

A person is standing on a dark, rocky outcrop in the foreground, looking out over a vast mountain range. The mountains are rugged, with patches of snow or light-colored rock on their peaks and ridges. The sky is a clear, deep blue. The overall scene is one of a vast, open wilderness.

Troop 175

**We're Looking for...
A few good boys
2017**

**Brad Mead
Scoutmaster
73 East Weatogue Street
Simsbury, CT 06070**

**Home Phone: (860) 658-0150
Office Phone: (860) 677-0000
Mobile Phone: (860) 614-1484
bradmead@deltanow.com**

Alaska Expedition

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 2015/2016 we had a record 20 trips in our program. Last year's trips were:



2015/2016 Trips

- September – Nantucket
- October – Mountain Biking in Lake George
- 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 – SCUBA training class.
- January – Our Annual Weekend Ski trip – this year to Killington
- February - The Deep Freeze Campout
- March – Our cross-over trip for Webelos joining our troop. We camped on Staten island and Toured the new Freedom Center and the 911 exhibit. Our leaders Group snow shoed into the White Mountains for Leadership Training.
- April – We climbed Tuckermans Ravine on Mt. Washington
- May – We climbed Mt. Graylock
- The immortals kayaked the white water of the Androscoggin River in NH
- June - 9th 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.

- June also included our Hartford Marathon Security Campout.
- July - Our annual 1 week camp at Camp Mattituck.
- We also sent a full crew to the National Scout Ranch at Philmont.
- August – we took 30 people sailing through the Greek Islands on three yachts that we sailed ourselves.

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 Zeeland Falls 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.

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 June 2017 we will



raft the Cotahausi River in Southern Peru with one of the worlds best rafting Guides - Water by Nature. In addition we have plans to take the Troop to Cuba during spring vacation to sail around the Island and visit the different port cities. We are working to restoring Scouting in Cuba through diplomatic channels while we are there. There was a great Scouting Culture in Cube prior to the revolution. We hope to bring it back.

Greek Sailing Expedition – 2016

This last summer we took 30 scouts and adults on three large yachts and sailed through the Greek islands. We flew to Athens and toured the city for two days and then got on our yachts and sailed of to Serfos, Peros, Mykonos, Hydra and Paros. We spent the days sailing through the magnificent Mediterranean Sea with all the Scouts learning to sail and standing watch. At night we would be a different island and would often find a small restaurants to eat . We would often get invited by local Greeks to experience their way of life in this remarkable place.

Alaska Expedition – 2015 – We took 26 members of the Troop to Alaska and explored the Great State in 6 RV's. We explored and hiked on Glaciers, panned for Gold in the Klondike, Fished for King Salmon in the Kenai River, explored the fiords of Seward, and enjoyed the endless twilight of the Arctic Circle

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 un-raftable. 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.



National BSA Jamboree – 2013 – In July 18 of our Scouts attended the quadrennial Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Jamboree Site in West Virginia.

As part of the Connecticut Rivers Council Contingent they spent 10 days rafting, zip lining, shooting and meeting other scouts from all over the country. The Jamboree site became the 3 rd largest city in West Virginia for that ten days – 45,000 Scouts and Scouters.

Kilimanjaro – 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 in America 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 2016 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 best Troop in the District(Out of 30) We also routinely provide the most service hours (4,300) of any Troop . For the ninth year in a row the Troop also won Gold Status(Highest) 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 New York 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 Headquarters 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 Connecticut 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, 104 boys have advanced to the rank of Eagle, including 56 in just the past seven years. This high level of achievement is virtually unprecedented, and we are justifiably proud of these motivated achievers. This last year we had 10 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.

This year we had two Eagle projects that began in the US and then moved to Haiti in order to impact the people of that devastated nation. Dan Peluso(ASPL) raised \$15,000 to bring thousands of pairs of prescription eyeglasses to Port Au Prince and over seven days arranged for medical eye exams and new prescription eye glasses for hundreds of Haitians. Christian Heiden (ASPL) traveled to rural Haiti and he and his team helped the community build a large Hydroponics greenhouse that he designed and funded.

