

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 Venturing](#)

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

Contact us at:

Josh Bollam: joshua.bollam@scouting.org

Jerry Fix: jerry.fix@gmail.com

Contact Us !

Spring is here ! That means Camporees, OA Conclave, New Boy Campouts, Cross-overs... the list just goes on. So be sure to start finalizing your Spring and Summer camping and high adventure excursions now before it's too late. And don't forget to contact any of us with any questions you may have.

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District Directors Corner

Greetings Fellow Gravois Trail Scouters:

Spring is upon us. What a great time of year! Blue & Golds are finishing, Spring Court of Honors are being held, and summer camp planning is in full swing. Hopefully you are planning on bringing new boys to summer camp with your Pack or Troop. There are so many great opportunities for you to take advantage of. Cubmasters and Pack Committee Chairs, this challenge is for you: Is every boy in your Pack participating in a long term camping opportunity, either Webelos Camp, Arrow of Light Camp, or a Day Camp? If the answer is no, why not? Camping and Outdoor adventure is a vital part of the Cub Scout Program. There are numerous opportunities for the Cub Scouts to participate.

A big focus for Bears transitioning into Webelos and Webelos I becoming Webelos II should be Resident Camp at Beaumont Scout Reservation. Don't passively mention it to your Den Leaders. Actively persuade them that this is a part of their year-long program. This is the best tool to prepare these young men for Boy Scout Resident Camp in the coming years. Every Troop in the district has a summer camp plan. We need to make sure these boys are ready to crossover and make the next step. Please do some follow-up to make sure your Webelos are attending resident camp this summer. Let me know how I can help.

For more information on Webelos and Arrow of Light Camp click [Here](#)

Yours in Scouting, Josh
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Activities

FOS Pinewood Derby

Essex Industries hosted their annual Pinewood Derby Saturday, March 12th. Cars are entered into one of three categories: 14 & Under; 15 & Over; or Outlaw. The first, second and third place trophies are awarded to the top three fastest times in each event. The overall fastest car from all categories will race at The Construction Industry Pinewood Derby at The Moto Museum on April 21. Attendees also vote for the funniest design, unique design, and most aerodynamic design. Funds raised at Essex Pinewood Derby are donated to the Friends of Scouting campaign. The event successfully raised \$288! Look for their fastest car April 21st.



OA



One Day of Service

The One Day of Service this year is on Saturday, May 7, at Robertsville State Park. The event will begin at 8 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. Breakfast and Lunch are included on Saturday. The event is free to all Shawnee Lodge Members. Camping is available at the park on Friday Night. The project will include building a new area for group camping at the park. We hope to see you at the One Day of Service!!

The EXPERIENCE

Arrowman Experience

This past Arrowman Experience was a huge success. Everyone had fun, and the ceremonial team competitions were amazing. Each year the Lodge works to make this event better than the event from the previous year. This is why we would like you to take a survey so we know what we should and can improve. We would greatly appreciate your feedback. To go to the survey click [HERE](#)



Training

Why does the BSA promote training?

1st: Benefits of Training

- + Leaders:
 - + Knowledge of the program
 - + Provides common ground for the unit's committee
 - + Safety guidelines
 - + Learn of available resources
 - + Continued personal growth
- + Youth:
 - + Better program
 - + More advancement
 - + Fun

2nd: Scouting Training Programs set up in 5 steps

Fast Start Training: A training that gives a brief overview of job specifics.

This is Scouting: Ideals that are generic to all levels of the Scouting Program.

Leader Specific Training:

Cub Scout Leader Training (CSLT)

Boy Scout Leader Training (BSLT)

Venturing Crew Advisors Training

Committee Training

The Cub, Boy Scout, Venturing Crew leader, and Committee Member -training programs offer the basic skills for their job specific positions. The training notebooks and handbooks are part of this training package.

If you know of a new Leader in your unit, encourage them to attend one of the upcoming training sessions, to start them on their way to the fun and adventure of the Scouting Program!

