

The Trail

Cub Scouts - Boy Scouts - Venturing



Keep Us In The Loop

One way to be sure that you always have the latest news and updates is to stay connected to the District Committee and the various sub-committees that put all the fantastic programs together.

We want to hear from you, and we want you to be able to hear from us. So please send us your email and we'll put you on the distribution list to get the newsletter as well as any other important info that gets distributed month to month. You can sign up via a signup sheet at Roundtable, or you can send an email to:

Josh Bollam: joshua.bollam@scouting.org
Jerry Fix: jerry.fix@gmail.com

The newsletter can also be seen online at:
<http://stlbsa.org/gravoistail/>

Welcome to our First Edition of The Trail

Welcome to our first issue !

We hope to use The Trail as a way to keep units and crews informed about what's going on in the District, who to contact for info and to spread the word about all the great things that Scouting and Venturing is doing in our community.

To start, here are the people you'll want to contact with important questions about what's going on in the District:

Commissioner: [Neil Phipps](#)
C. 314-560-2836
phippna@prodigy.net
Activities: [Jean-Marie Nilges](#)
C. 314-504-7733
jnilges@jwterrell.com

Advancement: [Jere Strobl](#)
C. 314-780-5256
jere_strobl@sbcglobal.com
Camping: [Gil Kauffmann](#)
C. 314-910-3994
gilkauermann@gmail.com
OA: [Janet Nelson](#)
(314) 799-2548
jdsnelson@charter.net
Membership: [Ken McFadden](#)
H. (720) 530-5800
Ken.mcfadden@mcfaddens.us
Training: [Paul Leicht Sr.](#)
C. (314) 409-7063
paulleichtsr@aol.com
Communications: [Jerry Fix](#)
C. (636) 221-4368
jerry.fix@gmail.com
Development: [Keith Guller](#)
kguller@essexind.com
Venturing: [Michael O'Donnell](#)
eaglescout721@gmail.com

District Directors Corner

New Eagle Scout Application Procedures Effective October 1st 2014

Eagle Scouts candidates can now electronically submit their Eagle Scout application to Eagle@stlbsa.org or take their paperwork to one of the following council service centers to be reviewed by council staff.

Detailed instruction are available on the district website

You've asked and it's coming. On-Line Summer Camp Reservations!

The new on-line summer camp reservations will be rolled out the week of October 15th.

Summer camp and event registrations can now be made on your schedule and from the comfort of your home

- No paperwork needed to take to council
- No lines to wait in at a service center
- Unit leaders can generate reports showing who's registered and how much has been paid towards the camp or event
- Ability to add attendees or change attendees information

Some Troop and Pack benefits:

- Troops have the ability to choose merit badges ahead of summer camp based on a paid in full summer camp registration
- Scoutmasters can create schedules for camp and see what requirements their youth have completed
- Packs have the ability to see who is registered at each event and create a registration sheet for their records this is especially helpful for Day camp
- Ease in registering for Pow-Wow and University of Scouting along with class choices, gives the unit leader the ability to coordinate their den leaders classes before the events.

Membership

We have had a great start so far this year in our recruiting efforts. Unfortunately, we are still down again from last year at this time. I'd like to recommend that all Packs do a 2nd recruitment night at their normal Pack meeting. Talk to John, Josh, or myself about getting flyers but past them out again within your school just prior to your next Pack meeting. Also, if you still have applications out please, please, get them into the Scout Shop/ Scout Office as quickly as possible. If you are unable to get them into either of those locations please give either Josh, John, or myself a call and we will pick them up from you. We need to get each and every Scout into the system as soon as possible after their registration so that they are able to get their Boy's Life magazines on time and they get put under the BSA Insurance where they would be covered in the event of an accident while attending an event. Also, pertaining to recruitment, we are looking for any and all parents to call their son's middle school to request a visit from Council to recruit for Boy Scouts during their lunch period. Unfortunately, the schools will not allow Council to make this request - it must come from a parent of a child attending that school. Even though we have already had some make requests only to be turned down, the more that make this request the better chance we

have getting into these schools. So please call.

For additional information about upcoming events that can be used for recruitment along with additional information pertaining to Membership please keep looking at the Gravois Trail Membership page: <http://stlbsa.org/gravoistrail/membership/> as information changes monthly

Camping

Even though the weather is changing, there's still plenty of great camping.

