

Alyssa B. Earns 2023 Eagle Scout Project Prize

Troop 424 G Marshfield Scout also took regional accolades...

Marshfield, Mass. – The Mayflower Council NESA Committee proudly announces Alyssa B. of Troop 424 Marshfield as the distinguished winner of the council's 2023 "Adams Eagle Scout Project of the Year."

The National Eagle Scout Association established the Glenn A. and Melinda W. Adams National Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year Award (ESSPY) to recognize valuable service of an exceptional nature by an Eagle Scout candidate to a religious institution, a school, community, or other entity through completion of an Eagle Scout project.

Examples of projects selected for the ESSPY include undertakings that have benefited underprivileged children and recognized veterans, have been international, and require significant time and resources.



Working on the project with fellow Marshfield Scouts.

Alyssa's project created an octagonal fire pit pergola for the Boys and Girls Club of Marshfield. The structure included six hanging porch-style swings, a multiuse whiteboard, a firewood holder, a stone fire pit, and four benches. The entire project measured 24 x 24 feet.

The selection of recipients begins locally through the council NESA committee. The council selects a recipient for their respective council from the list of submitted nominations and then forwards a worthy candidate to the National Eagle Scout Association for regional consideration.

As such, Alyssa's exceptional dedication and commitment have earned her recognition beyond Massachusetts and the Territory Project of the Year, catapulting her to the national stage.



Alyssa B. takes photos of the completed pergola.

Following in the footsteps of previous winners, including Owen E. from Troop 193 Easton in 2022 and Eric H. from Troop 28 Cohasset in 2021, Alyssa's remarkable achievement marks the third consecutive year of Mayflower Council representation at the national competition.

As the Mayflower Council looks toward the future, the 2024 application period promises to continue the tradition of excellence established by Alyssa and her predecessors.

Congratulations to Alyssa B. and all those who have contributed to this remarkable achievement.



Alyssa B. of Troop 424 G Marshfield

Eagle Scout Project of the Year Nominations

 **Mayflower Council NESA Committee Is now accepting nominations for the 2017 Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year.**

The National Eagle Scout Association established the Glenn A. and Melinda W. Adams National Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year Award to recognize valuable service of an exceptional nature by a Scout to a religious institution, a school, community, or other entity. The award recognizes the Scout for his Eagle Scout leadership service project, which is part of the requirements for earning the Eagle Scout Award. Each year, the Mayflower Council National Eagle Scout Association Committee may select a winner from the applications received.

The recognition consists of a bronze device for the Eagle square knot, and a \$250 award. Our winner's Service Project will be submitted to the NE Region NESA Committee for consideration of their \$500 award. If the Region selects his project, he will be in consideration for the National \$2,500 award

Eligibility

You must have completed your Eagle Board in calendar 2017.

How to Apply

To download the Application for the Glenn A. and Melinda W. Adams National Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year. [Click Here For Application](#)

A complete duplicate copy of your Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook (previously submitted by you to the Eagle board of review committee) must be attached to your application. Please note this copy will NOT be returned to you.

Applications must be received in the Council office or E-mailed on or before January 22, 2018. Your completed application should be sent to:

EMAIL: mayflowernesa@gmail.com

(By US Mail to:)

NESA Eagle Scout Service Project Award

Mayflower Council BSA

2 Mount Royal Avenue, Suite 100

Marlborough, MA 01752

Send your application in today!

New Eagle Scout Service

Project Workbook

There is a new Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook available. Please make sure that your Life Scout is using the correct workbook when requesting a project review from the district. Download the new workbook. For more information and details contact your district advancement chairperson.

[Learn More](#)

Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook Updated

Advancement Update: A revised Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook for 2019 has been posted and is available here. The content is basically unchanged and revised to reflect gender-neutrality.

2019 Eagle Scout Service Project Of The Year

Mayflower Council NESAC Committee

Is now accepting nominations for the

2019 Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year

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Eligibility

You must have completed your Eagle Board in calendar 2019.

How to Apply

For more information and to download the Application for the Glenn A. and Melinda W. Adams National Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year, please visit:

NESA Adams Award

A complete duplicate copy of your Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook (previously submitted by you to the Eagle board of review committee) must be attached to your application. Please note this copy will NOT be returned to you.

Applications must be received in the Council office or E-mailed on or before January 21, 2020

Your completed application should be sent to:

US Mail to:

NESA Eagle Scout Service Project Award

Mayflower Council BSA

2 Mount Royal Avenue, Suite 100

Marlborough, MA 01752

Or Email a PDF copy to: nesa@mayflowerbsa.org

BSA Changes Its Name To Scouting America

The new name reflects the continuing efforts to welcome everyone to experience the benefits of Scouting.

