

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](http://stlbsa.org)

The home for Gravois Trail can be found here: [Gravois Trail Website](http://stlbsa.org/gravois-trail)

Shawnee Lodge of the Order of the Arrow website can be found here: [Shawnee](http://shawnee.org)

Or the Facebook page located here: [Gravois Trail Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/gravois-trail)

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

Contact us at:

Mike Eschbach: mike.eschbach@scouting.org

Jerry Fix: jerry.fix@gmail.com

Contact Us !

Believe it or not, it's just about Spring ! Don't let the March snowstorm fool you. Spring means a new camping season with your units, Summer Camp, Memorial Day Good Turn... You've got a full schedule so be sure to check in with The Trail, Facebook and the Council Website for all the info you need. And as always, contact your district committee with any questions.

GT District Sub Committees:

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

Advancement: [Phil Tilghman](mailto:T778sm@sbcglobal.net)
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OA: [Brian Mischel](mailto:bmischel780@sbcglobal.net)
bmischel780@sbcglobal.net

Membership: [Ken McFadden](mailto:ken.mcfadden@mcfaddens.org)
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eaglescout721@gmail.com

District Directors Corner

Greetings Gravois Trail!

Thanks for welcoming me in my new position as the Gravois Trail District Director. For those of you who do not know, I started as **District Director on January 1**. For the past 6 years, I was on the Lewis and Clark Council staff. With the merger, I was able to come back "home" in this assignment. And congratulations to Suzie Redington in her new position as Activities Director for the Council.

I am an Eagle Scout from this council. I live in Fenton. It is great to live in the district I serve. I started my Scouting career in St. Louis. The Gravois Trail District has always been at the very top in quality in the council...and still is. After meeting so many of you over the past two months, that's no surprise at all.

2016 was a great year for the district! I know 2017 will be too. AND this is the time of year Scouts love with summer camping programs for Scouts at all age levels. There are so many opportunities for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers and Explorers and I hope every member has a camp experience this summer.

Thanks for all that each one of you does to help deliver a top notch program to the Scouts of the Gravois Trail District.

If we haven't met or talked, I look forward to that. And to those I have met, thanks again and I look forward to working with you.

Call or e-mail anytime.

Mike Eschbach

Training

Hello The Trail;

The Spring brings lots of new training opportunities. Here are some of them:

New Leaders for the Unit!

Have you had at least one new adult leader join your unit since last summer? Do not lose this opportunity to use this valuable resource. You have a new leader who has agreed to assist with the unit, why not take advantage of this opportunity. This new leader will add diversity, fresh ideas, enthusiasm, an extra pair of hands.

Perhaps they will assist in providing much needed transportation for your unit. What unit could not benefit from an addition of a new Leader?

Has this new Leader been **trained**? If they have been trained for the new position, they will have the confidence to move forward in their new position. If they are not trained why not encourage them to take Leader training for that position?

Below is a list of upcoming training opportunities offered by Gravois Trail. If they are unable to attend one of these training sessions, go on line and find other training dates for other districts with-in the Council.

UPCOMING GRAVOIS TRAIL TRAINING DATES:

April 12, 2017

SM Training – St. Elizabeth's of Hungary #1

April 22, 2017

SM Training – Peace Lutheran (one day training need minimum of five participants – sign-up deadline April 10)

April 22, 2017

Cub Scout Leader Training at Peace Lutheran Church

April 26, 2017

SM Training – St. Elizabeth's of Hungary #2

April 29, 2017

Committee Training, Cub and Venturing @ Peace Lutheran Church

SM info [HERE](#)

Committee Info [HERE](#)

CS Leader Info [HERE](#)



OA



Chapter Banquet

Thanks to all the arrowmen who attended the Chapter Banquet on February 15. Everyone had a great time seeing all the tables take their turns on stage for the Disney karaoke. There were a lot of laughs and surprises. And congratulations to our two **Arrowmen of the Year – Kenny Owens and Gil Kauffmann**. They provide great examples of cheerful service for all of us.

Arrowmen Experience

The Arrowmen Experience was the weekend of March 4th and had 100% more attendees than last year. Gravois Trail had more than 20 members join the fun. There was training, gaga ball, climbing, rifle shooting, and lots more. If you missed it, be sure to make plans to attend next year.

