

Rank Advancement and Covid-19: April Update

COVID-19 FAQ

UPDATED 4/13/20 – The most recent updates are indicated by a diamond in front of the question.

Advancement

Q: How can advancement be tracked remotely?

Scouting units should use Scoutbook to record and track advancement.

To track advancement remotely, parents should:

- Connect with their child's member profile via an invitation that the unit leader sends within Scoutbook. You may also connect to your youth via the Scouting app "Add a Parent connection."
- Once a connection is made, the parent should use the Scouting app, found in both the App Store and on Google Play, to stay connected with their unit.
- The Scouting app provides parents the ability to report any advancement that was completed at home.

Learn more about how to start using Scoutbook and how to connect parents to their Scouts at [Scoutbook.com](https://www.scoutbook.com).

Advancement – Cub Scouts

Q: May parents sign off on Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements?

Yes. Through July 31, 2020, parents and other adults in the

Cub Scout's family, may sign off on Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements. We strongly encourage that parents use the Scouting App or ScoutBook to record completion of their child's requirements.

Q: If my den is behind in advancement due to COVID-19, can my Cub Scout continue to work on advancement through the summer?

Yes. Cub Scouts can continue to work on their current den's advancement through July 31, 2020. This is to provide any additional time a Cub Scout needs to complete their badge of rank; if they earn their badge of rank prior to July 31, 2020, they may advance to the next rank.

♦ Q: Can the Arrow of Light (fifth-grade dens) requirements fulfill the requirement to visit a troop or attend a troop outing to function as a patrol?

Yes. Two things to keep in mind, the standard of completion for Cub Scout advancement is "Do Your Best," so given the circumstances, we want to look at the purpose behind the requirements. Remember that doing nothing is never doing your best.

Dens can visit a virtual troop meeting to see the patrol method and youth leadership in action. Since the den cannot attend a troop campout or outing, the idea is for the den to function as a patrol while attending the virtual troop meeting. During this time, a virtual den meeting where the den functions as a patrol can be done. Elect a patrol leader, pick a patrol name, play a virtual game together as a patrol. Plenty of opportunities to Do Your Best to meet the intention of the requirement. Remember to maintain all youth protection standards online.

Advancement – Scouts BSA, Venturing and

Sea Scouts

◆ Q: Can merit badge counseling or Nova/Supernova counseling be done using digital technologies like Zoom or WebEx?

Yes, registered merit badge counselors or Nova counselors/Supernova mentors may work with youth using digital platforms, ensuring that all youth protection measures noted in the Guide to Safe Scouting and BSA's social media guidelines are in place. In addition to youth protection, the advancement guidelines in Guide to Advancement (GTA) Section 7 are required.

◆ Q: Are merit badge counselors allowed to provide online instruction?

Yes. Merit badge counselors should follow the guidelines in the Guide to Advancement 7.0.3.2 and ensure you are adhering to all youth protection requirements and online communications guidelines. It is acceptable—and sometimes preferable—for merit badges to be taught in group settings, including online instruction. We currently allow group instruction at camp and merit badge midways, fairs, clinics, or similar events. These can be efficient methods, and interactive group discussions can support learning. Gathering a group online can also be beneficial. Guest experts and speakers that assist registered and approved counselors may be more willing to speak to a larger online audience. Slide shows, skits, demonstrations, panels, and various other techniques can also be employed, but as any teacher can attest, not everyone will learn all the material. Therefore, the standards we use to verify that each Scout has fulfilled requirements must not be relaxed. Merit badge counselors must be sure that each Scout has individually gained the knowledge intended. When accomplished, counselors can easily sign off requirements via ScoutBook.

Q: Can I connect directly with my Scouts/Venturers/Sea Scouts if I am a merit badge counselor?

Yes. In ScoutBook, merit badge counselors can now connect

directly with the Scouts they are counseling; see <https://discussions.scouting.org/t/march-23-2020-scoutbook-updates/165970> NOTE: Scouts/Venturers/Sea Scouts still must get approval from their leader, according to Guide to Advancement 7.0.3.0.

Q: How will I know if a Scout/Venturer/Sea Scout has obtained approval from their leader to work on a merit badge?

In the member profile, you will see if the leader has signed off with their approval.

Q: What if my member profile shows that my merit badge counselor status has expired:

Check with your council. Local councils may need to upload their latest list of approved merit badge counselors.

Q: Will unit leaders know that a merit badge counselor has connected with one of their Scouts/Venturers/Sea Scouts?

Yes. The unit Key 3 will receive an email that includes the name of the merit badge counselor, the Scout, and the name of the merit badge.

Q: What if I have other merit badge/ScoutBook questions?

See <https://help.scoutbook.com/knowledge-base/scoutbook-merit-badge-counselor-council-upload-faq/>

◆ Q: What changes have been made to rank advancement/camping requirements given the need to maintain social distancing during this time?

We have implemented temporary changes, detailed below, to allow Scouts to complete rank requirements, detailed below, by video conferencing through September 1, 2020. This deadline will be re-evaluated as needed.

The goal when using video conferencing must be to preserve the ideals and intent of each requirement as best as possible. Scoutmasters or their designee(s) should remain mindful of the Methods of Scouting, such as the Patrol Method, before implementing the modified requirements listed below. Some

advancement activities can be completed by video conferencing but not all. For example, virtual visits to a city council meeting, national historic landmarks, museums, and art galleries may be acceptable, but swimming, rifle shooting, and motorboating merit badges cannot be completed virtually.

Even when using video conferencing, all virtual campouts and activities should consist of as many elements found on a normal outdoor campout or activity as possible. The most significant difference is that patrol or troop members are not all in the same location. All existing youth protection policies and digital safety guidelines must be followed.

Tenderfoot rank requirements

1b. – Virtual patrol or troop campouts via video conferencing will be permitted.

2a. – During the same day as your virtual patrol or troop campout, assist in preparing one meal with the help of those with whom you live. Tell your patrol or troop why it was important for each person to share in meal preparation and cleanup.

2b. – During the same day as your virtual campout, demonstrate the appropriate method of safely cleaning items used to prepare, serve and eat a meal.

