



Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America
St. Mary's Parish * Summer, 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, just contact the Scoutmaster. It is an ideal organization for boys 11-17 years old.

REGULAR MONDAY NIGHT MEETINGS RETURN AFTER LABOR DAY

The Troop will be back in full swing again for the fall with weekly Monday night meetings.

(maybe still virtually).

ST. MARY'S BOY SCOUT TROOP 14: While we did not have weekly Troop meetings during the summer, Troop 14 ended the Scout year on some high notes in June and have remained active throughout summer.

END OF THE YEAR COURT OF HONOR AND VIRTUAL COOKOUT: On Monday, June 22, Troop 14 held its 1st ever Virtual Cookout and Virtual Court of Honor. Prior to the gathering, the Scouts grilled hamburgers and hot dogs for their families at home and then the Troop joined together virtually (via Zoom) to eat their meals, review the highlights of the past few months and present badges and awards to the Scouts. Some of the Troop activities accomplished and achievements recognized included:

- Two Scavenger Hunts.
- Three Virtual Campouts.
- Making Cards for Healthcare Workers - Service Project.
- 1,026 miles hiked by the Troop (see article below).
- Welcoming the five new Scouts that joined the Troop over the past few months, including Brendan Climer, Evan Craze, Hiatt Mueller, Colin Hodgdon, and Elijah Vieira-Green.
- Thanked and congratulated Roman Bolshakov, Nick Cappello, Nico Doyle, Brendan Irons, Mike Lola, Jon Lukowiak, Drew Mahoney, Jon Malcolm, Brandon Paradie, Griffin Ripley, Ian Shaw for their leadership and service to the Troop. These 11 Senior Scouts are all heading to college in the fall. As of the end of July, three of these Scouts have completed the Rank of Eagle Scout and four are completing their final Eagle Rank requirements and paperwork submission to the BSA for final approval.
- Since the last Court of Honor in February, Troop 14 Scouts have completed 523 rank requirements and earned 62 merit badges. In addition, the following Scouts advanced in rank: Bhumin Karunakar – Scout; Luke Burgett – Tenderfoot; Jack Baribeau and Colby Magoon – Second Class; Mark Lagodimos and Andrew McWilliams – First Class; Danny Baribeau – Star.
- Summer 2020 High Adventure Trip (see article below).

HIKING CHALLENGE: As written in the past few Newsletters, Scoutmaster Chris Baribeau challenged the Troop to get outside and hike! The challenge started in mid-March and officially ended on June 15. A total of 16 Scouts and leaders participated and following social distancing guidelines, logged in a total of 1,026 miles. Luke Burgett led the Troop with 168 miles, and the Unnamed Patrol had the most miles with 216.6 miles, averaging 36.1 miles per Scout.



HIGH ADVENTURE SUMMER 2020: Troop 14 has a long tradition of planning, training and conducting challenging High Adventure trips for the older, more experienced Scouts each summer. As stated in the Troop 14 High Adventure Mission Statement, these trips are multiple days outings designed to physically and mentally challenge the Scouts (and Leaders) and to promote personal responsibility and growth through team building, leadership development and fun through various outdoor activities. Understanding that we need to remain flexible and make adjustments in these current times depending on the COVID-19 situation, we cancelled our week long trip to Acadia National Park and instead, this year's High Adventure consists of a number of hikes, each progressively more difficult, on each of the four major hiking trail systems across Massachusetts, summiting the highest peak on each of the trails, with the fifth and final hike summiting two 4000' peaks in New Hampshire's White Mountains. To date, we have completed:

- Bay Circuit Trail - Day Hike, Callahan State Park through Nobscot to Rte. 20, 7.6 miles, summiting Mt. Nobscot elev. 602'.
- Mid State Trail - Day Hike, Princeton, MA, 12 miles, summiting Mt. Wachusett elev. 2006'.
- New England Trail - Day Hike, Warwick, MA, 10.2 miles, summiting Mt. Grace elev. 1621', total hike ascent of 2,637' and descent of 1,998'. *(Photo at Bottom of Previous Page).*

UPCOMING HIKES:

- Appalachian Trail - Day Hike (possible overnight hike), Adams, MA, summiting Mt. Greylock elev. 3,489'. *(Photo at Bottom of Previous Page).*
- White Mountains of NH – Day Hike, Two 4000'+ peaks, mountains TBD.

SCOUT OF THE YEAR:

Holliston VFW Post 8507 has named Jon Lukowiak, a Troop 14 Eagle Scout, their 2020 Scout of the Year. The award was presented at an outdoor ceremony on July 28, attended by Jon's parents, Scout Leader, and a few Troop members.



VFW Commander David deGanne told Jon that he *“received this award because, in the eyes of your Scouting, academic and community leaders, you have exemplified the standard of excellence and selfless service to which all Eagle candidates aspire.”* He went on to say that *“The relationship between Scouting and the VFW dates back to the early years of the First World War, and is founded on the ethos of true patriotism and community service common to both organizations.”* In addition to this recognition and a monetary award, the VFW forwarded Jon's credentials for consideration on the national level. Congratulations Jon! *(Photos Above & Left).*