

# 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.*

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## **Scouts BSA Summer Camp 2023 Season Kick Off**

Join us to hear from our Camp Leadership Team about our 2023 Scouts BSA, Venturing & Sea Scouting camp programs. Moritz Schmid, Mayflower Council Vice President of Program will kick-off the meeting. We will then provide an update on the plans to improve upon and upgrade last year's program and administration.

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## **Big Summer Camp News From Mayflower Council**

Dear Mayflower Families,

Like you, we are very excited and looking forward to Summer 2023 and everything that comes with it. First and foremost in that recipe for summer fun is summer camp.

Coming out of the pandemic, and as we look to utilize our council's community spaces to their best ends, we have decided

on the makeup and presentation of our summer camp program.

This summer, we will center our overnight programs at Camp Squanto and our day programs at Camp Resolute. This strategic change will help us concentrate our promotional efforts for each program in a single location and maximize our program offerings at each camp. As such, it will also help us to ensure we provide the best possible camp experience to our campers and leaders.

Given the long history of the council's work at both locations, we were reluctant to take this step. However, now that we have taken that first foray into a new era of the Mayflower Council's summer camps, we feel strongly that we have made the correct decision.

Any troop that has reserved space for the 2023 Camp Resolute season has been personally contacted and offered the opportunity, and several incentives, to try Camp Squanto. If a unit should choose to attend another camp, we will refund their site deposit fee.

Meanwhile, in this new era, we feel confident that we are staying true to the Scout Law, the council's mission, and current best Scouting practices.

After all, Baden Powell said, "A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room." And we believe that this is true whether it be in a day camp or overnight camp setting.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email Rick Riopelle, Director of Field Service.

Yours in Scouting,

Ian Johnson  
Council President

Josh Paulin

Council Commissioner

Bryan Feather

Scout Executive / CEO

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# Congratulations To Our On Time Recharter Units

Congratulation to the following units that completed their unit recharter on time this year (by November 15). Completing their unit's charter renewal by November 15 allowed our staff to review and reach back out to them if there were issues. Their charters will be the first ones to post in January.

- Crew 355 Newton
- Pack 36 Randolph
- Pack 41 Marlborough
- Pack 47 Plymouth
- Pack 59 Whitman
- Pack 140 Wellesley
- Pack 355 Newton
- Pack 4480 Kingston
- Troop 1 BT Stow
- Troop 17 BT Brockton
- Troop 42 BT Easton
- Troop 51 BT Manomet
- Troop 64 BT Plymouth
- Troop 88 BT Bridgewater
- Troop 99 BT Franklin
- Troop 100 BT Westboro
- Troop 126 BT Franklin
- Troop 355 GT Newton

- Troop 355 BT Newton

Our council's Membership & Unit Service Team is committed to helping all of our units recharter by December 31. If your unit needs assistance don't hesitate to contact us.

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## 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 (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 that have been selected for the ESSPY include projects that have benefited underprivileged children, recognized veterans, been international in nature, and have required significant time and resources.

The selection of recipients begins at the local level and is conducted through the council NESA committee (which may utilize a NESA awards sub-committee). The council NESA committee 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.

**Mayflower Council NESA committee will present a \$250.00 scholarship. The winner will then be placed in the regional level.**

Please submit the form below to [NESA@Mayflowerbsa.org](mailto:NESA@Mayflowerbsa.org) for consideration.



Regional ESSPY recipients are selected by each council's regional NESA scholarship committee. Regional recipients will receive \$500, to be available for their future educational purposes or to attend a national or international Scouting event or facility. (Local council will also receive a \$500 award.)

The recipient of the national award is then selected among regional recipients by a special selection committee of the National Eagle Scout Association. National recipients will receive \$2,500, to be available for their future educational purposes or to attend a national or international Scouting event or facility. (Local council will also receive a \$2,500 award.)

**All nominations are due annually by  
January 31.**

[Apply Here](#)

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## **Online Registration for Adult Leaders**

**Now available!** Updates have been made to the national registration system that allows us to accept adult applications online. Now your unit can skip the paper and use a much more efficient and secure method to register adults.

In compliance with Massachusetts law, our council's policy is to ensure that adult volunteers have the required Criminal Offender Records Information (CORI) before registering with the BSA and working with youth. This process is separate from the online registration system and should be completed before

registering, just like submitting hard-copy adult applications.

The unit (chartered org. rep. or assigned delegate) approves online adult applications. Please watch the video below for review. If a volunteer is approved by the unit but doesn't have the required CORI completed, we will suspend registration until the CORI has been verified. The applicant and unit key-3 will be notified if registration is suspended.

With this in mind, online adult applications are live and **effective January 1, 2023: adult applications are to be completed and submitted using the BSA Online Registration System.**

Please be aware that online registration is not currently available for youth-to-adult transfers. Paper applications are still needed for this function, but you can email the electronic version of the adult application to [membership@mayflowerbsa.org](mailto:membership@mayflowerbsa.org).

We know that some will recognize this as another significant change to their routines. However, we all know that a Scout is Brave (and Cheerful).

Please contact the Membership & Unit Service Team if you have any questions or join us during any of our upcoming Live Office Hours, where we can answer all your questions.