5a. – Explain the importance of the buddy system as it relates to your personal safety on outings and in your neighborhood. Verbally commit to following the buddy system on your next troop or patrol outing.

7a. – Tell how to display, raise, lower, and fold the U.S. flag.

Second Class rank requirements:

1a & 1c. – Virtual patrol or troop activities via video conferencing will be permitted.

3b. – Using a compass and map together, **plan** a 5-mile hike approved by your adult leader.

4. – Evidence of wild animals can be demonstrated with information or photos of your local area found online.

5c. – May be completed virtually via video conferencing on dry land.

7c. – Learn about the dangers of using drugs, alcohol and tobacco and other practices that could be harmful to your health. Discuss what you learned with your family and explain the dangers of substance addictions. Report to your Scoutmaster or other adult leader in your troop about which parts of the Scout Oath and Scout Law relate to what you learned.

8a. – May be completed virtually using video conferencing.

8d. – May be completed by comparing costs at three (3) online sites or locations.

First Class rank requirements:

1a – Virtual patrol or troop activities via video conferencing will be permitted.

2e. – On the same day as your virtual campout, serve as the cook. Supervise your assistant(s) in using a stove or building a cooking fire. Prepare the breakfast, lunch, and dinner planned in First Class requirement 2a. Supervise the cleanup.

4a. – By drawing, computer software, or other virtual methods, plan an orienteering course that would cover at least one mile. Explain why measuring the height and/or width of designated items (tree, tower, canyon, ditch, etc.) is helpful. Explain how you would complete your course using a real map and compass.

4b. – Scouts do not need to follow their route.

5a. – Evidence of native plants can be demonstrated with information or photos of your local area found online.

6e. – May be completed on dry land.

9a. – Visit may take place virtually or by phone.

9c. – Outings can include past or future plans.

10. – Invite the potential new member to a **virtual meeting or future activity using video conferencing.**

♦ Q: Will virtual camping count toward Order of the Arrow nights camping?

No, virtual camping will not count toward the 15 nights camping required for membership in the Order of the Arrow.

◆ Q: Can merit badge requirements be adapted since some elements can't be completed as stated right now?

The published guidelines for the methodology of the merit badge program and the role of the merit badge counselor is found in the Guide to Advancement, Section 7.0.0.0. It is important to remember that leaders and merit badge counselors must not make additions or deletions to requirements. The Scout is expected to meet the requirements as stated; however, in some cases, virtual "visits" may fulfill the intent of a requirement. When the requirement's intent cannot be reached virtually, the requirements cannot be completed, and the Scout must wait to complete that badge/requirement. Merit badge counselors signing off on requirements must determine to the best of their ability if the Scout has demonstrated the intended outcome.

All existing youth protection policies and digital safety guidelines must be followed.

◆ Q: Does a Scout need a hard copy of a Blue Card when working on merit badges?

No. Since the introduction of Scoutbook, the BSA has offered Scouts two ways of recording merit badge requirement completion: The Blue Card and Scoutbook. Both remain authorized methods to record merit badge work. Scoutbook is a part of the BSA Internet Advancement system, which means that entering an advancement record in Scoutbook is the same as entering it in Internet Advancement. Anyone with a BSA member ID automatically has access to a Scoutbook account through their my.scouting account.

Q: May time missed due to canceled unit meetings count toward active participation requirements?

Yes. If youth are registered and in good standing, a disruption from COVID-19 virus can be the "noteworthy circumstance" that prevents participation. This policy has been in place for many years and is explained in GTA Topic 4.2.3.1.

Q: May time missed due to canceled unit meetings count toward position of responsibility requirements?

Yes. If youth are registered and unable to meet the expectations of their positions because of COVID-19 disruptions, then units may need to waive or rethink the expectations. Just as youth must not be held to *unestablished* expectations, they must not be held to expectations that are impossible to fulfill. See GTA Topic 4.2.3.4, "Positions of Responsibility," with its six subtopics.

Q: Does the National Council grant extensions of time to complete rank requirements beyond the 18th birthday for the Eagle or 21st birthday for Summit or Quartermaster?

Yes, but only for the Eagle Scout rank as described in GTA Topic 9.0.4.0 or for Venturing Summit or Sea Scout Quartermaster as described in GTA Topic 4.3.3.0. Unit leadership must become familiar with the five tests under 9.0.4.0. The tests were designed to accommodate such obstacles as those presented by COVID-19 disruptions.

Q: Will youth who are not yet Life Scouts be allowed to apply for an extension to earn the Eagle Scout rank?

Extensions are considered only for Scouts who are Life rank. If, once a Scout achieves Life rank, it turns out that COVID-19 disruptions along the way have left them with insufficient time to complete Eagle requirements, then this may be cited when the time comes to submit an extension request.

Q: May local councils grant extensions?

Mayflower Council is granting extensions for Eagle Scout, Summit Award, and Quartermaster. Please look at the information at the following link:

<https://www.mayflowerbsa.org/petitioning-advancements/>

Normally, that is not allowed. However, due to the current situation—effective immediately and through September 30, 2020—council Scout executives may grant extensions, or delegate authority to the Council Advancement Committee to grant extensions under the following limitations:

1. It can be established that COVID-19 disruptions were the only circumstances that delayed work on Eagle Scout/Summit/Quartermaster advancement requirements, such as the service project or merit badges. If any other causes were involved, the extension request must go to the National Council following the process outlined in the GTA.
2. Extensions shall only be granted to youth in Scouts BSA who have already achieved Life rank.
3. When the council receives a COVID-19-related request for a time extension, the council reviews the request and approves it if appropriate. A written response stating the outcome of the extension request must go to the youth. If approved, the notification must be attached to the youth's Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster rank application. For Eagle, the extension must not exceed 3 months from the youth's 18th birthday; for Summit/Quartermaster, the extension must not exceed 3 months from the youth's 21st birthday.
4. Upon turning 18, the Scout must submit a completed adult application and successfully complete YPT; their participant code will now be UP for SBSA or VP for Venturing and Sea Scouting.
5. Extension requests for more than 3 months beyond the youth's 18th/21st birthday must be sent to the National Service Center following the process outlined in the GTA.

