

“Around The Campfire” Podcast – Episode One

Check out Mayflower Council’s “Around The Campfire” Podcast, a new show designed specifically for unit leaders and volunteers. Hosted by Rob DiFazio, an Eagle Scout from East Bridgewater serving on the Membership & Unit Service Team, this episode of the podcast covers a variety of topics, including Webelos to Scout transitions with Wood Badge-trained Scouter David Laucirica, and Eagle Scout Aaron Christian (both from the Membership & Unit Service Team). Logan Ferraro, Program Executive, gives an overview of BlackPug and CampDocs, as well as upcoming events. Additionally, Rich Carlson, our Council Commissioner, provides an update on our new Scout executive. Don’t miss out on this informative podcast!

Council Service Center Adverse Weather Policy

With the impending snow storm we would like to remind our community about our adverse weather policy. The council follows the lead of the Milford school system when setting its adverse weather policy. If Milford Public Schools close, so does the Milford Service Center. If the Milford Public Schools announce a delay (1 hour delay for example) the council service center delays its opening by the same time. We encourage everyone to follow the weather and school closure reports on Boston media such as WCVB Channel 5 in order to stay informed and up to date on school closings and weather

alerts.

2024 Annual Membership Fee Update

Effective **April 1, 2024**, the BSA will **eliminate the \$25 one-time joining fee** for new program participants in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouting.

- **\$85/yr** for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouting participants (\$5 increase)
 - **\$65/yr** for all adult volunteers (\$5 increase)
 - **\$30/yr** for Scoutreach (No change in fee)
 - **\$25/yr** for Merit Badge Counselors (No change in fee. Only for Merit Badge Counselors not already registered as leaders)
 - **\$50/yr** for Exploring participants Youth & Adult (No change in fee)
 - **\$100/yr** unit renewal/affiliation fee (No change in fee)
 - **\$15/yr** for Scout Life magazine (No change in fee)
 - Council Program Fee will remain at \$48 for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouting participants until July 31, 2024 and then will increase to \$68 on August 1, 2024
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Join Us At Scout Day With The Red Sox

Join us for Mayflower Council day with the Boston Red Sox!

Come out for a day of fun at the iconic Fenway Park!

**Take me out to the Scout game!
Come one, come all to the Boston Red Sox Scout Day!**

This is a great outing for the entire family! All Scouts will be able to participate in a pre-game parade and receive a commemorative Scout patch while at the game.

Captain Curtin Still Uses Scouting in the Navy

Submarine Base Commander Started as a Scout...

The Mayflower Council's professional Scouters recently

attended the three-day 2024 New England Councils Planning Conference.

Beyond the cross-council camaraderie displayed by the numerous BSA pros at the Mystic Marriot in Groton, Conn., the highlight for many team members attending the event was the appearance of Captain Kenneth Curtin, the commanding officer of the nearby Naval Submarine Base New London.

“You have to take care of the people by *taking care* of the people,” said Curtin. “To be a commander, my job is to be an enabler; I need to enable you to do *your* job, right? I need to enable my team to do *their* job.

“They want to get out there and make a difference in the world,” explained the sub base commander. “They want to do something to better themselves, to better the world, in some small way. And so my job is to keep that fire lit, to do everything I can so they can do their job.

“Your people have to know that you care about them, that you respect and appreciate them,” he said.

With over 38 years of Navy experience leading people and solving problems, Captain Curtin clearly employs a deep understanding of leadership, risk management, human behavior, and infrastructure in his daily duties.

Beyond the professional accolades and knowledge – perhaps most importantly to the gathered crowd – as a young man in Brooklyn, New York, Curtin was a Boy Scout.

Moreover, he still employs the Scouting lessons he learned as a boy in his Navy career.

“You’ve got to ***do it***,” said Curtin, of setting goals, working hard, and achieving during his keynote talk on Day 1.

“I started learning that in the Boy Scouts,” he said. “No one’s going to give ***anything*** to you, right?”

“And there’s nothing worth [anything] that anyone will hand you.”

“Just never give up,” he added, summarizing his philosophy.

Meanwhile, the long-time Nave officer doubled down on one of the Scout Laws: “A Scout is trustworthy...”

“In 38 years, I’ve screwed up my fair share,” explained Curtin. “Yet, I’m still here because of integrity.

“When I sign my name on something, it means something, right? And even if I have to tell on myself and say, ‘Hey, I didn’t get this right.’

“The most important thing is your integrity,” continued Curtin. “That’s the only thing you’ve got.

“You lose that. Then, you start behind the eight ball when it comes to business or life. It’s so hard to regain that.

“And some people, you’ll never regain,” he said.

Of course, Curtin pointed back to his old Scoutmaster, Walter Better.

“Oh my God, I learned so much from this guy... and I still tell stories about the camping trips with him,” said the captain. “He wouldn’t take [any foolishness] from you.

