Meet the Team: Aaron Christian

For our third #meettheteammonday on Mayflower Council's social media, we sat down with Aaron Christian, Mayflower Council Membership & Unit Service Executive.

Aaron, what is your favorite aspect of Scouting?



"My favorite aspect of Scouting is its impact on its participants. I am a product of Scouting, and so are just about everyone I grew up with in my life. All of us are not the same people we would be having not participated in the program. Our troop's Eagle Scout ceremony has a phrase that, to me, sums up what Scouting is. It says: Scouting is a 'movement that helps a Scout become master of their own powers, helps them get along with others and helps them find a worthy use for their talents.' Working for the Mayflower Council and in my volunteer service, I see that growth in many Scouts.

What brought you to the Mayflower Council?

"My journey to the Mayflower Council started in 2014 when I interacted with my troop's district executive. Being the gung-ho Scout I was, I thought that was the coolest job ever. Flash forward to 2021 as I began to wrap up college and look for a career; this whole Scout thing came up again, and I decided to consider it. Luckily, when I graduated six months later, that opening was still there, and I jumped at the opportunity. I can proudly 'report' to my 14-year-old self that this is

indeed one of the coolest jobs ever.”

What is your Scouting background?



“I started Scouting at nine when I joined Pack 41 Abington as a Webelos Scout. I crossed over into Troop 41 a couple of years later. I proudly served the troop as den chief, assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, senior patrol leader (for three terms, too!), and junior assistant Scoutmaster. I earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2016.

“After aging out of the Boy Scouts [now called Scouts BSA], I founded Crew 41 Abington and served as crew president for the entire duration I participated. In 2020, I earned the Venturing Summit Award and the Council Venturing Leadership Award. I was also a founding youth member of Sea Scout Ship 323 in Weymouth.

“From October 2019 to October 2020, I served on the Tantamous Lodge Executive Committee as the Japeechen chapter chief and vice chief of chapter operations. I was awarded the vigil honor in 2021.

“Today, while I serve in my role with the professional service of Scouting America, I also happily serve as an assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 41 Abington, assistant Cubmaster with Pack 41 Abington, and skipper of Ship 323 Weymouth. It was my pleasure serving as an assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 41 to attend Florida Sea Base in the Summer of 2023. As I say to those who ask about that experience, it was the smelliest, dirtiest, grossest, most disgusting thing I’ve ever done, and I’d do it all over again in a heartbeat.”

Aaron's Personal Favorites

Favorite



color **Blue**

drink **"Good Old H2O!"**

treat **Hornstra Farms chocolate frappe**

hobby **Singing barbershop music/playing guitar**

food **Ceasar salad with chicken**

Animal **Dogs**

Place **The mountains (specifically the White Mountains)**

Music Classic **Rock/alternative**

Council Duties

- Aaron is the team captain for the Community Partnerships Team;
- Builds meaningful relationships in communities to form new units;
- Develops and implements stewardship plans with chartered organizations to maintain strong relationships;
- Provides support to the Council's Roundtable program;

- Serves as the Tantamous Lodge professional staff adviser.

Feel free to contact Aaron if he can help enhance your Scouting experience.

Meet the Team: Felicia Vaytsman

*For our second #meettheteammonday on Mayflower Council's social media, we sat down with **Felicia Vaytsman**, Mayflower Council Membership & Community Partnerships Executive.*

Felicia, what is your favorite aspect of Scouting?



"My absolute favorite thing? That it's a FAMILY program! That we're all in this together, as a family! My son and daughter both enjoy the program, the outings, and the events that Mayflower offers our community. I love hiking with them and doing things we may not otherwise do. When we go camping, it's such a fun experience, and it fills my kid's 'nature bucket,' which, for them, is a deep bucket and really, truly, brings such good energy to their souls. When they get to walk the field at Fenway or Polar Park donning their uniform with 'Den Leader Mom,' it gives them such pride to do those special things and wear their important uniform."

What brought you to the Mayflower Council?

