

Troop 175

**We're looking for...
a few good boys**



**Zambezi River Expedition
Zambezi, Africa
August 2014**

**Brad Mead
Scoutmaster**

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TROOP 175 IN SIMSBURY IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD BOYS

Boy Scout Troop 175 is looking for boys with a sense of adventure and fun to join us. Our Troop is sponsored by St. Mary's Church in Simsbury and meets on Thursday nights from 7-8:30 PM. Boys of all faiths are welcome.

Monthly Trips That Test Our Skills

In the best traditions of Scouting, we are an adventurous Troop with an emphasis on the basic skills of Scouting and putting those skills to test every month on challenging trips. We are an "All Weather" Troop. We have camped and biked on Block Island; Bobsledded with the US Olympic team in Lake Placid (camping in snow caves that night), learned to scuba dive in Massachusetts and explored survival camping at our annual "Deep Freeze" survival shelter trip. The Troop has also gone skiing in Vermont, climbed, skied, and boarded in Tuckerman's Ravine on Mt. Washington, climbed two different mountains in the Adirondacks, canoed in Maine and did a five day trip to Algonquin National Park in Canada where we canoed and camped in the Canadian wilderness. In 2014/2015 we had a record 20 trips in our program. Last year's trips were:



2013/2014 Trips – the Challenges (and fun) Continue

- September - Hammonasset State Park Camping & Fishing
- October – 3 day Bicycle trip on Martha's Vineyard.
- November - Annual Webelos Challenge on our "home" turf, Onion Mountain in West Simsbury. This is a great event where Cubs are invited for a full day of Scout activities and to work with our Scout patrols on making rope bridges, furniture, campfires, orienteering and zip lines. In the evening, the patrols will cook a meal with the Cubs followed by a Troop campfire with songs and skits put on by the Scouts. Cubs are invited to spend the night camping (with a parent).
- Mission Profile/Immortals Tryout - a 24 hour marathon "Seal Team" exercise for our older guys.
- December - All night flying at "Flight". Giant trampoline and flying center.
- January - Our annual ski and snowboard trip to Vermont.
- February - The District Klondike Camporee.
- March – Our cross-over trip for Webelos joining our troop. We went to Camp Yawgoog in Rhode Island.
- April - Once again we went to Tuckerman's Ravine on Mt. Washington in the White Mountains. This is one of our most popular trips. We climbed, skied, and hiked.
- May - We did a backpacking trip in Connecticut.
- June - 8th Annual Boy Scout Adventure Race. This race was developed by Troop 175 and involves biking, running, canoeing, rappelling, orienteering and climbing in Simsbury in a 16 mile, 4 hour race. The other two Simsbury Scout Troops join us. Boys Life Magazine published a full picture, 6 page article of the race in April 2010, featuring Troop 175.



- ▣ July - We did our annual 1 week camp at Camp Mattituck.
Three day family camp in Nantucket.
- ▣ August - The troop took its Senior Scouts to Zambia, Africa to raft the whitewater of the Zambezi River

An Emphasis on Leadership Training

Every spring, we hold our annual Junior Leader Training Program for the older Scouts (First Class & above) based on the US Army Ranger program called "No Excuses Leadership". We hold the program in March in the White Mountains at one of the huts maintained by the Appalachian Mountain Club. It's a challenging but fun weekend. We snow shoe in deep snow into the mountains with full packs. There we practice our Scout rescue skills in the snow, engage in team missions, and discuss the leadership styles of many of the great explorers. This year we will return again to the White Mountains in March and continue our leadership training at Carter Notch Hut.

Immortals - The Best of the Best

As an outgrowth of our Junior Leadership Training Program, we developed something special for Scouts who want to push harder and discover new capabilities. They are known as the "Immortals" and are our most advanced Scouts, who have learned and developed extensive survival and wilderness skills taught by our adult leaders. They wear special patches on their uniforms, are given black Machetes at their induction into the group and participate in extreme outings. Their motto is: "to Learn, to Teach, to Serve, to Lead". They operate without tents. They build shelters. On every trip they start all fires using only flint and steel. They move very quickly through the woods and improvise almost everything they need from their surroundings.

We were proud when our group of "Immortals" was invited to visit the US Army Mountain Warfare School, to train with the Special Operation Groups that were learning winter mountaineering and avalanche skills.