Note: A “month” in BSA advancement is defined as a day from one month to the next. For example, March 5 to April 5.

Q: If youth have already received an extension, can they request additional time due to COVID-19?

Yes. Council Scout executives may grant extensions, or delegate authority to the Council Advancement Committee to grant extensions under the limitations listed above.

Q: What should be done while an extension request is being considered?

Youth should continue to work on advancement in so far as they are able—e.g., independently, or over the phone or videoconference—and at Scouting activities once they resume.

Q: Are extensions required when an Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster board of review must be delayed?

No. Councils may grant Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster boards of review up to six months after the youth’s 18th/21st birthday. See GTA Topic 8.0.3.1, “Eagle Scout Board of Review Beyond the 18th Birthday.”

See also, GTA Topic 8.0.1.6, “Boards of Review Through Videoconferencing.”

Q: Are electronic or digital signatures acceptable for rank advancement or for the Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster packets/applications?

Yes. Electronic or digital signatures will be accepted through September 30, 2020.

Q: How can a youth continue to work on advancement requirements if they don’t have internet or high-speed internet for videoconferencing?

Youth may take a picture of their completed activity/requirement and share the work with unit leaders. In

keeping with youth protection policies, all communications from youth should be sent to at least two adults. See our Barriers to Abuse for details. Parents or guardians may send advancement work on be

Source for this information:
https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus/covid-19-faq/?utm_source=scoutingwire&utm_campaign=swvolunteer4152020&utm_medium=email&utm_content=

Rank Advancement and COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Questions and Answers

Cub Scouting/Scouts BSA/Venturing/Sea Scouting Rank Advancement and COVID-19

The following questions regarding advancement have arisen as we deal with closures, cancellations, or other issues caused by the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). Although there are difficulties and constraints, advancement can continue. Youth, parents, and leaders should work together to implement creative, common sense ways to facilitate advancement while adhering to the Guide to Safe Scouting and following the rules of Youth Protection training.

Please follow this link to the Guide to Advancement (GTA), which remains the primary source for information related to Scouts BSA advancement. It is referenced throughout the answers provided here.

All Scouting Programs

Q: How can advancement be tracked remotely?

A: Scouting units should use ScoutBook to record and track advancement.

To track advancement remotely, parents should:

1. Connect with their child's member profile via an invitation that the unit leader sends within ScoutBook.
2. Once a connection is made, the parent should use the Scouting app, found in both the App Store and Google Play, to stay connected with their unit.
3. The Scouting app provides parents the ability to report any advancement that was completed at home.

Go to help.scoutbook.com to learn more about how to start using ScoutBook and how to connect parents to their Scouts.

Cub Scouts

Q: May parents sign off on Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements?

A: Yes. Through July 31, 2020, parents and other adults in the Cub Scout's family, may sign off on Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements. We strongly encourage that parents use the Scouting App or ScoutBook to record completion of their child's requirements.

Q: If my den is behind in advancement due to COVID-19, can my Cub Scout continue to work on advancement through the summer?

A: Yes. Cub Scouts can continue to work on their current den's advancement through July 31, 2020. This is to provide any additional time a Cub Scout needs to complete their badge of rank; if they earn their badge of rank prior to July 31, 2020, they may advance to the next rank.

Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts

Q: May merit badge requirements or rank requirements be modified?

A: No. All requirements must be completed as written. If meetings or activities are canceled or limited, youth should continue to work on requirements as far as possible. By employing common sense and creative solutions, many requirements—even Scoutmaster conferences—can be fulfilled through videoconferencing or telephone calls.

Q: Can merit badge counseling or Nova/Supernova counseling be done using digital technologies like Zoom or WebEx?

A: Yes, registered merit badge counselors or Nova counselors/Supernova mentors may work with youth using digital platforms, ensuring that all youth protection measures noted in the Guide to Safe Scouting and BSA's social media guidelines are in place. In addition to youth protection, the advancement guidelines in GTA Section 7 are required.

Q: May time missed due to canceled unit meetings count toward active participation requirements?

A: Yes. If youth are registered and in good standing, a disruption from COVID-19 virus can be the “noteworthy circumstance” that prevents participation. This policy has been in place for many years and is explained in GTA Topic 4.2.3.1.

Q: May time missed due to canceled unit meetings count toward position of responsibility requirements?

A: Yes. If youth are registered and unable to meet the expectations of their positions because of COVID-19 disruptions, then units may need to waive or rethink the expectations. Just as youth must not be held to unestablished expectations, they must not be held to expectations that are impossible to fulfill. See GTA Topic 4.2.3.4, “Positions of Responsibility,” with its six subtopics.

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Q: May local councils grant extensions?

A: Normally, that is not allowed. However, due to the current situation—effective immediately and through September 30, 2020—council Scout executives may grant extensions, or delegate authority to the Council Advancement Committee to grant extensions under the following limitations:

1. It can be established that COVID-19 disruptions were the only circumstances that delayed work on Eagle Scout/Summit/Quartermaster advancement requirements, such as the service project or merit badges. If any other causes were involved, the extension request must go to the National Council following the process outlined in the GTA.
2. Extensions shall only be granted to youth in Scouts BSA who have already achieved Life rank.
3. When the council receives a COVID-19-related request for a time extension, the council reviews the request and approves it if appropriate. A written response stating

the outcome of the extension request must go to the youth. If approved, the notification must be attached to the youth's Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster rank application. For Eagle, the extension must not exceed 3 months from the youth's 18th birthday; for Summit/Quartermaster, the extension must not exceed 3 months from the youth's 21st birthday.

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Note: A "month" in BSA advancement is defined as a day from one month to the next. For example, March 5 to April 5.

In Mayflower Council our Scout Executive has delegated the authority to grant extensions to the Council Advancement Committee. The authority for councils to grant extensions is temporary, lasting only through Sept. 30, 2020.

Q: If youth have already received an extension, can they request additional time due to COVID-19?

A: Yes. Council Scout executives may grant extensions, or delegate authority to the Council Advancement Committee to grant extensions under the limitations listed above. In Mayflower Council our Scout Executive has delegated the authority to grant extensions to the Council Advancement Committee.