Fall PACAO:

The Fall PACAO is coming up September 25-26, 2014. It will be held Shippey Field, Beaumont Scout Reservation. This year's theme is "Lord of the Rings". You can get the Boy Scout camp manual here:

[Boy Scout Manual](#)

and the Webelos manual here:

[Webelos Manual](#)

For question, contact Gil Kauffmann at:

gilkauffmann@gmail.com



The Commissioners Report

Leaders,

As of the October Roundtable, the 2015 recharter process begins. Although the online portion of the recharter process will not be available until November 1st, you should begin the "offline" process now in order to complete the online portion in early November. The entire recharter process needs to be completed by Monday, December 15th to be on time.

Steps to take in October:

- Begin to collect unit registration fees/ dues, if not already collected
- Review your unit's roster and verify members on the roster
- Make annotations (corrections, deletions, additions) on the provided paper roster to make the online process easier
- If there are Scouts or Leaders missing from your roster, obtain a new membership application from those individuals
- Ensure leaders whose Youth Protection Training has expired, or will expire before the end of 2014, have retaken the training on Scouting.org (see instructions below for creating a MyScouting account and linking to a member ID)

In the past, some units have delayed their recharter completion into the new year without penalty. Starting this year, if your unit's recharter is not completed by December 31st, your unit will no longer be registered on January 1st. This means your unit will no longer be insured, your Scouts cannot earn awards or advancement, you may not use GSLAC facilities, etc. Essentially, all unit activities must cease. In addition, the recharter process will have to be completed using the paper process and any work done online will be lost.

Although December 31st is the "drop-dead" date, the sooner you complete

the process, the more time we have to work with you to resolve any problems that Council may find when they process the recharter, hence the "on time" date of December 15th. A charter must be turned in to Council with all signatures, complete payment and error free in order to be considered complete.

As you proceed through the recharter process, please utilize your Unit Commissioner if you have any questions. We are here to help!

Neil Phipps
District Commissioner

Starting this year, if your unit's recharter is not completed by December 31st, your unit will no longer be registered on January 1st.

Instructions for Creating a MyScouting.org Account and Linking Member IDs

In order for a leader to be credited with taking Youth Protection Training online, the leader must register at MyScouting.org (i.e. create a user name) and associate their BSA Member ID with their account. The following instructions provide the steps for creating an account and linking the Member ID to the account.

Creating an Account/User ID on MyScouting.org

1. Browse to MyScouting.org in your web browser*
2. Click on the "Create an account"

button

3. Enter a user name and check to see if it's available by clicking "Check User Name Availability"
4. If available, click the "Next" button to proceed. Otherwise, click the checkbox next to "Get New User Name" to choose a new name.
5. Member Number:
 - a. If you know your Member ID number, click "I know my member ID", select your Council (Greater St. Louis Area Council – Saint Louis, MO – #312) and enter your member ID.
 - b. If you do not know your Member ID number, click "I am new and don't know my member ID, or I am not a

- member." (You will be able to link your Member ID once it's available.)
6. Click "Next" and complete the member profile.
7. Once all required fields are filled out, click "Create User."

Obtaining your Member ID

New leaders will not have a Member ID until their application has been processed. For registered leaders, your unit's Committee Chair, Scoutmaster, Cubmaster or Advisor should have this information on the unit roster received in the recharter packet. If this is not the case, the Committee Chair or Unit Leader should be able to access <http://my.scouting.org> for this information, or may contact the Greater St. Louis Area

Training

Youth Protection training will be held at the November and December Roundtable.

Pow Wow training will be held November 1 at Seckman High school.

Activities

FRIGHTFEST:

Council continues to schedule more fun outdoor Scouting events for the entire family! Upcoming in October we have the Fall Fright fest for Cub Scouts and their families (including scout age siblings) on Saturday 10/11/14 from 3:30 – 10:30. Come in costume and enjoy the fun outdoors! Limited to first 1,000 registered, cost is \$10 per scout/scout age sibling. Signup online at stlbsa.kintera.org/2014FallFrightFest

SCOUTING FOR FOOD:

Scouting for Food – Bag drop off day (Sat. Nov. 8) and bag/food pickup days (Sat. Nov. 15) are another opportunity for scouting families to work together for a great cause! Help by donating food and get out as a family to help collect the bags! Great chance to help the Scouts and the community work together to restock numerous food pantries, just in time for the holidays!

Please contact me with any questions at 314-594-2729 or jnilges@jwtemill.com

Thank you!
Jean-Marie

The Commissioners Corner (cont)

Council registrar for the ID number.

My.Scouting.org is different from MyScouting.org (notice the period between “my” and “scouting”). This site should allow key unit leaders to obtain membership information for their unit. It is strongly recommended that unit leaders avoid using Internet Explorer for this tool (Firefox and Chrome work well). This document does not provide training on this tool.