We constantly work to invent new challenges to test their skills and maximize what they can learn from difficult situations. We have blindfolded the group and driven them 3 hours into the Vermont countryside where they were dropped off on the backside of a mountain in a rainstorm with no maps, no radios, no GPS, no tents, some food, water, and instructions to find the largest lake in the area (about 4 miles away, but they didn't know that). The goal was for the scouts to get a water sample and return it to the drop off in 48 hours. They have been trained in how to approach, solve, and execute a plan to accomplish the mission - "What Would You Do?" By the way, as in all of our Scout programs, adults were present at all times for safety.



This next year, the Immortals will learn to mush with dogs and sleds and enter a couple of races in New Hampshire.

The Ultimate Adventure – International/Domestic Expedition Trips

Each summer, Troop 175 provides an opportunity for its most experienced Scouts to go on an International/Domestic Expedition Trip. This year in July/August 2015 the troop will be heading back to

Alaska for a two week RV trip through the wilds of our largest state. We expect to have as many as 12 RV's that we will use as mobile base camps to hike, climb, raft and enjoy the Alaskan summer.

Zambezi White Water Rafting –2014 – 16 Scouts and parents traveled to Zambia, Africa to raft one of the three greatest whitewater rivers in the world. Using the world's top Rafting guide service "Water by Nature", we successfully descended 60 miles of the Zambezi river's class 3,4,5 rapids as well as portaged a half a dozen rapids that were unraftable. At the end we were flown out of the Zambezi Gorge by helicopter to a mountain top lodge to clean up. The group then traveled to Botswana to explore a game park and camp among lions and giraffes.



Kilimanjaro - In 2012, twenty of our Scouts and their parents traveled to Africa to climb Kilimanjaro, a trip in the planning for over two years. It was an extraordinary adventure. We spent five days climbing the largest freestanding volcanic mountain in the world. In the process, we went through five climatic zones. Our group of 20 had 64 Tanzanian support staff, as everything has to be carried up the mountain. Our Tanzanian Guides were the best on the mountain and each two-climber team had a guide. On day six we started our final assault at midnight from 15,500 feet, climbing up the crater wall. The temperature was 15 degrees; the oxygen level less than half at sea level. We climbed for six hours with four, five-minute breaks. The crater wall was steep. In the dark, under a full moon, the group slowly moved to the summit. At 6am we reached the first summit at Gillman's Point. Water bottles were frozen, and fingers and toes had lost most feeling, but after a brief regroup it was on another two hours around the crater to the final summit at Uhuru Peak at 19,341 - the rooftop of Africa. Our group took a round of pictures and then went back down the crater wall and eventually down to 12,000 feet by 5pm that afternoon. Everyone agreed that it was the longest – but most memorable day – of their life.



We first did this trip in 2007 with a group of 24 and, at the time, we were the first US troop to climb the mountain. We are the only Troop to have done it twice.

Caribbean Expedition – In April 2013 we took 24 scouts and leaders on two 45ft catamarans down the Belize Barrier Reef for 7 days. We visited many remote islands and explored the reef with snorkel equipment.

In April 2012 we took 18 Scouts and leaders on two 47ft Ocean Catamarans on a one week sailing expedition in the British Virgin Islands. Departing from Tortola we sailed, fished, swam and explored the islands south and north. We had high winds and great sailing and all the Scouts learned the skills of navigating, piloting, and operating a serious sailing machine.

In February of 2011, we chartered two catamarans and sailed from St. Martin to the British Virgin Islands.

Philmont Scout Ranch – Every two years the troop sends a crew of 12 to Cimarron, New Mexico for an unforgettable 2 week backpacking adventure in the Sangre De Cristo mountain range. Philmont, donated to the Boy Scouts in 1947, consists of 220 square miles of high altitude terrain.

Our 2013 crew hiked 82 miles carrying fully loaded backs which enabled us to be self-sufficient for our 2 week stay. We climbed one of the highest peaks, Mount Phillips at elevation 11,711'. Later that afternoon we cooked our dinner while watching the sunset behind the valley below. Our crew finished their experience by starting at 3am to climb another peak to watch the sunrise.

Philmont was a wonderful experience not only for the outdoor adventure but also for the wilderness and leadership skills each scout mastered along the way. .