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2019 Silver Beaver Recipients

The Silver Beaver Award is the council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. The Silver Beaver is an award given to those who implement the Scouting program and perform community service through hard work, self-sacrifice, dedication, and many years of service. It is given

to those who do not seek it.

We are extremely proud of our 2019 Silver Beaver Award recipients. They are shining examples of Scouting service in our Council!



Gary Bernklow – Silver Beaver

Gary has been involved in Scouting for 45 years, joining Pack 39 Stow as a Cub Scout and earning both the “heavy shoulder” and the Arrow of Light. He crossed over to Troop 1 Stow and served as a patrol leader, senior patrol leader, and junior assistant Scoutmaster and earning his Eagle rank in 1984. He was also active with the Order of the Arrow during his time as a Scout, serving on the Taunkacoo executive board as a vice-chief and becoming a Vigil Honor Member of the lodge in 1983.

He was a staff member at Camp Resolute for several years and attended National Camp School. Gary is a Lifetime Member of the Camp Resolute Alumni Association and served as the chair to the Resolute 100th Anniversary Camporee in the fall of 2019.

Gary has served as an assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 1 since 1984 and has organized and led several high adventure trips for the troop to Maine, New York, Vermont, Montana (4 times), Wyoming, New Mexico, California, and is currently in the planning stages for a trip to Colorado for the summer of 2020. As a troop leader Gary has coached 69 Scouts to the rank of Eagle, including his son Connor in 2018.

During his tenure as an assistant Scoutmaster, Gary also

served the town of Stow as Chair of the Finance Committee, as a selectman, and as financial officer of the Elementary School Building Committee which reconstructed the Center School.

In 2010, he formed Troop One Stow Alumni, incorporated, as a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, often referred to as TOSA, Inc. TOSA is organized exclusively for the charitable and educational purposes of supporting Troop 1 Stow by serving as its chartering organization, assuring the safety of Troop 1 members, providing financial and other support to Troop 1 Stow, and educating and training the members of Troop 1 Stow according to the guidelines and policies of the Boy Scouts of America. The organization was established to ensure the Scouting program continues in the Town of Stow and engages young adults to continue in the Scouting program. Gary serves as TOSA's CEO.

Gary is Director Product Management at MedAptus, a medical software IT company headquartered in Boston. Gary has been with MedAptus since 2007.

Gary has been married to his wife Lori since 1993. They have two children: Connor, Eagle Scout, 19 years old and currently enrolled at the Isenberg School of Management at UMass Amherst, and Abigail 21 years of age, attending Framingham State University and studying early childhood education.



Ronald Ehnes – Silver Beaver

Ronald has been involved with the Scouting Program since September 1953 as a Cub Scout in Pack 209 Manhattan. He was a youth member and adult leader with units in the Greater New York Council until being stationed at Clark Air Base in the

Philippine Islands. He served as an assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 362 there and helped coordinate and participated in the re-enactment of the Battan Death March. He helped start a summer camp program with the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. He was also active while serving at Phan Rang Air Base in the Republic of South Vietnam where he assisted in restoring and maintaining a Catholic Orphanage.

When Ron returned from the far east, he re-engaged with Explorer Post 237 in Manhattan. He left the post in 1971. Upon being separated from the Air Force Ron was appointed to the U.S. Marshal's Service in Brooklyn, N.Y. & Delaware which made it difficult for him to participate in Scouting due to travel, overtime and warrant investigations. In December 2002 Ron and his family were invited to an Eagle Court of Honor, and his two sons were so impressed with the ceremony and Scouts that the family joined Troop 51 in January 2003.

Over his distinguished Scouting career, has received many awards – Eagle Scout Class of 1964, Vigil Honor, Scouters Key, Scouters Training Award, Scoutmaster's Award of Merit, Unit Leader Award of Merit, and the District Award of Merit. He attended Wood Badge while stationed in the Philippines through the Far East Council. In June 2019, Ron was presented with the National Outstanding Eagle Scout Award which recognizes notable Eagle Scouts who have either performed distinguished service at the local, state, or regional level or who were known nationally.

Ron is employed with the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department at the Plymouth County Correctional Facility where he has worked since April 1987. He is assigned as an Accreditation Specialist with duties as Fire Safety, Safety and Environmental Officer. Ron is a member of the National Sheriff's Association and the National Corrections Employee's Association.

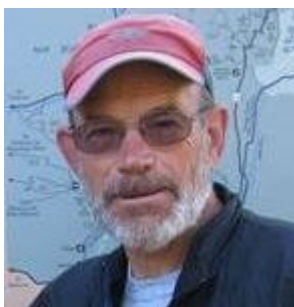
In May 1993 he received the Supervisor of the Year Award and

in June 1994 he received the Father of the Year Award from radio station WCOD.

Ron serves as a role model for the Scouts, BSA religious awards program by helping Scouts of his and different faiths to achieve their own individual religious awards. He is an active member of St. Bonaventure Parish and has attended the Generation of Faith Program with his family and assists with the Religious Education Programs when asked.

Ron provides each Scout with a sense of dignity and incentive to perform on an outstanding level. He is a merit Badge Counselor within the Troop and at M.B.U. since 2003. As an Eagle Scout, he has assisted over fifty Scouts to achieve their Eagle rank by working closely with them on advice, paperwork and guidance. Ron believes in strong youth leadership especially through the patrol method and attending National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT). In September 2011 he assisted in the organization and training of newly appointed Youth Leaders which was a great success.

Ron and his wife Karen have been married for 34 years and their two son's Michael and Justin who are both Eagle Scouts.



Peter Lane – Silver Beaver

Pete Lane was a Boy Scout growing up in western Massachusetts and attended Camp Eagle. He attended the Boy Scout Jamboree in Colorado Springs in 1960.

As a Philmont Contingent Coordinator he sits on the Council High Adventure Committee. He has led 3 Philmont and 1 Sea Base Council contingents. Pete is a Philmont Ambassador and has worked many hours promoting Philmont.

He has also attended Philmont Training Center several times and has been involved for many years as a commissioner at various levels and attends commissioner college each year, again this year as an instructor.

