



Troop Four Family Newsletter

October 1, 2013

Troop Elections:

The Troop conducted Senior Patrol elections at the end of the last season. Wyatt Barie won the election becoming our first Eagle Scout Senior Patrol Leader in recent memory. Wyatt appointed Brian Spiegelman and Michael Weber as the Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders. In addition, the election of new patrol leaders and assistant patrol leaders were also held on our opening night. Congratulations to the DuctTape Patrol's election of Kevin Speigleman (PL) and Matt Lonergan (APL); Hawks Patrol's Chris Watson (PL) and Taabish Syed (APL); Honey Badger Patrol Michael Schmitt (PL) and Dave Coplan (APL); Viking Patrol's Derek Jordan (PL) and Brady Smith (APL); and Venture Scout Patrol Sam Lanciano (PL) and DJ Petrides (APL). New leaders for the various troop positions, such as scribe, quartermaster, librarian, historian, etc. have also been selected by the new SPL. *Note that all scouts will be given multiple leadership opportunities over the course of their scouting career.*

Patrol Leaders:

The strength of Troop 4 is based on the strength and initiative of our patrols and the scout Patrol Leaders. Patrol members should use the Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leaders as their main point of contact for campout and event coordination.

Court of Honor:

The Court of Honor will be held on **Thursday, October 17 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM** at St. Mary's parish center. The Court of Honor ceremony will recognize the achievements earned over the summer during Camp Resolute along with individual rank advancements. Awards earned by all other scouts since the last Court of Honor will also be presented. There will be a dinner before the awards ceremony. Dinner will be "Pot Luck" style. A separate notice will go out to the troop with more details.

Troop Dues and Medical Forms:

Troop Dues are due no later than the October 24th troop meeting. The combined troop and re-charter dues this year are **\$95 per scout (\$75 for additional siblings)**. Payable by check preferred. Personal or Bank checks may be written out to "Troop 4".

BSA Class 1 Medical Forms may be found on our troop website (www.troop4milford.org). Completed forms are required for each scout and must be turned in to the scribe **no later than October 17**. (If you are attending the backpacking trip this is a MUST. Please be sure to include a copy of your health insurance card (front and back). No form – no trip. Unlike summer camp forms, only a parent signature is required. Vaccines, if current, can be stated as such.

Troop Four Family Newsletter - October 1, 2013

Procedures for Submitting Forms and Dues:

Troop meetings can be very hectic at the start. Families can help by submitting routine dues, trip payments, permission slips and medical forms directly to the Troop Scribe Sam Rosa or into the Scribe Box at the beginning of each meeting. The "scribe box" is labeled as such and is located at the front of the room. Please deposit forms and dues into the box. Of course, parents are free to direct special questions on forms and payments to any adult leader when required.

October Backpacking Trip:

The October backpacking trip will be held on Saturday, October 19 and 20 located at the Leominster State Forest in Westminster, MA. We will meet at the parish center on Saturday morning at 8:00 AM and leave at 8:30 AM. Please be at St. Mary's at 8:00 AM so that we may load up the gear and check everyone in. We will return for pick up at the parish center by 1:00 PM on Sunday. Scouts need to bring a bag lunch and the items listed on the Troop 4 backpacking equipment list. The list is available on our website. Remember to pack warm. October days can be warm but nights are cold.

The trails we will hike are part of the Mid State trail and border's the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation and Leominster State Park. We will hike from Redemption Rock to the Crow Hill Ledges. Those working on their hiking merit badge have the option to extend the hike to Wachusett Mountain. This area is rich in early American history (King Philips War and the American Revolution) and known for its scenic views, including Wachusett Mountain, Crow Hill Ledges, mountain views, small caves, ponds, streams, wildlife, etc.

Once we establish camp, we'll take side hikes to nearby sites. Since this will be the first or second camping trip for many of our new scouts, we will be doing a lot of preparation and training at our upcoming meetings. For food, scouts need to bring a bag lunch for Saturday, and will be cooking patrol-style on backpacking stoves for dinner and breakfast. It is possible that we will make a fast food stop for lunch on the way home on Sunday – so be sure to have some money. Scouts will plan their patrol meals at an upcoming troop meeting.

