

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/gravoistrail/)

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 Venturing](https://www.facebook.com/gravoistrail/)

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

Contact us at:

Josh Bollam: joshua.bollam@scouting.org

Jerry Fix: jerry.fix@gmail.com

Contact Us !

Summer is almost upon us. That means Memorial Day Good Turn, Summer Camps, NYLT and more. Stay informed by checking out the GT website and Facebook page.

Below is contact info for all the committee chairpersons for the GT District:

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District Directors Corner

Happy May Everyone! Spring has Sprung here in the Greater St. Louis Council and we are only a couple weeks away from Summer. This is my favorite time of the year personally and professionally. A couple things I wanted to cover this month:

Spring Recruiting and Camping. Every Pack, Troop, and Crew should be holding a recruiting event. **Suzie and I can help** with these events. We can create fliers and go into schools to talk to the young men. We just need to know when the event is happening and who the contact person is. Let us know; we want to help. Recruiting is the key to ensuring the success of your Pack, Troop, or Crew. With more young men in the program your unit can provide better program.

Now for the best part of Scouting: **CAMPING!** If your Pack, Troop, or Crew does not have reservations for **Summer Camp** or **Day Camp** (Cub Scouts) we need to reevaluate your Pack or Troop program plan. A successful Camp experience during the Summer months is the best retention tool that a Unit has. For Cub Scouts there is a vast amount of Camping Experiences to choose from! Starting with: **District Day Camps (Simpson Shooting Sports, Bee Tree Fishing Camp, and the Popular Webelos Camp).** All provide a different experience for every Scout who attends. There is also **Bear or Wolf Camp, Webelos-Mini, and Webelos Week Long** which all provide the gradual stepping stones to get a Cub Scout ready for **Boy Scout Camp**. Speaking of Boy Scout Camp, Has your Troop registered or filled out an elsewhere camping report? If not, the time is now. Let me know if you have questions or need help getting through the online registration portal. These are exciting days indeed. I can't wait to see you and your new Scouts at Camp this Summer! **Happy and Safe Camping!**

Training

Hello the Trail;

Well another Training session has come and gone. I would like to thank the Gravois Trail Training Staffs for their time and effort again this spring for the great job they did in training all the new Unit leaders in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturing. The new leader had a great time and had lots of fun. Our Training staff is the best in my eyes and deserve a big Thank You.

If you missed the Boy Scout training this spring, there is still the opportunity this summer at summer camp for all who missed the Scout Master and Assistant Scoutmaster training sessions. I hope you all take advantage of this while at camp. You will learn all the in's and outs of the program to help you be the best Unit Leader you can be.

Don't forget to come to Roundtables. Alexia and Terry always have a great joint program for your pleasure that should interest all of you. This is the best way to learn what's going on in the district and council for you to run a successful Pack, Den, Patrol and Troop. Also don't forget to mark your calendar for **June 2**. This is the yearly Program Preview Roundtable that will inform you of the 2015/2016 scouting programs and get you ready for all the up coming event.

See you down the Trail.

Gary Driver



Camping

This Spring brought some awesome camping opportunities. Among them were:

Spring Camporee April 24-26



OA Spring Conclave April 10-12



Upcoming Camping Opportunities:

Summer 2015 Cub Scout Day Camp

The dates are now available! Reserve your spots while you can. We are also excited to announce that cub scout siblings within the cub scout age group (6-10) are allowed to attend all day camps! A great opportunity for family bonding!

Simpson Park Twilight Shooting Sports Camp: June 23-25

Bee Tree Twilight Fishing Adventure Camp: July 21-23

Webelos Twilight Adventure Camp: July 27-29

Register [HERE](#)

Activites

May brings one of our biggest District and Council-wide activities: the Memorial Day Good Turn

For more than six decades, approximately 4,000 Scouts have gathered at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery prior to Memorial Day to decorate each of the 190,000 graves with an American Flag. The tradition, entering its 66th year, is one of the longest running Memorial Day events within the Boy Scouts of America. The 2015 Memorial Day "Good Turn" will take place on Sunday, May 24 beginning at 12:30 p.m.

On May 24 Gravois Trail Memorial Day Good Turn will assemble at Jefferson Barracks Military Base for its 67th year of placing US Flags on Veteran Graves. Registration will start at 11:30am the procession will leave the base at 12:30pm solemn march to ceremony circle.

Preregistration is recommended you can go on the Council site and under Gravois Trail you will be able to register your units. Card will be in the unit files at the April round table. You will be able to pick your assigned area on day of the event and received your unit participation ribbon check in.

Memorial Good Turn Patch will be available for \$3.00 as well as, annual segment patch for \$0.50.

NOTE: We are still in need of have people manage the 27 different flag boxes throughout the cemetery. If you can help out on this, please email Mike Nebel at nebgmike@netzero.net



Venturing

A lot has changed with Venturing Advancement in the last 18-months and we Crew Advisors have found ourselves with WAY more questions than answers. For that reason, we have compiled a list of resources (along with clickable links to them) to help you better implement the new Venturing Advancement Program in your crew. Click the red sections below to go to the specific resources:

New Awards Requirements

In case you haven't seen them, here are the requirements for the new awards. You will want to direct your teens here and get your youth leaders to incorporate some of the requirements into their annual plan so that some of your Venturers will complete requirements and not even realize it. We call this "stealth advancement".

Guide to Advancement – 2015 Venturing Supplement

This publication from the National Office is designed to help us better understand the nuts and bolts of the new awards program. It is your "go to" guide for Venturing Awards information. Crew Advisors will find this invaluable.

Venturing Board of Review Guide

One area of the new awards program that has generated a ton of questions has been the board of review process. National has published a complete guide to Boards of Reviews for Venturers to help us navigate these waters.

National Office Venturing Frequently Asked Questions

One final resource, if you don't feel like your question has been addressed in one of the above resources, try these FAQs for Venturing.

- In the end we want to encourage as many of our Venturers to pursue awards in the new program. The benefits are too numerous to be named but we also have to recognize that there is a place for those who are not interested in pursuing these awards.
- Don't forget that boys who reached the rank of 1st Class in a Boy Scout Troop are still eligible to complete their requirements for Star, Life and Eagle with your crew. In fact, it's a great recruiting tool for those achievers that regret getting off of the trail to Eagle.

If you have any questions, please reach out to District Advisor, Michael O'Donnell at EagleScout721@gmail.com and he will help you get an answer to your question.



The Commissioners Report

Commissioners:

Please make contact with your units to see if you can be of any assistance in spring recruiting.

This is a prefect time for units to get new scouts in the program with outdoor and summer activities coming up. Also continue to make unit contacts- it truly makes a difference when you are involved.

Make sure to get your unit contacts entered into the **Commissioner Tool** tracking system. If you missed the training from Neil Phipps at the April commissioners meeting to help us through the new system and answer any questions you may have, let me know and we will get you training.

Yours In Scouting,

Paul Leicht Sr.