For more than 10 years Pete has volunteered every Tuesday at Nobscot or Camp Resolute assisting the ranger working on the needs of the camps (painting, repairing, cabins and buildings). Pete also lends a hand in the camps when we have large groups that volunteer during days of caring.

Pete is a Leave No Trace Master running training class for both Scouts and adults as well as members of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC). He has been regularly involved as an Outdoor Ethics advocate for the council as well as attending 2 National Outdoor Ethics conferences. Pete has worked tirelessly on promoting Leave No Trace and Outdoor Ethics to Scouts.

Pete has been a volunteer with the Appalachian Mountain Club for more than 10 years. He is an active bike and hike leader. He is also a North Country volunteer and an AMC Alpine Steward since approx. 2003. He currently is a member of the Franconia Notch Task Group. This past year he was awarded one of the AMCs highest club wide awards for volunteer leadership.

As a member of the Catamount Trail Association Pete leads back country ski trips and is on the Board of Directors and the Trail Committee. While regularly in Vermont, Pete volunteers with the Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports Association; an organization promoting outdoors for youth and adults with disabilities.

Pete has been running the Scout Orienteering Camporee (Scout O) serving approx. 400 Scout and Scouters at Nobscot for many years. He also served as the President and then Chairman of the Board of the New England Orienteering Club.

Pete is also member of the Appalachian Trail Association, Pete

was involved with organizing two ATC Biennial Conferences, one in Vermont and one in New Hampshire.

Pete is an avid long-distance hiker and cyclist. He has hiked the Appalachian Trail, the Colorado Trail, Long Trail and John Muir Trail in California. He cycled across the country with his daughter in 2004.

He is an active member of the Marlboro Congregational Church Men's Fellowship, serving monthly meals to senior citizens and doing repair work around the church.

Pete is a Civil Engineer in having worked in Boston, Pennsylvania, Washington DC, Baltimore, Omaha NE. He returned to Boston in 1988. He has a BS from University of Vermont and MS from Drexel University.

Pete has been married to his wife Laura for 48 years this month. Laura has been active in Girl Scouting. They have three children, Jennifer, Amy, and Carleton. Both girls earned Girl Scouting's Gold Award, and Carleton is an Eagle Scout.



Mandy Lyons – Silver Beaver

Mandy Lyons has served Scouts, BSA for 28 years, concurrent with her decades of volunteering as a Brownie, Junior, Cadet and Senior Troop leader for Girls Scouts of the USA. She has served as a unit supervisor, area programs representative and area representative to the Council committee for GSUSA as well. She was assigned to the safety committee for Hancock Elementary School, Brockton to keep children safe from strangers, drugs, and absenteeism. She has served two Jewish parent's organizations, especially chairing the school's

largest fundraiser for pre-school children.

All of her community and Scouting involvement was accomplished while working as a teacher – this goes far beyond the usual professional commitment. She has semi-retired from teaching the last seven years to assist her children with the oversight of the grandchildren.

Mandy has been a supporter of Fr Bacon's District, Council, and Camp Squanto Chaplaincy, and in her own quiet way demonstrates the principles of "Duty to God" and "Reverence". In her home and family life, Mandy places great importance on both the religious and cultural traditions of Judaism.

She has staffed sessions Scoutmaster Fundamentals, Cub Scout leader training, Akela, PowWow's, Baloo, IOLS as well roundtable staff. She has served on staff for three Wood Badge courses and on Junior Leader Training staff. Mandy has also served as an event chair for three Klondike Derbies.

She is the recipient the Scouter's Key, Scouter's Training Award, the District Award of Merit. Mandy is a brotherhood member of the Order Of The Arrow.

Mandy and her husband Steve have been married for 42 years and have 3 grown children. She was a leader in each of their Scouting units. Her son is an Eagle Scout and is presently a den leader in his son and daughter's pack. She is still active in Troop 42 in Easton and currently helps out with her oldest granddaughter's Brownie Troop. In her spare time, she finds time to crochet hats and scarfs which are donated to one of the Brockton Elementary schools to be distributed to children in need.

Mandy is a cancer survivor, but has never faltered in her dedication to helping youth in these worthy organizations.



Debra Scollins – Silver Beaver

Debra is the mother of 5 children (3 BOYS AND 2 GIRLS) ranging in ages 23-30. Her husband, Dennis, signed up the two oldest boys for Cub Scouts in 1997 and the rest is history...

In 1998, Debra volunteered to be the Marshfield Pack 79 Treasurer for 2 years and then volunteered to be the Committee Chair for 2 more years. Pinewood Derbies, Museum of Science campouts, belt loops, den meetings, monthly pack meetings, and outdoor adventures all behind them, the boys grew older, earned Arrow of Light, and joined Boy Scout Troop 212. Debra signed up to be on the Troop 212 Committee and then became the Committee Chair for the next 5 years. She registered as a Merit Badge Counselor, as well. There were many fun outdoor campouts (summer camp at Squanto was simply the highlight), community service projects, and parades. Her youngest son, decided to join Boy Scouts, too (with a little recruiting from Ross Troiano), so Debra continued as Committee Chair for Troop 212 for the next 5 years. Once again, the Scouts had even more fun canoeing, white water rafting, attending Mass Jam, and skiing. Debra's favorite thing to do in Scouting is teach Communications, Citizenship in the Community, and Family Life at Merit Badge University (MBU). All three sons are Eagle Scouts.

Debra became a Unit Commissioner in 2011, an Assistant District Commissioner in 2013 and currently serves as a District Commissioner. She has been recognized for her contribution to scouting with the Scouter's Key, Scouter's Training Award, Arrowhead Honor, District Award of Merit, the Commissioner's Key, and in 2019 received the Distinguished Commissioner Service Award. She is a 20-year Veteran of the BSA and a Master of Commissioner Science.

Debra earned a Bachelor's Degree in Management Science from Bridgewater State College. She currently works as an administrator for the Committee for Public Counsel Services in Brockton and has been with this agency for 20 years.

Her favorite training program was Wood Badge. She and fellow Commissioner, Stephen Trimble, completed course N1-225-13-1, sponsored by the Cape and Islands Council. Her ticket revolved around her work as an Assistant District Commissioner.