Troop OA Rep Contacts Needed

We need to get contact information for your troop's OA Rep and their advisor. They are critical parts of the communication channel for chapter and lodge information, and the new format for that role will make it a valuable leadership experience for the scout. Please send that information to gavinknapp@shawneelodge.org.

Ceremonial Teams Opportunities

A lot of units have one or two youth who want to be part of a ceremonial team, but they can't find others in the troop to form a team. Gravois Trail will be organizing a resource for all the youth and adults who want to participate in ceremonial teams, both troop-based and district at-large ceremonialists. For More Information contact Bryan Sikorski or Grant Nilges through the [Gravois Trail chapter site](#).

Venturing

Spring Calendar

So many events, you'll never be bored this Spring. Here are some key dates for events coming up:

Date	Event	Location
4/1/2017	Explore Saint Louis A city-wide photo scavenger hunt by way of the Metro system that is going to be a blast!	Council HQ
4/4/2017	Venturing Roundtable All crew members (especially officers) and should attend Venturing Roundtable for program strengthening ideas and to get the latest on upcoming events.	Sperring MS
4/21/2017 4/22/2017	Area 3 Game Show Event Come on down (or up) to Springfield, IL for the first ever Area 3 Game Show Weekend! We promise lots of fun, tons of excitement, edge of your seat entertainment...with you as the contestants. As to what you will be doing...that remains a mystery until you arrive.	Springfield, IL
4/22/2017	Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews This is the introductory level training for Venturers but better to call it fun with some learning mixed in than to call it training.	Peace Lutheran
4/22/2017	Venturing Adult Advisor and Committee Training We will hold training for Crew Advisors, Associate Advisors, Committee Chairs and Committee Members	Peace Lutheran
4/28/2017 4/30/2017	Explore Venturing Come join us for a weekend of activities and fellowship. Activities will include: Skeet shooting, Glowstick/Flashlight Capture the Flag, 3D Archery, Sailboat, Canoes, Kayaking and more	Camp Vandeventer

More Dates [HERE](#)

Camping

OA spring conclave

The 2017 Shawnee Lodge Spring Conclave will take place at Beaumont Scout Reservation from April 21-23rd, 2017.

Ordeal Candidates completing their induction should select the "Candidate" ticket. This ticket includes all meals on Saturday, an event patch, and access to all weekend programs.

Lodge Members should select either "Brother without dinner" or "Brother with dinner" tickets. Both tickets include access to the weekend programs and an event patch. The "Brother with Dinner" ticket includes the Saturday night dinner.

Vigil Honor Members are invited to attend the Vigil Honor Breakfast on Saturday Morning of the Conclave. You may select the number of tickets you desire for the breakfast when filling out your registration. Newly inducted Vigil Honor members(Class of 2017) do not need to register for the Vigil Breakfast.

2017 Season Pass Holders need to register using the password that was e-mailed to them. Upon entering your password, the system will allow you to add a ticket for Saturday night dinner(\$5) if you desire. If you are a season pass holder and have questions, please email seasonpass@shawneelodge.org

OA Member Number is required for each member attending the experience. Your OA Member Number is the same as your BSA Member ID, which is located on your membership card. If you have questions or encounter issues with registering, please contact event.registration@shawneelodge.org

Spring Camporee.

Spring Camporee will be held **April 28-30 at Camp Lewallen**. Our **Campmaster** will be **Patrick Mehan**, our **Adult Advisor** will be **Nick Rousseau**. Webelos leaders contact **Gil Kauffmann**.

Get the Camp Manual [HERE](#)

Sign Up Online [HERE](#)

Get A Paper Sign Up [HERE](#)



Activities

Green Day Event

No.. not the band... This year BSA is partnering with Goodwill for a **Green Day Recycling Event**.

The event is April 22 from 8am to 4pm. GT will be manning a collection trailer at Sperring Middle School. Volunteers are needed. Also, we need an adult to be the point person for the District to help organize volunteers and help run the GT portion of the event.

More Info [HERE](#)

Membership

We've had a wonderful school year and what better way to end up the year but with **Spring Recruitment!**

As we prepare for Spring Recruitment please remember your summer plans. It is very important for every level of scouting to keep the youth involved throughout the summer months.

It is required if you are planning on doing spring recruitment. If you are planning or wish to participate in Spring Recruitment please let either myself or Mike Eschbach know so we can assist you with this event.