“In very early 2024, my kids were interested in the WooSox sleepover. As I was on the Mayflower Council website, I saw there was a job opening for a ‘Membership Executive.’ The role sounded a bit intimidating, especially since I had been a stay-at-home mom for five years by that point. However, so much of it sounded appealing and something I wanted to try! I was also very pleased by our Scouting experience thus far and found myself passionate about spreading the word about Scouting.”

What is your Scouting background?



“Scouting first piqued my interest when my son entered Kindergarten in the fall of 2021. We were at his school’s open house, and the Cub Scouts had an info table. I was talking with one of the moms who was a Den Leader. She explained the program, and it sounded really interesting and something I thought he and I would love. However, the Pandemic was still going on, and… I opted to wait a year.

“Then, a huge change in our lives came about. My husband’s job required him to relocate to Massachusetts from the Chicago area. We got here in June 2022, just as summer was beginning, and the first thing I did was research ‘Cub Scouts near me,’ and there, our journey began.

“I inquired about the program and also said, ‘I also might be interested in being a Den Leader.’ Which, if those words are ever uttered… It’s over, you’re hooked.

“So, I became his Tiger Den leader and loved it. My son was so excited about what they were learning and really proud that his mom was his Den Leader. That following year, my daughter

was entering Kindergarten, and I asked my son if he would mind if I switched and led her Lion Den to encourage her Scouting career—he, of course, obliged.

“So now both of my children are in Scouting; I’ve completed Tiger Den and Lion Den leader, became the New Member Coordinator this year, and am the Lion Den leader for the 2nd time to support the newest Cub Scouts in our Pack.”

Felicias Personal Favorites

Favorite



color **pink**

drink **Polar seltzer**

treat **DQ ice cream**

hobby **walking the neighborhood admiring the old homes and architecture**

food **all of it?**

animal **cat**

place **the beach**

music **90s rap & alternative**

Council Duties

- Felicia helps foster relationships in communities to form new units where they are needed;
- Works with charted organizations to ensure strong relationships;
- Attends community events to promote Scouting across the board.

Feel free to contact Felicia if she can help foster your Scouting experience.



Employment Opportunities with Mayflower Council

DIVERSITY – OPPORTUNITY – COMMUNITY

Bring your varied life experiences, education, and perspective, and in return you will have an opportunity to combine those skills and experiences in a career that values and respects others.

Scouting … a Profession with a Purpose

Since 1910, Scouting America has helped build future leaders of this country by combining educational and outdoor adventure activities with lifelong values and fun. Scouting America has a major focus on the development of youth.

What Professional Scouters Do

Several thousand commissioned professional Scouters lead, guide, and facilitate the efforts of more than a million adult volunteers on whom Scouting depends on to carry out its mission. It is the job of the professional Scouter to inspire, recruit, train, and support Scouting America's volunteers, in addition to working with community leaders and rallying public support for Scouting's activities.

Responsibilities

The professional Scouter in an entry level management position assigned to a specific role within a local council. Your success will be dependent on your ability to promote, supervise, and work with local volunteers. If you have skills in human relations, public relations, marketing, fundraising, finance, accounting, business management, or sales, then you should consider taking the opportunity to become a professional in the Scouting America Mayflower Council.

Training and Development = Success

Scouting America realizes that in order for people to grow and be productive, they need opportunities to learn. The fact that more than 75 percent of Scouting America's professionals receive training each year is a testimony to the commitment by local councils and the national organization. Training courses, with set periods of time to acquire specific information, are part of our overall plan of development.

Professional Scouters receive continuous instruction through formal as well as informal training. Scouting America fosters an environment of continuous learning to nurture collective creativity, which benefits both professionals and the organization. We share knowledge, ideas, and experience, creating both a workforce that is involved in decision making and an inclusive work environment that ensures the success of Scouting in the local community.

Scouting America is committed to the training and development of individuals because we fully recognize the benefits of mutual growth and development that will unleash the creativity and productivity of its greatest asset: its people!

