



Troop 14 Holliston

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

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

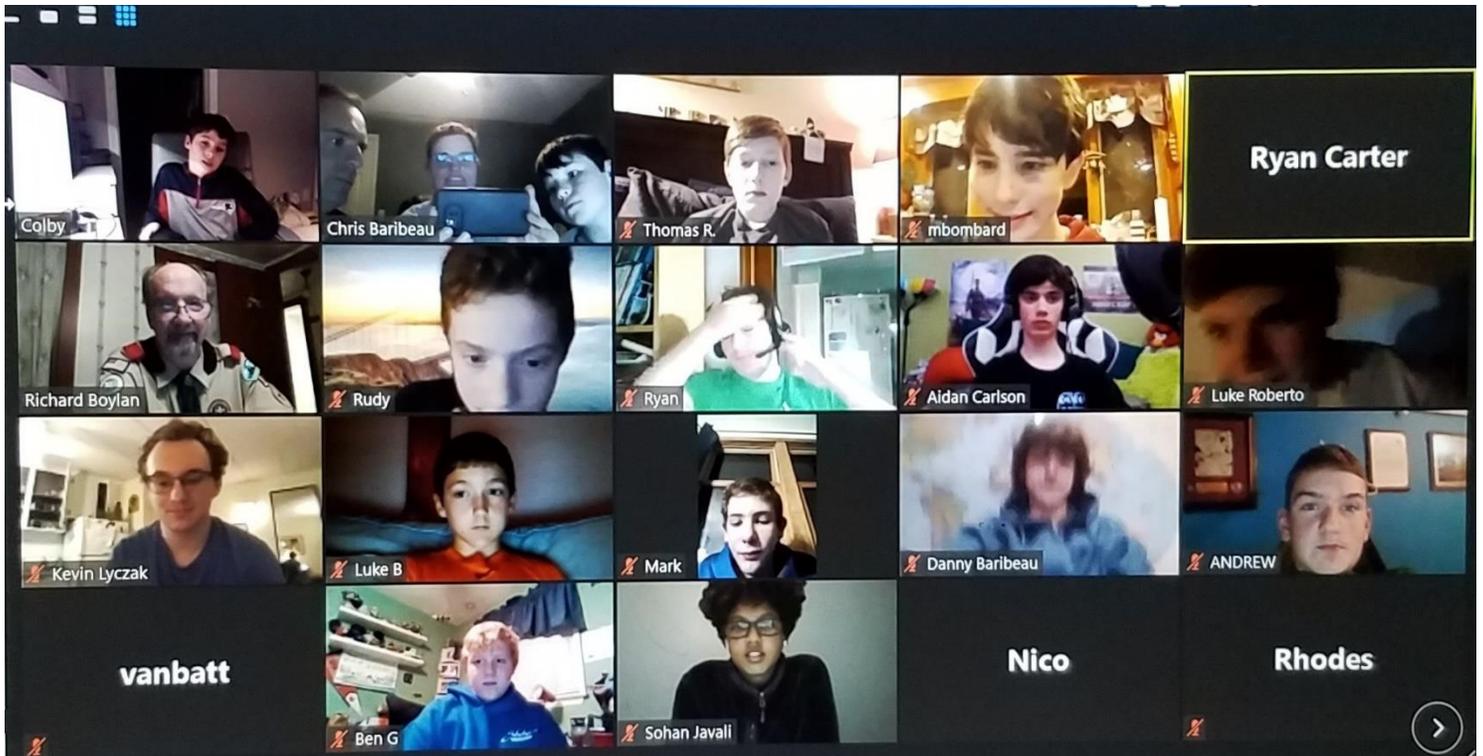
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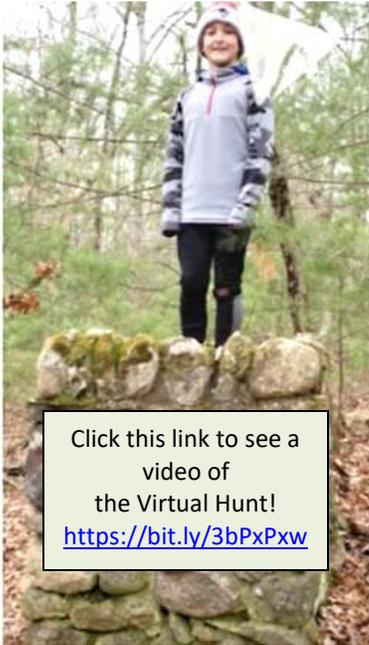
St. Mary's Boy Scout Troop 14 meets weekly on Monday nights in the Lower Church. If interested in joining Troop 14, come to any of our meetings. It is an ideal organization for boys 11-17 years old.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 14 TAKES ON THE CHALLENGE AND FINDS WAYS TO DELIVER THE SCOUTING PROGRAM DURING THESE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES: COVID-19 has impacted everyone locally as well as worldwide in many ways. Many Boy Scout programs including certain advancement requirements, campouts, group activities, and service projects had to be put on hold. But the Scouts and leaders of Troop 14 found ways to safely continue meetings, work on advancement, development of skills and leadership and spending time in nature. It certainly looks different, and there are additional guidelines to follow, but thanks to the use of technology, being creative and thinking outside the box, we are able to continue providing the Scouting program. Here are a few activities we are doing.