Adding Your Member ID to an Existing Profile on MyScouting.org

1. Browse to MyScouting.org in your web browser*
2. Enter your User Name and Password to login.
3. In the upper right corner of the screen, select “View Full Profile”
4. In the bottom section under “Membership Info”, select your Council (Greater St. Louis Area Council – Saint Louis, MO - #312) and enter your member ID.
5. Click “Add”
6. Click “Save Profile”

Once this is completed, your training records will be associated with your Member ID. It may take a day or two for all BSA systems to recognize this, though.

*Using Internet Explorer 10 with MyScouting.org

Microsoft recently released Internet Explorer 10. This version is not compatible with some features on MyScouting.org. In order to make your Internet Explorer 10 compatible, follow these steps:

1. Launch Internet Explorer.
2. Click “Tools” from the option bar at the top.
3. Choose “F12 developer tools” from the drop-down menu. This will open a box at the bottom of the browser.
4. Click “Browser Mode” from the new option bar.
5. Click “Internet Explorer 9 Compatibility View.”
6. When finished, repeat steps 1-4 to return to “Internet Explorer 10” if desired.





2014-2015 New VOA Officers:
(L to R)
President - Eva Mange
VP of Administration – Anna Musich
VP of Program – Kenny Edgar
VP of Communication – Madison Agers

Venturing

Venturers of the Gravois trail district elected their Venturing Officers Association (VOA) Officers for the 2014–2015 venturing year.

They are:

President - Eva Mange - Crew 2586

Vice President of Administration –
Anna Musich -Crew 2116

Vice President of Program – Kenny
Edgar - Crew 2821

Vice President of Communication –
Madison Agers - Crew 2163

Just a reminder, we will not have a
Venturing Roundtable in October
so we can give our new officers
time to train and prepare for

November. By that time we should
have information on possible
adult leader training, with the new
material, tentatively for sometime in
November.

The Fall Fun Rally, the largest
Venturing event in the United States
was held at Beaumont, September
26-28. There were over 1,350 youth
in attendance from 13 states. On
Saturday afternoon of the event,
Venturers from the Gravois Trail
District elected their officers for the
2014-2015 scouting year.

On Friday evening, the Greater
Saint Louis Area Council voted
on its Venturing Officers. Former
Gravois Trail District Vice-President
of Communications, Chris Harmon

was elected GSLAC Vice-President
of Communications. This is the 3rd
time in 4 years that a Venturer from
the Gravois Trail District has held
one of the 4 council-level offices.
Congratulations Chris!

Advancement

Boy Scouts:

Eagle Project Review is the first Tuesday of the month at General American Insurance at 7PM. Project reviews are coordinated by Mike Nebel 314-892-7606 nebgmike@netzero.net

Eagle Boards of Review are coordinated by Jerry Blackwell 314-822-4719. Eagle BORs dates for October and November are October 6, 14, 22, 30 and November 3, 11, 19, 20.

We have five Merit Badge Orientations planned for this Scout-year. Merit Badge Orientations are sessions where Scouts can attend without registration and learn what the requirements are for the merit badge. Don't let your older Scouts miss the opportunity to begin the series of Eagle Required merit badge orientations we have planned. Sessions begin at 7PM at

Sperreng Middle School on Tesson Ferry. Scouts should be in uniform with paper, a pen, and a merit badge card. The orientations planned are: Family Life Monday November 10, 2014, Communications Monday January 12, 2015, Citizenship in the Community Monday February 9, 2015, Citizenship in the Nation Monday March 9, 2015, and Citizenship in the World Monday April 13, 2015.

We are also planning Merit Badge Skill Centers; Automotive Maintenance on Saturday November 22, 2014, tentatively Woodworking around the middle of March, and First Aid on Saturday May 2, 2015. For additional information please contact Jere Strobl @ jere_strobl@sbcglobal.net . Registration for each skill center will open approximately one month prior to the date of the skill center. Skill Centers have a limited number of

Scouts that may register/attend which varies depending on the Merit Badge being offered.

Cub Scouts:

At all Cub Scout Ranks the requirement for each achievement is that a Cub Scout has done his BEST.

The first rank that a Cub Scout earns is Bobcat and that should be earned in the first couple of meetings.

Cub Scouting is a family program so in awarding rank, the scouts parents are a part of the ceremony. When all requirements are satisfied, the badge is presented to his parent or guardian at the next pack meeting in an impressive advancement ceremony, during which the parent or guardian in turn presents the badge to the boy.