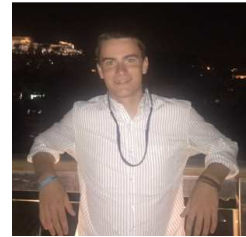
Leadership

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 time) 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 2016 – 2017 leaders are:

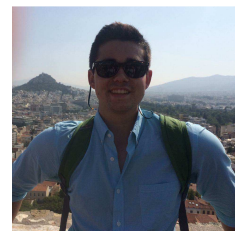
Alex Stine – Senior Patrol Leader(Lead Scout)

Alex is an Eagle Scout. He has been involved in scouting since third grade. He is a Senior at Simsbury High School where he is part of the track team. He is also a member of The Immortals. He attended the 2013 National Scout Jamboree at the Bechtel Center Summit Reserve in West Virginia, the 2016 Expedition to the Philmont Scout Ranch and co led the 2016 Sailing Expedition through the Greek islands.. Alex has participated in many of the exciting trips troop 175 carries out, including ice climbing at smugglers notch in Vermont, visiting Block Island every year, and climbing up to Tuckerman's Ravine. Alex is an avid mountain biker, fisherman, sailor and loves skiing.



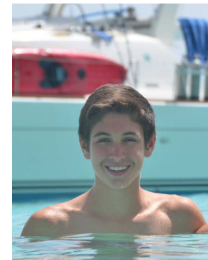
Daniel Peluso – Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Daniel Peluso is a prospective Eagle Scout and a member of The Immortals.. He has been an active member of Troop 175 since 5th grade, and a cub scout before then. Daniel is a senior at Simsbury High School and is State VP of Future Business Leaders of America and President of the National Honor Society. In his free time, Daniel likes to play guitar, lift weights, solve puzzles, and practice computer science skills. He is hopeful to study engineering and business in college, but also plans on incorporating a community service aspect in his career. Daniel showed his passion for community service when he organized an expedition to Haiti, and raised \$15,000 to give 600 Haitian citizens glasses in the summer of 2016. The same summer he joined the troop on the sailing trip to Greece.



Cam DeLo – Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Cam is a Life Scout and is Senior at Simsbury High school and a member of the Immortals.. He is also a member of the varsity crew team and participates in the school's musical. Cam is a member of a band and is one of the leaders of an all-male acapella group. Cam was a counselor at his Maine summer camp. This is Cam's second year as an ASPL. Cam is a member of The Immortals.



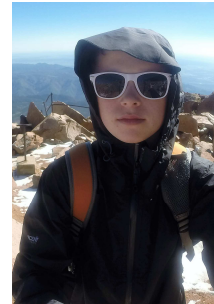
Jack Ferrell – Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Jack joined BSA 175 6 years ago. He is presently a life scout, and recently completed his Eagle Project. He is an senior at Simsbury High School where he has spent most of his time in the engineering lab. He has thrown javelin for Simsbury track and field, played baseball, and enjoys playing dodgeball, golf, and skiing. Jack has participated in the National Youth Leadership Training program, and in many high adventure trips in Boy Scouts. He is a member of The Immortals.



Charlie Brinegar- Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Charlie Brinegar is a Life Scout and has been in scouting since the third grade. He is a sophomore at Granby Memorial High School where he is a member of the lacrosse team. Charlie has participated in many of the troops activities, the most recent being Philmont. He was Senior Patrol Leader at Camp Mattatuck this summer and looks forward to being an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader for the Troop this year. He is also a member of The Immortals. In his free time he enjoys skiing, golf, and fishing.



Lucas Watson- Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Raised in Ohio and Moved to Connecticut at the age of 13. Came here for an adventure and thinks he found it with his new troop. .He has traveled on trips throughout New England and loves climbing in the White Mountains . He was SPL at camp in 2015 and sailed the Greek islands in the 2016 Expedition Trip.



Christian Heiden – Junior Assistant Scoutmaster

Christian Heiden is a Senior in high school at Northwest Catholic, a Life Scout and a member of The Immortals.. He is an avid athlete, playing sports almost every season, such as cross country, swim team, and rugby. In addition to sports Christian is an actor, participates in model UN and debate club, and also does martial arts. Despite his varying commitments, Boy Scouts always takes precedence.

