



December 2, 2023

Dear Parents, Scouts and Families, Alumni,

I hope that everyone is enjoying the start of the holiday season.

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 in Troop activities is what makes scouting fun. I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

John/Mr. Comisky  
Scoutmaster

### **Trips and outings report:**

The troop has been active during the fall months. In September, seven scouts from the troop journeyed out to western Massachusetts for a 25-mile bike ride. It was a great day and a great ride with outstanding scenery. In October, the troop ventured north to Mt. Sunapee. Sixteen scouts set out in the rain from our campsite to summit the mountain before trail conditions worsened and cut the hike short. In November, the troop hosted six Cub Scouts for our Smoke Out campout at the Troop campsite. As always, troop chefs came through with a tremendous feast that everyone enjoyed.

### **Christmas Tree Pickup:**

The troop will once again participate in the Scout Christmas Tree pickup fundraiser on Saturday, **January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. If you have a truck or trailer and can help out, it would be very much appreciated. Additional information will be sent out shortly.

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

Our next Court of Honor is scheduled for **February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024** and will be an Eagle Court of Honor. Hosting families will provide a 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 winter.

### **Upcoming meetings and outings:**

Campsite meeting. On **December 7<sup>th</sup>**, the Troop will have its meeting at the troop campsite for some Scout Skills and outdoor fun.

Troop Holiday Party. Troop 4 will hold its annual Holiday party on **December 14<sup>th</sup>** featuring the Troop's version of a Yankee swap. If you would like to participate, please bring a wrapped gift with a maximum cost of **\$15**. The concept is simple. Each gift is numbered and a number corresponding to each gift is placed in a hat. Each participating scout chooses a number from the hat. The scout holding number 1 selects the gift numbered 1 and opens it. Then the fun begins. The scout holding number 2 may choose to open the gift marked number 2 or can hand that gift to the scout that opened number 1 and "steal" gift number 1. We continue along these lines (maximum of 3 steals per turn) until all scouts have gone and all of the gifts have been opened. Then the first scout has the final opportunity to steal. If you don't want to participate in the gift swap that's OK. Come for some fun and food. Scouts should bring a snack (cupcakes, cookies etc.) and 2-liter bottled drink to share with the group.

Break. There are no Troop meetings on December 21<sup>st</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>. Troop meetings will restart on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Winter Freeze Out. The troop will head back to Peppercorn Hill for some winter camping fun on **January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. Peppercorn campouts in the past have provided scouts and adults with sledding fun, an opportunity to practice winter outdoor skills and dutch oven and foil cooking. The hike into the campsite is approximately 1.5 miles. We will be planning this trip during the January 4<sup>th</sup> Troop meeting. Permission slips for this event are due no later than December 21<sup>st</sup>. Winter camping is fun and a great outdoor experience – and not that difficult. The adult leaders and troop have many years of winter camping experience and all of our trips have been a great time. Hope for lots of snow cover! There is no fee for this campout.

AMC Hut Trip. The Hut tradition continues with a fan favorite destination! On **February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**, the troop will return to Lonesome Lake Hut. Additional information regarding this outing can be found in the attached document. There is a \$50 fee for this camping trip to pay for the cost of the luxurious hut accommodations. A permission slip and payment for this event are due no later than December 21<sup>st</sup>. We need to enforce this deadline for this camping trip as the Troop will need to confirm numbers and make its payment in full in the following days.

## Summer 2024:

The troop is planning the following events for the summer of 2024:

[Camp Squanto](#). The troop will return to Camp Squanto to participate in our regular Scout Camp week. Younger scouts are especially encouraged to attend as there's a lot of fun to be had. Scouts can earn various merit badges, swim, sail, kayak, canoe, and test their skills at the archery, rifle, and shotgun ranges. In addition, there are many other camp-wide activities going on during the week that are especially fun. Additional information with dates and pricing will be sent out in the next couple of months.