

From Virtual Meetings to the “Eagle’s Nest”

Celia’s Scouting journey began on the brink of history. Her first meeting was March 5, 2020, just days before the world shifted to virtual life. While others might have faltered, Celia grew with the program, transitioning from “tagging along” with her brother’s Cub Scout Pack to carving out her own legacy as one of the first female Eagle Scouts many have ever met.

A Natural in the Water



It is only fitting that Celia’s first merit badge was **Swimming**. A competitive swimmer by nature, this badge served as the gateway to **Lifesaving** and her current role as a lifeguard at Camp Norse. For Celia, the waterfront isn’t just a place of work; it’s the most beautiful place Scouting has taken her. Over the years she’s fully embraced the challenge of the water, even completing the mile swim three times!

Celia K. First
Female Eagle Scout
Camp Norse Staff
10th of August,
2025

Picture (left): Celia K. holding a plaque the Aquatics Director Travis H. gifted her for being the First Female Eagle Scout on Camp Norse Staff. Plaque reads:

Turning “Productive Failure” into Success

Every Scout has a story of a rainy campout, but Celia’s most memorable challenge was a literal test of survival. During her **Wilderness Survival** merit badge, she found herself as one of the only girls in the session without female coverage, requiring her to build her shelter near her own campsite.

“I was one of the only girls in the course and didn’t have female coverage at the wilderness survival site, so I had to build my shelter near my own campsite,” she recalls. “It wasn’t ideal since I was separated from the group, and I had to make do with what I had. I just tried my best and pushed through.”

The Eagle Project: Honoring the Fallen



Celia’s Eagle Project was born from a community need she spotted at Union Cemetery in Holbrook. Many graves were missing markers, making it difficult for families to locate their loved ones. Inspired by her mother’s service in the Army, Celia organized a massive effort to map and mark the cemetery.

Celia K. placing a flag on a veteran’s grave during Memorial Day.

The “headache” of the project? Realizing she couldn’t do it alone. “I had to learn it’s not a one-person show and ask the right adults for help,” she says. Much of that guidance came from her Eagle coach, Mr. Santorelli, who helped her navigate the process. On project day, Celia managed a large group of Scouting and non-Scouting

friends by delegating teams to specific sections of the vast cemetery.

The Rewarding Moment: “We were working on project day and I was actually able to help a family find their loved one’s marker right then and there. That was the exact second I realized, ‘We actually did this.’”

Advice for the Next Generation

Celia points to Acadia M. and Samantha K., also from Troop 22 Whitman, as Scouts she looked up to in her early days, helping inspire her as she began working through the ranks. When the Eagle slump hit during



her later years in Scouting, the Camp Norse staff encouraged her to stay involved and Celia K, Samantha helped her push across the finish line. K, and Acadia M.

If she could talk to her 12-year-old self, her advice would be simple: “Start early, enjoy the journey, and know that you can become part of the nest.”

As one of the first female Eagle Scouts many people meet, Celia takes the responsibility seriously.

To her, “Once an Eagle, always an Eagle” means living by the Scouting ideals every day. Her Scouting journey has carried her to the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, where she wears a ribbon daily to symbolize who she is as an Eagle Scout and the values she strives to live by. And if she had to sum up the whole experience in three words? “Buddy up, please!”

The Rollercoaster to Eagle

A Conversation with Molly F., Troop 1792 Duxbury

For Molly F., the path to Eagle hasn't been a straight line—it's been a rollercoaster. As we celebrate Women's History Month, we sat down with Molly to discuss how Scouting transformed her from an energetic recruit into a mature leader, Chaplain's Aide, and a community-minded innovator.

From Energy to Influence

Looking back at her first meeting, Molly admits she was a different person. "I was very energetic," she laughs. Today, she stands as a pillar of maturity and leadership in Troop 1792. That growth was fostered by mentors like Adam M. (Troop 64 Plymouth) and Alyssa B. (Troop 424 Marshfield), who showed her what a "cool," experienced Scout looked like.

Her journey began at the Casoni Museum, earning the **Scouting Heritage** merit badge while decorating for Christmas—a moment she remembers fondly as more than just a "box to check," but a genuine connection to the movement's history.

Resilience in the Rain and on the Ice

Scouting is often about "productive failure." For Molly, that meant mastering the "pop-up tent" during relentless rainstorms and learning to pivot so the fun never stopped. Physically, she pushed her limits at Base Camp in Milton, tackling her fear of heights while ice climbing—a challenge she lists as

her hardest to date.

The Eagle Project: Backpacks for Discovery

Molly's Eagle Project was born from a late-night spark of inspiration: **Library Backpacks**. These kits, filled with materials to encourage children to explore the outdoors, are available for free checkout. These are available at Plymouth, Pembroke, and Duxbury Public Libraries.

The process wasn't without its "headaches." Fundraising required Molly to cold-call organizations and companies, a task made easier by the support of local partners like **Tiny and Sons Glass Company**. On project day, Molly's leadership skills were put to the test as she managed her peers by strategically separating "best friend groups" into smaller, focused teams to keep the momentum going.

"The most rewarding moment was testing the project with my brother's Cub Scout Pack and seeing it actually work," Molly shares.

Beyond the Badge

Molly's Scouting skills have already bled into her "civilian" life. During a recent trip to a market in New York, she jumped into action to help a family whose child had a severe bloody nose. "I use First Aid all the time," she says.

As she steps into a **Junior Assistant Scoutmaster** role with Troop 143 Pembroke, Molly's advice to her 11-year-old self is simple: "You will do it. Enjoy the things you are doing in the moment. Don't worry about the future."

