

# 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 chartered 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.

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# 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.



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# 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](mailto: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!

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# **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](http://www.mayflowerbsa.org).*

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## **“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](https://251sa.org/fundraisingform)
- Council Calendar: [mayflowerbsa.org/events](https://mayflowerbsa.org/events)

NYLT Sign Up:

- Squanto: [scoutingevent.com/251-NYLT2024](https://scoutingevent.com/251-NYLT2024)
- Nobscot: [scoutingevent.com/251-NYLTNobscot2024](https://scoutingevent.com/251-NYLTNobscot2024)

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# 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.



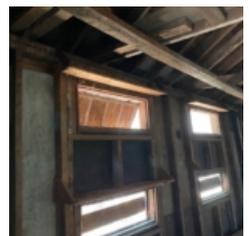
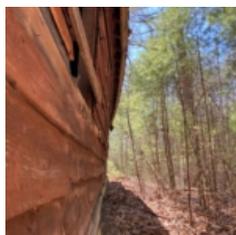
While the NHC takes pride in its accomplishments, its focus remains firmly on the future of Nobscot. Its ultimate goal is to create a vibrant camp that fosters the growth and development of young minds through the timeless principles of Scouting.

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.*



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# Den Leader Appreciation: Rob DeMarino

As we continue **Den Leader Appreciation Month**, the nominations keep rolling in. This week's top nominee comes from Maynard, Massachusetts, where Cubmaster Jarrod Kennedy singled out **Rob DeMarino** for special recognition as **Den Leader of the Week**.

**Rob DeMarino of Pack 130 Maynard**



## ***Maynard Cub Scouts***

“Rob has served as a den leader in Pack 130 for several years and most recently graduated eight eager Scouts from the Arrow of Lights into the local BSA Troop,” wrote Kennedy. “Rob provided an excellent environment, instilled the meaning of the Scout Law and Oath, and created many great memories for his cubs.

“After his Scouts crossed over, Rob has remained active in the pack and has volunteered to take on additional responsibilities. People like Rob are why packs and troops are successful.”

#Truth.

But those volunteers turn a successful unit into a superlative organization.

Case in point: Rob DeMarino.



***Rob with Scouts for eclipse prep.***

“Rob is always willing to help where needed and is happy to do so,” added Kennedy. “I’ve known Rob for almost two years and have not seen him without a smile.

“However, as an Air Force veteran, Rob is also great at grabbing the attention of the cubs when needed!”

That said, it’s not a straightforward veteran voice that keeps the kids’ attention.

“Rob consistently takes the aims of scouting and comes up with creative and fun ways to teach the Cubs,” said Jarrod. “Most

recently, Rob put together activities for a solar eclipse pack meeting [as seen above], including glasses for the scouts, a model of the sun and moon, and crafts to create masks for their glasses.”

Congratulations, and thank you to Rob DeMarino of Maynard for all his efforts on behalf of his den, Pack 130, and the Mayflower Council.

## **Den Leader Appreciation Month**

“Den Leaders Light the Way!” Scouters!

This month, we’re celebrating extraordinary leaders. Using your suggestions, the Mayflower Council will recognize our superlative Den Leaders via social media weekly in May. Meanwhile, each officially registered Den Leader in the Council will receive a limited edition commemorative patch! **Nominate your best den leaders here.**



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# **“Around The Campfire” Podcast – Episode Four**

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.

May 2024 episode features:

Rick Riopelle; Deputy Scout Executive discussing Scouting name change, announcements from the annual meeting and Council Procedures about incident reporting.

Andrea Watson; Director of Outdoor Programs and Properties for Scouting American discussing safe outdoor activities and providing a Jamboree 2026 update

Alyssa Budd Eagle Scout from Troop 424 discussing her Eagle Scout Project which recently won Council and Territory recognition for Project of the Year.

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## **Den Leader Appreciation: Todd Johnson**

As you know, **May is Den Leader Appreciation Month in the Mayflower Council.**

Today, we recognize **Todd Johnson** of Pack 748 Medway as our third **Den Leader of the Week** for May 2024.

**Todd Johnson of Pack 748 Medway**



### *Pack 748 Medway*

“Todd has the liveliest den in the pack,” wrote Cubmaster Chris McKnerney. “His Scouts like to run around and have a good time, and Todd knows how to plan for that.

“He keeps his meetings short and sweet, and the den meets outside year-round with many outings.

“Todd is incredibly patient and well prepared and contributes to pack planning and activities,” added McKnerney.

While “patience” isn’t part of the Scout Law (yet), Todd’s ability to look beyond the excitement and energy remains a crucial facet of his leadership.



*Todd Johnson, Den Leader, Pack 748*

“Todd’s planning and patience make him an excellent den leader,” added the pack’s leader. “His den meets more often than the others in the pack because he knows he has to hold the Scouts’ attention.

Meanwhile, and beyond the backyard, Johnson gets his den out and about.

“Todd is great at relating to his lively den, ” said Cubmaster McKnerney. “He takes them on many interesting outings, including trips to the town’s waste management facility, a supermarket, hikes, and even a fish hatchery.”

Congratulations and thank you to Todd Johnson of Medway for all his efforts on behalf of his den, Pack 748, and the Mayflower Council.

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*And remember to RSVP to the Den Leader Appreciation Extravaganza near you!*

