



September 2, 2022

Dear Parents, Scouts and Families, Alumni,

I hope that everyone enjoyed the summer and long Labor Day weekend. The troop will resume weekly meetings beginning on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. As a reminder, unless otherwise announced, meetings are held every Thursday at 7:00-8:30 at St. Mary's Parish Center in the small hall.

Please take a moment to review the following information. As always, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at 508-498-9376 or [jcomisky@aol.com](mailto:jcomisky@aol.com). The troop website ([www.troop4milford.org](http://www.troop4milford.org)) should also be referenced for information on troop matters.

Please remember that participation is what makes scouts fun.  
I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

John/Mr. Comisky  
Scoutmaster

### **Troop SPL Election:**

The Troop conducted Senior Patrol Leader election at the end of last Scout year and elected Neil Bogner as the Troop's next SPL. Neil will be filling out his leadership team and selecting scouts to fill the various troop positions, which will be announced at the Troop meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Note that all scouts will be given multiple leadership opportunities over the course of the scouting career.

Congratulations in advance to all the new scout leaders!

### **Summer Report:**

While the troop took a break from weekly meetings, there were still a lot of activities over the summer! Photos from these outings will be made available on the Troop website.

The Ram Patrol (currently the Troop's oldest patrol) were joined by some members of the recently graduated Scorpion Patrol for a day of kayaking and swimming around Buzzards Bay. The day on the ocean was followed by an epic wiffle ball game and an outstanding cookout.

In July, a dozen scouts from the Troop returned to Camp Resolute for a week of fun. Merit badges were earned, shotgun, rifle and archery targets were hit with extreme accuracy and

chess matches played. The troop spent significant time in the water and was well represented in camp-wide activities- finding the green gizmo numerous times, a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the Apache Relay and three scouts placing in the top five of the Resolute Triathlon, including 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes.

In August, scouts and leaders from the troop headed up to Maine for a week-long trek from the Maine High Adventure Base Camp next to Baxter State Park. The crew overcame many challenges to successfully summit Mt. Katahdin before enjoying several days navigating canoes down whitewater rapids and riverways for over 50 miles.

### **Upcoming trips and outings:**

[Troop Service Project](#). On September 24<sup>th</sup>, the Troop will again participate in the Public Lands Day event at West Hill Dam. Troop 4 has been well represented in the past and I hope this year will be the same. Please let me know as soon as possible if you will be participating.

[Fall Bike Trip](#). On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the Troop will head north for a day on two wheels. We'll follow the Nashua River Rail Trail across the border into NH and cover a distance of 25 miles. After completing our trek, we will have some of Troop 4's famous fried dough!

If your son will be attending, please drop off the permission slip for this trip no later than the September 22<sup>nd</sup> Troop meeting or email the form earlier to John Comisky.

[October Backpacking Trip](#). Troop 4 will head west with a scheduled backpacking trip along the Appalachian Trail in western Massachusetts on the weekend of October 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. Our trek provides interesting features including cascades and ledges and fantastic views of the fall foliage.

This trip is sure to challenge Scouts, so all attendees must be physically fit. Consider starting the personal fitness merit badge to get in shape. Please direct any questions on this merit badge to Mr. Comisky. While this trip will be challenging, the troop has some options to afford scouts an opportunity to backpack at a comfortable pace.

If your son will be attending, please drop off the permission slip for this trip no later than the October 6<sup>th</sup> Troop meeting or email the form earlier to John Comisky.

### **Troop Eagle Court of Honor:**

Our first Court of Honor for this year will be on October 20<sup>th</sup> and will be an Eagle Court of Honor recognizing our newest Eagle Scout, Christopher Silvestri. There will be a dinner before the awards ceremony. Details are being planned and more information will be communicated to families shortly.

### **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.

### **Procedure 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 the Troop Scribe at the start of the meeting. Please deposit forms and dues into the scribe box. Of course, parents are free to direct special question regarding forms and payments to any adult leader when needed.

### **Venture Program 2022/2023:**

The Venture patrol will hold it's first meeting during the Troop meeting on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you are a scout and in the 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, you are a member of the Ventures (in addition to your normal patrol). As its name would suggest, the Venture Program is designed to provide older scouts with an opportunity to plan evens that appeal to the patrol's sense of adventure. Ventures should come to that first meeting with some exciting ideas for this new year.

### **Troop Dues and BSA Medical Forms:**

**Troop dues and medical forms are due no later than the October 20<sup>th</sup> troop meeting.**

The combined troop and re-charter dues for this year will be announced shortly. This fee combines the Troop dues; the annual BSA National Registration fee; and the Mayflower Council program activity fee.

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.

Everyone must submit completed medical form – Part A & B. Part A is an informed consent, release agreement, and authorization that must 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 may be found at the following web address:

[https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001\\_AB.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf)