



October 25, 2017

Dear Parents, Scouts and Families, Alumni,

I hope this note finds you all well. This past weekend 11 scouts and 4 adults braved the 70°F temperatures and sunny skies to reach the summit of Mount Greylock, which is located in picturesque Adams, Massachusetts. Once at the summit, we braved the hordes of tourists who sought to absorb the last vestiges of an Indian Summer. Aside from dodging vehicles, picnickers and toddlers, nearly all of our party was able to navigate the over-populated spiral staircase to the top of the War Memorial. There we cast our eyes upon recent Troop 4 haunts that dotted the horizon. We saw the summits of Mt. Wachusett & Mt. Monadnock and, of course, the Seven Sisters of Holyoke, to name a few. It was a view and a great weekend!

As always, please take a moment to review the following information as you plan your calendars for the next few weeks. 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

ADMINISTRATIVE

Troop Dues

Reminder, Troop dues and medical forms are due no later than the October 26th troop meeting. The combined troop and re-charter dues remain the same as last year, \$125 per scout (\$105 for additional siblings). This fee combines the Troop dues (\$50); the annual BSA Re-charter fee (\$33); Boys' Life (\$12) and the Mayflower Council activity fee (\$30). 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 to the Troop Treasurer, Mr. Craig Silvestri at 11 Carp Road, 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 contact me to convey his decision.

BSA Medical Forms

If your son attended summer camp this past year 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 (we just need Parts A & B - Part C is for summer camp). 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>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Halloween Party - October 26, 2017

Just a reminder, this week's meeting is our annual Halloween costume party. Our crack (pot) planning team has a slate of great events prepared and a fun time is certain to be had by all. Please bring your favorite snack and a 2 liter bottle of your favorite beverage. Please wear your most entertaining (yet tactfully tasteful) Halloween costume and join the annual Troop 4 costume contest. Those who choose not to wear a costume, please come in your uniform.

Scouting for Food - Drop-Off October 28, 2017/Pick-Up November 4, 2017

A big thank you to Tara Spiegelman for coordinating Troop 4's role in Milford's Scouting for Food Drive this year and for helping with the Town-wide coordination.

Flyer drop-off will be this Saturday, October 28th from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. Please stop by Mrs. Spiegelman's house at 11 Morey Way, Milford to pick up door hangers and routes to distribute to homes. This year, Troop 4 is responsible for delivering door hangers to all of the houses in Milford's voting Precinct 7.

Food pick-up will be Saturday, November 4, 2017 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. These actually are the hours that the Food Pantry will be open to receive food, so we can start collecting a little earlier. The flyers ask families to have their food outside by 9:00 am. Once again Troop 4 is responsible to pick up all of the food items within Precinct 7. We also will need to provide two scouts to staff the outside of the food pantry from approximately 11:30 am to 4:30 pm. They don't have to be the same scouts for the whole period of time. Last, Troop 4 volunteered to clear the leaves from the parking lot at the rear of the Food Pantry on November 4th. We will meet at 11:00 AM on the 4th to take care of the leaves.

Please let Mrs. Spiegelman know if you and your son are able to help out and when that may be. Tara may be reached at happytara@comcast.net. Given the Troop's responsibility to cover an entire voting precinct, we are looking for as many scouts and parents (drivers) to participate on both days if at all possible. Many hands make light work.

This is a great opportunity to give back to our community. Hope to see you there.

Troop Eagle Court of Honor - November 2, 2017

The preparations for the Court of Honor on November 2nd are underway and you are invited! The event will take place in the Large Hall at Saint Mary's. Dinner and the program will begin at 6:30 PM. Scouts are asked to arrive between 5:45 and 6:00 PM (no later than 6:00 PM) to help with preparations and to get last minute instructions. This will be an Eagle Court of Honor to recognize Brian Spiegelman. Awards earned by all other scouts since the last Court of Honor also will be presented.

I ask each family to provide both Tara Spiegelman and me the number of guests your family will bring. To help minimize double counting, please tell us the total number AND break down by scout; adults; and children (under 12). **Please respond by Thursday, October 26th. Please let me know if your family is unable to attend as well.**

While the dinner is being provided by the hosting Eagle Scout family, the Spiegelman family, the troop families are asked to provide a dessert item (cookies, brownies, etc.) and a 2-liter bottle of your favorite chilled soft drink (diet soda, regular soda, seltzer, water or juice . . .).

Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

We look forward to a great night recognizing our sons' accomplishments!

WEBELOS Troop Meeting - November 9, 2017

Both WEBELOS I and II's are invited to join Troop 4 at our Troop Meeting held on Thursday, November 9th from 7:00 - 8:30pm at the St. Mary's Church Parish Center. We have a fun-filled night of activities planned, including: knots; aluminum foil cooking; construction of Troop 4's famous fire starters; a tent setting-up demonstration and race; and, if time permits, some instruction on map and compass. Our SPL will be our "floater." Please do your best to attend, be welcoming, engage the scouts and parents and help out wherever you see help is needed.

Veterans' Day Parade - November 10, 2017

Rain or shine, the annual Veteran's Day Parade will be Friday, November 10, 2017. We will meet at 9:30 AM in the Stop & Shop parking lot (Quarry Square) adjacent to the 99 Restaurant. Step off will be at 10:00 AM. The parade will proceed up Main Street and briefly stop at the Doughboy Monument in Calzone Park. The parade will end at the Draper War Memorial Park. We usually finish around 11:00.

Please wear Class A uniforms, comfortable shoes, and bring water.