Milford, Mass. (May 7, 2024) – The Boy Scouts of America today announced that it will be changing its name to Scouting America. This change reflects the organization's ongoing commitment to welcoming every youth in America to experience the benefits of Scouting. The name change will go into effect on February 8, 2025, the organization's 115th birthday.

This announcement also comes as the organization celebrates the fifth anniversary of welcoming girls into Cub Scouting and Scouts BSA programs. Boy Scouts of America currently serves 176,234 girls and young women across all programs, including more than 6,000 who have earned Eagle Scout status.

"We're excited to be a part of Scouting America's national launch!" said Council Executive Juan Osorio. "Here at Mayflower Council, we've always believed that Scouting is for all young people who are ready for adventure, leadership, and service. This new name reflects that commitment on a national scale, and we're thrilled to welcome even more youth into our programs. We're especially proud of the many young women who have thrived in Scouting these past five years, with thousands achieving the prestigious Eagle Scout rank. Scouting America opens a new chapter, and we can't wait to see what the future holds for all Scouts!"



Scouting America builds on the organization's 114 years of helping America's youth. Its ongoing goal is to provide young people with a safe environment where they can learn meaningful life skills and have fun, educational experiences, fostering their growth and future outcomes as leaders, and be prepared for life. At the same time, values instilled by the Scout Oath and Law help prepare young people for lives of purpose and impact.

Mayflower Council, established in 2017, is the result of the consolidation of Scouting programming that has served Greater Metro West and the South Shore areas of Massachusetts for over a century. Comprised of territory that was once part of the Algonquin, Norumbega, Knox Trail, Squanto, and Old Colony Councils, the Mayflower Council is rich with the traditions and history of generations of Scouts and Scouting families.

More than 130 million Americans have been through Scouting programs since its founding in 1910, and currently, more than

1 million youth, including both men and women, are served by 477,000 dedicated adult volunteers in local councils throughout the country. To date, more than 2.75 million youth have earned Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout.

In addition to supporting the nation's youth, Scouting America will continue to be an important asset to strengthen our communities, having provided more than 7 million hours of volunteer services for community improvement and other projects across the country.

About Scouting America

Scouting America provides the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training, which helps young people be "Prepared. For Life.®"



"Boy Scouts of America" is

Scouting America welcomes all of *now Scouting America*

America's youth into its programs. Our goal is to give them fantastic experiences in the outdoors, and elsewhere, where they can grow with us in a safe environment. More than 130 million Americans have been through our programs since our founding, and currently more than 1 million youth are served by 477,000 dedicated adult volunteers in local councils throughout the country.

To learn more about Scouting America's mission, visit [Scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org).

About Mayflower Council



Headquartered in Milford, Massachusetts, the Mayflower Council serves the Metrowest and South Shore areas sharing the fantastic benefits of Scouting to over 6,900 youth and 2,900 volunteer adults in 2023. The Boy Scouts of America continues to prepare young people for life by providing the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training. Learn more about the Mayflower Council at www.mayflowerbsa.org.

Meet the New Scout Executive Juan F. Osorio

Mayflower Council's new Scout Executive, Juan F. Osorio, arrives in Milford, Massachusetts, from the Chattahoochee Council in Columbus, Georgia, where he has served as Scout Executive since 2018. Before assuming this position, Juan held various roles in the Narragansett Council (Providence, RI), where he grew up as a Scout and earned his Eagle Scout Rank. He began his tenure at the Mayflower Council at the beginning of March, succeeding Bryan Feather, who retired in December 2023. Osorio recently sat down with MayflowerBSA.org to provide insights into his personality and hopes for the Mayflower Council and Scouting overall.

This is the first of a two-part Q&A.

John Bishop for MayflowerBSA.org: Juan, please tell us about your beginnings in Scouting.

Juan Osorio, Scout Executive, Mayflower Council: I started Scouting in the first grade. My next-door neighbor was a Cub Scout. Every Saturday, he would attend a Cub Scout meeting across the street at the church. One Saturday, I asked him where he was going; he said, "Come and join me," and I have been in Scouting ever since. I was instantly hooked on the program, and ultimately, I became the second Eagle Scout of Troop 3 Central Falls, Rhode Island, a ScoutReach unit. During my time in the troop, our Scout Executive, Dave Anderson, would take ScoutReach kids hiking at Mount Mercy. When I was 16, I had the opportunity to go with the group and Dave. During that campout, I realized I wanted to do what Dave did and work for the BSA for the rest of my life. I wanted to be a Scout Executive. I wanted to give back to the program that's given me so much and be devoted to offering Scouting to kids nationwide.

