

# 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://gravoistail.org)

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/gravoistail)

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

Contact us at:

Josh Bollam: [joshua.bollam@scouting.org](mailto:joshua.bollam@scouting.org)

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

## Contact Us !

We're fully into Fall now. New Venturing officers elected, PACAO behind us and still some great cool weather camping, Scouting for Food and other great programs ahead. Stay on top of it all by checking the GT website, FB page and The Trail....

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

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

Activities: TBD

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

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

OA: [Janet Nelson](mailto:jdsnelson@charter.net)  
(314) 799-2548  
jdsnelson@charter.net

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

Training: [Gary Dedeke](mailto:gary.dedeke@sbcglobal.net)  
C.314-740-0986  
woodyccs@sbcglobal.net

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

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

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

## District Directors Corner

**A**ugust and September have come to a close and together we have recruited almost 500 new youth in to the Scouting Program. Thank you for all your help.

The year is not over and every youth counts. Please continue to have events and activities that attract and retain new youth into the programs. If you ever need help please let Suzie and I know.

**I**n other news October is the time of the year when a group of Scouters, Community, and Business Leaders get together to try and strengthen the rolls of the District Committee. This process known as the nominating committee seeks to add new individuals on our District level committee to keep Scouting moving in the right direction.

If you know of anyone that would be beneficial to this process of helping identify future leaders or could be one of those leaders please reach out and we can chat about the possibilities.

Yours in Scouting, Josh  
314-660-9025  
joshua.bollam@scouting.org

## Training

Hello the Trail;

Troops and Crews: Are you interested in **OKPIK** Cold Weather Camping Training? Here is an opportunity to learn these skills and share with your unit. A limited amount of participants will have this rare opportunity to attend this training which was made famous at Northern Tier.

For over forty years the OKPIK program of Northern Tier National High Adventure Programs has provided safe, exhilarating and challenging adventures for thousands of youth and adult participants. The name, OKPIK, comes from the Inuit word for the Arctic or Snowy Owl which has been used as the symbol for the OKPIK program since it began in the early 1970's.

The goal of the OKPIK program is to instruct crews on how to see low temperatures as an opportunity, not a barrier, to turn a 3-season camper into a year-round camper. See the flyer [HERE](#) for more info.

Here are some advanced dates for leader training coming up in the Spring. Don't worry, we'll remind you again when it's getting close, but get them on your calendar now:

### Boy Scout Leader Training

**Indoor Session:** Wednesday Evenings April 6th, 13th, and 20th, 2016  
St. Elizabeth of Hungary - 1420 S. Sappington Rd  
Registration: 6:30 p.m. Training 7:00 p.m.

**Outdoor Session:** Saturday to Sunday, April 30th, May 1st, 2016  
Beaumont Scout Ranch  
Training 7:00 a.m. on Saturday to Noon on Sunday





## OA

### Chapter Meeting

There will be an Order of the Arrow Chapter Meeting on Wednesday, November 11 at 7pm at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church on Sappington Road. We hope to see everyone there for a fun time.

### Troop OA Reps

Only a small number of troops have identified their Troop OA Rep. This is an important leadership position in the troop, because he is the point of contact for sharing all OA information. Troop leaders, please email the name, phone number and email address of your OA rep to [gravoistrail@shawneelodge.org](mailto:gravoistrail@shawneelodge.org) so that your troop can stay updated on all chapter and lodge news.

### Service Project

We are trying to coordinate a service project in November, but are awaiting confirmation. Once this has been set, we'll notify the troop OA reps and announce it at the November Roundtable. Service projects not only benefit Scouting, but they also count toward advancement within the Order.

### Lodge Dues

For many, many years our lodge has paid the OA membership fees to the national lodge without charging dues to the brothers. We have been one of only a few lodges across the nation to do that. That's a sizable amount each year, and expenses now require that they begin charging dues. The dues has been set at \$10 per year. One of the advantages is that the lodge will be able to lower fees for lodge events. More information will be coming out shortly about when and how the dues will be collected.