Ross started a Venture Crew in January 2015 and Debra volunteered to serve the first year as an Associate Crew Advisor and then Committee Chair for this unit for the next 2 years. In 2018, Debra volunteered to work with the District Advancement Committee and served as the Eagle Chair for 6 months, until her nomination to be the District Commissioner. Through her leadership as a Commissioner, Debra has amassed the largest roundtable staff in Cranberry Harbor's history and attracts as many as 72 attendees to monthly roundtables. Her Unit Commissioner Staff continues to grow.

Aside from Scouting, Debra has an interest biking (Falmouth Shining Sea Bike Trail), kayaking (Marshfield North River), crocheting, traveling (US and abroad), and in local politics. Her husband Dennis is a lifetime member of the Marshfield Democratic Town Committee and Debra has helped him during the time he served as their treasurer. Debra served as a delegate at the MA Democratic State Convention in June 2014 and worked on a campaign to help elect Deb Goldberg, as State Treasurer. Debra also worked as a campaign manager for her husband, Dennis, during his 4 elections to the Marshfield School Committee. Debra and Dennis currently serve on the Hospitality Committee of the Assumption Church in Green Harbor.

Meet Our Team

Mayflower Council employs a staff who manage and support the organization's day-to-day operations, programming and facilities. While technically operating out of our council service center, these dedicated staff spend much of their time out in our communities interacting with and supporting the districts, units and camp facilities they serve.

Council Primary Contacts



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Camping Team
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Program Team
508-217-4621



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Felicia Vaytsman Membership & Community Partnerships Executive
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Be A Part of History

As part of Camp Resolutes 100th Anniversary, the memorial site will be receiving a much needed re-design.

A new brick patio will be installed, fencing, plantings, and a large engraved stone with the Scoutmasters benediction.

Come be a part of history and purchase a brick for \$100.00. Your brick can have up to 3 lines (15 characters per line) it can be Dedicated To, In Honor Of, In Memory Of A Scout, Family Member, Company, etc. Example:

**Eagle Scout
Al Williamson
Troop 00 Sudbury**

Al Williamson is chairing this committee and they are

estimating the cost will be \$6,000. If you would like to help out with this project please send a check to Mayflower Council, BSA (please note on checks: "Memorial Site") or click on the link to make your donation by May 10th.

If you have any questions, please contact Al Williamson ajwtaw@gmail.com or 978-443-8245.

2018 Silver Beaver Recipients

The Silver Beaver Award is the council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. The Silver Beaver is an award given to those who implement the Scouting program and perform community service through hard work, self-sacrifice, dedication, and many years of service. It is given to those who do not seek it.

We are extremely proud of our 2018 Silver Beaver Award recipients. They are shining examples of Scouting service in our Council!



James Green

Scouting exists because people step forward when there is need. Jim is one of these tireless soles that always keeps his thoughts on ensuring the scouts are having fun; although you might have to remind him where to be and when.

Jim has tried to fill in where needed and make sure youth get a chance to participate. When Old Colony Council's Day Camp had no physician, he filled in, serving for 5 years. When the camp lost its location, as a member of the recreation board, he secured a location for the camp in Foxborough. When the day camp director suddenly had to leave, Jim agreed to fill in and attended the last National Camp School class 48 hours later.

Recognizing that the Foxborough Charter School had no Scouting programs he spoke to parents about forming units. When parents explained that evening program was difficult, he created a pack, troop, and crew that met as after school programs. Jim Green currently serves as Scoutmaster to Troop 314 and Advisor to Crew 314 at the Foxborough Charter School.

He continues to serve in several positions – Mayflower Council Board member, Council STEM/Nova Chair, Health Officer, and Unit Commissioner. He also serves on the committees for Pack 70 – is the former cubmaster, and member of Troop 7's committee.

Jim has been the Chair of the Board of Education and the Temple Executive Board at the Temple Beth Emunah in Easton for nearly 2 decades. During that time, he worked with the school director on grants for special needs education resulting in the only special needs religious school on the Massachusetts South Shore. Jim also created an outdoor program that encouraged youth to camp in the summer and pursue studies in the outdoors.

As a Temple Board member, he helped on 3 merger negotiations, construction of a new temple, and recruitment of three religious leaders.

On the Foxborough Recreation Board he is liaison for service projects and forest and trail use. During his tenure Camp Saint Augustine was refurbished to provide an outdoor recreation, meeting space, and day camp facility.

Jim has worked to preserve Foxborough's forest and conservation lands as part of the Recreation Board, State Forest Trails Committee and Friends of Saint Augustine Board. This resulted in new trails, a hiking map, a digital detailed map, new bridges, restoration of historic sites, clean-up of polluted areas, and a new nature education center. At the recommendation of his town he was selected by the Mass Keystone Project in 2015 for training through U Mass and Harvard University's Forest Research Center in forest conservation and community relations. He has served as a Keystone Coordinator for 4 years.

Jim attended Wesleyan University where he fell for Chery who has been his wife of 26 years. They have a son, Mitchell who attained the rank of Eagle.



Ian Johnson

Ian is a substantial contributor to Scouting in Westborough, serving as Cubmaster to Pack 100, Committee member for Troop and Pack 100. He has served at the unit level as a Webelos Leader and Assistant Scoutmaster.

Ian has been active on the Knox Trail Executive Board and the Mayflower Executive Board. He has also provided leadership for council activities including the Committee for Merger that resulted in the Mayflower Council. Ian has served on the Investment Committee, Development Committee, and Golf Committee at the Knox Trail and Mayflower Councils.

Ian has been a community leader in Westborough for many years. He participates on the Annual Westborough Good Scout Committee

and has served as its chair. He has also served ten years on the Town of Westborough Advisory Finance Committee and has held elected office as a member of the Board of Selectmen in Westborough, since 2011, has served as its Chair, and has also served on other critical Town committees.

He is graduated from Westborough High School in 1985, and in addition to earning an undergraduate degree at Eckerd College in 1989, he received a master's of science in finance degree from Boston College. He is on the Board of Trustees, the Investment, Finance, Executive & Student Committees and the ad hoc athletics working group for Eckerd College. He and his wife, Maureen, have endowed a Memorial Scholarship at Eckerd College, in memory of his mother, Penelope Ellis.