North to Alaska – In 2010 we took 38 members of our troop for a two week adventure in Alaska. We rented 8 RV vehicles to act as mobile bases. We climbed in the Wrangell St Elias range, (home to some of the tallest mountains in the world), fished in the Kenai for Salmon and Halibut and went Whitewater Rafting in one of the toughest rivers in the world with all Class 4 and Class 5 Whitewater. We went kayaking in Glacier Bay with the otter and seals, followed the gold rush route down the Yukon River to Dawson City and spent many a night in the pristine wilderness around large campfires.

Amazon Jungle – In 2008, we took eleven of our Scouts and Leaders deep into the Amazon Jungle. We flew to Lima, Peru and then into Iquitos, a city on the Amazon River that is the largest city in the world inaccessible by road. After a 110 mile journey up the river, we went through jungle training for 3 days with local Indian guides. We then departed with a full expedition into a part of the Amazon that had rarely seen humans. Under the auspices of Dr. Paul Beaver and the Amazon Research Center, we observed and cataloged rare species of monkeys. Along the way we had to deal with tarantulas, poisonous snakes, deep mud, wild boars and incessant rain. It was an extraordinary experience.



Awards/ Recognition

This last year Troop 175 received much recognition. In February the Troop won, once again, the most skill award categories at the District Klondike Camporee. At the Annual District Awards dinner the Troop won the Golden Tent Peg award for most nights camping of any Troop in the District, as well as the most service hours (4,300) performed of any Troop in the District. Second place was 1,600 hours. For the eighth year in a row the Troop also won Gold Status for Troop Excellence.

On the National level, the Troop's 2012 Kilimanjaro Climb appeared in over 400 major metropolitan newspapers. In March 2013, the National Geographic Series "Are You Tougher Than a Boy Scout" aired for six weeks. Keegan Rice, from Troop 175, was the only Scout to compete in every show (other than the original pilot) and became one of the shows stars.

In April 2013, the Troop was asked to come to NY to appear on the National Broadcast of Fox and Friends to demonstrate its capabilities and teach the Fox On Air Anchors how to start a Flint and Steel Fire.

In May 2013, Scoutmaster Mead and his wife were honored to be flown to BSA HQ in Dallas, Texas to receive the Outstanding Scoutmaster Troop Award awarded to 54 Scoutmasters (out of 44,000) in the Country. (The only one in Ct and one of four in all of New England). All the recipients got to spend three days with BSA National to talk about their ideas on how to build the Scouting Program in America.

Maintaining the Scout Tradition of Public Service

Troop 175 is also actively involved in the community and demonstrates that a "Scout is Helpful" on a regular basis. Our Scouts have done numerous projects for our sponsor, St. Mary's, including; setting up and helping to run the St. Mary's Carnival, building steps from the parking lot, building a new Christmas crèche for the Church and rehabilitating the rear entrance to the Church with a new fence and sign. Our scouts have also collected school supplies and delivered them, in person, to a community in an impoverished part of India, designed and placed new signs educating visitors about the history of Simsbury along Iron Horse Blvd, constructed birdhouses for Roaring Book Nature center, initiated a new "green" effort for the Town of Simsbury by building and placing recycling bins in eight public locations around town, collected hundreds of suits for a charity in Hartford, and performing important trail maintenance at the Onion Mountain Park. The Troop raises money each year by parking cars for the Simsbury Fly In and serving pancakes to the Simsbury Marathon.

We organized the Michael Bubnash Adventure Race where we raised (with the other 2 Simsbury Troops) over \$25,000 for Michael's medical care, an Eagle Scout from another Simsbury Troop. Our Scouts put on their uniforms spread the word to local businesses and spoke from church pulpits all over town and collected the money in coins, cash, and checks. Some of our 3-man teams raised over \$4,000 for a boy they had never met, but whom they knew was a fellow Scout. We believe strongly in "being part of something larger than one's self".

Helping Scouts Down the Path of Advancement – Our Record and Philosophy

Troop 175 has an enviable record of working with boys to help them achieve the skills and knowledge they need for advancement, including the ultimate rank in Boy Scouts, Eagle. In the history of our Troop, 96 boys have advanced to the rank of Eagle, including 48 in just the past six years. This high level of achievement is virtually unprecedented, and we are justifiably proud of these motivated achievers. This year we had 14 Eagle Scouts in the senior class and we anticipate having an additional 10 scouts earn this rank this year. Eagle is the highest award in Scouting and one that we take seriously in terms of preparation. It's interesting to note that, in general, our Scouts earn this award at the age of 16 or 17, which is older than in many other Troops. While it is possible to receive your Eagle at a younger age, it is rare in our Troop because we believe that the Eagle badge means boys take the time not only to earn merit badges, but also to learn how to lead. We believe that there is no shortcut to learning leadership. It takes time and experience. Frankly, our older boys stay active because we provide the type of adventure that holds their interest. It is often said that no award or honor received prior to a boy's eighteenth birthday is so revered in later life as the Eagle Scout Badge. Ask any Eagle Scout.

