

# The Trail

Cub Scouts - Boy Scouts - Venturing



## Where To Find Things On The Web

There are some great resources on the web for Scouting in St. Louis

The Greater St Louis Area Website can be found here: **GSLAC Website**

The home for Gravois Trail can be found here: **Gravois Trail Website**

Shawnee Lodge of the Order of the Arrow website can be found here: **Shawnee**

Or the Facebook page located here: **Gravois Trail Facebook**

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

Contact us at:

Mike Eschbach: [michael.eschbach@scouting.org](mailto:michael.eschbach@scouting.org)

Jerry Fix: [jerry.fix@gmail.com](mailto:jerry.fix@gmail.com)

## Contact Us !

Well, the holidays are upon us and quickly zooming past. It's the middle of Winter now (though sometimes it doesn't feel like it). It's the season of Klondike Derbies, Pinewood Derbies, Winter Campouts and more ! This is a great time to not only enjoy Winter Scouting activities, but to start thinking and planning for Spring and Summer !

GT District Sub Committees:

Commissioner: **Paul Leicht**  
C. 314-409-7063  
[paulleichtsr@aol.com](mailto:paulleichtsr@aol.com)

Advancement: **Phil Tilghman**  
C. 314-401-2339  
[T778sm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:T778sm@sbcglobal.net)

Camping: **Gil Kauffmann**  
C. 314-910-3994  
[gilkauffmann@gmail.com](mailto:gilkauffmann@gmail.com)

OA: **Brian Mischel**  
[bmischel780@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bmischel780@sbcglobal.net)

Membership: **Ken McFadden**  
H. 720-530-5800  
[ken.mcfadden@mcfaddens.org](mailto:ken.mcfadden@mcfaddens.org)

Activities: **Dawn Fansler**  
[dmf138@aol.com](mailto:dmf138@aol.com)

Training: **Gary Dedeker**  
C. 314-740-0986  
[woodyccs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:woodyccs@sbcglobal.net)

Communications: **Jerry Fix**  
C. 636-221-4368  
[jerry.fix@gmail.com](mailto:jerry.fix@gmail.com)

Development: **Keith Guller**  
[kguller@essexind.com](mailto:kguller@essexind.com)

Venturing: **Michael O'Donnell**  
[eaglescout721@gmail.com](mailto:eaglescout721@gmail.com)

## District Exec's Corner

**G**reetings Gravois Trail!

2016 was such a wonderful year of scouting for the district and I want to thank each and every one of you for the hard work and dedication to scouting.

When we come together as a district and work to further scouting in South County, we can accomplish a lot. I know that 2017 will bring even more great things for Gravois Trail. Thank you for all that you do.

I also have some exciting news to share. Please welcome **Mike Eschbach**, the new district director of Gravois Trail.

Mike comes with a strong scouting background at GSLAC and the Lewis and Clark Council. Mike works hard to promote scouting everywhere he works and will be a very valuable team member. Take a moment to get to know him over the next few weeks!

Yours in Scouting, Suzie  
suzie.redington@scouting.org

## Training

Hello The Trail;

The Winter is a great time to get extra training in. The District and Council put on a wide variety of great training opportunities.

### January 3, 2017 Roundtable Meeting

- Boy Scout RT; Feature Topic: Eagle Board Reviews
- 7:10 PM – Pressurized Fuel Training – Cub Scout Leaders, Boy Scout Leaders and Venturing – all are welcome to attend and be trained.

### University of Scouting

**Saturday, January- 28, 2017**, 8:00am at St. John's Vianney High School or Collinsville HS, 2201 S. Madison Ave., Collinsville, IL 62234.

- On line registration to began on November 15, 2016.
- Click [HERE](#) for more information

### Wood Badge Informational Dinner

The Wood Badge Informational Dinner will be held on **2/27/17 @ 6:00 PM at the Emerson Center, Beaumont Scout Reservation**. This is an event to learn more about Wood Badge Training and how it can make you a more effective leader. If you are interested in learning more about Wood Badge and you would like to find a sponsor for the dinner, please contact Gary Dedeke, GT District Training Chairman at 314-631-7478. Online you can get more info [HERE](#). You can also register for the dinner [HERE](#)

And much more.. so be sure to check it out !