Shape Our Future: Join the Road Show

Dear Volunteers,

Thank you to everyone who joined us this past Tuesday for our first Key-6 Council Road Show in Norwood. Your time, engagement, and thoughtful input are truly appreciated. The feedback we received was valuable, and we are grateful for your willingness to share what is working well and where we can do better.

For those who were unable to attend, we strongly encourage you to join us at one of our upcoming Road Shows. **The next one is tonight**, and we would love to see you there.

Tonight's Road Show: Thursday, February 5, 2026

6:30–7:30 PM (Doors open at 6:00 PM)

AMVETS Post

79 Superior Drive

Natick, MA 01760

These Road Shows are your opportunity to hear directly from the Key-6 council leadership, learn more about our Strategic Plan, membership, changes, programs, ask questions, share your concerns, ideas, and suggestions. The first half of the evening focuses on sharing information; the second half is dedicated to listening to **YOU**. We will be taking notes and bringing your feedback back to the council office as we work to strengthen our support of units and volunteers. Your voice matters, and we hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to be part of the conversation. If tonight doesn't work for

you, additional Road Shows are scheduled next week.

Additional Upcoming Road Shows:

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

6:30–7:30 PM (Doors open at 6:00 PM)

Braintree Masonic Temple

403 Washington Street

Braintree, MA 02184

Thursday, February 12, 2026

6:30–7:30 PM (Doors open at 6:00 PM)

Pembroke Knights of Columbus

48 Schoosett Street

Pembroke, MA 02359

Thank you for all that you do for Scouting and for our youth.

I hope to see you at one of our stops.

Yours In Scouting,

Juan F. Osorio

CEO | Scout Executive

Serving MetroWest and South Shore Massachusetts

P: 508-217-4614 | www.MayflowerBSA.org

Mayflower Council Roundtable

Feb. 2026

Thanks to all who participated in our February Roundtable. Slides from the session are posted below. Also, please find the Weather related safety and when to cancel an event information sheets, a recap of the comments on converting

Scouts BSA troops to family troops along with the intent to convert form, and the presentation on Mayflower Summer programs including the Camp Squanto specific items discussed in the Troop/Crew/Ship breakout. The Cub breakout slides are included in the main presentation in the Cub Announcements & Events section.

Next roundtable is Wed. Mar. 11 at the Furnace Brook Middle School in Marshfield. Our main presenter is Blake Dinius, Plymouth County Entomology Extension Educator who will discuss insect hazards and invasives. This promises to be an interesting and informative presentation, I hope you will join us.

FebRT-Slides_FinalPost

Weather-Related-Safety

When to Cancel an Event Due to Weather

Recap of converting Scouts BSA units to Family Troops comments

Intent to Convert to Family Troop Form

SummerOfAdventure_MayflowerSummerCampPrograms

The Secret Resource for Scouting Success

From the Desk of Rich Carlson, Council Commissioner

Any good team needs a good coach to help provide the pathway to a successful season. Look no further than Coach Vrabel of our Super Bowl-bound New England Patriots. Many experts agree that his leadership and relationship-building have been the reason for his team's extraordinary turnaround this season.

The Role of the Unit Coach Truth be told, Unit Commissioners—or as we like to call them, “Unit Coaches”—have been around since Scouting first started. In fact, they were a key element developed by Baden-Powell and Scouting's founders.

Unit Coaches are not a secret at all, but rather Scouters whose primary job is to work with unit leadership and committees to develop a custom vision for success. By establishing an ongoing relationship and having meaningful conversations, they use their experience to bring out the unique strengths of each unit.

Why Your Unit Needs One:

- **Expert Guidance:** They help navigate the “playbook” of Scouting.
- **Local Intel:** They have a detailed understanding of what’s happening in your community and within the Mayflower Council.
- **Problem Solvers:** Got a question? Ask a Unit Coach. If they don’t know the answer, they’ll find it for you.

We Need You on the Sidelines The unfortunate fact is that we currently have far more units in our Council than we have Unit Coaches. You can help us turn that around by stepping up to use your Scouting knowledge in service to local units.

We provide the training and support; all you need is a desire to see every Scout learn and grow in a positive environment. You can become a Unit Coach for a newly assigned unit or even for your own.

Interested in leveling up your unit or joining the coaching staff? Contact me.

Yours in Scouting,

Rich Carlson

Council Commissioner

Mayflower Council Roundtable

Jan. 2026

Slides from our January Roundtable session are posted below. Please note the Wood Badge Online information session, Tue. Jan. 20 at 7:30 PM – see the separate Wood Badge Information

sheet for more information. Also posted please find the January safety moment on risk assessment, a Cub RT AOL to Scouts BSA transition information sheet, a sheet on Troop visits for AOL Scouts, a sheet on parent engagement, one on welcoming and engaging Scouts and parents, one on Parent engagement to boost membership, references on Cub youth and adult recognition and ceremonies from the Pack breakout and from our December RT, the Troop/Crew/Ship breakout presentation on integrating Scouts and parents in your unit. Our next session is Wed. Feb. 4, 7:00 PM, at the Mayflower Council Service Center in Milford. Lauren Barone will be presenting on summer programs at our camps. I hope to see you there.

JanRT-Slides_FinalPost

Wood Badge 2026 Info Sheet

Jan-Safety-Moment-Risk-Assessments

Cub-RT-AOL-to-SBSA

Troop-Visits-for-Arrow-of-Light-Scouts-

RT-HT-Welcoming-and-Engaging

Parent-Engagment-Helps-Boost-Membership-Retention

Cub-YouthAndAdultRecognitionAndCeremonies

FromDecRT-Troop-Crew-Ship_breakout-Integrating Scouts and
Parents in Unit