He is also a member of the executive committee for Rangers on Track and organization that was created to upgrade the outdoor sports facilities at Westborough High School.

Ian has served as a youth soccer coach from 2012 to 2016.

Ian is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Member in the Order of The Arrow and served as a Lodge Chief as a youth.

Ian is a Senior Vice President – Alternative Investments at Fidelity Investments. He and his wife Maureen, who have recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary, live in his hometown of Westborough and are raising a son, Liam, who is a Scout with Troop 100.

He has provided wise and thoughtful leadership to the Council through his roles as a Board Member, Member of the Merger Study Committee, Chair of the Budget Committee, and most recently as a member of the Strategic Planning Committee.



Michael Josti

Michael understands Scouting, indeed, learning from his grandfather, father, and mother. Mike is a third-generation scout and his son Troy is the fourth generation. His scouting career started 39 years ago as a Wolf Cub in Pack 146 Shrewsbury and he hasn't stopped since. Mike earned the Arrow of Light in 1981 and became an Eagle Scout in 1986.

He served as Lodge Chief to the Pachachaug Lodge and later Section Chief. He is a Vigil member of the OA. Mike served on staff for JLT-Greenbar Training and two Woodbadge courses. He attended NE-1-156 and is a member of the Fox Patrol.

Anyone who knows Mike, knows how much time that he invests in this program. His commitment to Scouting is driven by one real desire, providing a quality program for the youth. He is not in it for the fame and glory. He is a true scouter. It is because of that level of dedication to Scouting, his family, and his job as a State Trooper, there is little time for anything else.

He is a graduate of University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth and earned a BA in Sociology with a concentration in Criminal Justice and is currently working on his master's degree. He served as director at a YMCA Camp in Chesterfield, Virginia.

Returning to MA to work at Eastern Mountain Sports as a shift supervisor and inventory specialist. He was recruited to the Nimat District Committee as the Activities Chairman and he and his wife Christine started Explorer Post 5 in Worcester, MA.

He was asked to join the constituent services staff of the 2nd

Worcester, MA District State Senator and Minority Whip and later interviewed with the MA Executive Office of Public Safety and accepted a position as the Juvenile Justice Compliance Monitor focusing on compliance with federal and state detention statutes and regulations.

Mike was accepted to the 75th Recruit Training Troop of the Massachusetts State Police in June of 2000. Graduated as a Trooper in December 2000. He worked as a uniformed patrol member at both the Foxboro and Revere Barracks before working at State Police General Headquarters in the Research and Development Section. He competed for one-of-27, part-time/on-call slots on the Special Operations-Underwater Recovery Team in the summer of 2002 and became the Team's equipment officer shortly afterwards. certified Emergency Response Dive Instructor for the Dive Team and is a founding member of the North-East State Police Dive Team Commanders' Coalition. In the summer of 2018, the State Police assigned him to the new Division of Homeland Security and Preparedness as they again stood up an incident management assistance team.

He works with aquatics staff and he willing dons his Trooper uniform to address camp staff about being safe and not doing stupid things when they are on nights out at both Camp Resolute and Camp Squanto.

As his son Troy became older, he became a Cubmaster of Pack 66 and later the Scoutmaster of Troops 44 and 192 in Norwell and is currently registered as a committee member with Sea Scout Ship 323. He has served as a Cubmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster, Post Advisor, and in several district committee positions including Roundtable Commissioner.

Michael and his wife Christine are raising two children, Hope and Troy who is an Eagle Scout.

Michael Rotar



Michael Rotar has a life-long legacy with Scouting. During the Great Depression, Mike's father was forced to withdraw from Cub Scouts because his family could not afford to pay his dues. His father committed that he would provide his family with the opportunity to participate in Scouting. As a result, Mike joined Cub Scouts at age 8 and stayed involved in Scouting until he turned 18. At age 12 he became one of the youngest in the U.S. to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. Mike also enjoyed earning merit

badges and earned 75 and three silver Eagle palms before timing out. He attended the 1985 National Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia which included surviving the approaching Hurricane Bob, hearing the Beach Boys and waiting all day in line for a bag from a new company called Apple.

As an adult, Mike has a rich history of serving in various leadership roles in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In California, he served as an Assistant Scoutmaster and Scoutmaster in multiple troops chartered by the Church. Mike also served as the congregation's Young Men President from 2005 to 2009 working side-by-side with youth and was instrumental in helping many young men attain the rank of Eagle Scout. In his spare time, he coordinated Scouting for Food (2005-2008) and helped organize countless overnights.

After moving to Massachusetts in 2009, it didn't take long before Mike was involved again with Scouting as an Assistant Scoutmaster (2011-2013) with Troop 156 Weston. He served in Troop 156 as an active committee member from 2011-present and it was in this unit that Mike's son, Brennan, earned the rank

of Eagle Scout in 2015. In the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints, Mike began serving in the Boston Stake Young Men's Presidency in 2013 and served faithfully as President from 2014-2017. With his love of service and helping others, he encouraged Pack/Troop 156 to support Scouting for Food and served from 2011-2017 as the unit coordinator.

In 2012, Mike attended Wood Badge participating in course N1-330-12-2 and officially adopted the buffalo as his critter. Mike later served as staff on Wood Badge course N1-330-14-1 as a Troop Guide and N1-330-16-1 as Assistant Scoutmaster Troop Guides. Mike encouraged many to participate in Wood Badge and share in his love of learning how to more effectively serve and lead others.

In 2015, Mike joined the Knox Trail Council Executive Board on the Development Committee. In 2016, he played a key role in exploring the potential to merge with another council and developing and executing a successful plan to merge with Old Colony Council into the Mayflower Council. He became the first Executive Vice President of Mayflower Council in 2017 and assumed the role of Council President in January 2018.

Michael has worked in the retail industry for 25 years. He moved his family from California to Massachusetts in 2009 when he joined The TJX Companies as Vice President/Divisional Merchandise Manager. Currently Mike is an executive over Planning and Allocation with HomeGoods/Homesense out of the TJX corporate office in Framingham, MA.