Compensation and Benefits

We offer a number of practical benefits for professional staffers. In fact, Scouting America offers a benefits package considered to be among the best in the nonprofit sector. The package includes major medical, dental, vision, and prescription coverage in addition to long-term disability, accident, and life insurance, and a matching savings plan for retirement. The starting salary is competitive for these entry level positions.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university

- Must have attained age 21
- People-oriented, having the ability to work well with adult volunteers, community and business leaders, and representatives of other organizations
- Able to work varied hours when necessary to achieve positive objectives
- Believe in the BSA and subscribe to its principles and standards

Current Openings:

- Membership Growth Executive
- Leadership Assistance Program Aides

Interested?

Submit your cover letter and resume to Rick Riopelle.

Meet the Team: Ryan Piazza

*For our initial #meettheteammonday on Mayflower Council's social media, we sat down with **Ryan Piazza**, the Mayflower Council Camping Director!*

Ryan, what is your favorite aspect of Scouting?

“Scouting is an experience everyone can participate in, where you become a better version of yourself. As we encounter more digital and consumer products in this modern-day era, Scouting can become an escape to achieving advancements that can greatly benefit the mind, soul, and body. At Mayflower Council, we consistently see individuals who achieve the rank of Eagle propel themselves forward toward future success—both personally and professionally.”



What brought you to the Mayflower Council?

“My path before joining Mayflower was based on a career focused on an industry that took me away from my roots. My wife [fellow Mayflower Council employee Jen] redirected me back to Scouting, a world where I can enjoy working for an organization that allows focus on personal and professional development.”

What is your Scouting background?

“I joined Cub Scouts as a kid, and today, I recall my favorite program being the Pinewood Derby, as my dad and I loved building and racing cars. I later attended sports camps and went to school for outdoor education. As a kid who struggled with traditional learning, I found Scouting essential in obtaining life skills through experiential education outside the classroom.”

Ryan’s Personal Favorites

color **purple**



drink **Coca~cola**

treat **Snickers**

hobby **disc golf**

sport **soccer**

food **Shake Shack**

animal **cat**

place **home**

music **Christian Music**

Piazza Fun Facts

Ryan takes a cold plunge every day…Coaches son’s soccer team…took an ultimate ski adventure in Japan.



2024 Westborough Good Scout Award Dinner

Westborough Good Scout Dinner

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel

5400 Computer Drive, Westborough, MA

Reception 6:00 pm – Dinner & Program 7:00 pm

2024 Honoree



James N. Ball

As founder and president of EverRise, Jim leads his team with proficiency, confidence, and diligence. Jim grew up in Westborough, Massachusetts, watching his father run his own financial advising business out of their family's basement. Inspired by his father's success, Jim went on to obtain a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Massachusetts, setting out to plant his own roots and begin a career. In 1984, he established his own firm in Westborough, specializing in investment advice, insurance, business, tax, and estate planning. Today, he prides himself in having created a thriving business, working with hundreds of families in more than 30 states. The firm features an innovative team approach offering sound and informed wealth management while striving to always provide the utmost in customer service.

Jim is a director on the board of Avidia Bank, located in Hudson, Massachusetts; committee chairman of the Risk Committee; member of Executive Governance Committee; member of the Westborough Community Preservation Committee. In his (little) spare time, he enjoys traveling the world with his family, as well as reading, exercising, and listening to music.

The Mayflower Council is honored to recognize Jim with the 2024 Good Scout Award for his integrity and genuine concern for others in the Westborough community and beyond.

About The Good Scout Award

The Good Scout Award is bestowed upon individuals who have demonstrated integrity and genuine concern for others in both

their professional and personal lives.

The recipients need not have been Scouts but must carry the “Spirit of Scouting” into their adult lives. They are people who have been unselfish in their service to others on an individual and community basis. They seek no return for their service other than the satisfaction of aiding their fellow citizens, their community, and their nation.

The Good Scouts are people who truly capture the respect and imagination of our youth.

You may register and pay online or fill out the mail-in registration form.
Registration and program book ad’s must be received by October 25, 2024.

If you have any questions, please email: Westborough Good Scout Committee

Sponsorship & Ad Specifications
Save the date
Invitation

2026 National Jamboree



The Mayflower Council will send numerous contingent troops to the 2026 National Jamboree at the Summit.