For those experienced Leaders, remember training is never over, there is always an opportunity to learn, or hone an existing skill, to make the program more exciting for a Scout!

In closing, let me leave you with this thought:

Don't think of "training" as the difference between right and wrong, instead think of it as the difference between wrong and FUN!

A full list of training opportunities for April and May can be found [HERE](#)

Thank You!

Gary Dedeker,
District Training Chairman

Venturing

Venturing Training - for adults and teens

On **Saturday, April 16th, 2016** the Gravois Trail District will be conducting training for adults and youth. We will be putting on three different training courses, the cost for each listed below:

Venturing Crew Advisor and Associate Advisor Training, \$20, includes manual

Venturing Crew Committee Chair and Committee Member Training, \$20, includes manual

Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews (ILSC), which is for crew leadership (teens). Adults can also take the course to help better understand how to put on the course in their crew. No cost.

Training will begin at **8AM** and should be finished around noon or a little before. The training will be held at **Peach Lutheran Church, 737 Barracksview Rd, St. Louis, MO 63125.**

If you have any questions, please contact **Michael O'Donnell @ eaglescout721@gmail.com**

ILSC Training

**Saturday,
April 16th
8AM-12PM**



Unit of Merit

Pack 647

St Francis of Assisi Pack 647's Winter Good Turn.

The Pack sent up a drop box at school and collected winter coats from the School and Church community.

78 Coats were collected, 4 items were given to a family who suffered from a house fire and 74 were taken to St. Vincent De Paul society to be distributed among the St. Louis needy.

Way to go Pack 647 !



Membership

As we quickly approach the end of another school year I would like every unit to re-visit their summer schedule to ensure you have at least one event every month through the summer.

Keeping the Scout interested throughout the summer is a major goal as it is so easy for youth to get involved in other activities and sidetracked away from Scouting during the summer months.

Keep them busy in Scouting throughout the summer and they will be back in the fall to keep the adventure and fun going all year long.

YIS,
Ken McFadden
District Membership Chair

April and May Training:

- Roundtable: Topic – “How to get Parents to Participate” (Jerry Wright) on 4/5/16, 7:00PM at Sperrang Middle School. (For additional information, contact Terry Madden 314-229-5489)
- Boy Scouts: SM & ASM Training on 4/6,13,20/16, 7:00PM til 9:00PM at the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church on 1420 S. Sappington Road, 63126. (For additional information, contact Gary Dedeke 314-631-7478)
- Cub Scouts: Adult Leader Training on 4/16/16, 8:00AM til noon at Peace Lutheran Church on 737 Barracksview Road, 63125. (For additional information, contact Jason Sciaroni 314-849-8527)
- Boy Scouts: Committee Training on 4/16/16, 8:00AM til noon at Peace Lutheran Church on 737 Barracksview Road, 63125. (For additional information, contact Gary Dedeke 314-631-7478)
- Venturing Advisor and Committee Member Training on 4/16/16, 8:00 AM til noon at Peace Lutheran Church on 737 Barracksview Road, 63125. (For additional information, contact Gary Dedeke 314-631-7478)
- Venturing: ILSC -Leadership Skills for Crews (Youth) Training – “Goal Setting” on 4/16/16, 8:00AM til noon at Peace Lutheran Church on 737 Barracksview Road, 63125. (For additional information, contact Michael O'Donnell 314-960-3129)
- Boy Scout: Adult Leader Outdoor Skills Training on 4/30/16 and 5/1/16 at Beaumont Scout Reservation on 6480 Beaumont Reservation Drive, 63049. (For additional information, contact Gary Dedeke 314-631-7478)
- Roundtable: Topic – “TBA” on 5/3/16, 7:00PM at Sperrang Middle School. (For additional information, contact Terry Madden 314-229-5489)
- Wood Badge: Spring Course – Beaumont on 5/20-22/16 and 6/3-5/16 at Beaumont Scout Reservation on 6480 Beaumont Reservation Drive, 63049. (For additional information, go to <http://STLBSA.org/training/adult/wood-badge/>)