Leadership

We are proud of our adult leadership at Troop 175. It's deep and experienced. Our adult leaders have camped, climbed, fished, hunted and explored on many expeditions. They are all great teachers. In addition we have a very high participation by the Dads (and Moms-3 climbed Kilimanjaro last year) in our Troop and it is not unusual to have 15-20 dads/moms on a trip. No experience is necessary and if you were never a Scout as a boy this is your second chance to learn the ropes. We have a Parents/Leaders Patrol, the "Usual Suspects," on each trip. We eat very well and share a lot of experiences as parents and as professionals from all walks of life.

Our Troop is boy led and our leaders are selected by the adult leadership based on their performance and ability to lead. The senior patrol leaders and patrol leaders share their wisdom and pass on their knowledge to the younger Scouts through our trip and advancement programs. Boy Scouts is one of the very few organizations where boys can be put in leadership positions at ages as young as 12. Good leaders often appear early and the fun of scouting is watching them "take the lead". Troops are only as good as the boys who want to step up and take charge and the adult volunteers who are there to assist. Our 2014 – 2015 leaders are:

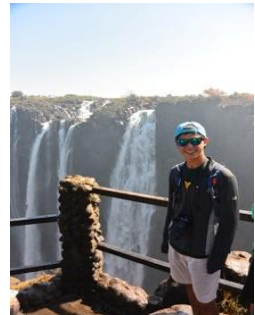
Ethan Meskill - Senior Patrol Leader (Lead Scout)

Ethan is a Life Scout and a Junior at Northwest Catholic High School where he is on the varsity swim team as well as a member of the track team. He has been a scout since the first grade. Ethan has participated in many of the troops activities including climbing Mount Monadnock, Tuckerman's Ravine, Mount Greylock and Bear Mountain Peak, the 2014 Trans Presidential Traverse as well as the Zambezi Whitewater Rafting Expedition. During the summer of 2013, Ethan attended the National Jamboree in West Virginia. He was also a staff member at Camp Mattatuck in Plymouth, CT during the summers of 2013 and 2014. This past year Ethan received his Red Cross Life Saving Certification.



Andrew Gutierrez - Immortals Chief

Andrew has been in scouting since Cub Scouts. He is a Life Scout and Senior at Simsbury High School. Andrew is the Immortals Chief this year. He was the Crew Leader on the 2013 Philmont trek. As a member of the Immortals he attended the Lake Placid trip with -20 degree temperatures. He has been a Patrol Leader for 2 years, ASPL last year and was part of the 2011 Sailing trip in the Caribbean. Additionally, he helped lead the Zambezi Whitewater River Rafting Expedition this last summer. Andrew is also a member of the SHS Cross Country(Co Captain), Indoor and Outdoor Track teams. He enjoys skiing, slacklining and climbing.



TJ Nicholson - Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

TJ is a Life Scout working toward his Eagle rank. He was Patrol Leader at Camp Mattituck last summer and Senior Patrol Leader this summer. He has been a Scout since Tiger Cubs and has been a member of Troop 175 for 6 years. Currently a junior at Simsbury High School, a member of the SHS JV Baseball Team. TJ attended the 2013 National Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel reserve. He sailed on our catamaran trip in the Caribbean from St Maarten and canoed in Canada. Along with Scouting, he enjoys hunting, fishing, baseball, and golf.



Brian Sennott - Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Brian is a Life Scout and has been involved with Scouting since Cubs. He is a sophomore at Simsbury High School and is a member of the school's Cross Country team. Brian plays the cello in the school orchestra, and enjoys biking and playing baseball. He was a member of this last summer's Zambezi Whitewater Expedition in Zambia.



