



Troop Four Family Newsletter April 18, 2006

Midstate Trail Backpacking Adventure: will be on **Saturday, May 6 to Sunday May 7 on the Midstate Trail in the Douglas State Forest part of the trail.** The part of the trail that we will be hiking has some great wilderness areas. The terrain is mostly flat with some more challenging routes for older scouts. The troop will leave Milford Saturday morning, backpack on Saturday, and camp on the trail Saturday night, backpack on Sunday morning, and return to Milford early Sunday afternoon. We are planning to have two groups of hikers, a beginners group going about 3 - 5 miles a day and an older group going about 5 -7 miles a day. Both groups will camp at the same campsite and do the same campsite activities. This will be a "loop" type of backpacking trip - we will start and end at the entrance to the Douglas State Forest - but take different trails to and from the start/finish.

Attached is a personal gear checklist to use as a guide. Scout will only have a comfortable amount of total personal and patrol gear to carry. As with all of our troop hikes and canoe trips, scouts will be able to go at a comfortable pace. We will go over the personal gear requirements at the April 27 troop meeting.

The troop will meet at the parish center at 9:00 AM and leave for the trail head by about 9:30 AM. We will return to the parish center for pickup by 2:00 PM Sunday afternoon (a little later than our normal noon pickups for troop camping trips). Scouts need to bring a bag lunch for Saturday and we will be patrol cooking on fires for Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast. We will also have patrol lunches on the trail Sunday.

We will be sleeping in tents Saturday night. During the afternoon on Saturday we will be exploring the area. The tri-state (MA, CT, and RI) marker is nearby along with Wallum Lake. Scouts can bring some portable fishing gear if they want to try their luck fishing. We will have some night orienteering games after dinner. This will be a great adventure and a great chance for new scouts to do some backpacking - plus plenty of adventure for the older scouts too.

Since this is a backpacking trip, all scouts must be able to pack all of their personal gear in their backpacks, plus have some room for some patrol gear and food. We will make sure that the scouts only have the proper weight in their packs. The troop has one or two backpacks and one or two small sleeping bags in case scouts need to borrow one. Please call or email Dave Kirchner if your son needs one.

We will need parents to drive us to the trailhead at Douglas State Park on Saturday morning and to pick us up about noon on Sunday at the trailhead at the park for transport back to Milford.

We will be planning the food menus and patrol gear requirements for the trip at our April 27 troop meeting.

If you son will be attending please drop off the attached permission slip at the April 27 troop meeting – please email or call Dave Kirchner before April 27 if your son will be attending but won't be at the meeting on the 27th.

Upcoming Event Dates & Reminders:

- Thursday, May 18: balance of Adirondack High Adventure \$ due
- Thursday, May 25 Camp Resolute fee due for new scouts/Webelos crossovers
- Monday, May 29: Memorial Day parade in Milford
- Thursday, June 15: Troop Court of Honor
- Saturday, June 24 – Monday June 26: Troop canoe trip

Troop Four Website: is www.troop4milford.org

Please call the Dave Kirchner at 508-667-6675 or email at kirchner5@comcast.net if you have any questions.