YIS,

Ken McFadden
District Membership Chair

Advancement

Cub Scout Handbook Updates

National has published a series of addenda for the current youth handbooks. These can be printed and added to the Scouts handbooks. These files reflect the most recent changes made to the Cub Scout advancement program and can be found [HERE](#).

Go [HERE](#) for info on the International Spirit Award

Go [HERE](#) for info on the Cub Scout Shooting Program

Scout of Distinction

Do The Right Thing Award

The following letter was sent in by Laura Greeno, the mother of a 7th grade Scout in Troop 580:

" Brian Burrus, SM for Troop 580, nominated Garrett Greeno for the "Do the Right Thing" award. Garrett received the award on 2/22/17 in Belleville IL. Garrett is in 7th grade and is a Life Scout in Troop 580 in the Lindbergh School District.

Garrett arrived home after school on January 18 and took the dogs out, like he does every day (I work full-time, so Garrett is alone for a few hours each day after school). He noticed a strange car in the neighbor's driveway. Garrett called me at work and told me that he saw two men in the car and that they were acting very suspiciously, as though they may be doing drugs. He told me that he should call the police because he didn't want something bad to happen. He said, "Mom, I'm a Scout and I'm clean. I need to do something." Garrett called 911 and the police arrived quickly. After the police did a thorough search of the car and the men, they found drugs, a scale and other items used for drug sale and distribution.

I am really proud of Garrett for doing this. I know how scared he was but he took it upon himself to do the right thing."

WAY TO GO GARRET !



Unit of the Month

St Patrick's Day Run

Early on Saturday March 11th - a blustery, cold and snow flurried day in downtown St. Louis - 13 scouts and 11 adults of Gravois Trail Troop 778 for the 5th straight year, setup a "water station" at the finish line of the 5 mile St. Patrick's Day Run for approximately 8000 runners.

The bleary eyed scouts met and left from the Stanton Elementary in Fenton, MO parking lot at 6:15 am and arrived downtown at 7am. The troop began setting up several tables and several thousand cups, filling each cup by hand, with 3 pallets of gallon water jugs at the corner of Walnut and 7th street. As runners finished the race and walked to our water station, the troop worked quickly to continually provide and fill more cups.

Many runners were appreciative of our efforts and eager to replenish their liquids. After 4 hours of cold weather and even colder hands, we called it a day!

Mr. Roth

Scoutmaster Troop 778





SCOUTMASTER, Assistant SCOUTMASTER and COMMITTEE TRAINING INFORMATION:

BOY SCOUT COMMITTEE TRAINING:

Date: Saturday morning, 4/29/17 - *AND the OUTDOOR SKILLS Session*

Time: Registration at 8:00AM; Training to start at 8:30AM – finish at Noon

Location: Peace Lutheran Church, 737 Barracksview Road, 63125

Uniform: Please wear your uniform

OUTDOOR SKILLS Session:

Dates: Saturday 5/6/17 thru Sunday 5/7/17

Location: Beaumont Scout Reservation

Uniform: Please wear your uniform

It is suggested that Committee Members attend the entire weekend (beginning at 7:00AM on Saturday and til 1:00PM on Sunday.)

Cost: \$25.00 per leader for training. You will be provided a notebook with all the necessary training material. Please bring a pen.

Planning time will be given at the indoor sessions to plan for the weekend camping.
(Details to be discussed: 1) food/menu, 2) tents, 3) dining fly's, 4) patrol box, 5) cost for meals, 6) personal equipment needed.)

Registration:

Please contact either:

Jackie Noel,
Vice Training Chairman for BS
or

Gary Dedeke,
Training Chairman

314-401-6436
jnoel1805@sbcglobal.net

314-631-7478
woodyccs4@sbcglobal.net

Tear off the bottom of the sheet and turn in tonight at Roundtable:

***Option 2- One Day Scout Master Training on 4/22/17:**

There must be a minimum of five (5) participants signing up for this training. If not, the training will be **cancelled!** Dead line for signing up for the one day training is Monday, **4/10/17!**

To Sign up, please provide the following information:

- 1) Name: _____
- 2) Phone and e-mail number: _____
- 3) Unit number: _____
- 4) District: _____



Cub Scout

Adult Leader Training:

Date: Saturday, 29 April 2017

Time: Registration 8:00 AM until 8:30 AM

Training starts at 8:30 AM and ends at Noon

Location: Peace Lutheran Church

737 Barracks View Drive

St. Louis, MO 63125

Cost: \$25.00/person for books

Questions: Contact Jason Sciaroni @ 849-8527

Leader Specific training for:

- Cubmaster and Assistant Cubmaster
- Webelos Leaders
- Bear Leader
- Wolf Leader
- Tiger Cub Leaders



SCOUTMASTER, Assistant SCOUTMASTER and COMMITTEE TRAINING INFORMATION:

SCOUTMASTER AND ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER TRAINING:

OPTION 1:

Dates: Two Wednesday evenings, 4/12/17 and 4/26/17 - *AND the OUTDOOR SKILLS Session*

Time: Registration at 6:30PM; Training to start at 7:00PM – finish at 9:30PM

Location: St. Elizabeth of Hungry Church, 1420 S. Sappington Road, 63126.

Cracker Barrel: Snacks will be provided, please make a donation for the food

Uniform: Please wear your uniform

OPTION 2: *

Date: Saturday morning, 4/22/17 - *AND the OUTDOOR SKILLS Session*

Time: Registration at 8:00AM; Training to start at 8:30AM – finish at 1:00PM

Location: Peace Lutheran Church, 737 Barracksview Road, 63125

Lunch: Please bring a lunch or snack, we will have a working lunch.

Uniform: Please wear your uniform

OUTDOOR SKILLS Session:

Dates: Saturday 5/6/17 thru Sunday 5/7/17

Location: Beaumont Scout Reservation

Uniform: Please wear your uniform

All Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters must attend the entire weekend (beginning at 7:00AM on Saturday and til 1:00PM on Sunday.)

Cost: \$25.00 per leader for either Option 1 or 2. You will be provided a notebook with all the necessary training material. Please bring a pen.

Planning time will be given at the indoor sessions to plan for the weekend camping.
(Details to be discussed: 1) food/menu, 2) tents, 3) dining fly's, 4) patrol box, 5) cost for meals, 6) personal equipment needed.)

Registration:

Please contact either:

Jackie Noel,

Vice Training Chairman for BS

or

Gary Dedeke,

Training Chairman

314-401-6436

jnoel1805@sbcglobal.net

314-631-7478

woodyccs4@sbcglobal.net

And provide us the following information:

- 1) Name,
- 2) Phone and e-mail number,
- 3) Unit number,
- 4) Which indoor training session you are planning on attending.

**Must have a minimum of 5 participants!*

Calendar of Spring Venturing Events

Date	Event	Location
4/1/2017	<u>Explore Saint Louis</u> A city-wide photo scavenger hunt by way of the Metro system that is going to be a blast!	Council HQ
4/4/2017	<u>Venturing Roundtable</u> All crew members (especially officers) and should attend Venturing Roundtable for program strengthening ideas and to get the latest on upcoming events.	Sperrang Middle School
4/21/2017	<u>Area 3 Game Show Event</u>	
- 4/22/2017	Come on down (or up) to Springfield, IL for the first ever Area 3 Game Show Weekend! We promise lots of fun, tons of excitement, edge of your seat entertainment...with you as the contestants. As to what you will be doing...that remains a mystery until you arrive.	Springfield, IL
4/22/2017	<u>Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews</u> This is the introductory level training for Venturers but better to call it fun with some learning mixed in than to call it training.	Peace Lutheran Church
4/22/2017	<u>Venturing Adult Advisor and Committee Training</u> We will hold training for Crew Advisors, Associate Advisors, Committee Chairs and Committee Members	Peace Lutheran Church
4/28/2017	<u>Explore Venturing</u>	
-4/30/2017	Come join us for a weekend of activities and fellowship. Activities will include: Skeet shooting, Glowstick/Flashlight Capture the Flag, 3D Archery, Sailboat, Canoes, Kayaking and more	Camp Vandeventer
5/25/2017	<u>Venturing Celebration Dinner</u> This is a fun night of fellowship where we recognize Venturers for their accomplishments during the past year.	Manchester UM Church
5/28/2017	<u>Memorial Day Good Turn</u> Join with Scouts from across the council to help decorate every grave at the national cemetery in celebration of Memorial Day.	Jefferson Barracks
6/3/2017	<u>Swift Service Weekend</u> We will spend time making improvements to Swift followed by some fun events.	Swift Base
6/6/2017	<u>District Program Preview and Bowling Party</u> We will start at Lindbergh High School where we will get information crews will need to plan their 2017-2018 program. Then we'll head to Show-Me Lanes for our 5th Annual, Start of Summer Bowling Party.	Show-Me Lanes

EARTH DAY

**SATURDAY
APRIL 22**

8 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Boy Scouts are partnering with Goodwill to help collect donations on Earth Day while completing advancement requirements in their commitment to reduce, reuse, and recycle!