Hunter Boyko - Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Hunter is a junior at Simsbury High School and a Life Scout who loves to take on a challenge. One of his first trips as a scout, at the age of 12, was climbing Mt. Monadnock and camping in single digit temperatures. This fostered his love of extreme adventures like ice climbing and sleeping in self-made snow caves, which he does as a member of the Immortals. He shed his winter gear to participate in the 2013 Philmont expedition as well as both the 2012 BVI and 2013 Belize sailing expeditions. Representing Troop 175 in the 2 mile 2013 Ruckus New England obstacle course race, Hunter finished first in the pack of 209 competitors, leading the charge for Troop 175 to take 5 of the 8 fastest times. He is on the high school lacrosse team and enjoys snowboarding, and longboarding.



Samuel Spak - Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Sam is a Life Scout and has been active in scouts since first grade. Sam is a Junior at Northwest Catholic High School where he participates on the Cross Country, Indoor/Outdoor Track Team and is a member of the band. At the age of 14, Sam climbed Kilimanjaro and summited with other members of Troop 175. He was a member of this summer's Zambezi Whitewater River Rafting Expedition in Africa. He has been to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and the National Jamboree in West Virginia. He has been a patrol leader and is a member of the Immortals.



Will Pendergast - Junior Assistant Scoutmaster

Will is a Life Scout and has been a member of the Troop for six years. Last year he served as the Troop's SPL. He was also ASPL for one of the council troops that attended the 2013 Jamboree at the Bechtel Center Summit Reserve in West Virginia. He was a member of the 2012 sailing expedition to the British Virgin Islands and the 2013 sailing expedition to Belize. He was also a member of this last summer's Zambezi Whitewater Rafting trip in Zambia.

He is a Junior at Simsbury High school where he is a member of the crew team and swim team. He enjoys swimming, sailing, skiing, and spending time with friends.



Adult Leadership

Brad Mead - Scoutmaster

Brad is an Eagle Scout and has hiked, climbed, paddled and explored in over 135 countries, a passion developed during his own Scout days. He has been on or led 5 Himalayan expeditions, four Amazon basin expeditions, a Haute Route team over the top of the Alps in winter, climbed the Matterhorn, the Eiger, Jungfrau, Mt. Blanc and two first ascents in the Wind Rivers. He led 2014 Zambezi Whitewater Rafting Expedition, the Kilimanjaro expeditions in 2007 & 2012, the Amazon Jungle expedition in 2008, the 2010 Presidential Traverse, the 2010 Alaskan expedition and captained the 2011, 2012, & 2013 Caribbean Sailing expeditions. He is a graduate of National Outdoor Leadership School in Lander, Wyoming. He led one of the 5 CT troops to the 2013 Jamboree in West Virginia. In May of 2013 he was honored by BSA national as one of the top 54 scoutmasters (out of 44,000) in the country. He and his wife, Dianne, were flown by BSA National to the annual meeting in Texas to receive the award and spent 3 days meeting the national leadership.

He is a licensed pilot, deep water scuba diver, skydiver, sailing captain and is a member of the Immortals. He is trained in CPR, Wilderness First Aid and High Altitude Rescue and in October 2014 received his Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician Certification (WEMT) from the Wilderness Mountain Medicine Institute in Lander, Wyoming. Brad is the CEO and President of Delta Capital Group, an investment bank in Simsbury, CT. His two sons Ryan and Jeffrey received their Eagle Scout awards in May 2008.



Bill Rice - Assistant Scoutmaster

Bill is an Assistant Scoutmaster and former scout. He and his family have hiked and camped in many of our country's national parks. Bill co- led the 2010 Alaskan Expedition, the 2011 Philmont Scout Ranch Trek, 2012 Kilimanjaro Expedition, and the 2013 Belize Sailing Expedition. Bill, President of the Web Marketing Association, developed our troop Google group and Web Site, and is the Troop Merit Badge Coordinator. He also instructs the scout leadership in public speaking skills once a month. His son Keegan is an Eagle Scout, and star of the National Geographic TV series "Are You Tougher Than A Boy Scout".



Gary Barch - Assistant Scoutmaster

Gary has been active in the Simsbury Scouts for many years. He enjoys the outdoors, especially fishing, camping, hiking, mountain biking and canoeing. He also enjoys photography and is PDIC certified in Scuba Diving. Gary organizes the Simsbury Fly-In Scout volunteers and is involved in other events throughout the year. He works for GE as a tooling developer. His oldest son, Eric, is an Eagle Scout and a Freshman at William and Mary College. His younger son, Kevin, is a



Second Class Scout.