VIRTUAL TROOP MEETINGS: For over six-weeks now we have been holding weekly virtual meetings with 75% to 85% of the Scouts attending along with 5-6 leaders. How does it work? We all log in to the invite with our computers. If you have a camera, everyone can see you. When not talking you turn off your mic. (Photo Below) Meetings are generally following the traditional format with opening and closing ceremonies, announcements, planning for upcoming activities, advancement and games. Every other week, the Scouts have been working on the Public Health Merit Badge and learning about many public health issues including health dangers, food safety, natural disasters, diseases, public health agencies, treatments and prevention. A timely merit badge based on what we are now experiencing in the world around us.



HIKING CHALLENGE: In mid-March, Scoutmaster Chris Baribeau challenged the Troop to get outside and hike! The challenge goes until early June and the Scouts, hiking with their families and following social distancing guidelines, log in their miles. Through April 23 the Scouts logged in 280 miles. Currently Luke B. is leading the Troop with 80 miles. Check in next month to see how many miles the Troop hiked.



Click this link to see a video of the Virtual Hunt!
<https://bit.ly/3bPxPxx>

SCAVENGER HUNT: How many Troop 14 Scouts can we get to hike to the same spot in Holliston and take a picture of themselves? The rules were clear and everyone had to follow all the current social distancing guidelines and could not do this as a group activity. The activity ran from April 7 to April 14 and took place in Wenakeening Woods. Scouts had to find a specific location identified on the map. Over 15 Scouts and leaders participated in the activity and a video was made with all the photos received by Danny B. who ran the activity. Click the link in the green box (left) to see it! A second Scavenger Hunt is underway now on the Red Trail behind the upper half of the Pinecrest parking lot which was organized by Trevor F.

PRESENTATIONS BY OLDER SCOUTS:

At the Troop April 20 Virtual Scout Meeting, two of the senior Scouts made presentations to the Troop. Nico D. talked about the different types of rock climbing, equipment and bouldering. Then everyone with ropes in hand, learned how to tie the Double Figure 8 Climbing Safety Knot. (Photo Right). Brandon P. followed with a presentation on Critical High

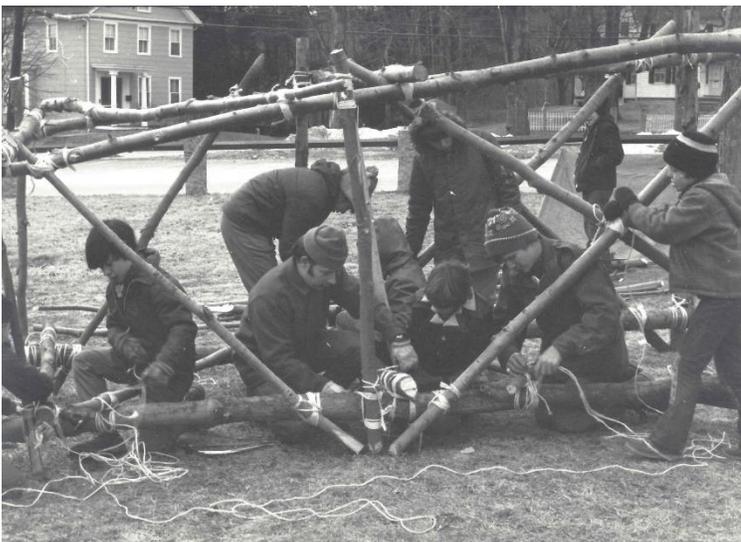


Adventure Gear, discussing the top ten pieces of gear, with important features to consider when buying. This information was critical as the Scouts prepare for the Troop 14 Summer High Adventure trips.

TROOP 14 LEADERS STEP UP AND REGISTER AS MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS: Over the past month over ten Troop 14 Leaders have registered as Merit Badge (MB) Counselors, which allows those leaders to teach specific MBs to our Scouts as well as Scouts from other Troops. To be a MB Counselor, you have to have expertise in the subject matter of that MB. The BSA currently has 135 MBs covering a variety of subjects ranging from Robotics to First Aid and Entrepreneurship to Snow Sports. Troop 14 now has MB counselors for all the Eagle Required MBs as well as 20 other MBs.

TROOP 14 HISTORY: As part of St. Mary's 150th Anniversary celebration, over the next few months we will be presenting some of Troop 14's history. Following are a few historical tidbits about Troop 14:

- St. Mary's Catholic Church was granted a Charter by the Boy Scouts of America, establishing Troop 14 in 1965, and has continuously provided the Boy Scout Program for the past 55 years.
- Troop 14 has had 21 loyal and dedicated Scoutmasters, many of whom were St. Mary's Parishioners. Four of the Scoutmasters are still involved in the Troop today.



- Over the years, 75 of Troop 14 Scouts have earned the Rank of Eagle, the highest rank in Scouting. This equates to over 12% of Troop 14 Scouts, well above the national average of 4%.
- Troop 14 has had a long-time reputation of being an active Troop including monthly campouts and activities, services projects and fund-raisers, as well as a number of traditions carried on for many years. The Left Photo is Troop 14 in the mid-70's building a tower in the center of town across from St. Mary's. Walt Baker, Scoutmaster from 1975-76 is teaching the Scouts lashing skills. Does anyone recognize any of the Scouts?

UPCOMING EVENTS: Virtual Campout on Saturday, May 2. Scouts camping outside are connected virtually.