## OA



### Winter Fellowship Banquet

The lodge Winter Fellowship Banquet was held on December 18th, and we'd like to congratulate our chapter's three new Vigil Honor candidates, **Kenny Edgar, Randy Kaul and Brian Mischel**. If you know of other youth and adults who are deserving of this honor, start planning to nominate them next fall

### Chapter Banquet

We will hold our Chapter Banquet on **Wednesday, February 15** at Genesis Banquet Center on Lemay Ferry. Watch for further information, including how to register for this fun evening

### Arrowman Experience

Don't miss the fun and excitement of the Arrowman Experience on **March 4** at the Emerson Center. The day will feature sports, training cells and ceremonial team competitions. Check out the Lodge website **HERE** for more information

### Ceremonial Teams

We'd like to encourage units to think about forming an Ordeal or Brotherhood team. Or if you'd like to be part of a team but don't have one in your unit, our chapter can put you in touch with a team. You can even just start out by being a guide carrying one of the torches. For more information, contact **Grant Nilges** at [grant.nilges@shawneelodge.org](mailto:grant.nilges@shawneelodge.org) - Spring Conclave will be here before you know it, so now's a great time to get involved

### Stay Connected

Did you receive an email from the chapter about our last chapter meeting or the service project? If not, that means we don't have an email address for you. Please contact: [gravois.trail@shawneelodge.org](mailto:gravois.trail@shawneelodge.org) to be added to our mailing list. And did you know we also have a Facebook page? Check it out **HERE**

### Membership

It's time to re-register with the lodge and pay your annual dues for 2017. Dues are \$10, or there are still a limited number of season passes available for \$45. These dues help support lodge leadership, our activities and service projects, and help us pay dues to the National Lodge. If you became an ordeal candidate this past summer or completed Brotherhood at the Fall Reunion, your 2017 dues are already taken care of

## Camping

### Klondike Derby

On January 28th, 2017 Gravois Trail district will hold our 2017 Klondike Derby at Beaumont Scout Ranch.

This year's theme is "8 Below". Our Campmaster will be Kenny Owens and there are some great events planned: Winter Skiing, Fire Building, Apple Bobbing, Snowball Fight, Tic Tac Snow and lots more...

For more Klondike Derby info go **HERE**

### Other Camping Events

Spring camporee	April 28-30	Camp Lewellan
OA Spring Conclave	April 21-23	Beaumont Scout Ranch

Stay Tuned For More Info !...

### Shooting Sports Training Events

GSLAC is sponsoring a wide variety of NRA approved shooting sports opportunities. Most of these sessions will be occurring between January and April of 2017

For details and dates, go **HERE**

## Featured Unit

The Trail will start featuring Units that have "gone above and beyond". This month is Troop 661

Last April members of Troop 661 met Mr. Thomas Haines. Mr. Haines is the district Ranger for the Mark Twain National Forest. During a discussion about hunting opportunities at the Forest, he mentioned some issues he was having with the public on the forest grounds. When he found out they were members of a Boy Scout Troop, he said he had some projects that the Boy Scouts could work on if they were willing. They said "of course we're interested" and from there they were put in contact with a variety of other individuals at the forest to discuss which projects would be most useful, when good times to work on them would be and other details.

On August 27, 2016 the Troop did a service project at the Forest. They installed a number of fences to keep vehicles off the hiking trails, and built / installed signs to remind campers not to set up camps at the trail-heads.

### Way to go Troop 661 - This is what Scouting is all about !



## Activities

### Cub Scout Adventure Changes

On November 30th, changes were released to the Cub Scout advancement program. According to the documents released, there was concern over **a)** decreased advancement and potential lower retention, **b)** difficulty completing all the requirements in the program year with weather/daylight concerns, **c)** overnight camping was seen as a significant hurdle for some, and **d)** Duty to God requirements connote organized religion to some and are not seen as embracing a belief in God and spirituality outside of specific faiths.