Scouting’s flagship national event is one-of-a-kind. It’s a gathering of tens of thousands of Scouts and Scouters showcasing everything that is great about Scouting. Over the course of 10 summer days scouts join together for this iconic

outing. Because it normally takes place every 3 to 4 years, most Scouts will only have one opportunity to visit the Jamboree as a youth. Many Jamboree Alumni said their experience was one of the most memorable adventures during their years in Scouting.

WHEN IS THE NATIONAL JAMBOREE:
The 2026 National Jamboree will take place July 22 – 31, 2026. The contingent will leave a few days before and return after the last night of the jamboree.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL JAMBOREE:
It’s the most awesome event a Scout or Venturer could attend. It’s everything you can do in Scouting—and more—in one spot just for you . . . and about 25,000 of your friends from around the country and around the world! It’s 10 days of adventure and excitement that you don’t want to miss!!

WHAT DO YOU DO AT THE JAMBOREE?:
Climbing, zip lines, mountain biking, whitewater rafting, BMX biking, world-class skate park, shooting ranges, kayaking, arena shows, aquatic challenges, state of the art tech stuff, rappelling, merit badge opportunities, STEM Quest and even some patch trading along the way.

WHERE IS THE JAMBOREE?:
The Summit Bechtel Reserve is home to the National Scout Jamboree. Situated in the wilds of West Virginia, The Summit is a training, Scouting, and adventure center for the millions of youth and adults involved in the Boy Scouts of America and anyone who loves the outdoors. The CFC contingent will travel to the Summit in chartered motor coaches accompanied by trained and experienced adult scout leaders. The Summit is a place that takes Scouts and Venturers to the limits of what they think they can do, and then pushes them further.

ARE THERE QUALIFICATIONS?:
Jamboree Qualifications: Scouts BSA, Ventures, Sea Scouts and

Explorers MUST have a current BSA membership, be at least a First Class Scout.(or equivalent depending on program) MUST be at least 12 years of age by the first day of the Jamboree but have not reached their 18th birthday by the last day of the Jamboree. Be approved by their home unit leader and local council. MUST have appropriate parent/guardian to complete the online parental consent. (An email will be sent to the parent/guardian during the application process.) Participate in mandatory pre-Jamboree training experiences with local council and Jamboree unit leadership. Submitted BSA Annual Health & Medical Record using the on-line Jamboree submission process.

WHAT'S THE COST?:

- *Early Bird Rate*: Youth if deposit made by May 1, 2025: $3,450
- Youth after May 1, 2025 to October 1 $3,600
- Youth after October 1, 2025 $3,840
- *Early Bird Rate*: Adult leaders if deposit made by May 1, 2015: $3,100
- Adult after May 1, 2025 to October 1 $3,250
- Adult after October 1, 2025 $3,490

WHAT'S INCLUDED?:

- All meals and housing while on the road and at the National Jamboree
- Pre and post tour activity of visit to Philadelphia and Hershey Park
- A 2026 National Jamboree back pack
- 2 Mayflower contingent t-shirts
- Contingent hat
- Neckerchief
- Contingent patch set
- Patrol patch, position patch, troop patch
- Council shoulder patch, shoulder loops.
- Water bottle

WHAT'S NEXT?:
Follow the link below to complete our Jamboree interest survey to ensure you receive the most up to date information about the Mayflower Council Jamboree Contingent! Registration for the contingent will be open soon and the link will be sent directly to those who have filled out our interest survey.

I WANT TO GO AS A YOUTH!

I WANT TO GO AS AN ADULT!



Mayflower Council Fee Update

We’re committed to providing the best Scouting experience possible for all youth in the Mayflower Council. After careful consideration, the Mayflower Council Executive Board has approved an increase in the annual program fee, effective August 1, 2024. This increase was originally announced on March 27, 2024.

What’s Changing:

- The program fee will increase from $48 to $68 per youth member in Cub Scouting, Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Exploring.
- This fee does not apply to adult members.

Where Your Investment Goes:

These additional funds will allow the Mayflower Council to continue to:

- **Support Local Units**: Click here to see a comprehensive list of how your investment directly benefits Scout units and families.
- **Deliver Exceptional Programs**: We offer exciting activities, leadership development, and valuable life skills training.
- **Ensure Safety and Security**: Your Scouts’ wellbeing is paramount. We provide comprehensive liability insurance and Youth Protection training.
- **Stay Innovative**: We constantly develop new and engaging programs to meet the needs of today’s youth.