### Newsletters

The lodge newsletter, The Lookout, will now be available electronically. In order to receive the newsletter, you need to register at the lodge website, [HERE](#). Paper copies will no longer be mailed, so make sure that all Brothers in your troop or crew register to receive the eLookout as soon as possible.

## Advancement



### This month we're focusing on the recommended process for earning merit badges

Earning merit badges should be Scout initiated, Scout researched, and Scout learned. It should be hands-on and interactive, and should not be modeled after a typical school classroom setting. Instead, it is meant to be an active program so enticing to young men they will want to take responsibility for their own full participation. (Guide to Advancement, 2015)

1. The Scout develops an interest in a merit badge and may begin working on the requirements.
2. The Scout discusses his interest in the merit badge with his unit leader.
3. The unit leader signs a blue card and provides the Scout with at least one counselor contact.
4. The Scout contacts the counselor.
5. The counselor considers any work toward requirements completed prior to the initial discussion with the unit leader.
6. The Scout, his buddy and the counselor meet (often several times).
7. The Scout finishes the requirements.
8. The counselor approves completion.
9. The Scout returns the signed blue card to his unit leader, who signs the applicant record section of the blue card.
10. The unit leader gives the Scout the applicant record.
11. The unit reports the merit badge to the council.
12. The Scout receives his merit badge.

These 12 steps offer a great overview, but they don't tell the whole story. For that you'll want to review Section 7 of the Guide to Advancement.

### 2016 Boy Scout Requirement Changes

Join us at the November Roundtable to learn about the Boy Scout requirement changes for 2016. Unit leaders and Unit Advancement Chairmen will be able to see the existing and new requirements in a side-by-side format that clearly shows the areas of emphasis beginning in January. Some of the new requirements will have a substantial impact on a unit's planning and outdoors programs. Learn about the changes now, plan for them in November and December, and be ready to go in January.

### It Still Starts With Bobcat

As we begin the new Cub Scout year using the new Cub Scout Adventures, it is important to remember the program still begins with a Cub earning his Bobcat badge. The requirements have changed a little as all programs have moved to one Oath and one Law.

The First two Bobcat requirements are:

1. Learn and say the Scout Oath, with help if needed.
2. Learn and say the Scout Law, with help if needed.

The important thing to remember is the Cub Scout motto "Do Your Best." You can help your new Tigers by having them recite the Oath and Law with you. They will have many opportunities throughout their Cub Scout Career to commit the Oath and Law to memory.

The goal is to have all new Scouts, regardless of age, earn Bobcat within the first 60 days. This provides an early, tangible reward for their hard work and sets them on the path to earning their age appropriate rank.

*Remember - October's Bobcat is Tomorrows Eagle*

## Venturing

GT Venturing had an awesome Fall Fun Rally. In addition to all the fun, we elected new officers for the 2015/2016 Venturing year. See [HERE](#) for more details and bios of our new officers.

So what are these different officer positions ?

### President (Kenny Edgar):

The District VOA President shall ensure the responsibilities of the District VOA are carried out through leadership of the District VOA including unit officers. Some duties include:

- Preside at all meetings of the District VOA.
- With the advice of District VOA Advisors prepare agendas for District VOA meetings.
- Represent the District VOA at the Council VOA Cabinet and Council VOA General Meetings.

### VP- Administration (Emma O'Donnell):

The District VOA Vice President of Administration shall serve to ensure the administrative responsibilities of the District VOA are fulfilled. Some duties include:

- Serve as substitute for the District VOA President when he/she is not able to perform his/her duties.
- Represent the District VOA at the Council VOA Cabinet and Council VOA General Meetings.
- Organize and aid in trainings for District unit officers, in accordance with the training guidelines provided by the Council VOA Training Committee.

### VP- Program (David O'Donnell):

The District VOA Vice President of Program shall serve to ensure the program responsibilities of the District VOA are fulfilled. Some duties include:

- Provide leadership and aid to the Council VOA for Council activities and events when requested.
- Work to provide service opportunities to units within the District, possibly in conjunction with the Council VOA.
- Work to promote camping opportunities to units within the District, possibly in conjunction with the Council VOA, specifically the John S. Swift Base.

