



Sept. 26, 2021

Dear Parents, Scouts and Families, Alumni,

We're off and running in the new scouting year!

Please take a moment to review the following information as you plan your calendars for the next few weeks. As always, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at 508-498-9376 or jcomisky@aol.com. The troop website can also be referenced for information on troop matters.

Please remember that participation is what makes scouts fun.

John/Mr. Comisky
Scoutmaster

RECENT UPDATES

Meeting location:

St. Mary's has approved the use of the Large and Small Halls for our troop activities including meetings, Court of Honor celebrations and our pancake breakfast fundraiser. We'll return to holding weekly meetings in the small hall and continue to take advantage of the troop camp site frequently.

Scouts should resume wearing their full uniforms to meetings, including neckerchief, as well as bring their Scout Book and notebook.

Troop Elections and Leadership Positions:

The Troop conducted Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) elections and Jason Comisky was selected SPL. We will announce all scout leadership positions at the next meeting. While not everyone will have a leadership position at this time, all scouts will serve in multiple positions over the course of their scout career.

Congratulations in advance to all the new scout leaders!

Service Project:

The troop participated in the Public Lands Day this past weekend at West Hill Dam. Troop 4 and Pack 4 have taken advantage of this local facility for many years, and it was great to give a little back by participating in this national event. Thirteen scouts from the troop worked in removing the dreaded Glossy Buckthorn, an invasive plant that threatens some wetlands and areas within the park. Photos of the event can be found on the troop website and a picture of the group hiking to work site can be seen at:

[Troop 4 at West Hill](#)

Summer Camp at Squanto:

During the past summer, scouts were able to attend camp at Camp Squanto. This was the first time that the troop has attended Squanto and it proved to be a nice change. Scouts participated in numerous activities including swimming, boating, paddleboarding, kayaking, zip lining, archery, shotgun, rifle and many scout skill events. A great time was had and pictures from camp will be posted to the troop website soon.

CAMPING

Being outdoors is what distinguishes Troop 4 from many other troops and is what drew many of us to Troop 4 to begin with. We plan to return to our tradition of the outdoors with numerous outdoor activities, hiking, camping, and backpacking. Plus, now that we are able, we'll be resuming our High Adventure trips!

Fall Bicycling Trip – October 1-3, 2021:

The Troop will head to Myles Standish State Forest for a fall bike trip, heading down the night of Oct 1st and returning Oct 3rd. We'll use Camp Squanto as our base and hit the paths to explore Myles Standish. The forest is part of the Atlantic coastal pine barrens ecoregion and consists largely of pitch pine and scrub oak forests—at 26 square miles (67 km²), one of the largest such forests north of Long Island. The forest surrounds 16 lakes and ponds, including several ecologically significant coastal kettle ponds.

October Backpacking Trip – October 16-17, 2021:

Troop 4 will head north on the weekend of October 16th to take in Mount Cardigan. Mount Cardigan is a prominent bare-rock summit in the towns of Orange and Alexandria in western New Hampshire. Known as 'Old Baldy,' Mount Cardigan is a three peaked mountain with Cardigan the highest, flanked by the neighboring summits of South Peak and Firescrew. The 360-degree panorama includes views of Mount Monadnock, the White Mountains, Camel's Hump in Vermont, and Pleasant Mountain in Maine.

Those scouts looking to attend should RSVP by October 10th and submit permission slips no later than the October 14th.

November Camping and PIG Roast - November 13-14, 2021

The November camping trip will take place Saturday November 13 and Sunday November 14 at the Troop Campsite in Milford. We will meet at St. Mary's parish center at 8:30 AM (depart by 9:00 AM) Saturday, November 13th and will return to the parish center for a 11:30 AM pickup (leave the campsite at 10:45 AM) on Sunday the 14th. 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. We'll make accommodations if Scouting for Food also falls on the 13th.

High Adventure Trips:

2022 The Troop has made reservations at Philmont Scout Ranch for the week of July 14, 2022 to July 21, 2022. Final travel arrangements are being investigated and more specific details will be provided very shortly. It is very likely the dates mentioned above will be adjusted to allow for travel time. Scouts that are 14 years of age are eligible for High Adventure trips. **Please note: a deposit of \$150/person is required for this trip and due on October 15th.**

2023 The Troop has made arrangements to go to Montana High Adventure Base for the week of July 9, 2023 to July 16, 2023 to explore the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Additional information regarding this trip will be made provided as it becomes available.

ADMINISTRATION

Troop Dues

Troop dues and medical forms are due no later than the December 9th troop meeting. The combined troop and re-charter dues have increased by \$10 this year to \$155 per scout (\$135 for additional siblings). This fee combines the Troop dues; the annual BSA National Registration fee; and the Mayflower Council program activity fee. The increase is due to an increase in annual BSA National Registration Fee and Council fees announced earlier this year and last.

Please drop off your check at the start of the troop meeting. Dues may also be sent to Mr. Tony Bogner at 47 Whitewood 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 Camp Squanto this past summer, 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 trips in excess of 72 hours). 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:

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf

Procedure for Submitting Troop Forms/Dues

Troop meeting can be very hectic at the start. Families can help by submitting dues, trip payments, permission slips and medical forms directly to the 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 are still welcome to ask any adult leader when needed.

Troop Court of Honor

The Troop will hold its first Court of Honor on Thursday October 21, 2021, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 pm at St. Mary's parish center Large Hall. Awards earned by all scouts since the last Court of Honor will be presented. Additional information as we get closer to the date.