

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: [Gravoi Trail Website](#)

Shawnee Lodge of the Order of the Arrow website can be found here: [Shawnee](#)

Or the Facebook page located here: [Gravois Trail Venturing](#)

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 !

Winter is half over ! While there are definitely fun things to do in the Winter, for Scouting you can't beat Spring. More campouts, more outdoors... more everything ! Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have. We're here to help !

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

Commissioner: [Paul Leicht](#)
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Activities: [TBD](#)

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District Directors Corner

Happy New Year Gravois Trail Scouters! What an exciting time of the year in the Scouting Community... Now is the time to plan Blue & Gold Ceremonies and Court of Honors to award the young men the achievements they have so diligently worked on over the last few months. I hope to visit many of these ceremonies if my schedule allows; so please, reach out with invitations and I will try to attend.

This is also the time of year to have a solid Outdoor Summer plan in place. Is your pack registered for Webelos Camp (1st year Webelos) or Arrow of Light Camp (2nd Year Webelos)? Are the rest of the Cub Scouts in your Pack registered for a Day Camp? There are three this year; STEM Twilight Camp at St. John's, Simpson Park Shooting Sports Twilight, and Bee Tree Fishing Twilight Fishing Camp. For the Boy Scout Troops; how are your long term Summer Camp plans coming? Is your troop registered and are dues paid so your boys can begin selecting Merit Badge classes? If you need help with any of these camps or anything else please let me know. I'm always available to the Scouters in the District.

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

Training

Hello The Trail;

On Saturday, January 23rd, 2016 The Greater St. Louis Area Council sponsored "University Of Scouting" at Fox High School. It was a great opportunity for Scouters to brush-up or expand their Scouting knowledge in a one day setting. There were 128 different courses offered on a variety of areas (colleges) in the scouting program. There was something for everyone!!

The Cub, Boy and Venturing colleges offered classes specific to their programs. Other colleges includes, "**General Scouting**"; "**Commissioners**"; "**Trainers**"; "**Special needs**"; To add or enhance your units programs other courses from the following colleges were offered, "**High-Adventure**"; "**STEM**"; "**Technology**"; and "**Youth Leadership**".

The courses were presented by Scouters, like yourselves, through out the Council. Gravois Trail was well represented in the staffing of this event. Thanks to **Neil Phipps, Dean- Commissioner College; Jean-Marie Nilges- Dean-Special Needs College; Michael O-Donnell-Dean-Venturing College; Cherie McCurdy- Dean Youth College; Tom Noel -Dean-Trainer College; and Gary Dedeke - Dean Cub Scout College**. In addition to these deans there were those invaluable volunteers who did the actual presentations for the classes. A heart full thanks to all those GT Leaders who taught classes at the U of Scouting this year. Without their help and support, the University of Scouting could not happen!

Wood Badge Informational Dinner:

The Wood Badge Informational Dinner will be held on **2/22/16 @ 6:30 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**



OA

Chapter Banquet

The Gravois Trail Order of the Arrow Chapter Banquet was held Wednesday, February 10, at the Genesis Banquet Center. It was a great evening of fellowship. Make plans to join us next year !

Arrowman Experience

This is an event for members of OA to learn about the ceremonies. The daylong event takes place at Beaumont Scout Reservation and usually includes an opportunity for ceremonial teams to be evaluated. All Arrowman invited! This year it will be held on Saturday, March 5 2016 For more information and to register, go [HERE](#)

Spring Conclave

This is a good time to seal your membership in the OA and become a Brotherhood Member. This year it will be held April 1-3 @ Beaumont Scout Ranch. For more information and to register, go [HERE](#)



Camping

Klondike Derby



On January 30th, 2016 Gravois Trail district had their 2016 Klondike Derby held at Beaumont Scout Ranch. We had **153 scouts, 53 adults, and 18 staff**. The weather was beautiful with temperatures reaching into the 60s. **Unfortunately no snow**. But the boys don't mind the warm weather. Neither did Campmaster Geoffrey Walker when his staff congratulated him with a celebratory dousing of 4 five gallons buckets of water.

Some of the events were BB Gun, Archery, obstacle course, fire building, ice rescue, darts, and apple bobbing. The afternoon was topped off with the annual sled races. When it was over **Troop 111** walked away as this years winners. Congratulations to them.

Spring Camporee

Our next event will be Spring Camporee at S-F Scout Ranch. The dates are **April 22-24**. Campmaster Brian Sikorski is planning a "50 Years At the Ranch" theme. Some of the events he is planning are Archery, rifle and shotgun shooting, cardboard canoe races, and many more summer camp theme events. Any scouts interested in being on staff should contact Brian.



Activities

Cub Scout Opening and Closing Thoughts

Below is the opening and closing from February's Roundtable. It's a great way to get Cubs involved and you can be used for Pack meetings as well.

Opening: Building Character

Cub #1 (carrying a hammer) *"In Cub Scouting we learn to build character"*

Cub #2 (carrying a plank) *"It is not what the boy does with the wood, it is what the wood does to the boy"*

Cub #3 (carrying a plane) *"Through Cub Scouting we learn to remove the sharp edges off our personality"*

Cub #4 (Carrying sandpaper) *"As we grow as Cub Scouts, we become more refined and smooth in our manners"*

Cub #5 (carrying a tool box) *"Our talents are gathered together, and we get a chance to try them out when our den works on a theme each month"*

Cub #6 (walking in a parent) *"When our parents help us earn Adventure loops, we learn how use the tools of life"*

All: *"Thank you for helping us grow into well rounded citizens"*

Closing

This is what I tell my students who just shut down during a lesson.

Each grade you are adding to your education just like a house being built.

Kindergarten is your floor.

First grade is first layers of bricks. If you don't understand something that brick will be weak.

Second grade is the next couple of layers. That one brick that was weak in first grade will become harder if you still do not understand.

Each grade adds more bricks and that one brick will be weaker and eventually the building will fall if you don't ask questions to help you understand.

As a Cub Scout starts their adventure in scouting we need to make it fun and a learning tool. Let us build strong character with our scouts.

Venturing

Snow Tubing and Hot Chocolate

Saturday, February 20th 2016 the Gravois Trail Venturing Officers Association is sponsoring a night of fun at Hidden Valley. For more info, go [HERE](#)

Membership

By now every Pack should have been in contact with their Troop to assist in their Blue & Gold and the crossover of the Webleos. If there is a Pack who has not had contact with their Troop please let me know and we will get that resolved. Another area we are tracking is why Scouts choose not to crossover to Boy Scouts from Cub Scouts. If you have a Scout that falls into that category please also let us know so that we are able to track the reasoning. As always if you have any other concerns then please do not hesitate to contact me.

YIS,
Ken McFadden
Membership Chair

More Training

Here are more training opportunities coming up over the next few months:

Cub Scout Leader & Boy Scout Committee Specific Training

Saturday, April 16th 2016
Peace Lutheran Church, 737 Barracksview Rd.,
St. Louis, MO 63125
Registration: 8 a.m. | Training: 8:30 a.m.
Cost: \$25

Boy Scout Leader Training- Scoutmasters & Assistant Scoutmasters

3 Wednesday indoor sessions: April 6th, 13th,
and 20th 2016
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church, 1420
S. Sappington Rd., Crestwood, MO 63126
Registration: 6:30 p.m. | Training: 7 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday outdoor session, April 30th-
May 1st 2016 (Required in order to be consider
trained)
Beaumont Scout Reservation
Arrive: Saturday, 7 a.m. | Depart: Sunday, 12:30
p.m. Cost: \$25