



March 16, 2016

Dear Parents, Scouts and Families,

Well, it has been a little while since I sent a newsletter and I sure have a lot to report. On February 4th we celebrated with our scouts at our Eagle Court of Honor where we recognized the achievements of our scouts and recognized Eric Buckenmaier, Alex Hastings and Brandon Kee with the award of their Eagle ranks. (see page 11 of the Milford Town Crier at the following link: <http://www.towncrier.us/pdf/milford/MTC%2016.03.11.pdf>) On February 18th we welcomed Conor Maier as Troop 4's 40th Eagle Scout. Shortly thereafter, on March 1st we welcomed Michael Weber as Troop 4's 41st Eagle. Congratulations to all of our sons.

On February 19th and 20th we were in the White Mountains of New Hampshire having fun in the snow. We hiked across the frozen tundra to our luxurious cabin accommodations; enjoyed some radical sledding; were mesmerized by Derek "Big Air" Jordan; and enjoyed some fine cuisine. Not to be outdone, Mother Nature blanketed us with 10 inches of snow for our hike down the mountain. We overcame the icy parking lot with a few pushes here on the rears of our vehicles and after escaping the French speaking plow driver (at least I think it was French) we made our way down the road to warmer climes approaching 55°. Fun was had by all. Check out our photos here: <http://www.troop4milford.org/2016/02/27/lonesome-lake-nh-february-2016>

On February 27th and 28th it was my pleasure to attend two Blue & Gold Banquets to welcome seven new scouts to Troop 4. Crossing from Pack 67 were Walker Aulenti and Joshua Anderson. Walker joined us this past November at our WEBELOS campout and Joshua braved the cold to visit us at Upton State Park for our January Freeze-Out. Crossing from Pack 4 were Mark Butters, Joseph Coplan, Jhohann Edmonds, Joseph Lancisi and Christopher Silvestri. Mark, Joe Coplan and Jhohann were able to spend us time with us at our WEBELOS campout this past November. Joe Lancisi and Christopher are familiar faces from Pack 4.

Anyway, I hope you enjoy the update. I listed a few reminders, below, as we head into this week's meeting.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I may be reached at 508-259-4114 or email at brian_p_weber@comcast.net.

Brian/Mr. Weber
Scoutmaster

UPDATES

Pancake Breakfast

Great job on this year's pancake breakfast! Thank you to all of the scouts and adults for your contributions. It truly was a team effort. I received many positive comments regarding the outstanding job you all did and what fine young men you are. I even received a comment or two about how adorable Mark Butters is. You go Mark! From my personal observations, the Rams led by example and did a stellar job. Thanks to all that helped make this event a success. On the business end of things, I am in the process of finalizing our balance sheet and ask anyone who requires reimbursement for expenses associated with this year's breakfast to please send me a note and a copy of your receipts no later than Friday, March 17th.

Guest Speaker

This week we will be joined by Tim Mclaughlin, a third year cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY. Tim originally hails from Millville, Massachusetts and is a 2012 graduate of Blackstone-Millville Regional High School. Tim will join us to talk about the Academy and his experiences so far. Please be on time to the meeting.

March Troop Day Hike

Our annual Troop hike is Saturday, March 19th at the Quabbin Reservoir. We will meet at the parish center at 8:30 AM for a 9:00 AM departure. We will return for pick up at the parish center by 4:00 PM that evening. **Please check the final attendance list (see my e-mail) and let me know as soon as you can if I have recorded you as going when you are not/recorded you as not going when you are. Drivers, please contact me only if I listed you as driving and you do not plan to drive.** I will send a note out with a map and directions separately.

Scouts need to bring: a bag lunch, poncho or rain coat if it looks like rain that day, boots, a hat and gloves/mittens. A spare pair of socks is a must to bring. Please do not wear cotton as it absorbs perspiration and loses its ability to keep you warm when it gets wet - think synthetic and layers. If the weather is cold, bring a warm coat as well. Scouts should bring at least one quart/liter of water (no soda, juice, punch, etc.). Do not bring water in disposable water bottles - get a canteen or hiking water bottle at Wal-Mart, Target, etc. for about \$10. Scouts need to bring a day pack (school pack will work fine) to carry their personal and troop gear for the day.

At the end of the hike we will have some of Troop 4's famous fried dough!

OA Elections

Order of the Arrow elections will be held at **NEXT week's meeting, March 24, 2016.**

The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's national honor society. It recognizes those Scouts who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives, and by such recognition, cause others to conduct themselves in such a manner as to warrant similar recognition, to promote camping, and to crystallize the habit of helpfulness as a life purpose.