Christian built a solar powered Greenhouse for Northwest Catholic for his Eagle Project and then continued the activity by raising money and taking a team to Haiti to build one for a Mission Group in Rural Haiti.



Adult Leadership

Brad Mead – Scoutmaster

Brad is an Eagle Scout and has hiked, climbed, paddled and explored in over 146 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 the 2016 Greek Sailing Expedition, the 2010 & 2015 Alaskan Expedition, the 2014 Zambezi Whitewater Rafting Expedition, the Kilimanjaro expeditions in 2007 & 2012, the Amazon Jungle expedition in 2008, the 2010 Presidential Traverse 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 Connecticut 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, deepwater 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 and the highest points in every state. Bill co-led the 2010 Alaskan Expedition, 2012 Kilimanjaro Expedition, and the 2013 Belize Sailing Expedition and led the the 2011 Philmont Scout Ranch Trek. Bill, President of the Web Marketing Association, developed our troop Google group and our Web Site. He also instructs the scout leadership in public speaking skills. His son Keegan is an Eagle Scout, and was the 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 Design Innovation In Avon as a prototype developer. His oldest son, Eric, is an Eagle Scout, former SPL and a Junior 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 four years. He is currently section hiking portions of the Appalachian 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. He is trained in CPR, First Aid as well as Wilderness First Aid. His younger son, Kyle is a Life scout and Patrol Leader. His older son, Ryan, is an Eagle and a Junior 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 ten 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 and 2016 Philmont Expeditions. 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 10 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, is an Eagle Scout, former Immortals Chief, and a Sophomore at Rochester Institute of Technology.



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. Jack is in charge of the Troop Database and Leads our Summer Camp program and is a member of the Immortals. 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 Life Scout and a Assistant Senior Patrol Leader..



Bob Gilmore – Assistant Scoutmaster

Bob is an Eagle Scout. He has been an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 175 for 19 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.



Travis Pascavis – Assistant Scoutmaster

Travis joined the troop in spring of 2016 when his son Ben crossed over from Simsbury Pack 76, and will lead the October Adirondack Troop trip. After holding various prior and current leader roles in the pack, he has a strong connection to the crossover scouts and their unique needs. Travis' focus will be to work with the troop's patrol program to ensure a strong connection between the needs of the crossovers and the needs of the youth patrol leaders. Travis likes the outdoors, and pursues hiking, biking, fishing, and camping. He works at the Hartford Investment Management Company as a Portfolio Strategist, and sits on the portfolio strategy committee, which is responsible for tactical asset allocation.



Tom Nicholson – Assistant Scoutmaster

Tom began his scouting career as a youth in Adirondack, New York and recently held Pack, District and Council leadership positions in New Jersey. before moving to Connecticut. He has been a Scout University and District Trainer and received the Wood Badge. Tom is a hunter, kayaker, scuba diver, skier and fisherman. Tom is a member of the CT First Company Horse Guards. His son TJ is an Eagle Scout and a freshman at College..



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 9 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 Graduate of Annapolis Naval Academy. His younger son, Tom, is an Eagle Scout,



and just graduated Wentworth Institute.

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 Proteodyne Corp. in Windsor, CT.



Derek Aldrich – Assistant Scoutmaster

Derek has been part of Troop 175 since the Spring of 2012. He was previously a Den Leader, Committee Member and Advancement Chair for Pack 325 in Granby. Additionally he volunteers his time as a Coach for some of his Son's athletic teams. Derek enjoys the outdoors and is an avid fisherman. He also likes to spend his time camping, hiking, kayaking and mountain biking. His youngest Son Connor joined the troop in the Spring of 2015 and has achieved the Scout rank. His oldest Son Patrick is a Life Scout and recently spent a week at the National Youth Leadership Training at J.N. Webster Camp in Ashford. Derek spends his days as an Architect working for Moser Pilon Nelson Architects in Wethersfield



John Hughes- Assistant Scoutmaster

Jon Hughes is an Eagle Scout who joined the troop in 2012 and is an Assistant Scoutmaster. He achieved the rank of Eagle in 1969 while in Troop 786 in Michigan. Although he does not have any sons, he wanted to give back to an organization that had such a tremendously positive impact on his life. In addition to participating on troop trips, meetings, Eagle Scout projects, etc. he is responsible for adult & scout registration and annual troop chartering activities. He is an avid outdoorsman and is trained in Wilderness First Aid. He has over 30 years as a safety professional and is currently an industry consultant.



