



September 26, 2007

Dear Parents and Families,

On behalf of all the Adult Leaders, I would like to welcome you and your sons back for another exciting 2007 – 2008 scouting year. We have many exciting and challenging activities planned for troop meetings and outdoor events – some old favorites and some new adventures as well. ***For our 2008 week long high adventure, the troop will be camping and hiking at Camp Tahosa in the Colorado Rocky Mountains!***

This past year was filled with many outdoor adventures, including camping, backpacking, winter camping and whitewater rafting. The troop also completed its first cycling adventure on Cape Cod this past spring. The troop closed out the year with another great week at Camp Resolute.

Over the past year there were many awards, merit badges, and badges of rank earned by the scouts. We are very proud of our two new Eagle Scout from last year, Michael Fernandes and Luke Lanciano.

Our scouts participated and completed many individual and group service projects, including several Troop 4 Eagle Scout projects underway.

The troop website continues to expand with information on activities and calendar dates/times. For the 2007 – 2008 year, we will be adding pictures of the troop events and more historical information about the troop and its scouts. Be sure to check out the website on a regular basis at: www.troop4milford.org

The Venture scouts now have a “Venture Corner” in each of the troop newsletters with information especially for them. In addition, for this year we will continue to bring in guest speakers to talk to the Ventures on a variety of careers and occupations. We plan to have several Venture Scout camping/adventure trips during the year. We will continue to expand the Venture program for the troop meetings and troop activities.

Troop meetings activities will include old favorite activities including: cooking, games, scoutcraft, pioneering, engineering, advancement, demonstrations, and merit badge classes. The troop meetings will continue to be held 7:00 – 8:30 PM on Thursday nights at St. Mary’s parish center.

The Venture Scout organizational meeting was held September 21. The first meeting for **ALL OTHER SCOUTS (scouts in grades six through eight)** will be **Thursday, September 27. This will be our organizational meeting for the year, for election of Patrol Leaders, Assistant Patrol Leaders, and Senior Patrol Leader.** Venture scouts will come to the meeting as well.

Dues for the Year:

In previous years, the troop collected dues of about \$40/scout in the fall and the \$35/BSA recharter fee in January. This year, to help cut down on administrative time, we are collecting both fees at once in the fall. The total due is \$80/scout with \$60/scout for the second or more scouts per family. If this is a hardship please email/call Dave Kirchner (confidential).

The \$ is due now. Please drop off the \$ at either the September 27 or October 4 troop meeting. If your son(s) can't make either meeting but would like to continue in the troop, please mail the dues prior to October 4 to the Troop Treasurer, Mrs. Judy Alley at 7 Paula Road, Milford. Please make all checks payable to Troop 4.

For Assistant Scoutmasters in high school or college – the \$ for the year is \$15. Please remit a check to Mrs. Alley for the \$.

Reminders for the Troop Meetings:

- We realize its hard sometimes to make the 7:00 PM meeting start time – coming late from another activity or school work/job is fine, but when scouts arrive they should come into the meeting room (no detours to Store 24) – we will be starting the meetings at 7:00 PM.
- Uniforms should be worn to all the troop meetings. If a scout is coming from another sport/activity without a uniform that is o.k.; but scouts coming from home should wear their uniforms.
- Return of troop camping equipment. Most of the equipment; and starting this fall most of the tents, will be cleaned and put away after a trip. If your son does bring home equipment from a trip to clean – probably a tent, please clean it and get it back within 2 weeks of the event. Tents can be dried out in a garage or cellar – they don't need to be aired out in the open. ***If you currently have any troop equipment, please return it by the October 4 troop meeting.***

Forms to Fill Out:

A hardcopy version of this letter will be handed out at the September 27 troop meeting, along with the following forms that need to be filled out and returned to a troop meeting or mailed to Mrs. Alley **as soon as possible:**

Health Form: The troop asks for this information annually – and access is limited to a few adult leaders. The information is then kept by the adult leaders in charge at all meetings and activities. We need the updated information on hand in case of medical emergencies and to be aware of any health restrictions for activities.

Photo Authorization for the Website: A new form for this year. The form lists the troop website photo posting policy approved by the troop committee. The blank forms will be mailed out to all scouts who are not at the September 27 meeting.

Advancement and Badge Work:

Troop 4 has a long tradition of many scouts earning many awards and badges. The upcoming year will be another year of great accomplishments.

The troop will continue to help scouts working on Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class badges of rank at troop meetings and troop events. These scouts, as well as the other scouts in the troop, will also have the opportunity to work on merit badges in Communications, First Aid, and Oceanography this fall.

We met with scouts working on their Eagle projects at the Venture meeting last week. There will be a Life to Eagle meeting with new Life scouts and their parents at the October 11 troop meeting (more information to follow).

Scouts working on Star, Life and Eagle ranks will also have opportunities to complete their scout spirit, participation and leadership requirements at troop meetings and activities this year.

Adequate participation is necessary for scouts working on Star, Life, and Eagle ranks in order that they can demonstrate and meet the scout spirit, active participation, and leadership requirements for advancement. ***While it is up to the Scoutmaster to determine if the scout meets the requirements, the Troop Committee has established these minimum participation requirements (and may be more on an individual basis) to help the scouts meet the requirements:***

- Scouts must attend and be an active participant in at least half the troop meetings in the scout year.
- Scouts must attend and be an active participant in at least 4 outdoor troop activities in the scout year.
- Scouts must demonstrate scout spirit and these meetings and outdoor activities.
- In order to complete leadership requirements, scouts may need to attend more than the numbers listed and work independently to complete some of the leadership requirements.
- Scouts wishing to advance in the middle or part of the scout year would be expected to meet the meeting requirements and the appropriate ratio of outdoor activities (2 outdoor activities for half a year for example).
- The Scoutmaster determines if the scout has met any and all requirements for advancement.

Upcoming Events:

The complete calendar of events for 2007 – 2008 is on the website. Here are a few dates for some upcoming events with more information to follow:

- A ***Troop Eagle Court of Honor*** on Thursday, October 18 for all the awards and badges earned since the June Court of Honor. This is a family dinner Court of Honor. The dinner will start at 6:30 PM and awards will start about 7:15 PM. The evening will conclude by 8:30 PM.
- The Troop ***Pig Roast*** and camping trip for October will be on October 20 - 21 at our troop campsite in Milford.
- The Troop's annual Halloween Party will be Thursday, October 25.
- Scouting for Food for scouts interested in participating will be the weekend of October 27 – 28.

The first Troop Family newsletter will be out next week with lots more information.

Please call or email if you have any questions. In addition, on behalf of all the Adult Leaders, a sincere thank you for all of the help from families and friends over the past year. Looking forward to an exciting year!

Very truly yours,

David Kirchner
Scoutmaster
Enclosure(s) - for the hand out and mailed letters