MayflowerBSA.org: Explain "ScoutReach" to people unfamiliar with it.

Juan Osorio: ScoutReach is the BSA's vehicle to reach inner-city, at-risk youth. The Narragansett Council has a solid ScoutReach program. They went to schools and community centers in areas that had a high poverty rate, where there's a higher percentage of single-parent families, kids being raised by grandparents, aunts, and uncles, and families that face increased adversity. They offered the Scouting program to those families at a heavily subsidized cost through ScoutReach, allowing them to enjoy Scouting and attend summer camp. When I started my profession with the Boy Scouts of America, I began as a ScoutReach Program Specialist. It was my job to go into these low-income communities and be the Cubmaster and Scoutmaster to multiple different Scout groups

so that they could find a quality program locally.

MayflowerBSA.org: Are you born and raised in Rhode Island?

Juan Osorio: No, I was born in Medellin, Colombia. My mother brought my sister and me to this country when I was just three, and my sister was eight. I grew up in Central Falls, Rhode Island, and graduated from Central Falls High School. I lived in Rhode Island until I moved to Georgia to be a Scout Executive there.

MayflowerBSA.org: Now, just by showing up with the name Juan, you're changing the look of the Mayflower Council. And the Mayflower Council itself has already earmarked diversity as one of the things it needs to improve. What are you bringing to the table, besides yourself, to ensure we reach as many different types of people as possible?



Osorio with a group of Georgia Scout Executives.

Juan Osorio: As a minority, diversity is critical and very near and dear to my heart. I have worked with the National Boy Scouts of America on the Citizenship and Society Merit Badge; I am a co-founder of the L.I.S.T.O.S., the Hispanic Work Resource Group for the BSA; and I was part of the first edition of the employee DEI training with the National Boy Scouts. Again, because I am a minority and have faced adversity as one in this country, I need to make sure that we are equitable across the board, not only in ethnicity but also in gender, sexuality, and age. All of them will be our focus as we move forward to ensure that we are fully inclusive to all our families and youth, allowing them to join and enjoy our great programs, regardless of background.

MayflowerBSA.org: That is in keeping with Baden Powell's original intent. For example, he brought poor and wealthy kids together and did his first experimental Scout camp. He also helped start the Girl Guides. How do you speak to the traditionalists in Scouting regarding the future?

Juan Osorio: Scouting brought specific values to the United States from the UK, many of which have stayed the same for 114 years. However, the Scouting program differs today from 20 or 30 years ago. The world has changed, we in the BSA have evolved, and we must continue growing to meet today's families' needs. Millennial parents, our target audience, have a different philosophy on life from those of prior generations. And so, we have to meet that market. While Scouting has had an incredible history in our nation, we continue to evolve to stay relevant to today's society while staying true to the values found in the Scout Oath and Law. We're teaching character, and we should be able to teach character to all the kids in the United States of America.

MayflowerBSA.org: Part of that character and roots in the Scout Law makes it possible for the Scouts to adapt to people's schedules and have multiple focuses in the family. What would you say to a child or a child's family who says,

"My kid plays baseball and soccer?" How does Scouting fit into that web of wonderful things that children do?



Juan Osorio with Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Ralph

Puckett, Distinguished Eagle Scout.

Juan Osorio: For many years, Scouting has faced the challenge of kids enjoying sports and many other activities along with Scouting. Our unit leaders have been very adaptable to allow those schedules. Scouting is one day a week, for the most part. We do outdoor activities and campouts but are flexible, which is excellent. Our parents can do much more with their child at home through Scoutbook and other interactive means that allow us to extend our program into their households. Technology is a great thing, but technology has caused us to work longer hours as adults. We go home, we're at the dinner table with our family or watching TV, and we might be on our cell phones looking at our emails. That's the challenge that we face in today's day and age. As we digitilize our program more, it gives those families more access to enjoy it. Again, we must continue evolving to stay relevant in our market.

MayflowerBSA.org: To that end, Scouts BSA are kids who are dealing with academics, athletics, art, and music – all those beautiful things that may make a focus solely on an Eagle Scout or an Eagle Scout project difficult.