Joel Hoffman – Assistant Scoutmaster

Joel joined the troop in 2012 when his son Andrew crossed over from pack 275 in West Simsbury. Since 2008 Joel and family are half way there to see all National Parks in the lower 48, Hawaii and Alaska. Joel is trained in CPR, First Aid and Scuba. Joel enjoys fishing, boating, kayaking, skiing and snowmobiling. Joel works with GE as a Regional Manager calling on Military and Aerospace customers.



Ethan Meskill –Assistant Scoutmaster

Ethan is an Eagle Scout and last years SPL. He is a Senior 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 troop's 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, 2014 and 2015. In 2014 Ethan received his Red Cross Life Saving Certification.



Rick Aikman – Assistant Scoutmaster

Rick has been active in Troop 175 since his son crossed over in 2015. Rick has also been a Cub Scout leader in Granby Pack 325 since 2010, serving as a den leader for both of his sons, and organizing Pack activities such as model rocket launches. He enjoys fishing and fly fishing with his boys and is involved in various church activities. Rick coaches The Master's School Lions FIRST Robotics teams in his spare time. His oldest son, Marcos, is a First Class Scout in the Troop, and his youngest son Brandon will be crossing over to the Troop this coming Spring. Rick works for UTC Aerospace Systems as an Engineer and also owns/operates Aikman Thermal Imaging, LLC, an Infrared Thermography company.



Chris Doskos – Assistant Scoutmaster

Chris joined the Troop in the spring of 2014 when his son, Luke, crossed over from Simsbury Pack 175 and is the Troop Merit Badge Coordinator. Chris is a Lt. (ret.) having served 20 years with Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department where he was a member of the rescue squad, junior firefighter executive committee, public fire education, and tower ladder truck committee.

He was a Medical Response Technician with the Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance for 10 years and is trained in CPR/AED, SOLO Wilderness First Aid, NASAR Search & Rescue and High Angle Rescue. Chris was also a Connecticut State Police Auxiliary Trooper with Troop H in Hartford. He is a certified scuba diver and licensed Ham radio operator.

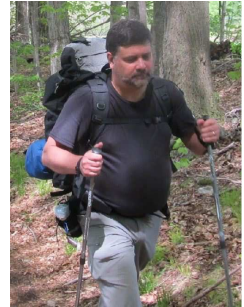


Chris is a Chemical Manager for United Technologies Aerospace Systems in

Windsor Locks. He enjoys fly fishing, biking, hiking, camping, kayaking, world travel and flying and is the Troop Merit Badge Coordinator. He is a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 324 at Simsbury Airport. His son Luke, is a Life Scout and a Patrol leader.

Ray Mancarella – Assistant Scoutmaster

Ray began his scouting experience as a youth in Windsor Locks progressing from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts, earning the rank of Life Scout. An avid camper Ray has passed his love of the outdoors to his 3 daughters. Camping, kayaking, hiking and letterboxing are among his hobbies. Ray has been an active volunteer in the St.Mary's community, chairing Carnival committees, sitting on the Parish Council and the school's Technology Committee. He recognized the value scouting brought to his life and decided to rejoin to give back to the organization which he enjoyed as a youth. He is an IT consultant and also enjoys cycling.



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 Lori Boyko 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 90 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. Its why Scouting Counts. Come be a part of it.

Yours in Scouting,



Brad Mead,
Scoutmaster Troop 175

73 East Weatogue Street
Simsbury, CT 06070
bradmead@deltanow.com
860-614-1484