National Fees:

Please note that National Scouting America has a separate annual registration fee. These funds directly support national programs such as Scoutbook, program resources, and national events.

Questions?

We understand that any fee increase is a consideration. If you have questions about the program fee or the National Scouting America membership fee, please don’t hesitate to contact us at communication@mayflowerbsa.org.

Thank You!

Your continued commitment to Scouting in the Mayflower Council is crucial. By investing in our programs, you’re helping to prepare thousands of youth across the MetroWest and South Shore of Massachusetts for life. We appreciate your understanding and support!

Mayflower Council Honors 2023 Eagle Scouts

The Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner highlighted the achievements of 148 dedicated Scouts who earned the highest Scouting rank in 2023



Wrentham, Massachusetts, June 26, 2024 – The Mayflower Council of Scouting America (nee Boy Scouts of America) proudly recognizes the Eagle Scout Class of 2023. This past year's honorees were celebrated at the annual Eagle Dinner on June 10, 2024, at Lake Pearl in Wrentham, Mass. The event highlighted the achievements of 148 dedicated Scouts who earned the highest Scouting rank in 2023.

The evening featured inspiring speeches, including those by notable Eagle Scouts of the past and distinguished guests. **Robert Brady**, Eagle Scout Class of 1989, delivered the keynote address, sharing his journey and the impact of Scouting on his professional and personal life. Four additional Eagle Scout alumni received Outstanding Eagle Awards from the National Eagle Scout Association (NESA).

The Mayflower Council Eagle Scout Class of 2023 includes Scouts from the following communities: **Abington, Braintree, Canton, Bridgewater (East Bridgewater, West Bridgewater), Cohasset, Duxbury, Easton (North Easton), Franklin, Framingham, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Hingham, Holliston, Hopedale, Hopkinton, Hudson, Kingston, Marshfield, Maynard, Medfield, Medway, Milford, Natick, Newton, Norfolk, Norwood, Northborough, Northbridge, Pembroke, Plainville, Plymouth, Sharon, Sherborn, Southborough, Stow, Stoughton, Sudbury,**

Walpole, Waban, Wayland, Wellesley, Westborough, Weston, Weymouth, Whitman, and Wrentham.

Through their Eagle Scout projects, these Scouts have demonstrated exceptional leadership, commitment, and community service, contributing thousands of hours to improving their communities.

As such, special recognition goes to Alyssa B. of Troop 424 Marshfield, who received the 2023 Glenn A. and Melinda W. Adams National Eagle Scout Service Award. Ten other Scouts received “Honorable Mention” recognition for their outstanding service projects.

Please view the night’s program for a complete list of award recipients and honorees. A photo gallery of each of our honorees and the event is available.

The Mayflower Council extends its gratitude to the volunteers, sponsors, and families who support Scouting and help develop the leaders of tomorrow. Special thanks to **Dick Keogh** (Eagle Class of 1949) for his generous gift of commemorative pens for each participant; to **Brigadier General (Retired) Emery Maddocks** and the Military Order of the World Wars for the Honorable Mention Eagle Scout Certificates.

About Mayflower Council, BSA: Established in 2017, the Mayflower Council serves 62 cities and towns in Central and Eastern Massachusetts, providing Scouting programs that prepare young people to make ethical choices and achieve their full potential. The Council operates three camping properties: Camp Resolute, Camp Squanto, and the Nobscot Scout Reservation, offering over 1,400 acres of outdoor adventures.

For more information, please visit our Contact Page.

Media inquiries? Contact Mayflower Council Scout Executive Juan Osorio.



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For additional details on the Eagle Scout Class of 2023 and the Mayflower Council,
Please visit www.mayflowerbsa.org.

“Around The Campfire” Podcast – Episode Five

Monthly Podcast from the Mayflower Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Around The Campfire Podcast from the Mayflower Council of Scouting America for leaders and volunteers.