Kevin Weathers - Assistant Scoutmaster

Kevin has been involved in scouting as the Committee Secretary for three years and is currently the Troop's lead Trip Planner, a position he has also held for the last three years. He is currently section hiking portions of the Application Trail with his father and enjoys world travel. He is an actuary at Travelers. He was a member of the 2010 Alaska Expedition, the 2012 British Virgin Islands Sailing Expedition, the 2012 Kilimanjaro Expedition, and the 2013 Philmont Expedition. His younger son, Kyle is a First Class scout. His older son, Ryan, is an Eagle and a freshman at Northeastern University.



Keith Chambers - Assistant Scoutmaster

Keith began his scouting career as a Cub Scout Den Leader, and continued with Boy Scouts in Troop 274 in Avon as an Assistant Scout Master. He has over nine years in scouting and is a Wood Badge instructor. Keith and his two sons moved over to Troop 175 in 2010. Keith is an avid cyclist, enjoys photography, cooking, sailing and the outdoors. He helped lead the 2013 Philmont Expedition. He has experience hiking and backpacking in South Africa, and has been to more summer camps than he can remember! Keith's son, Tristan, achieved his Eagle in 2012 and is currently studying at San Diego State. Devon is a Life Scout and was a member of 2012 Kilimanjaro Expedition.



Ken Gutierrez - Assistant Scoutmaster

Ken has been involved in scouting for 9 years. He is one of the troop trip planners. He is an avid fly fisherman and “relaxes” by visiting exotic fishing destinations around the world. He is a physician, practicing Anesthesiology at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford. Ken was the Expedition doctor for the 2014 Zambezi Whitewater Rafting Trip. His younger son, Matthew is a First Class Scout. His older son, Andrew, the Immortals Chief, is a candidate for Eagle Scout.



Jack Brinegar - Assistant Scoutmaster

Jack joined the Troop after spending 3 years as a Den Leader for Granby's Cub Scout Pack 325. He spends a great deal of time volunteering his time to various organizations including Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts and Granby Lacrosse. He also spends his winters on the National Ski Patrol at Ski Butternut in Great Barrington, MA. Jack is employed at Travelers in Hartford. His son Charlie is a First Class Scout and a Patrol leader



Bob Gilmore - Assistant Scoutmaster

Bob is an Eagle Scout. He has been an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 175 for 17 years, and is a member of the Immortals. He has extensive outdoor experience including three extended trips to the BSA Maine High Adventure Base, one as a Scout and two as an adult leader. Bob enjoys backpacking on the Vermont Long Trail, and annual extended hunting trips to the remote North Woods of Maine. Bob works as a natural resource biologist with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Inland Water Resources Division. He is also a registered Soil Scientist. He holds an MS degree in Wildlife Management (Frostburg State) and a BS degree in Natural Resources (URI). Bob's professional interests include wetlands ecology and wildlife, fisheries and soil science. His son, Brian, received his Eagle Scout Badge in 2006.



Ann Carabillo - Assistant Scoutmaster

Ann Carabillo is the Boys Rowing Coach at Simsbury High School. She is a US Rowing Level 3 Certified Coach and has been coaching for 21 years. Ann is also a certified Red Cross instructor and is in charge of all Troop training. She is the President of the Connecticut Public Schools Rowing Association and Regatta Director for the State Championship. Ann is also on the Regatta Committee at the New England Championship. Many of Ann's rowers are also fellow Scouts and Eagle Scouts. She was a member of the 2011 Caribbean Sailing expedition. Her son, Nicholas is an Eagle Scout and a freshman at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He was a member of the 2012 Kilimanjaro Expedition.



Tom Nicholson - Assistant Scoutmaster

Tom began his scouting career as a youth in Adirondack, NY and recently held Pack, District and Council leadership positions in N.J. before moving to CT. He has been a Scout University and District Trainer and received the Wood Badge. Tom is a hunter, kayaker, scuba diver, skier and fisherman. He coaches at Fastpitch Nation and works at EMS. Tom is a member of the CT First Company Horse Guards. His son TJ is a Life Scout and an ASPL.



Peter Adamowicz - Assistant Scoutmaster

Peter is an avid fly fisherman and paddler. A Cub Scout Den leader for 5 years and an assistant Scoutmaster for the last 8 years, he is currently the Troop's Life to Eagle Coordinator. He is CPR certified, SOLO Wilderness First Aid Trained, and a member of the Immortals. He was one of two adults that led the Philmont 2006 Crew to the National Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. He also led the Philmont 2009 trip and helped lead the Amazon Jungle trip in 2008. Peter is VP and Chief Estimator with Gilbane Building, 5th largest construction company in the United States. His son, Lee, is an Eagle Scout, former troop SPL and a



Senior at Annapolis Naval Academy. His younger son, Tom, is an Eagle Scout, and a Junior at Wentworth Institute.