### VP-Communication (Pamela Patterchak):

The District VOA Vice-President of Communication shall serve to ensure the communication responsibilities of the District VOA are fulfilled. Some duties include:

- Maintain a contact list of unit officers and advisors within the District, including name, office, phone number, address, email address, unit election date(s), and other information deemed pertinent. District Officers shall be given a list of Venturing Units and Advisors at the Council and District VOA Officers Training Weekend in order to maintain this list.
- If the District VOA maintains a website, serve as the responsible officer for this website.
- Ensure all notifications of the District VOA meetings, activities, and events are received by VOA members in a timely manner.

## Activites

### Gravois Trail Volunteer Dinner

The Gravois Trail Volunteer recognition dinner will be held [Friday January 23, 2015 at Andre's South Banquet Center](#). The highlights of the evening include presenting the District Awards of Merit and the Unit Spark Plug awards. It'll be a great opportunity to socialize, congratulate our outstanding volunteers, and celebrate our accomplishments!

### District Award of Merit:

The award is available to Scouters who render service of an outstanding nature at the district level. You can contact [Josh Bollam](#), [Suzie Redington](#) or [Terry Madden](#) for the forms.

### Spark Plug Award

Each unit is encouraged to recognize volunteers who has made a significant contribution to the success of the unit over the last year -- every unit has a Spark Plug! You can contact [Josh Bollam](#), [Suzie Redington](#) or [Terry Madden](#) for the forms.

## Membership

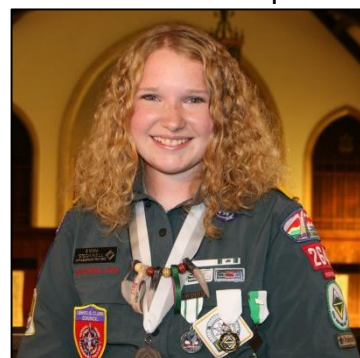
There has been a lot of questions concerning the Membership Coordinators meeting that is held 30 minutes prior to Roundtable. We are still pushing forward with this meeting and welcome all Membership Coordinators to join me [30 minutes prior to Roundtable](#) where we will talk about upcoming events and provide assistance to any issues your unit may be having. [October will focus on the Troops and November will focus on the Venture Crews](#). Looking forward to seeing some old faces along with some new. Also, now that most of the excitement with School Night is over it is getting that time of year when Re-Charter will be on us sooner than we think. Start early by going through and cleaning up your list of members. If you need help please start with your Unit Commissioner and if further help is needed please let me know and we'll get you what ever assistance is needed.

## **The Gravois Trail District VOA Officers for the 2015-2016 Scouting Year**

**Kenny Edgar** will serve as the district VOA President. He is an Eagle Scout with Crew 2821 sponsored by the Affton Parents Club. Last year Kenny served as the Gravois Trail District VOA VP-Program. During the summer he worked at Camp Famous Eagle staffing the new dining hall. He has attended and taught ILSC as well as NYLT. Kenny is a real leader and has a great staff of district VOA VPs to help him through the year. Outside of Scouting Kenny likes to play the electric guitar, loves any kind of rock music, and enjoys leatherworking. Kenny's favorite hobby is collecting Scouting memorabilia. He probably has some piece of his collection on the uniform you see him in, Venturing or Boy Scout.



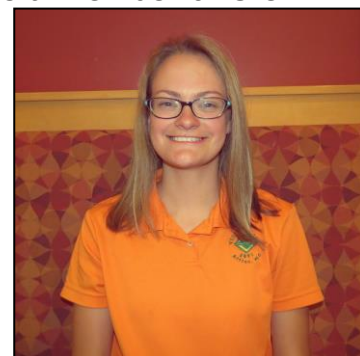
**Emma O'Donnell** will serve as the district VP-Administration. She is a Silver Award Recipient from Crew 2648, sponsored by the Oakville Middle School PTO. Last year she served as the Central Region Area 3 VP-Administration and currently serves on the Area VOA; this will be her third year serving on the district VOA. She has received a Council and Area Venturing Leadership Award. She has completed NYLT, Kodiak Challenge and Powder Horn. She has staffed two Kodiak Challenges and will staff a third Kodiak Challenge in the Lewis and Clark Council and will staff the GSLAC Powder Horn courses in 2016. Outside of Venturing Emma performs in her school's color guard, plays the French Horn in her school's top concert band and is a member of the French National Honor Society.