He has been married to his wife Elisha for over 20 years. They live in Sudbury with their two children, Brennan (age 18) and Cambria (age 14) who both attend school at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School.

David Thomson



Dave has been married to his wife Melissa for 27 years. They raised two daughters, Molly and Madison. Molly is a high school senior and will study culinary arts next fall at Johnson and Wales and Madison is completing her degree in Nursing at UMass Boston. Dave coach both girls' athletic teams and served as the President of Madison's USA Swimming swim club for three years.

Moose has continued to give back to the Boy Scout program over the years by serving on the National Camping Schools Staff as an aquatic's instructor for 29 years working at camp schools throughout the North East Region. Dave proudly worked on the staff at Camp Resolute for 16 years starting in the aquatics area, then as assistant aquatics director, aquatics director, program director, and the last six as Camp Director. Dave even work for the Girl Scouts as an aquatic's director for four years at Camp Virginia.

Dave currently serves as president of the Camp Resolute Alumni Association, and recently joined the Board of the Mayflower Council as the VP for Membership & Relationships. He serves as the Chair to the council's Aquatics Sub-Committee and makes himself available at camp opening to help with aquatics staff development. He was also the Regional Aquatics Program contact for councils.

Dave received the Outstanding Eagle Scout Award in 2018, his Eagle Scout in 1982, and received the Order of the Arrow's Vigil Honor in 1986.

However, being nominated for the Silver Beaver isn't just about one's contribution to scouting. Dave is a professional

educator and has been shaping the minds of young people since he graduated from Framingham State in 1989. He has been a teacher, a Middle School Principal, Assistant School Superintendent, and now Superintendent of the Norwood School System. Dave was voted Massachusetts Middle School Principal of the year in 2010.

He has served as President of the of the Massachusetts Secondary School Principals Association (2009- 2010, and served as a member of the Executive board of MSSAA for 10 years. He also was elected to serve as a board member for the National Association of Secondary School Principals for four years. He is an active member of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, as well as the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

His commitment to the education of our children is ever present in what he does. Dave has served as an Adjunct Professor at Worcester State teaching methodology and meeting the needs of diverse learners, as well as the American International College teaching courses in Curriculum, Math Instructional Methodology, and Integration of Technology in education. It has been important that he share his perspectives on education with others.

Dave received his Doctorate in education leadership in 2013 and which focused on the new evaluation system used by the commonwealth for its teachers.

David truly exemplifies the exceptional service, personal effort, and unselfish dedication and interest to support his community, youth, and Scouting.

The BSA Expands Programs to Welcome Girls

Today, the Boy Scouts of America Board of Directors unanimously approved to welcome girls into its iconic Cub Scout program and to deliver a Scouting program for older girls that will enable them to advance and earn the highest rank of Eagle Scout. The historic decision comes after years of receiving requests from families and girls, the organization evaluated the results of numerous research efforts, gaining input from current members and leaders, as well as parents and girls who've never been involved in Scouting – to understand how to offer families an important additional choice in meeting the character development needs of all their children.

“This decision is true to the BSA’s mission and core values outlined in the Scout Oath and Law. The values of Scouting – trustworthy, loyal, helpful, kind, brave and reverent, for example – are important for both young men and women,” said Michael Surbaugh, the BSA’s Chief Scout Executive. “We believe it is critical to evolve how our programs meet the needs of families interested in positive and lifelong experiences for their children. We strive to bring what our organization does best – developing character and leadership for young people – to as many families and youth as possible as we help shape the next generation of leaders.”

Families today are busier and more diverse than ever. Most are dual-earners and there are more single-parent households than ever before [1], making convenient programs that serve the whole family more appealing. Additionally, many groups currently underserved by Scouting, including the Hispanic and Asian communities, prefer to participate in activities as a family. Recent surveys [2] of parents not involved with

Scouting showed high interest in getting their daughters signed up for programs like Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, with 90 percent expressing interest in a program like Cub Scouts and 87 percent expressing interest in a program like Boy Scouts.

Education experts also evaluated the curriculum and content and confirmed relevancy of the program for young women.

“The BSA’s record of producing leaders with high character and integrity is amazing” said Randall Stephenson, BSA’s national board chairman. “I’ve seen nothing that develops leadership skills and discipline like this organization. It is time to make these outstanding leadership development programs available to girls.”

Starting in the 2018 program year, families can choose to sign up their sons and daughters for Cub Scouts. Existing packs may choose to establish a new girl pack, establish a pack that consists of girl dens and boy dens or remain an all-boy pack. Cub Scout dens will be single-gender – all boys or all girls. Using the same curriculum as the Boy Scouts program, the organization will also deliver a program for older girls, which will be announced in 2018 and projected to be available in 2019, that will enable them to earn the Eagle Scout rank. This unique approach allows the organization to maintain the integrity of the single gender model while also meeting the needs of today’s families.

This decision expands the programs that the Boy Scouts of America offers for both boys and girls. Although known for its iconic programs for boys, the BSA has offered co-ed programs since 1971 through Exploring and the Venturing program, which celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2018. The STEM Scout pilot program is also available for both boys and girls.

For more information about the expanded opportunities for

family Scouting, please visit the family Scouting page.

About the Boy Scouts of America

The Boy Scouts of America provides the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training, which helps young people be "Prepared. For Life.®" The Scouting organization is composed of nearly 2.3 million youth members between the ages of 7 and 21 and approximately 960,000 volunteers in local councils throughout the United States and its territories. For more information on the Boy Scouts of America, please visit www.scouting.org.

2017 Council Annual Recognition Dinner

Come join us at the Sandy Burr Country Club in Wayland to celebrate the accomplishments of our volunteers and youth at the Annual Recognition Dinner.

This year we will honor Silver Beaver recipients – Nancy Goldberg, Mark Niedzielski, and Jay Kanavos as well as honorees for the Heritage Awards, James E. West, Eagle Scout Service Project of the year and more!

Gathering at 6PM,

Dinner at 6:45PM

When registering, please consider sponsoring a meal for a youth honoree or participant!

Registration dadline: January, 29