



Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America
St. Mary's Parish * March, 2020

Meetings: Monday Nights 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Lower Church Hall

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St. Mary's Boy Scout Troop 14 – The Troop meets weekly on Monday nights. If interested in joining Troop 14, come to any of our meetings, ideal organization for boys 11-17 years old.

SNOWSHOE BACKPACKING TRIP IN THE WHITE

MOUNTAINS: On January 25 and 26, armed with their backpacks, multiple layers of clothing and snowshoes, 20 Scouts and leaders hiked the White Mountains in 30" of snow and temperatures in the upper 20's. (Photo Bottom of Page) Their destination was the Lonesome Lake AMC Hut which provided shelter for the night, but they had to put their cold weather camping skills to use as there was no heat or electricity in the bunk hut. After arriving and having lunch, they split into two groups. One snowshoed a couple miles around and across the frozen lake, exploring the winter wonderland. The other took on the challenge of a 3-mile snowshoe hike, summiting a nearby 3769' peak where they experienced very different conditions. As they approached the summit with its steep terrain, the temperatures dropped to the single digits, winds picked up with 40-50 mph gusts and the clouds thickened limiting the visibility to a couple hundred feet. Despite that, all were proud of the accomplishment and enjoyed the quick hike down to the hut.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: On February 2, over 300 breakfasts were prepared and served by Troop 14 Scouts in Father Haley Hall. It was great to see so many from the community attend the breakfast. Troop 14 would like to thank all who supported the Troop at this successful fundraising event. Some 80+ organizations and individuals donated to this event. These sponsors, St. Mary's, and the support of the community at large, allows us to provide the many great programs and activities undertaken by the Troop.

COURT OF HONOR: Troop 14 held their Court of Honor on February 3, where 20 merit badges were awarded and ten Scouts

advanced in rank (Tenderfoot through Star). A number of Scouts were also presented their patches for various leadership positions in the Troop. A recap of the Troop's Fund Raising efforts, past and upcoming activities were announced. The evening ended with an overview of this summer's High Adventure trip to Arcadia National Park.



ST. MARY'S DONATION: Having a successful year of fundraising, Troop 14 wanted to give back to St. Mary's Parish who sponsors and supports the Troop year round. At the February 3 Court of Honor, Father Mark stopped by and the Troop presented him a \$500 check. Father Mark graciously accepted the check, thanked the Troop on behalf of St. Mary's Parish and told the Scouts the donation would go towards the parish's charity giving to help a local person in need. (Photo Below). Fr. Mark then shared with the Troop the name of St. Mary's new Sister Parish – Our Lady of Fatima in Beit Sahour. Located in Palestine, Our Lady's also has a Boy Scout Troop. Fr. Mark invited St. Mary's Scouts to start thinking about how they might connect with the Troop in our Sister Parish, a beautiful opportunity to learn about life and Scouting in a distant land and culture.



INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING: On Saturday February 8th Troop 14 with 41 Scouts and leaders returned to Rock Spot in Lincoln, RI, where they rock climbed late into the night, slept for a few hours on the padded floors and then woke to do some early morning climbing before the facility opened. A number of Holliston 2nd Year Webelos joined us and climbed with the Troop that evening. Scouts could be found all over the 10,000 sf gym either climbing the bouldering terrain, climbing on the top rope walls, or challenging themselves on the slack lines. This traditional Troop event encourages team building as well as challenging & testing their skills and abilities. (Photo Below Right)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Troop Swim at Milford HS rescheduled to March, TBA.
- Deer Lake Campout mid-March.
- Merit Badge University on March 7 and 21.

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FUN SCOUTING FACTS:

The First Boy Scout was a British Baron - Robert Baden-Powell. Robert Baden-Powell was a colonel in the British Army during the second Boer War in 1899. When he and his troops found themselves surrounded - and vastly outnumbered - by the Dutch colonists, Baden-Powell enlisted a local Cadet Corps, 12 to 15 year olds who wore khaki uniforms and wide-brimmed hats (sound familiar?) to help out. The boys relayed messages and acted as guards and literal scouts, leaving Baden-Powell's adult troops free to fight.

In 1908, Baden-Powell published 'Scouting for Boys,' which focused on skills of the outdoors. Boy Scout Troops soon began popping up across the U.K. The United States' version, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), was formally established on February 8, 1910.

