



August 25, 2023

Dear Parents, Scouts and Families, Alumni,

I hope that everyone enjoyed the summer. The troop will resume weekly meetings beginning on Thursday, September 14th. 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. The troop website (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 Josh Maillet as the Troop's next SPL. Josh will be filling out his leadership team and selecting scouts to fill the various troop positions, which will be announced at one of the first couple of Troop meetings. 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!

In July, a dozen scouts from the Troop returned to Camp Squanto for a week of fun. Attending scout earned 41 merit badges, many shotgun, rifle and archery targets were hit with extreme accuracy and chess matches were played.

Back on the home front, we have one Eagle Project completed and three others approved that are actively in progress. Neil Bogner installed new benches at the West Hill Dam Facility. Josh

Maillet and Jason Comisky are working on completing their projects, also at West Hill. Willam Naff is wrapping up paperwork for his project which was at Blackstone Valley Tech. School. All of the projects are great contributions to our community.

IMPORTANT UPDATE for Adults attending trips and outings:

All adults staying overnight in connection with a Scouting activity must be currently registered as an adult volunteer or an adult program participant. Adult volunteers must register in the position(s) they are serving in.

What does this mean? If you're an adult not currently registered with the troop and wish to attend any of our overnight trips, you will need to register with BSA, complete Youth Protection Training and agree to routine background checks with the BSA and Catholic Diocese of Worcester (per our Chartered Organization, St. Mary of the Assumption).

The Troop Committee will be sending out additional information regarding this new requirement very soon.

Upcoming trips and outings:

Fall Bike Trip. On September 23rd, the Troop will head west for a day on two wheels. We'll follow the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail and cover a distance of about 25 miles. After completing our trek, we will have some of Troop 4's famous fried dough!

The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail passes through the Hoosac River Valley, between Mount Greylock and the Hoosac Mountains. Cheshire Reservoir, the Hoosic River, and associated wetland communities flank much of the trail.

If your son will be attending, please drop off the permission slip for this trip no later than the September 21st Troop meeting or email the completed, signed form earlier to John Comisky.

October Backpacking Trip. Troop 4 will head north with a scheduled backpacking trip to Mount Sunapee State Park in New Hampshire on the weekend of October 21st – 22nd. Our trek provides fantastic views of the fall foliage. Permission slips for the trip are due by the October 5th Troop meeting.

Troop Court of Honor:

Our first Court of Honor for this year is scheduled for October 19th. There will be a pot-luck dinner before the awards ceremony. Details are being planned and more information will be communicated to families soon.

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 questions regarding forms and payments to me when needed.

Venture Program 2023/2024:

The Venture patrol will hold its first meeting during one of the first couple of Troop meetings. If you are a scout and in the 9th through 12th 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 events that appeal to the patrol's sense of adventure. Ventures should come prepared with some exciting ideas for this year.

Troop Dues and BSA Medical Forms:

The Troop Committee will be deciding on the annual dues for Troop members very shortly. The exact cost will be announced once it has been determined. This fee combines the Troop dues; the annual BSA National Registration fee; and the Mayflower Council program activity fee.

All Scouts must complete and submit 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

Troop Contact Information:

A review of our Troop families' contact information (home address, email addresses, etc.) has shown a number of inconsistencies. We will be reaching out to individual families in order to make sure we have accurate and up to date information.