Juan Osorio: As an Eagle Scout, I have a lot of love and respect for those of us who attain that rank. However, Scouting is much more than that, and too often, as an organization, we focus only on Eagle Scouts. We have to focus on the delivery of our program. Suppose a Scout in our program is interested in the outdoors rather than our advancement. In that case, they should be allowed to continue to be in the program and enjoy it. Advancing, while important, is not the only facet or purpose of our organization. Some Scouts might enjoy merit badges, others the outdoors. Some may enjoy the weekly meetings and not like to go camping. Others might want to make it to Eagle Scout by age 15, and others, like myself, might barely scrape by and hand in their Eagle Scout application the day before they turn 18.

MayflowerBSA.org: As adult leaders, we don't want to turn away anyone interested in Scouting, even if they aren't solely focused on the ultimate goal of the Eagle.

Juan Osorio: Our program is a well-rounded program that welcomes everybody. Suppose that means kids want to enjoy the program without the advancement? In that case, that is perfectly okay. As a former Scoutmaster who has produced 17 Eagle Scouts, outside of those 17 Eagle Scouts, I had hundreds of kids who benefited from our program that, to this day, see me in a grocery store and thank me for providing them with a quality program and values they continue to carry. They're not Eagle Scouts but retain many values that Scouting taught them. It's not a pass or fail; it's not "Eagle Scout" or "no Scout." There are a lot of other opportunities within our program for our Scouts to learn and grow.

MayflowerBSA.org: One of the things I've heard recently, anecdotally, is that being an Eagle Scout no longer helps people on the way to college and employment success. That's probably wrapped into some harsh realities the Boy Scouts of America have faced over the last few years. What do you say to that?

Juan Osorio: Being an Eagle Scout has directly opened doors for me. I went to Rhode Island College and was part of the PEP program. They only accepted about 30 incoming college students. The only reason I got accepted was that I was an Eagle Scout. It helped me in my life and continues to benefit me. As a Scout Executive, I meet and work with many C-suite corporate leaders. Time and time again, they will tell me that if they see a candidate is an Eagle Scout on their application, they will consider them. It's not a shoo-in, but a "Hey, this person has accomplished a lot at a young age; they can be great on my team," giving them more opportunities. There are still a lot of other skills that they must prove. However, Scouting generally teaches the soft skills our youth do not receive because of the other challenges they face. I

think employers, now more than ever – especially after COVID – are realizing that. It's the soft skills that they're looking for in some of these new employees coming into the corporate world.

MayflowerBSA.org: Soft skills? Meaning teamwork, civics, and leadership training?

Juan Osorio: It is as simple as conversing and looking your manager in the eye. Something as simple as knowing how to interact in a team setting. Those are things that we teach. Those are the types of soft skills that colleges and employers are looking for.

Look for Part 2 next week...



Stoughton Scouts Attain Eagle

Congratulations to Neil G, Aadil K.

Their local school system recently lauded the accomplishments of two new Mayflower Council Eagle Scouts.

Neil G. and **Aadil K.**, seniors at Stoughton High School and stalwart Scouts BSA of Troop 516 Stoughton, completed their Eagle Scout Project and passed their Board of Review.

The official Stoughton Public Schools Facebook page explained:

For his service project, Neil built several bat houses out of wood and constructed them with the help of his Troop. These bat houses are placed throughout the wooded areas to shelter these valuable animals.

Aadil made two historical signs at the newly renovated Glen Echo Park describing two lost buildings on the property: the Dance Hall and the Hotel Inn. You can visit Glen Echo to see the signs and learn more about each structure!

According to recent statistics from the Boy Scouts of America, only about 6% of Scouts attain Scouting's highest rank. To achieve the high rank, an individual must take on leadership roles within their Troop and community and earn at least 21 merit badges covering various topics such as first aid, safety, civics, business, and the environment. Additionally, they must research, organize, and complete a significant community service project.

Neil and Aadil, who camped at Camp Wanocksett during the summer of 2023, join 2022 Eagle achievers Matthew H. and William B.M. on an ever-growing list of Troop 516 Scouts earning the BSA's most outstanding achievement.

Troop 516 Stoughton, established in 1957, documents their first Eagle as **David Conrad '62**.

"In earning this rank, young people gain new skills, learn to overcome obstacles, and demonstrate leadership among their peers and in their communities," said Roger Mosby, outgoing president and CEO of the Boy Scouts of America in 2021. "Scouting's benefits are invaluable, and we are elated that the opportunity to become an Eagle Scout is now available to even more youth—young men and young women alike."

