

Troop 4480 – New Parent Guide



Welcome to **Scouts BSA Troop 4480**. We're excited to have you, and your Scout join our program. Scouting builds character, citizenship, and leadership through adventure and teamwork. This guide is designed to answer common questions and help families navigate their first year in the troop.

About Troop 4480 (Boy Troop)

- **Chartered Organization:** First Congregational Church of Plympton
- **Troop Meetings:** Tuesdays 7-830pm – 254 Main St Plympton MA 02367
- **Patrol Method:** Scouts are organized into patrols, each led by a youth Patrol Leader.
- **Leadership:** The troop is youth-led, with adults serving as mentors and providing safety, training, and guidance.

Key Contacts

- **Scoutmaster:** Shawn Donnelly – shawndonnelly@yahoo.com
- **Committee Chair:** Ross MacPherson – macpherson.ross@gmail.com

Communication

- **Website:** troop4480.org
- **Calendar:** All meetings, campouts, and service projects are listed on the troop website. Subscribe for the most up-to-date information.
- **Email Announcements:** Parents and Scouts receive monthly updates.
- **Text/Remind Groups:** Used for last-minute updates or weather-related changes.

Uniform & Gear

- **Uniform:** Official Scouts BSA field uniform ("Class A") is worn for meetings, ceremonies, and travel. Troop T-shirts ("Class B") are worn during activities and camping.
- **Handbook:** Every Scout should have a current edition of the Scouts BSA Handbook.
- **Camping Gear:** Scouts need a sleeping bag, backpack, mess kit, water bottle, and weather-appropriate clothing. The troop provides tents, cooking gear, and group equipment.

A detailed gear list is available on our website.

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Advancement

- Scouts progress at their own pace, learning skills and completing requirements for ranks.
 - Advancement is tracked in **Scoutbook**, where parents can monitor progress.
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Troop Activities

- **Campouts:** Camping is at the heart of our program.
 - **High Adventure:** Opportunities for older Scouts (Philmont, Sea Base, Northern Tier, Summit).
 - **Service Projects:** Troop 4480 is committed to serving our community.
 - **Summer Camp:** A week-long camp each summer offers advancement, adventure, and fun.
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Parent Involvement

Scouting is a family program. Parents are encouraged to:

- Serve as **merit badge counselors**.
 - Volunteer on the **Troop Committee**.
 - Assist with **transportation** and **campouts**.
 - Support Scouts in living the **Scout Oath and Law**.
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Financial Information

- **Registration:** \$153 Annual National & Council program fees.
 - **Fundraising:** Scouts are expected to participate in fundraising activities to offset Troop costs.
 - **Campouts:** Typically, \$10-20 per weekend to cover food.
 - **Scholarships:** No Scout is turned away for financial reasons. Confidential assistance is available.
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Closing

We're excited to have you join the adventure! Troop 4480 has a proud tradition of teaching skills, building friendships, and preparing young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes. Together, we'll help your Scout grow into a confident leader ready for life's challenges.