**David O'Donnell** will serve as the district VP-Program. He is a Star Scout from Crew 2648, sponsored by the Oakville Middle School PTO. He has held the position of Vice President of Program and is currently President in his crew. He is a Star Scout in pursuit of his Eagle Scout. This is his first time as a district officer. Venturing has given David the chance to meet new people and become a better leader to prepare him for the future. Outside of Scouting he plays tenor saxophone for the Oakville High School marching band and plays baritone saxophone during concert season. He very competitive and enjoys playing baseball, soccer, basketball and volleyball as well as kayaking and canoeing. David is also on the Academic Quiz Bowl Team at his high school.

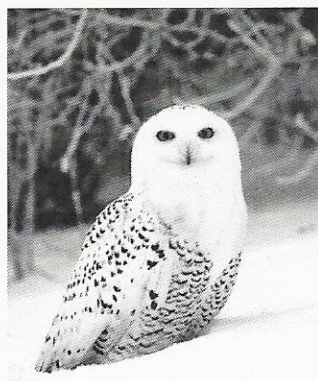


**Pamela Petterchak** will serve as the district VP-Communication. She is a member of Crew 2821 sponsored by the Affton Parents Club. She has served as her crew's treasurer, and is currently the VP-Admin. Aside from Venturing, she is in her sixth year with the St. Louis Children's Choirs, and is a percussionist in her school's band and drumline. She is also a swimmer, cyclist, bowler. Pamela has a passion for technology, especially computer programming and video editing and serves on both, the Technology Student Association and the technology solutions department at her school.





# OKPIK Cold Weather Camping Training



## OKPIK 2015/2016 Course is Scheduled!

The purpose of the nationally acclaimed OKPIK program, made famous at Northern Tier, is to teach Scout leaders how to be comfortable and safe while camping in cold weather. This training enables Scout units to extend their outdoor camping season to a full 12-months. These unique skills are delivered in a safe environment and culminates in a 24-hour outdoor overnight session that tests your new-found skills while enjoying some Scout fellowship and competition. This is NOT a survival skills session – it IS an opportunity to learn about how winter camping can be fun and exciting, and still be enjoyable! Program is delivered in a troop setting, where each participant is assigned to a unique cold weather patrol. There are four troop meetings that are mandatory for graduation. The fourth troop meeting is our outdoor overnight adventure!

Program areas include: 1<sup>st</sup> aid, cooking, nutrition, travel planning, shelters, clothing systems, sleeping systems, mental aspects of winter camping, nature, games, and FUN!

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> offering for OKPIK here in the St Louis area and is LIMITED to the first 48 participants! Adults must be registered Scout leaders, have current Youth Protection training, and must have the appropriate medical forms. Youth must be 14 years old and at least 1<sup>st</sup> Class as of Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, have long term camping experience, and have their Scoutmaster's approval. Venturers may participate with the same restrictions less the 1<sup>st</sup> Class rank. Cost for the program - handouts, booklet, "cubes," and patch - is \$50.

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## Meeting and Registration Information

All troop meetings are held at the Beaumont Scout Reservation. Meeting dates, places, and times are:

Troop Meeting #1 – Dec. 5, 2015, Emerson, 7:30am - 1pm (indoor instruction)

Troop Meeting #2 – Dec. 19, 2015, Sverdrup, 8am - 12:35pm (this is an outdoor session!)

Troop Meeting #3 – Jan. 9, 2016, Emerson, 8am - 11:45am (indoor session)

Troop Meeting #4 – Jan. 16-17, 2016 Sverdrup, 8am Saturday – Noon Sunday (outdoor overnight!!)

Space is limited to the first 48 participants, so register early! Registration opens online October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please direct any questions to the 2015-2016 Course Director/Scoutmaster – George Kunkel,  
[georgekunkel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:georgekunkel@sbcglobal.net).