## Video Tutorials



## Scouts Honor: Dante D Earns Legion Eagle Award

Earlier this summer, the Venturing Crew 29 and BSA Troop 64 Scout earned the accolade during the American Legion Camporee at Gardner's Camp Collier.

Recently, the Mayflower Council was thrilled to learn that Dante D. received the American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Award at the America Legion Camporee, held June 17-19, 2022, at Camp Collier in Gardner, Mass.

"My Eagle Scout Project was to re-side the tool shed at my middle school, Mullein Hill Christian Academy, and to clean up the surrounding area," explained Dante in the write-up of his project, which garnered the attention of the American Legion.

"Before I could start any work on the shed, I had to take

measurements to see how much siding I would need to cover the shed,” added the Scout. “Then I had to research and see which siding would be the best based on durability, longevity, appearance, and cost.”

No Eagle Scout Project is easy. But Dante’s was especially detailed. **Author’s note:** *Dante’s dedication while completing the task is evidenced by the no less than six Scouters who wrote in this summer to mention it and his American Legion award.*

“I contacted a local contractor to ask him if he could donate any materials for the project,” explained Dante in his documentation. “He helped me come up with a list of needed materials, such as corner pieces, flashing, and other smaller items that would be required to finish the project.

“Once I had a list of the needed supplies and a budget, I contacted local businesses to get donations not just for materials for the project but also for other items such as food and water for the volunteers.”

Working in a short amount of time, Dante made the most of his materials and volunteers.

“The work happened over two days,” continued the Scout. “On the first day, we removed any protruding objects and replaced any of the rotting wood found at the base of the shed.

“On the second day, we finished siding the shed,” he wrote. “Then we had to wrap the shed in Tyvek wrap to prevent future water damage to the shed or siding. We then began to side the shed, having two groups of people, one cutting the siding and the other placing it onto the building.

“We also placed down a rock bed around the perimeter of the shed and pulling weeds. Once this was all done, we put up some signage and did some touch-up painting around the roof and door of the shed,” wrote Dante.

The results speak for themselves. The work performed by Dante and Co. will have a significant impact.

With the shed re-sided and no longer exposed to the elements, the school's equipment – the bulk of it being landscaping equipment and machinery – would not be damaged. The new siding also extended the shed's longevity, helping the school save money on buying and repairing damaged gear.

As a result of Dante's hard work, the Massachusetts American Legion later recognized him as their Eagle Scout of the Year.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Eagle Scout Projects (and the Mayflower Council).

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## **We Want Your Old LEGO Bricks**

Help your old LEGO bricks find a new purpose!

The Mayflower Council is looking at giving your unused LEGO collection a second life; assisting with new youth recruiting. We will be launching a LEGO Pinewood Derby activity as part of our new member recruiting efforts at community fairs, farmer's and artisan markets, and other community events so that a whole new generation of youth can experience the thrill of a Pinewood Derby and the joy of building with LEGO while finding out about Scouting's life-long values.

To make a donation, simply round up any loose LEGO pieces and place them into a cardboard box or zipper top bag. We are accepting loose LEGO bricks and Minifigures. They do not need to be full sets. We are unable to accept donations of DUPLO and Technic elements.

Donations can be dropped off at one of the following locations:

- Council Service Center, 83 Cedar Street, Milford, Massachusetts.
- Adventure Day Camp, 129 Hudson Road, Bolton, Massachusetts. (while camp is in session)
- Camp Resolute, 75 Hudson Road, Bolton, Massachusetts (while camp is in session)
- Camp Squanto, 200 Cuttersfield Road, Plymouth, Massachusetts. (while camp is in session)

If you have unwanted LEGO bricks lying around (and hurting your feet) we'll take them!

Have questions regarding donating LEGO bricks to this worthwhile initiative contact Jack Colamaria or Rick Riopelle.

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## **National BSA Member Fee Increase 2022**

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has worked to keep the membership fee as low as possible. As you know, costs continue to rise, and the annual fee must be increased to address the fiscal realities we face to deliver a safe and quality Scouting program.

To ensure we have the resources to fulfill the promise of Scouting, the following national membership fee structure will take effect August 1, 2022.

- \$75 for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts participants
- \$45 for Exploring participants

- \$45 for all adult volunteers (includes cost of background check)
- \$100 for a unit charter/affiliation fee
- \$25 one-time joining fee for new program participants in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts (Not pro-rated)
- \$15 for Scout Life magazine; this is the first price increase since 2005

The Mayflower Council Activity Fee will remain at \$36 per youth member.

The national membership fee helps cover the cost of essential services, including program resources, liability insurance for those participating in approved Scouting activities, criminal background checks, youth protection, and the development of intellectual property for national, council, and unit programs. As we move forward, we will continue to look at the membership fee structure and how we deliver the Scouting program for future generations.

Online registration remains the preferred method of transferring youth and will become the way to register new youth beginning August 1.

Thank you for your understanding, together we will continue to provide a great Scouting program for our families.

Youth & Adult Membership Fees By Month As of August 1, 2022

August 1, 2022 Registration Fees Infographic

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## Family Den Pilot Program

Mayflower Council has been accepted into the Boy Scouts of

America National Family Den Pilot Program.