June 2024 episode features:

- Jim Corcoran; Director of Development providing an

overview of development efforts for the Mayflower Council and discussing unit fundraising.
- Aaron Christian; Membership & Unit Service Executive promoting Summer Virtual Roundtables in July
- Logan Ferraro; Program Director talking about our family camping weekends at Camp Resolute and previewing the fall activities for units.

Show Links:

- Unit Fundraising Form: 251sa.org/fundraisingform
- Council Calendar: mayflowerbsa.org/events

NYLT Sign Up:

- Squanto: scoutingevent.com/251-NYLT2024
- Nobscot: scoutingevent.com/251-NYLTNobscot2024

The Nobscot Hammer Crew Persists

Restoring a Scout camp… one hammer strike at a time

Mayflower Council – Nestled amidst the rolling hills and towering pines of forest-covered stretches of Sudbury and Framingham lies Nobscot Scout Reservation, a treasured haven for generations of young campers from New England.

But time, like the relentless march of nature, had taken its toll on the camp, leaving many cabins and facilities in disrepair.

Enter the Nobscot “Hammer Crew,” a dedicated group of volunteers who have taken it upon themselves to revitalize

this beloved Scouting ground.

The story of the Hammer Crew begins with Pete Lane, a seasoned Scouting volunteer who stumbled upon the camp's deteriorating state during a summer stroll in 2015. Witnessing the lone camp ranger struggling to repair a leaky roof single-handedly, Pete, ever the doer, offered a helping hand. This simple act of kindness ignited a spark that would eventually blossom into a full-fledged restoration effort.

Word of Pete's initiative spread, and soon, he was joined by others who shared his vision of reviving Nobscot. Larry Bearfield, a key figure in the Nobscot Alumni Association (NAA), played a pivotal role in bringing together a team of skilled builders, visionaries, and do-it-yourself enthusiasts. This group, known as the Nobscot Hammer Crew (NHC), embarked on a mission to transform the camp.

The initial picture was bleak.



Most cabins stood boarded up, devoid of windows and doors, their roofs succumbing to the elements. Trees, victims of the gypsy moth infestation, lay sprawled across structures, further obscuring the extent of the damage. Roads were impassable, and the overall infrastructure was in dire need of attention.

Undeterred by the challenges, the NHC, led by the indefatigable Pete Lane, rolled up their sleeves and got to work. Starting with a handful of volunteers, the crew steadily grew, fueled by a shared passion for Scouting and a desire to see Nobscot thrive again.

One of the NHC's most remarkable feats was restoring Cabin 39. This once-forgotten structure, shrouded in overgrown foliage and leaning precariously, presented a daunting task. But the NHC, with their unwavering determination and expertise, tackled it head-on.

Using cables and "come-alongs," they painstakingly pulled the warped walls back into alignment, which took over a year. The crew then embarked on a comprehensive renovation, utilizing salvaged wood from trees felled during trail clearing and roof removal. This resourcefulness not only saved costs but also embodied the Scout's principle of thriftiness.

The transformation of Cabin 39 is a testament to the NHC's dedication and skill. The once-dilapidated cabin now stands proudly, ready to welcome future generations of campers.



While the NHC takes pride in its accomplishments, its focus remains firmly on the future of Nobscot. Its ultimate goal is to create a vibrant camp that fosters the growth and development of young minds through the timeless principles of Scouting.

The NHC’s unwavering commitment extends beyond mere repairs. They strive to enhance the overall camping experience by providing amenities like picnic tables, fire rings, and readily available firewood. They meticulously maintain the grounds, ensuring that trails are clear and accessible.

The Nobscot Hammer Crew is more than just a group of volunteers; they are a testament to the enduring spirit of Scouting. Their unwavering dedication, resourcefulness, and can-do attitude have breathed new life into Nobscot, transforming it from a forgotten relic into a thriving hub for outdoor adventure and personal growth.

As they continue their tireless efforts, the NHC leaves a lasting legacy – a camp restored, a community strengthened, and a beacon of hope for the future of Scouting.

Rick Riopelle, John Bishop, and the Nobscot Hammer Crew compiled this story.