As a result a task force was formed and modifications were made to the Cub Scout Program. For most adventures, there were some rewrites to the individual requirements and the number of requirements was changed - such as complete requirements 1 and 2 and one additional requirement. This gives the Den Leaders more flexibility to increase den-level customization. Dens should be able to complete one adventure in approximately two den meetings.

Major changes to note:

- The overnight camping requirements have been replaced with these options. Attend one of the following **a)** a pack or family campout, **b)** an outdoor activity with your den or pack, **c)** day camp or **d)** resident camp
- The Bear Adventure Grin and Bear It (plan and conduct a carnival) is now an optional requirement. It has been replaced with the adventure Baloo the Builder.
- Webelos Scouts (4th Grade) will now earn the 5 required adventures and one elective adventure {6 total}
- Arrow of Light Scouts (5th Grade) will now earn the 4 required adventures and one elective adventure. {5 total}

These changes were effective upon publication, November 30th, 2016 and can be used now. There are no new materials to buy. The requirements are published online. No word has been released on when the BSA official App ScoutBook will be updated to reflect the new changes.

More details and information can be found [HERE](#). The official BSA press release is [HERE](#). Additional info is available on the [Scouting.org](#) website



## Venturing

### Snow Tubing and Hot Chocolate

Saturday, February 11th 2017 the Gravois Trail Venturing Officers Association is sponsoring a night of fun at Hidden Valley. It's only \$24 - stay tuned for more info.

### 2017 Climb The Night Away Lock In

Friday, January 13th 2017 is the GSLAC Climb The Night Away Event. It's only \$22. Don't miss this one. More info [HERE](#)

## Membership

How many of you made a "New Years Resolution"? How many of those New Year Resolutions included Scouting?

A good start is upcoming Pinewood Derby races. Invite a friend or neighbor to your Pinewood Derby race. This is an excellent recruiting event and every pack should utilized this time to encourage inviting others to participate in this event.

If you have any questions on this or other ways you can make an ordinary meeting into a recruiting event please call either myself or Suzie.

YIS,  
Ken McFadden  
Membership Chair





## GSLAC SHOOTING SPORTS 2017



Interested in becoming a merit badge counselor or taking your unit youth on a shooting outing? Get trained to meet National and Council guidelines. These formal NRA courses are available to Scouters at reduced prices. Units that need help finding trained assistance or with questions can contact Todd Ellis at [elliscertified@gmail.com](mailto:elliscertified@gmail.com).

### **BASIC INSTRUCTOR TRAINING (BIT)**

During the 6-hour course, candidates will learn NRA policies and procedures, basic public speaking skills, training methodology, use of a training team and training aids, organizing a course, building a budget, and finally preparing to teach. In addition, candidates will be provided the appropriate lesson plans and basic course student packets. NOTE: Instructors must take a BIT course every 24 months prior to taking another Instructor rated course. If an instructor cannot provide documentation showing successful completion of a BIT course in that time period, this course must be completed. This course can be integrated into an Instructor course or taught as a separate class.

January 7 or March 4 | 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Beaumont Scout Reservation | \$30

### **BASIC SHOTGUN TRAINING**

This course includes classroom and range time learning how to shoot shotguns at moving targets. Students learn NRA's rules for safe gun handling; shotgun parts and operation; shotgun shell components; shotgun shell malfunctions; shooting fundamentals; range rules; shooting at straight away and angled targets; cleaning; and continued opportunities for skill development. Students will receive the Basics of Shotgun Shooting handbook, take a Basics of Shotgun Shooting Student Examination, and receive a course completion certificate.

April 8, 2017 | 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

S bar F Scout Ranch | \$80

### **SHOTGUN INSTRUCTOR TRAINING**

This course teaches the knowledge, skills, and attitude essential to organizing, promoting, and teaching NRA's Basic Shotgun Course. Prerequisite: Possession of basic firearm safety and shooting skills is a prerequisite for certification as an NRA instructor. Prior to the instructor training, candidates complete a pre-course questionnaire and demonstrate their firearm background in pre-course assessment exercises.