Congrats to Neil, Aadil, and all of their fellow Scouts who attained Eagle status in 2023.

Scouts Honor: Everett L., Troop 89 Medfield

"On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

That's what the "Scout Oath" says. And for all BSA Scouts, that serious statement remains omnipresent. But for certain Scouts, the desire to live by the Scout Oath becomes a primary focus.

For that reason (and many others, certainly) Everett L., of

Medfield's Troop 89, will soon receive a Congressional Award gold medal – the U.S. Congress' highest award for youth civilian service; an achievement that "recognizes initiative, service, and achievement in America's youth."

Much like Scouting, participants in the Congressional program set goals across four areas – public service, personal development, physical fitness, and exploration.

Those who earn the Congressional Award complete a minimum of 400 hours of community service, 200 hours of personal development, 200 hours of physical fitness, and a minimum of a five-day, four-night expedition/exploration (over two years).

In 2021, over 50,000 students across the US enrolled, with only 5,000 being recognized for any award and only 517 receiving the gold. Nearly 2,000 of the applicants came from New England, and last year, just one gold was given out in New Hampshire and eight in Massachusetts for 19 total across the six New England states.

Since the program's inception in 1979, approximately 6,000 gold medals have been awarded and Scouts BSA has been a partner program of the Congressional Award since 1999.

"Most of my activities for the Eagle Scout rank counted towards the requirements of the Congressional Award," explained Everett, whose family lives in Meredith, New Hampshire. "I also looked for ways to use technology in service projects; STEM tutoring for local students, 3D printing of objects for the handicapped, and creating educational drone videos."

Of course, service is a way of life for the Scout, who attends New Hampton School (also in New Hampshire) as a member of the Class of 2024, twice earning the NHS award for "100 Hours of Service."

"Everett is a very hardworking, independent young man. He

accepts new challenges without second guessing and is a perfect model of a community citizen," said Mr. Ryan Daye, Everett's advisor at NHS. "I am grateful to have him in my advisory group here at The New Hampton School."

"Everett comes in and gets the work done," added Mr. Tony Mure, also of NHS. "Everett is a shining example of hard work, discipline, and focus. His ability to work independently and follow directions is second to none.

"He is a natural-born leader."

Everett's Scouting resume says the same.

"Everett is a 'Scout's Scout' who came in as a sixth grader with no background in Cub scouts," said Scoutmaster Jim Hatch in his commendation for the Eagle Badge [completed in May of 2022].

"His passion for engineering is very clear," added Hatch. "His integration of his love of technology and the medal's service requirements is very creative."

A member of the Tantamous Lodge of the Order of the Arrow, where his ordeal and vigil hours counted towards his Congressional Award service requirements, Everett used Scouting as a scaffold for the Congressional program.

"It really builds off of Scouting," he said. "And then it gives you the flexibility to create service projects that you design, which is where I was able to look for ways to use technology and engineering to help my community."

Meanwhile, pursuing the Congressional award is also a family affair, Everett's mother, Wendy,, was recognized for the Bronze Medal out of Culpeper, Virginia as a high school senior in 1994. Everett's sister, Lillian, Inter-Lakes class of 2026, is currently pursuing a medal.

"Service is important to our family, the award is a great

program, and Troop 89 is a wonderful way for young people to learn about helping others,” said Wendy.

“I’ll get a degree in engineering,” added Everett. “My service projects have really shown me how to use technology and science for the betterment of the community and I will continue that.”

However, for now, the Scouting adventure continues.

Everett is one of the 14 members of Troop 89 who will be hiking through the New Mexico back country at Philmont Scout Ranch in July of 2023 and plans to attend the Troop’s annual week at Camp Squanto near Plymouth, MA.

Congratulations and “Good Scouting!” Everett.

—

Fred Lybrand contributed to this report.

New Board Member Believes Scouting Is Integral

In 2017 when her son **Arnav** earned Eagle, **Sangeet Srikanth** told fellow parents at his **Troop 355 Newton** Court of Honor:

“It structures their lives and gives them the most valuable experience that even the best high school education cannot provide.”

“None of the experiences in Scouting can be measured in terms of letter grades, GPA, test scores – but you can witness and

experience it everyday in your son's life," added Srikanth. "As a parent, I can attest that scouting makes parenting easier.