For newer scouts that have not yet had an opportunity to purchase a backpack, we have one or two Troop packs that you can borrow for the event. Contact Ron Gorham.

If your son will be attending, please drop off the attached permission slip no later than the October 10th Troop Meeting, or email the form to Ron Gorham at rgorham29@gmail.com . Also - We will need a few parents to drive to/from and/or stay for the event. If you can help out please indicate so on the permission slip.

HALLOWEEN PARTY!!!:

The troop Halloween Party will be held on OCTOBER 24TH! Dress code is to wear your most creative and scariest costume. No Class A uniforms required. Games will be played and prizes will be had for various contests and scariest, most creative and funniest costumes. Always a fun time!

Troop Four Family Newsletter - October 1, 2013

Advancement:

All scouts who are ready for advancement, or who are very close, will be receiving an email from the scoutmaster or the advancement chairperson with reminders on badge wrap-up, service hour wrap-up, or to schedule a scoutmaster conference. Due to the limited number of meetings between now and the Court of Honor, it is important that scouts meet the deadlines established in these emails, and attend their scheduled conferences/reviews, if they desire to advance this fall.

Merit Badges:

There are many merit badge activities planned this year, some starting very soon. The venture planning meetings, and patrol leader's council, will determine which badges will be offered, and when. Look for announcements at upcoming troop meetings. A reminder on merit badge process: Scouts must obtain a blue merit badge card signed by the Scoutmaster before beginning any merit badge activity. Scouts are also responsible for ensuring that completed and signed off merit badge cards are submitted to Scoutmaster once all requirements are completed. Other merit badge "frequently asked questions" is answered on the troop website. The troop has also recently expanded our merit badge offerings with more merit badge councilors. Check out the website for the latest information. Lastly, Mrs. Amy Croteau attended an earlier meeting this fall and offered scouts tips and strategy on effectively tracking your merit badge progress to completion. Please bring your merit badge binders to the meetings for periodic review.

Troop Equipment:

The troop has recently made significant enhancements to the troop equipment inventory. We have recently re-stocked with new and refurbished tents, water filters, axes, hatchets, stoves, cook kits, chef kits, and a variety of specialized backpacking equipment. You are lucky to be in one of the best equipped troops in the area. All scouts should work closely with the quartermasters to account for, clean and return all troop equipment used at camping and other events. Any outstanding troop equipment from the summer's trips should be returned no later than the **Oct 10th** troop meeting. This years QM is Evan Kehoe. Please check your equipment in with him at the beginning of the meetings.

Patrol Leaders:

The strength of Troop 4 is based on the strength and initiative of our patrols. Patrol members should use the Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leaders as their main point of contact for campout and event coordination.

Troop Four Website:

Please visit and frequent the Troop 4 website at: www.troop4milford.org. It contains lots of current schedule and other useful information. A very special thanks goes Steve Eddins for maintaining the website last year. His recent work includes an improved the website, updating content and maintenance instructions. Through Steve's efforts, the troop boasts one of the most informative and up to date troop web sites around.

Troop Four Family Newsletter - October 1, 2013

Venture Scout Corner *Information Especially for Venture Scouts:*

Venture Program 2013/2014: The venture scouts held their first meeting earlier in September to plan the activities of the Venture Patrol, and worked with the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters to plan logistics and supervision of the troop meetings & trips for the new season. The Ventures also held an election and selected Sam Lanciano and DJ Petrides as their leaders. Congrats guys! Mr. Mark Hobart has volunteered to be the Venture adult advisor again this year with the assistance of Mr. Bedard and Mr. Lanciano (thanks Mark, Phil and Peter!).

Scoutmaster Corner

How does it go...*"It takes a Village to raise our children?"* We have a great group of scouts, adult leaders and parents who help support our troop. Without it we would not be able to have as many adventurous activities. I would like to thank all of the adult leaders and parents who have helped out last year and over the summer on various meetings or scouting events. This year we will hold a brief Parents Meeting on October 10th to review the troop's philosophy, a list of this year's events, and look for parent volunteers to help on each the various events.

Please call Scoutmaster Ron Gorham at 508-868-8793 or email at rgorham29@gmail.com if you have any questions.