April 22, 2017 | 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

S bar F Scout Ranch | \$110

### **RANGE SAFETY OFFICER TRAINING**

This course is conducted in a classroom and at a shooting facility. Range Safety Officer candidates will learn roles and responsibilities of an RSO; Range Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's); range inspection; range rules; range briefings; emergency procedures; and firearm stoppages and malfunctions. Range Safety Officer candidates must be at least 21 years of age, demonstrate a solid background in firearm safety, and satisfactorily complete an NRA Range Safety Officer Course test with a score of 90 percent or better.

February 4 or March 25 | 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Beaumont Scout Reservation | \$50

### **CHIEF RANGE SAFETY OFFICER TRAINING**

This 14-hour course teaches the knowledge, skills and attitude essential to training and supervising NRA range safety officers and developing range standard operating procedures. Prerequisite: Must be an NRA Certified Range Safety Officer. Course is presented in two parts: Basic Instructor Training and NRA Chief Range Safety Officer training. Sessions include standard operating procedures, inspections, emergency procedures, firearm stoppages and malfunctions, safety briefings. Students demonstrate organizational and teaching skills via participation in practical exercises and complete an open book exam. Students will receive NRA Basic Range Safety Officer lesson plans, basic student packet and basic course presentation CD.

January 21, 2017 | 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Beaumont Scout Reservation | \$100

### **BASIC RIFLE TRAINING**

This course includes classroom and range time learning to shoot rifles. Students learn NRA's rules for safe gun handling; rifle parts and operation; ammunition; shooting fundamentals; range rules; shooting from the bench rest, prone, sitting, standing and kneeling positions; cleaning, and continued opportunities for skill development. Students will receive the Basics of Rifle Shooting handbook, take a Basics of Rifle Shooting Student Examination, and receive a course completion certificate. Students will utilize the instructor's firearms and ammunition.

March 11, 2017 | 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Beaumont Scout Reservation | \$80

### **PISTOL INSTRUCTOR TRAINING PHASE 3**

This course teaches the knowledge, skills, and attitude essential to organizing, promoting and teaching NRA's Basics of Pistol Shooting course. This course is considered "Phase 3." Prerequisite: Candidates must first complete Phase 1 online training through [NRAtesting.org](http://NRAtesting.org). Students demonstrate organizational and teaching skills via participation in practical exercises during the course, and complete an instructor certification examination. Students will receive the NRA Pistol Shooting Instructor Candidate Packet (electronically downloaded). It is suggested that students complete the Basic course (Phase 1, online and Phase 2, shooting qualification) prior to an Instructor class.

April 1, 2017 | 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

S bar F Scout Ranch | \$65

### **RIFLE INSTRUCTOR TRAINING**

This course teaches the knowledge, skills and attitude essential to organizing, promoting and teaching NRA's Basic Rifle Shooting course. Prerequisite: Possession of basic firearm safety and shooting skills is a prerequisite for certification as an NRA instructor. Prior to the instructor training, candidates complete a pre-course questionnaire and demonstrate their firearm background in pre-course assessment exercises.

March 25, 2017 | 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Beaumont Scout Reservation | \$110

### **SUPER TRAINING WEEKEND**

Instructor candidates will participate in a Basic Instructor Training class, Rifle Instructor class, and Shotgun Instructor class.

February 17-19, 2017 | 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Camp Lewallen | \$250

**2017 Winter Klondike**  
**Eight Below**  
January 28, 2017  
Beaumont Scout Reservation - Lane

**Schedule:**

7:00-8:30 a.m.	Registration
8:30 a.m.	SPL and Adult Leaders Meeting
9:00 a.m.	Opening Flag ceremony
9:30 a.m.	Noon Morning Events
Noon - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch *Cooking Challenge*
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Sled Races
3:00 p.m.	Closing Ceremony

If you plan on camping Friday or Saturday night, please make reservations with Council on a troop-by- troop basis.