Volunteer Opportunity - November 11, 2017

The Milford Chapter of the Thanks To Yanks charity has reached out to the Milford Troops for some support with its annual Hope for Heroes Donation Drive from November 8-11th, 2017. Specifically, the Chapter is looking for up to 10 scouts to help it sort the items it collects on November 11th

from 11:00 AM to Drop off location - DCH Milford Toyota 300 Fortune Boulevard, Milford, MA. Information about the event is in the attached flyer. Please reach out to the event coordinator, Michael Shain, Cell: 508-330-8487, mshain@villagemtg.com, if you are able to help.

November Camping Trip and PIG Roast - November 18-19, 2017

The November camping trip will take place Saturday November 18 and Sunday November 19 at the Troop Campsite in Milford. The Pig is back! The troop chefs are just beginning to formulate an exciting menu to cook out in the field. If you're not a P I G fan, there will be some hot dogs and other food too. We'll have a full schedule of outdoor activities, including Archery, a rope bridge, and other games/contests. We have invited some Second Year WEBELOS to attend as well. We will have a troop campfire Saturday night - MC'd by MC Norris and MC Silvestri. The troop will provide a complete dinner and breakfast along with all the eating utensils, cups, plates, etc. The scouts will be planning the meals, activities, and doing the cooking for the weekend.

We will meet at St. Mary's parish center at 8:30 AM (depart by 9:00 AM) Saturday, November 18 and will return to the parish center for a 10:00 AM pickup (leave the campsite at 9:00 AM) on Sunday the 19th. Scouts should bring their regular camping gear and bag lunch for Saturday. As always, scouts can come/leave early late, etc., if they have conflicts with sporting or other local events. We will need a few parents to drive to/from the event.

If your son plans to attend, please return the permission slip by the November 9th troop meeting along with a check for \$15 to cover the cost of the food for the weekend (dinner/breakfast). If your son can't make the Nov 9th troop meeting but wants to attend, please call or email Brian Weber before the 9th so we can include him in planning for the event. Note: that this is the only regular campout that we charge a fee for food, because this is the only regular campout that the troop provides the food.

Christmas Wreath Fundraiser

For two consecutive weekends, November 4-5 and November 11-12, our scouts will take orders for Christmas wreaths at the vestibule of Saint Mary of the Assumption Church following the 4:00 PM, 7:30 AM, 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM masses. The wreaths will be offered in two sizes: approximately a 22" diameter at a sales price of \$15.00 and approximately a 28" diameter at a sales price of \$20.00. Wreaths that are ordered on either of these two weekends will be available for pick-up at the Small Hall (our weekly meeting area) on Sunday, December 4th between the hours of 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM

Unlike our annual pancake fundraiser, scouts asked not to solicit sales of wreaths door to door. Of course, if you, a friend, neighbor or family member would like to purchase a wreath, we would accommodate their request; however, our goal is to focus our efforts on these two dates within the community of our Troop's sponsor, Saint Mary's.

The proceeds of this fundraiser will be ear-marked to help offset the cost of the Troop's next high adventure program.

For more information about this fundraiser and the ways that you can help please contact Mr. Ray Norris who may be reached at raymond.norris@comcast.net. Thank you Mr. Norris for coordinating this effort.

ADULT HELP NEEDED

Food Shopping for the November Camping Trip

We need two adults who are willing to transport and oversee a group of approximately 5 scouts to a local supermarket for a PIG Roast shopping trip. Ideally, the trip would occur on November 16th after school or during the initial portion of the scout meeting with the goal of returning to Saint Mary's around 7:45 PM so the scouts can help to unload the groceries.

We will have a shopping list and will provide a means to pay. Please reach out to me if you are able to help.

PIG Pick-Up for the November Camping Trip

We are looking for an adult volunteer to pick up our pig on Friday November 17th. Pickup is anytime between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm at Adams Farm, 854 Bearsden Road, Athol, MA 01331; (978) 249-9441. We will get you a signed check made out to Adams Farm for you before then and will coordinate with you to get the large cooler from the Scout room and ice for the trip back to Milford.

Please reach out to Mr. Hobart at hobiewaun@comcast.net if you are able to help.

Cooking Merit Badge for the November Camping Trip

We are looking for two adults who are willing to sign up with council as Cooking MB instructors. The goal is to guide a group of Troop 4 scouts through the requirements of the badge and the preparation of menu items during the November Camping Trip. It will require you to be available for a few scout meetings and the November camping trip. While you will not need to stay overnight at the camping trip, you will need to oversee the scouts' food preparation; cooking and cleanup. The scouts will do all the work, but you will guide them in this effort.

Please reach out to me if you are able to help.



Troop Four Permission Slip

November 18-19, 2017 to the Saint Mary's Campground, Milford, MA

_____ 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 _____

I would like to Attend & Drive / Not Attend but Drive (please circle one & check, below, all that apply) to the event and take _____ scouts*/parents (total in the car including driver)

_____ Saturday (meet at 8:30 AM on Saturday at St. Mary's. Depart by 9:00 AM)

_____ Sunday (meet at 9:00 AM on Sunday at the Campsite. Scouts may be picked up at 10:00 AM at Saint Mary's)

* include your own scout in the count

Permission Slip and \$15 fee to defray the cost of the food is due at the November 9th Troop Meeting.

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.

Call or email Brian Weber at 508-259-4114, brian_p_weber@comcast.net if your scout would like to attend the camping trip, but cannot attend the November 9th troop meeting.