The OA is not another patch to add to the candidate's collection. Eligible candidates should also be willing to give back to the lodge through continued service to our camps as well as the troop. They should also be willing to complete the induction cycle by sealing their membership through brotherhood conversion.

Election to Order of the Arrow is not a popularity contest. Campaigning for votes is not allowed. **There are no write in candidates.** To be eligible for election a scout must:

- Be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Hold the First Class rank of the Boy Scouts of America, as a minimum.
- After registration with a troop or team, have experienced 15 days and nights of Boy Scout camping during the two-year period prior to the election. The 15 days and nights must include one, **but no more than one**, long-term camp consisting of six consecutive days and five nights of resident camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Approved by the Scoutmaster to stand election. The Scoutmaster must certify the candidate demonstrates Scout spirit (i.e. adheres to the Scout Oath and Law and actively participates in Troop activities). The Scoutmaster must also certify that the nominee meets all specified requirements at the time of election.

The following scouts meet the above criteria and are eligible for election:

Brandon Dulak, Gillieson Hobart, Derek Jordan, Michael Schmitt, Andrew Terrill, Joseph Thomas and Michael Weber.

If you are eligible for election to Order of the Arrow, please see me at the March 17th Troop meeting and let me know if you would like to be included on the ballot. If you are not listed as eligible and believe you should be, please contact me at the March 17th Troop meeting and we can take a closer look at your eligibility.

Easter Vigil Fire

A few scout volunteers (3-4) are needed to light a fire at St. Mary's before the Easter Vigil mass on Saturday, March 26th. The mass usually is at 7:00 PM. I have an actual meeting time shortly. We'll meet in front of the church. Our participation takes about 30 minutes. If anyone is can help, please let me know. If any family has a small fire pit that we could borrow for this event, please let me know as well.

April Troop Campout

The troop April Campout will be Saturday, April 9th through Sunday April 10th at Savoy Mountain State Park in Savoy Massachusetts. We will meet at the parish center at 8AM so that we have sufficient day light for our adventures. We will return for pick up at the parish center by approximately 1PM on Sunday. Scouts need to bring: a bag lunch for Saturday and all the items called for on the backpacking checklist on our website.

Scouts will be cooking their meals (dinner and breakfast) patrol style over an open campfire. Patrol meal planning will take place at the March 24th troop meeting. Don't forget: April weather can be surprisingly cold, particularly on the mountain. . . so be prepared!

If your son will be attending the campout, please complete the permission slip and return no later than the start of the March 24th troop meeting. If your son would like to attend but won't be at this troop meeting, please call or email Brian Weber before March 24th. We will need a few parents to drive to/from and/or stay for the event. If you can help out please indicate on the permission slip.

There is a nominal \$5 fee per person to offset the cost of the campsite fee. Please make checks payable to Troop 4 and include payment along with your permission slip.

See you at tomorrow night's meeting.

Mr. Weber



Troop Four Permission Slip

April 9-10, 2016 Savoy Mountain State Park
Savoy, Massachusetts

_____ has my permission to attend the event as noted above and below. If I cannot be reached in a medical emergency, I authorize the Adult Leaders to obtain the appropriate medical care, at my expense, if necessary.

During the event I can be reached at the following telephone # _____

If I cannot be reached, please contact _____ at this telephone # _____ . Relationship to scout _____.

Signed _____ Date _____

Parents, please check as applicable

_____ I plan to attend the event & can drive _____ scouts*

_____ I won't be attending, but can drive _____ scouts* to the event (meet at 8:00 AM depart by 8:30 AM on Saturday at St. Mary's)

_____ I won't be attending, but can drive _____ scouts* back from the event (We will return for pick up at the parish center by approximately 1PM on Sunday.)

* include your own scout in the count

DRIVER INFORMATION:

Auto Year/Make/Model

Auto Meets BSA's Minimum Insurance Requirements** Yes No

**All vehicles must be covered by automobile liability insurance with limits that meet or exceed requirements of the state in which the vehicle is licensed. BSA recommends coverage limits are at least \$50,000/\$100,000/\$50,000. Any vehicle designed to carry 10 or more passengers is required to have limits of \$100,000/\$500,000/\$100,000.

THERE IS A \$5.00 FEE FOR THIS TRIP TO COVER THE COST OF THE CAMPSITE

Permission Slip and Payments are due NLT Thursday, March 24th. Please contact Brian Weber at brian_p_weber@comcast.net or (508) 259-4114 if you have any questions.