

Resources for Answering Questions

Scouting instills values, gives youth a competitive edge and helps them become resilient adults, adults who lead. Scouting brings families together and gives them the platform for true, quality time together, where memories can be made that last a lifetime.

We also recognize that in your social circles, some may wonder about Scouting. They may ask questions about things they've heard or seen. They may be confused about who we are and what we do.

To help you answer those questions, we've put together a few tools for you.

We need to remind our communities why Scouting has thrived for more than 110-years. While we've evolved over the decades, along with our country, our values remain grounded in the same Scout Oath and Law.

Every family in our country should be invited and welcomed into Scouting.

If parents want their children to:

- Be of good character
- To experience the outdoors
- To make friends
- To have fun
- To learn things that will help them navigate life
- To be inspired to find careers and lifelong hobbies
- To work cooperatively with peers and adults
- And so much more

Then, they should try Scouting.

Please use the following tips and tools to help facilitate conversation as needed. You may have already received that question: “What’s going on with Scouting? What am I hearing about?”

Tell Your Story

Lead with your story. Share why you choose Scouting for your family. If you’re a volunteer, explain why. Share the impact you’re making. If they know you, they will connect with your genuine assessment.

Share How Scouting Continues

Share with them what Scouting is doing. While you can reference some national results, Scouting by the Numbers, focus on what your unit is doing locally. Share that in our local council, units have been meeting through the pandemic, either online, or in-person following all the safety guidelines of the Commonwealth. Remember that the local council has offered significant virtual programming since the start of COVID-19 including service projects, virtual campouts, activities, and advancements. The council also has a robust plan to support units with virtual and in-person programming this fall.

Ask What They Heard

Ask them what they've heard. If it's related to the national bankruptcy case or the advertising they may be seeing connected to past cases of abuse, please be prepared to address those questions. Please review the following tools to help you better understand these complex issues and help you better answer questions:

- 3-Things to Know about the BSA Restructuring
- Youth Safety Fact Sheet
- Bankruptcy FAQ

If you encounter a question you can't answer or need some help, do not hesitate to reach out to our Director of Field Service, Rick Riopelle.

Before any conversation about Scouting ends, don't forget to invite them to join. The easiest way to do that is to invite them to join your unit and they can register online at www.BeAScout.org.

Outdoor Experience Starts This Saturday!

There is still time to register for Saturday's ***Outdoor Experience*** event at Resolute Base Camp in nearby Bolton, MA. Climb the monkey bridge, shoot BB guns, throw tomahawks or try the orienteering course. There are nine activity areas to explore including cooking, pioneering, navigation, first aid,

camping and fire building. There's plenty to do and outdoor skills to learn under the guidance of a knowledgeable staff.

Outdoor Experience is an activity day offered on select weekends throughout the year. Units can work towards specific advancements and awards while non-Scouts can participate in fun outdoor activities and skills development – all following the latest Covid-19 protocols.

Our first ***Outdoor Experience*** was a huge success with Scouts and families and we're excited to offer our next event this **Saturday, June 19.**

Learn all about Resolute Base Camp and get registered for Outdoor Experience today:

Farewell Good Friend

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the retirement of Rick Poirier, Director of Support Services. Rick has been an integral part of the Mayflower Council and the Boy Scouts of America for 38 years. He is an Eagle Scout, NESA Outstanding Eagle Scout, Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow and past recipient of the Founder's Award among many other achievements and accolades.

Rick started his career with the BSA in 1982 as a District Executive in the Narragansett Council in Rhode Island. In 1986 he joined the legacy Old Colony Council as where he served in many positions including: Senior District Executive, Field Director, Camp Squanto Camp Director, Assistant Scout Executive and staff advisor to various council, regional and section committees over the past 35 years. In 2017 he was

named the Director of Support Services for the Mayflower Council overseeing the council's camping operations and summer camp programs.

Rick has been a staple of the Scouting program for nearly four decades and his knowledge, skill, and passion for Scouting will be greatly missed! On behalf of the council executive board, staff, volunteers and Scouts of the Mayflower Council we wish Rick the best.

Please join us in wishing Rick well as he retires from professional service on December 1 by submitting a congratulatory letter to be put into a memory book for him as he opens a new chapter in his life. Letters may be emailed to farewell@mayflowerbsa.org or mailed to Mayflower Council, BSA 83 Cedar Street, Milford, MA 01757. Kindly submit by November 25.