Registration forms can be **downloaded and printed:**
  - Adult registration form [http://www.bsa-troop31.org/Forms/Adult\\_Registration\\_2011.pdf](http://www.bsa-troop31.org/Forms/Adult_Registration_2011.pdf)
  - Scout registration form [http://www.bsa-troop31.org/Forms/Scout\\_Registration\\_Form\\_2011.pdf](http://www.bsa-troop31.org/Forms/Scout_Registration_Form_2011.pdf)
- Due to the size of our Troop, we ask that all registrations be handed in **by the end of September**. This will ensure that all the boys and adults are eligible to attend the Troop events and outings.
- Adults, please check to see if your **Youth Protection Training** is still valid; if not, you can renew it online, then include a copy of the certificate with your registration.
- Remember that registration **checks are made out to "Troop 31."**
- Lastly, BSA mandates that you **have an up-to-date medical form on file**. If you don't, the form is on our website and the completed form can be returned with your registration.
- **Questions?** Stuart Zweighaft, Troop Registrar, at [sjayzee@aol.com](mailto:sjayzee@aol.com) .

**2. September 12: First Troop meeting for 2011 – 2012. 7:30P, Ramsey Rescue Squad (Litchult) Building, S. Island Ave. Please email Scoutmaster McKiever at [mmc57@optonline.net](mailto:mmc57@optonline.net) if a Scout is unable to attend the first Troop meeting!**

Welcome back! As always, the first meeting will be a very busy one. Every few years, the Troop has to **reorganize its Patrols**, as our senior Scouts either "age out" (turn 18 years old) or become part of the Troop Leadership. While it's great to see our Scouts go on to college, it leaves a void in the Patrol system. We will address this situation at the first Troop Meeting at Ramsey Rescue:

- All Scouts will be asked to **name a few friends you would like to Patrol with.**
- Patrol leaders will structure their patrols so that, as in the past, each Patrol will consist of a mixture of 6<sup>th</sup>-, 7<sup>th</sup>-, and 8<sup>th</sup>-graders, with a few HSers added in. Historically, this has worked well, as it enables the Patrol Leaders to develop future leadership from within their Patrols and allows the Scouts to learn leadership skills from great role models.

**3. Scout Leadership positions available.** With the start of a new Scouting year, all Scout Leadership positions are available to qualified Scouts. Remember—last year's positions ended at the last Troop meeting in June! While the Troop already has its Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and Assistant SPLs (ASPLs), most other spots are still open. Try your hand at leadership! Newly elected leaders will be highlighted in October's newsletter! If you are interested in ANY of the following positions, please **contact your SPL (Matt Lynch)** and let him know (you may also notify Scoutmaster McKiever of your interest):

- Quartermaster
- Troop Instructor
- All Patrol Leaders
- Librarian
- Historian
- Bugler
- All Den Chiefs

And, on that note ...

**4. September 24: Leadership Training Day.**

- [Hawthorne Masonic Lodge, 24 N. Franklin Tpke.](#)
- *Questions?* Mr. Knipp [mail4pk@yahoo.com](mailto:mail4pk@yahoo.com) 201-818-7899

**5. October 23: *Court of Awards*. Time & location TBD.** 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 lunch)!



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