Campmaster:

Kenny Owens

314-471-1246

[18kennethowens@lindberghschools.ws](mailto:18kennethowens@lindberghschools.ws)

[merrisc@cbchs.org](mailto:merrisc@cbchs.org)

Camping Chairman:

Gil Kauffmann

(314)910-3994

[GilKauffmann@gmail.com](mailto:GilKauffmann@gmail.com)

Adult Advisor:

Chris Merris

314-494-9974

Klondike Camp Rules:

- No guns, alcohol, tobacco or fireworks
- Scout Oath and Law are ultimate behavior guidelines for all participants
- Be safe and courteous
- Have Fun
- Judge's discretion will be used at all events
- Any issues that need to be addressed should be directed to Campmaster by the Troop's Senior Patrol Leader

Morning Events:

**Fire Building** - It's eight below and about time to cozy up to a nice warm fire. How long will it take to make a fire and burn a piece of string? Bonus points for starting fire without matches or lighter.

**Bobbing for Apples** - Your hands are frostbitten from eight below weather but you really want an apple, so you use the next best thing: your mouth! How long will it take to accomplish this feat?

**Winter Skiing** - How long will it take to "ski" a specific distance?

**Snowball Fight** - Troop Patrols face off to claim snowball superiority

**Frosty Toss** - How far can you throw a snowball? How accurately can you throw a snowball?

**Snowman Defense** - Teams of six from two Patrols face off. Three from each team defend two snowmen each as the other three try to knock over the other team's snowmen with snowballs.

**Ice Bucket Challenge** - One victim from a Patrol dips their hand into a bucket of ice water to see how long it takes to get a nut off of a bolt.

**First Aid Challenge** - It's eight below and your Troops encountered every problem you could possibly think of! Do you have the knowledge of what to do in these icy conditions?

**\*Cooking Challenge\*** - Patrols are so nice and have decided to make something for the Staff! Which Patrol has the greatest skill when it comes to Hot Chocolate and a food item? Bonus points if the food isn't store bought and is Winter themed!

**Tic Tac Snow** - Troops compete against the others in the classic game of tic tac toe. People in the Patrols will be the "X" or the "O" as Patrol leaders situate them on the Board.

**Ice and Easy** - Troops toss around frozen ice balls until they're either dropped or have melted. After caught, participants take one step further away from their partner. How far can you go before the ice cube's dropped or melted?

**Defend the Snow Fort** - Your Troop has a Snow Fort but there are a few essential items missing to stay nice and comfortable in Eight Below weather. Thankfully, there's a nearby Troop's Snow Fort with those desperately needed items. However, that Troop needs items only found in your Fort. Which Troop can effectively keep their stuff from being stolen by the other while at the same time, stealing the other's items?

### Afternoon Events:

**Sled Races** - Which Troop is Superior to all others?

**Sled Races, Leaders** - Which leaders are superior to all others?

**Troop/Crew Registration Form:**

**Gravois Trail District Winter Klondike 2016**

The Klondike registration fee is \$7 per scout and adult. The fee includes awards, program supplies, and patches. Registration form and fee should be turned into the Council office.

Troop # \_\_\_\_\_ # of Patrols \_\_\_\_\_

Scouts \_\_\_\_\_ x \$7/scout = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Leaders \_\_\_\_\_ x \$7/Leader = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Adults \_\_\_\_\_ x \$7/adult = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration By:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/state/zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring all physical forms on day of Klondike Derby

Make check payable to: GSLAC, BSA

Mail to: GSLAC, PO Box 952685, St Louis, MO 63195-2685

**Troop/Crew Roster:**

**Gravois Trail District Klondike Derby 2016**

**Scouts**

**Leaders/Adults**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Cub Scout Advancement Changes

as of 30 November 2016

What:

- Changes to the requirements for Cub Scout Adventures at all levels of the program.
- Most adventures have changes varying from simple rewrites/clarifications to changes in the number of requirements for each adventure (e.g. complete requirement 1&2 and at least one additional requirement).
- Camping requirement now has alternatives at all age levels
- Number of required adventures at Webelos and AOL level decreased.
- "Caring adult" is listed in addition to parent, guardian, or den leader for many requirements

When: Effective immediately. Requirements published 30 November 2016

Where: Requirements can be found at [www.scouting.org/programupdates](http://www.scouting.org/programupdates)

How:

- Flexibility has increased for Den Leaders / Parents.
- New requirements can be met in 2 meetings per month instead of 3.
- NOTE: If you have already started an adventure, the recommendation is to complete it using the previous requirements. Then use the new requirements for the next adventure.

Why:

- Cub Scout advancement was down after first year of new program implementation.
- There was concern over being able to fit in all the requirements in a program year.
- Overnight camping is a hardship for some.
- "Concern about perceived emphasis on being part of an organized religious group, perceived bias toward a particular religion"

## Unanswered questions:

- No mention of tenure requirements for Webelos and AOL
- Will there be updates to Den Leader guides and youth handbooks
- When will updates be made in ScoutBook

## Significant required adventure changes by program year:

### Duty to God (all levels):

- "Discuss with your parent, guardian, den leader, or other caring adult what it means to do your duty to God. Tell how you do your duty to God in your daily life
- Earn the religious emblem of your faith that is appropriate for your age, if you have not already done so

### Tiger

- Service project options in both *Duty to God* and *Team Tiger* adventures
- *Tigers in the Wild* - participation in outdoor pack meeting or pack campfire is now an optional requirement

### Wolf

- *Call of the Wild* - Required to attend one of the following a) pack or family campout, b) an outdoor activity with your den or pack, c) day camp, d) resident camp
- *Council Fire*
  - Dropped requirement to attend a pack committee meeting and present den service project
  - Added optional requirement to participate in an event celebrating military veterans

### Bear

- *Bear Necessities*
  - Overnight camp changed to Required to attend one of the following a) pack or family campout, b) an outdoor activity with your den or pack, c) day camp, d) resident camp
  - Dropped requirement to attend campfire and perform song/skit
  - Dropped requirement to plan & cook meals
  - Knot tying is optional
- *Fellowship to Duty and God*
  - Dropped requirement to attend a religious service, den or pack meeting worship service...
- *Bear Claw*
  - Carve two items *OR* safely perform these tasks (cut rope, open a box, open a can, remove and replace screws, open a letter)
- *Grin and Bear It* - No longer a required adventure, now listed as an elective
- *Baloo the Builder* - New required elective - replaces *Grin and Bear It*
- *Paws for Action*
  - Changed number of requirements
  - Removed requirement to practice gathering evidence (fingerprints), removed requirement to discuss energy use
  - Added optional requirement to participate in a patriotic community parade or event

### Webelos

- NEW - Webelos badge is now 5 required and **1** elective adventure (6 total)
- *Cast Iron Chef*
  - Removed requirement to keep food journal for one week
  - Requirement to build an outdoor fire is now optional
- *Duty to God and You*
  - Removed requirement to plan and/or participate in a service or worship or reflection
- *Webelos Walkabout*
  - Removed requirement for service project on or near the hike location

### Arrow of Light

- NEW - AOL badge is now 4 required and **1** elective adventure (5 total)
- *Building a Better World*
  - Removed requirement to learn about your family's expenses
  - Removed requirement to participate in recycling event
  - Removed optional requirement to find a brother Scout unit in another country
- *Camper*
  - Now called *Outdoorsman* (unsure on recognition pin change)
  - Two options now
    - A - same as before (camping) except removed requirement for geocaching adventure
    - B - plan and participate in an outdoor activity instead of campout
- *Scouting Adventure*
  - Removed requirement to repeat from memory the Outdoor Code
  - Made requirement to repeat the Pledge of Allegiance optional
  - Made requirement to describe the First Class Scout Badge optional