

Dear Fellow Scouts,

My name is Caleb S. Cottongim, and I have been given the honor of being chosen as your Senior Patrol Leader for the 2024 season. I am very excited to lead Mackinac Island Scout Service Troop 127 this year, and will do my best to help you all become the Garrison Troop that I know you can be. In order for us to do this, there are 4 essential skills and tools you need to learn how to perform and use efficiently. Not only will we work on these skills at training meetings, but resources are available on the MISST127.com website so that you may hone your skills even when we cannot be together. These essential skills are as follows;

- **Troop 127 Mini Manual:** The troop 127 Mini Manual is easily the most important tool that you will have at your disposal. The manual will have all the information you need to be a successful Garrison Troop, ranging from information on the history of the island to the policies our troop follows to be successful.
  
- **Marching:** Marching properly is an essential skill to become a successful Garrison Troop. Nearly all places we go on the island, we must march. Marching seems fairly simple, but requires much practice to master. Due to the amount of time required, the troop has created some online training videos on our website to aid you.
  
- **Flag Folding:** One of our main duties on the island is to raise and lower the flags on Mackinac Island. Part of this duty is to fold the flags after we lower them. There are videos on the website to help you with this. You can practice with any flag of your own or a 4x6 cutout of a bedsheet.
  
- **Virtual Tour:** The Virtual Tour is a collection of images and videos that will help you find where your duty stations are, as well as help you find where the trash cans are for when we perform our fort trash duties.

If you have any questions, or would like any additional information relating to myself or MISST 127, don't hesitate to contact me or any of the adults. Remember to always CC another adult when contacting adult leadership. I look forward to working with you all to ensure that we will have a great 2024 season.

Yours in Scouting, Caleb Cottongim