Donors can drop off donations to a number of area locations throughout the entire council. All items will be accepted free of charge, and donors do not need to sort their items prior to dropping them off. Participants will receive a tax receipt for their donation.

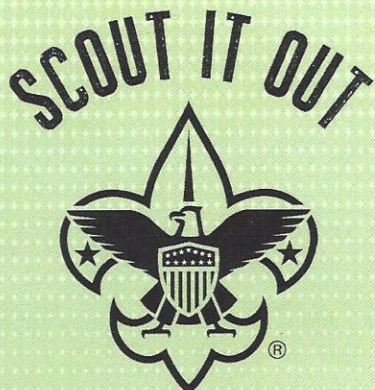
ITEMS ACCEPTED:

BOOKS	ELECTRONICS	JEWELRY
CLOTHING	FURNITURE	SHOES
COLLECTIBLES	GAMES	SPORTS
DOMESTICS	HOUSEWARES	EQUIPMENT



Goodwill is the “original recycler.” By donating general items and electronics, you are not only helping to put people to work, but you are giving them an opportunity of a lifetime.

All efforts to recycle used goods keep material out of landfills and help MERS Goodwill stores generate revenue to advance the Goodwill mission and programs.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
Greater St. Louis Area Council

**REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE**

**FIND YOUR CLOSEST LOCATION OR
SIGN UP NOW TO STAFF A DROP OFF LOCATION.**

stlbsa.org/earth-day

Ready...Aim...Fire!
Cub Scouts Shooting Program

The updated awards program for shooting sports has been announced. The program will focus on three disciplines - Slingshot, Archery and BB Guns. There is a rank-level patch available for Tiger through Webelos and three pins (worn on the patch) to designate the specific disciplines.



The first requirement no matter the age-level is to complete the Level 1 requirements for a specific discipline. These requirements focus on safety and proper use of device chosen. For example:
"demonstrate how to follow archery range safety rules and whistle commands." Completing these requirements will earn the Scout his rank level patch.



Level 2 requirements focus on skill and knowledge and increase in difficulty as the Scouts advance in rank. Here the Scout will demonstrate proper safety commands and fire at a target for their chosen discipline.

A Scout will complete the Level 1 and Level 2 requirements for each discipline they participate in, and can be done in any order. The awards are rank specific. If a Scout doesn't finish one year (for example - as a Bear), he will need to start over the next age year.



A few reminders about the Shooting sports program. These activities must be conducted at a district or council level activity and are optional. They cannot be used as an "elective" towards completing the seven required adventures

International Spirit Award

Looking for a different award for your Scouts to earn while learning about different cultures (no foreign travel necessary)? Consider earning the International Spirit Award (ISA). The award may be earned by Scouts from Wolf to Webelos and the boys have up to 4 years to complete the requirements (the requirements change at the Boy Scout Level).

For Cub Scouts the requirements are:

1. Earn the Cub Scout World Conservation Award
2. Learn 10 words that are in a different language than your own
3. Play two games that originated in another country or culture
4. Participate in Jamboree-on-the-Air or Jamboree-on-the-Internet
(With parents permission)
5. Organize a World Friendship Fund collection at a unit meeting or district roundtable
6. Complete two of the 10 Experience Requirements. Examples include:
 - a. Host an international Scout or unit and plan activities to help you learn about Scouting in their country
 - b. Learn about another country and prepare a dinner traditionally served there...
 - c. Take a trip to another country as an individual or with your family or Scouting unit....
 - d. Organize and participate in a Messengers of Peace project....
 - e. Earn the interpreter strip
 - f. Research Scouting in another country. Make a presentation...
 - g. Research a region of the World Organization of the Scout Movement....



Completion of the requirements enables the Scout to wear the International Spirit Award patch. It is worn on the right pocket as a temporary emblem and does not replace the World Crest.

More information can be found at www.scouting.org/international