“But I learned so much from that man,” he added, wearing a broad smile as he hit upon another Scout Law: “A Scout is cheerful...”

“I still laugh about it,” said Curtin.

Lace up your Hiking Boots

Lace up your Hiking Boots for the BCT (Bay Circuit Trail)

What if there was a local hiking trail that travelled around the city of Boston, through some 37 local cities and towns offering natural beauty, historical interest and access to trail heads and trail segments using the MBTA and public transportation? A trail that is managed by a collaboration of private and public entities including the Appalachian Mountain Club and local town and city conservations departments.

Hiking, biking, cross country skiing and snow shoeing are all available on the trail. If that were the case, you would be describing the Bay Circuit Trail! The BCT is some 230 miles long, starting at the mouth of the Merrimack River and ending in Kingston Bay on the South Shore circling the city of Boston.

We are inviting all Mayflower Scout units to choose a trail segment either in their own hometown or a trail segment of their choice, so that all or units together will cover all 230 miles of the trail in a single day! Cub Scouts, Scout BSA and Venturers are all invited to participate. Trail segments can be assigned by hiking ability and length to accommodate the novice or the experienced hiker. We would ask that a photo be taken at both the start and the end of your hike as proof that you have completed your part of the trail. Scout units from other local councils are also cordially invited to join us on hike day. We are planning an ending celebration after all 230 miles have been completed. Did I mention that there will be a cool and unique patch made available to all registered hikers?

Hike day is planned for Saturday May 18th. Watch for a future registration link and additional detail as we get closer to hike day. Unit leaders include this in you units' activity planning, you will want to be part of this once in a lifetime opportunity!

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.

Mayflower Council Executive Board Portal

Welcome to the Mayflower Council Executive Board Portal, a secure and centralized location designed to streamline board operations and enhance collaboration among executive members. This portal provides a comprehensive suite of tools to facilitate efficient meeting management, document sharing, and secure communication, enabling you to make informed decisions and drive strategic growth for our organization.

Visit Board Portal

Always Room for More – Earn A Recruiter Patch

Always Room for More

Earn your “Recruiter” patch in 2023

The founder of the Scouting movement, Sir Robert Baden Powell – better known as B-P in Scout circles – once said:

“An invaluable step in character training is to put responsibility on the individual.” In the spirit of that wise sentiment, the Mayflower Council is looking for some recruiting help.

And who better to ask than the Scouts themselves?

During the months of November and December, we encourage individual Scouts to look to their friend groups and ask potential Scouts to join them at a meeting.

Scouts who successfully recruit a friend will receive a “Recruiter” patch courtesy of the Mayflower Council – we’ll provide it free!

There are three steps to earn the badge:

1. Encourage your Scouts to encourage a friend to attend an upcoming meeting or event and join before December 31.
2. When a Scout recruits their friend, a Scoutmaster or Cubmaster completes this form.
3. We will ship the Recruiter Badge to your unit to award to your recruiters as part of your next Court of Honor or rank advancement. We will also send the newly enrolled Scout a “Welcome” letter.

It’s as simple as that.

Meanwhile, we're hoping to build on the work everyone put in during "Join Scouting Day" and "Slices for Scouting" and bring even more youth into BSA membership via Mayflower Council.

And we know that our Scouts are up for the challenge. So, let's get to it!

2024 Silver Beaver Award Nominations

In Scouting, we say "it's about the youth" and none of our adults are involved for the recognition, but every now and then we need to say thanks especially to those volunteers whose leadership and example has left a lasting positive impact on the program and the broader community. One way we do that is through nominating a Scouter for the Silver Beaver Award, the highest adult recognition a council can bestow. Take a few moments to reflect on volunteers within your unit or district and consider nominating them for the Silver Beaver Award.

To simplify the process this year a new online nomination form was completed. This form will allow you to save your work and go back and add additional information at another time prior to the nomination deadline.

SILVER BEAVER NOMINATION FORM

All nominations must be received by Tuesday, January 2, 2023.

A detailed nomination form, to review before completing the online form, is available by clicking [here](#). Kindly do not submit paper versions of the form.

Questions regarding nominations should be emailed to: awards@mayflowerbsa.org. The awards will be presented at the Council's Recognition Dinner to be held April 24, 2024.

Frequently asked questions about the Silver Beaver Award:

Overview

To recognize registered Scouters of exceptional character who have provided distinguished service within a council. The award is presented by the National Court of Honor on behalf of councils.

Who Can Earn This Award?

Anyone may nominate any deserving registered Scouter to the council, which selects recipients for the following year. Each council may process their own annual allotment of Silver Beaver awards and shall send a list of Silver Beaver awards presented each calendar year to the National Court of Honor no later than January 31 of the following year.