



September 15, 2015

Dear Parents, Scouts and Families,

It's hard to believe summer has come and gone and the new scout year is upon us! I hope this note finds you and your families well. I look forward to seeing you soon.

## Summer Re-Cap

We had a fun and productive summer to say the least.

Twenty-one scouts and 6 leaders boarded the Troop 4 charter bus and travelled to the Adirondack Mountains of New York for a week long adventure of canoeing, hiking and summer camp. Our two Adirondack Treks covered approximately 80 miles canoeing (combined) through some of the most beautiful wilderness that New York has to offer. Our Adventure Camp base patrol led by SPL Brandon Kee saw our scouts earn merit badges, work towards rank advancement, participate in camp-wide competitions and hone their skills with a week's worth of patrol style cooking.

Back at home, we had four scouts complete their Eagle Scout projects. Eric Buckenmaier completed his Kiosk project which was installed in the newly renovated Milford Youth Center. Alex Hastings completed the installation of a 25 foot flag pole and landscaping at Milford High School. Alex and his team also replaced all of the classroom American Flags at the High School. Brandon Kee revitalized a courtyard area outside Trinity Episcopal Church in Milford and installed a garden and benches for use as an area of reflection. Conor Maier constructed a ticket booth at the rear entrance of the Milford High School Football Field.

Currently, we have two scouts actively engaged in projects. Michael Weber completed phase one of his project to rejuvenate an area between Saint Mary's Large Hall and the main Church. Brian Spiegelman began installation of trail markers along the widely used Peppercorn Trail in Milford.

## This Year's Kickoff Meetings

**Venture Program 2015/2016 - September 17th:** The Venture patrol will hold its first meeting this Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at Saint Mary's (7:00 PM to 8:00 PM). If you are a scout and in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade you are a member of the Ventures (in addition to your normal patrol) and you should come to the Venture kick off. At this meeting, the Ventures will elect their PL and SPL and will plan the activities of the Venture Patrol for the next few months. As its name suggests, the Venture Patrol is designed to provide the older scouts with an opportunity to plan events that appeal to the patrol's sense of adventure.

**First Troop Meeting - September 24th:** The first scout meeting of the year will take place on Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at Saint Mary's. The time remains the same 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. At this

meeting, our new SPL, Brian Spiegelman, will introduce our new scout leaders and we will begin our scout year with a bang!

## **Troop 4 Website**

Many thanks to Mr. Stephen Brewis who has updated our Troop 4 website calendar with important dates. Look for additional content updates in the next few weeks. If you do not know the Troop 4 website is located at: [www.troop4milford.org](http://www.troop4milford.org). If you have any interest in assisting with maintaining the site's content, please contact me directly and we'll get you trained to help.

## **Troop Dues**

Troop dues and medical forms are due no later than the October 8<sup>th</sup> troop meeting. The combined troop and re-charter dues are \$95 per scout (\$75 for additional siblings). Please drop off your check at the start of the troop meeting. If your son(s) can't make the meeting but would like to continue in the troop, please mail the dues prior to October 8<sup>th</sup> to the Troop Treasurer, Mr. Bruce Hastings at 23 Lucia Drive, Milford, MA 01757. Please make all checks payable to Troop 4. As a courtesy to the troop and to assist in our planning, if your son does not plan to continue in our program, please have him call me to convey his decision.

## **BSA Medical Forms**

If your son attended summer camp this past year - either the Trek or Sabattis Adventure Camp - you do not need to complete a new medical form UNLESS something has changed in your son's medical history. For all others, the annual BSA medical form is attached and is required under BSA rules. Unlike summer camp and high adventure forms, only a parent signature is required. Part A is an informed consent, release agreement, and authorization that must to be signed by every participant (or a parent and/or legal guardian for all youth under 18). Part B is general information and a health history.

The forms are attached and also may be found at the following web address:

<http://www.troop4milford.org/docs/2014/10/BSA-Medical-Form-680-001-2014-Parts-A-and-B.pdf>

## **Procedures for Submitting Troop Forms/Dues**

Troop meetings can be very hectic at the start. Families can help by submitting dues, trip payments, permission slips and medical forms directly to Troop Scribe at the start of the meeting. Please deposit forms and dues into the scribe box. Of course, parents who have questions regarding forms and payments remain welcome to ask any adult leader when required.

## **Troop Eagle Court of Honor**

The first Troop Court of Honor of the year will take place Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at St. Mary's parish center. We expect this to be an Eagle Court of Honor. Awards earned by all other scouts since the last Court of Honor also will be presented.

## Advancement

All scouts who are ready for advancement, or who are very close, will be receiving an email from me 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.

## October Backpacking Trip

The troop will travel on the weekend of October 16-18 to the Mount Cardigan Forest Area of New Hampshire. We will be tent camping.

Experienced backpacking scouts who desire a fast pace and more mileage to hike may choose to leave on Friday afternoon directly after school. This group will meet at the St. Mary's parish center at 3:00 PM for an immediate departure. This group will arrive at the trailhead at dusk and take a ½ mile walk in the park, with head lamps if needed, to a wilderness campsite.

First year scouts, and other scouts who are not able to leave on Friday will meet Saturday at the parish center at 7:30 AM for an 8:00 AM departure. Once in New Hampshire, this group will travel on a 5-mile route where they will meet up with the Friday crew at the summit of Mt. Cardigan. Both groups will backpack out on Sunday morning, stop for a fast food lunch on the ride home, and arrive home for a parish center pick-up by 1:00 pm.

All attendees (scouts/adults) will cook backpacking meals individually, using only boiled water for meal preparation. Veterans of high adventure trips will provide detailed instruction on meal preparation and ingredients each person must buy. Ingredients can be easily purchased at a local grocer at low cost. Detailed meal planning and packing instruction will take place at the October 8<sup>th</sup> troop meeting. Scouts should bring some money for a fast food lunch on Sunday's return.

*The option for a Friday or Saturday departure may change based on the number of attendees and available adults and adult leaders.* It is very important, therefore, that all scouts and adults who plan to attend turn in the permission slip (attached) no later than the October 8<sup>th</sup> troop meeting in order to allow for the required logistics planning. Earlier is better.

Please call Brian Weber at 508-259-4114 or email at [brian\\_p\\_weber@comcast.net](mailto:brian_p_weber@comcast.net) if you have any questions.

Very Truly Yours,

Brian Weber  
Scoutmaster