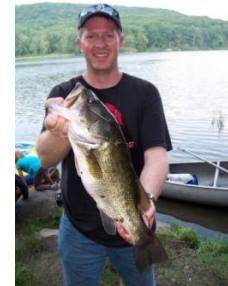
Terek Perdue – Assistant Scout Master

Terek started his scouting career as a youth, where he earned his Arrow of Light as a Cub Scout, and reached the rank of 1st Class as a Boy Scout. He has been involved with scouting on the adult level as a parent with Pack 203 for 2 years and a fully trained Cub Scout den leader for 5 years. He then moved on to Troop 149 where he was a fully trained assistant scout master. He has attended summer resident camp on the Cub and Boy Scout levels for the past 8 years. He enjoys fishing, bicycling, sports, water skiing, and scuba diving. He works as a firefighter/EMT for UTC Aerospace Systems and is a volunteer firefighter. Terek has two sons in the troop: Tyrus, who is a Star scout and a patrol leader, and Talon, who just achieved the rank of 2nd class.



Todd Hollister – Assistant Scoutmaster

Todd joined the Troop in the spring of 2014 when his son, Max (and honorary Scout daughter, Kate), crossed over from Pack 325 in Granby, CT where Todd was Cubmaster /Assistant Cubmaster and Den Leader for 3 years. Todd enjoys the outdoors, especially fishing, camping, hiking, biking, canoeing and kayaking. He is also a bit of a weekend artist and has been contracted to paint murals in Granby's High, Middle and Primary schools. By day, Todd is a robotics engineer and is currently Director of Software Engineering at Protodyne Corp. in Windsor, CT.



Attendance

The non-school life of most boys in Simsbury often is sports. Many of our Scouts play competitive sports and indeed often captain their Varsity teams. This year's captains of the Cross Country and Soccer teams are members of our troop. We require a 50% meeting attendance and a 50% trip attendance in order to advance rank in our Troop. This allows boys to do both sports and Scouts.

Parent Involvement

Troop 175 is successful because of the volunteer work of dozens of parents. Our Troop Committee, chaired by Michelle Weathers, meets once a month and consists of 16 positions that are filled by individuals who spend many hours making sure we have the resources to run an organization of 100 Scouts. In addition, we have many Moms and Dads who take on one project a year or are regulars on our trips. We need many drivers to move this Troop to the different trip venues. The reward is many new friendships and many nights around a campfire sharing stories, values and occasionally politics. We often have parents come on trips when their kids can't go. We welcome all assistance anytime, anywhere. Many of our Adult Leaders stay on even after their

sons turn 18 and go off to college. We encourage this continuity and experience. For many of us Scouting is lifelong passion - not something that occurs just during our son's teenage years.

How to Join

If you're a Cub, we will be contacting you throughout the year as we have various events. If you're not a Cub, but are at least 11 years old or have completed 5th grade, then please go to our website. If you are already a Scout and have just moved to the area, give the Scoutmaster a call. We would love to have you join us.

Final Thoughts

We are very excited about what we do at Troop 175. The values expressed by the Scout Law and the Scout Oath are great compasses to teach and to live by. Coupled with the Scouting Skills and "friendships made for life" the Scouts is a well-defined path through a boy's "years of change."

Some years ago I was bringing up the rear in a hike down from Tuckerman's Ravine. One of our new Scouts was struggling with a pack that was a little too heavy, boots that were a little too big and socks that were a little too wet. I asked how he was doing and he said "Mr. Mead this is the toughest thing I have ever done but I'll make it. Can we do it again next year?" We did and he did. Carter Hill would go on to get dry socks and proper fitting boots as well as receive his Eagle Award. In between he would set the record for most merit badges ever earned in the Troop(53), climb Kilimanjaro, trek deep into the Amazon Jungle to assist with a Monkey census, and complete an Eagle project in Tanzania that would win the 2nd place Eagle scholarship (out 50,000 projects that year). The confidence, the experience, the skills and the spirit - it's what Scouting does. It's why Scouting Counts. Come be a part of it.



Yours in Scouting,

Brad Mead,
Scoutmaster Troop 175

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