"But Scouting also does something no other activity can: It helps [children] develop a strong, positive moral character – it is integrity, courage, fortitude, honesty, loyalty, being fair and just; caring, trustworthy, and responsible.

"As a high school teacher, I can say that our education system does not teach several life values & skills in classrooms; you learn them outdoors.

"It is a latent collection of all these experiences that make them, in the end, self-reliant human beings!"

In his famous essay "Self-Reliance," transcendalist philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson said of boyhood education:

"The power which resides in him is new in nature, and none but he knows what that is which he can do, nor does he know until he has tried."

Over 180 years later, Emerson's fellow philosopher Srikanth – who emigrated to the United States to achieve a Master's Degree at Boston University – told the BSA's official blog, "As a driven and motivated woman, I have been in pursuit of academic achievement all my school years.

"But after coming to the U.S. and getting exposed to a lot of activities that kids can get involved in, I wanted them to be holistically educated and not focus only on academics."

Through Scouting, Sangeet, a recent addition to the Mayflower Council board, says her son and now her daughter Anishka have done just that and have tried much more than they would have solely in the classroom.

"Many scouting skills prepare them to face a challenge, learn teamwork, and plan ahead of time. And if things go wrong, they go wrong," Srikanth recently told *MayflowerBSA.org*. "You bounce back and try to try a different way or a different thing."

"For example, when they're doing an Eagle project, many things go differently than planned. The deadlines, the project proposal, and many aspects help them understand it's not always as you plan; you must just be ready for things to change."

"And you should be willing to change and make newer plans because the old one doesn't work anymore," she said.

Of course, Scouting recently changed, too, just in time for Sangeet's daughter **Anishka** to join **Newton Troop 209G**.

"Fortunately, the BSA started enrolling girls in 2019, and the next thing she did was enroll in Scouting," said the elder Srikanth, who marveled at the maturity and confidence her daughter garnered through Scouts BSA. "She became accommodating but at the same time stood up for justice and started speaking for herself."

"Her ability to differentiate and make correct choices helped her mature much faster than some of her peers."

Through the eyes of her children and with her own Scouter's eyes (Sangeet is also the Scoutmaster of Troop 209G), Srikanth recently enlarged her Scouting family – several hundred times over.

You see, Sangeet joined the Mayflower Council Board with a focus on Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DEI), and

alongside peers across the BSA landscape, will look to ensure Scouting truly is for everyone.

Srikanth believes the national organization is moving closer to the truth of the Scout law through its inclusion initiatives.

“Now that we have started taking girls, it’s more diverse... including kids from different socioeconomic backgrounds, people of color,” she explained.

“My son, I think, was the only South Asian child. But now I see many Indian families putting their kids into Scouting, whether a boy or a girl,” continued Mayflower’s Diversity Chair. “And I know quite a few families that I can proudly say got inspired by my talking to them in the last three years about how Scouting has shaped my son.

“And I can definitely tell you that if my son were not in Scouts, with those seven years of Scouting and what it did for him, he would’ve been a completely different person in terms of his personality, taking up responsibilities, and being able to face failure,” she said. “In high school and college, he faced many failures, but he accepted failure and dealt with it much better than I did when I was his age.”

To that point, Sangeet believes Scouts give kids a safe space to try, fail, *and* try again.

“Failing in front of a boss, a team, or an office, or even in college, is scary,” explained Srikanth, whose son Arnav will soon graduate from the University of Illinois. “But if things have gone wrong [at times in] 5th, 6th, and 7th grade and in front of 20 other Scouts, they learn how to deal with it pretty fast.”

Today, and with those valuable experiences in mind, the new board member is ready to spread the message about the merits of Scouting to an ever-expanding group. Being independent,

speaking up to themselves, and being able to go in front of an audience and present themselves are all skills developed through Scouting, explained the Scoutmaster.

Meanwhile, the fun – especially fun found outdoors – remains a program highlight.

Seeing her children have experiences she did not makes Sangeet Srikanth want to give others the same opportunities.

“The camping and outdoor trips, outdoor experiences with the hiking and the swimming and all the activities that we do, [Arnav and Anishka] both have enjoyed and loved the outdoors,” she said. “I come from a background where I never had any of these [experiences]. I grew up in India and was raised in a very conservative time; there were not many things girls were allowed to do... There were so many restrictions.

“So I had always wanted to do something adventurous but couldn’t,” she added. “When Scouting came my way, it was like living my life again through my kids.”

And Sangeet’s adventure continues! Look for more from Srikanth and Mayflower Council’s DEI work in the coming months.