

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 Facebook**

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

Contact us at:

Mike Eschbach: mike.eschbach@scouting.org

Jerry Fix: jerry.fix@gmail.com

Contact Us !

We're well into Spring now, and Summer is just around the corner. We've got Memorial Day Good Turn, Summer Camp, Day Camp... the list goes on. This is some of the best time of the year for Scouting.

Don't Forget: Program Preview is Tuesday, June 6th at 7pm (Lindbergh H.S.)

GT District Sub Committees:

Commissioner: **Paul Leicht**
C. 314-409-7063
paulleichtsr@aol.com

Advancement: **Phil Tilghman**
C. 314-401-2339
T778sm@sbcglobal.net

Camping: **Gil Kauffmann**
C. 314-910-3994
gilkauffmann@gmail.com

OA: **Brian Mischel**
bmischel780@sbcglobal.net

Membership: **Ken McFadden**
H. 720-530-5800
ken.mcfadden@mcfaddens.org

Activities: **Dawn Fansler**
dmf138@aol.com

Training: **Gary Dedeker**
C. 314-740-0986
woodyccs@sbcglobal.net

Communications: **Jerry Fix**
C. 636-221-4368
jerry.fix@gmail.com

Development: **Keith Guller**
kguller@essexind.com

Venturing: **Michael O'Donnell**
eaglescout721@gmail.com

District Directors Corner

Greetings Gravois Trail!

Spring is finally here and what a great time of year it is in Scouting! **Blue & Golds** are mostly wrapped up, Spring Courts of Honor are being held, and summer camp planning is in full swing....and almost here. 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, Den Leaders, Scoutmasters, Crew Advisers and Committee Chairs, this challenge is for you: Is every youth in your unit participating in a long-term camping opportunity, either Webelos Camp, Family Camp, Arrow of Light Camp, Day Camp Boy Scout Camp, High Adventure or more? If the answer is no, why not? Camping and outdoor adventure is a vital part of the Scout Program AND it's why youth join Scouts. Check out the link below!

A big focus for Bears transitioning into Webelos and Webelos I becoming Webelos II should be Resident Camp. Don't simply mention it to your Den Leaders. Actively persuade them that this is a part of their year-long program. Let me know how I can help. For more information on Webelos and Arrow of Light Camp click **HERE**

Thanks for all that each one of you do for Scouting,

Mike Eschbach
314-256-3060
mike.eschbach@scouting.org

Training

June 6, 2017 Roundtable Meeting: **PROGRAM PREVIEW**
Lindbergh H.S. Theater

Upcoming Training Dates:

May 6 & 7 2017

Adult Leader Training Outdoor Skills at Beaumont for Scoutmasters and Asst Scoutmasters.

NYLT National Youth Leadership Training:

Why Should you send your Scouts to NYLT?

Through this weeklong outdoor training, male and female Scouts grow and improve their leadership skills while following the guidelines of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. NYLT is conducted during summer camp.

Scouts earning the NYLT shield are better prepared to interact with adult leaders and face the challenges and demands ahead.

Boy Scouts:

Requirements to attend NYLT, a Scout must be:

- A current registered member of the BSA who has attended long-term Boy Scout camp for a minimum of two years.
- First Class rank or higher.
- Twelve years old.
- A member of a troop whose Scoutmaster has completed the adult Boy Scout Leader Basic Training Course.
- A current or prospective youth leader approved by the Scoutmaster.

Venturing:

Requirements to attend NYLT:

- Must meet all of the above but the First Class requirement.

A Scout need only attend one of the weeks to successfully complete the NYLT course. The Scout must be at camp for the entire week to complete the program.

NYLT Course options: (Both options are offered each week)

- Land based
- Pack and Paddle

Land Based:

The land based course is hosted at S-F Scout Ranch. Scouts will learn leadership skills, while improving their camping, fire building, cooking and time management skills.

Pack and Paddle:

The Pack and Paddle course is conducted at the S-F Scout Ranch backcountry on Nims Lake. Scouts will learn the same leadership skills offered at the land based camp plus, practice low-impact camping, hiking, canoeing and learn the proper use of a compass for navigation.

Go **HERE** for more detailed information on the NYLT program (course dates, requirements, etc)

OA



Spring Conclave

Thanks to everyone who attended the Spring Conclave, and congratulations to our new Ordeal, Brotherhood and Vigil Honor members. What started off wet became a beautiful weekend. We're looking forward to **Fall Reunion**. If you have scouts interested in getting involved with Ceremonial Teams, even as runners, please contact Grant Nilges at grant.nilges@shawneelodge.org

One Day of Service

Our Lodge will be hosting One Day of Service at S-F Scout Ranch on Saturday, May 6. We will be performing much needed maintenance as **The Ranch** prepares for the summer programs. The event is free, but they ask that you pre-register. Those wanting to arrive Friday night will receive evening snacks and breakfast, and everyone working will also be provided lunch. Find more information **HERE**

Elsewhere Elections

We still need to hear from some troops that are planning to go out of Council for summer camp about performing OA elections. These must be performed by OA officers, and a form must be submitted to get approval for these elections. The forms are available at <http://shawneelodge.org/elections/>. Since we are already past the deadline please send these forms to our Chapter Chief, Bryan Sikorski at: bryan.sikorski@shawneelodge.org

May Chapter Meeting

We will be having our May chapter meeting on Wednesday, May 17 at St. Elizabeth of Hungary on Sappington Road. The meeting will go from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Please join us for the fun and fellowship.

Development

FOS Pinewood Derby

Essex Industries hosted their annual Pinewood Derby on Saturday, April 8th at Essex. Cars entered one of three categories: 14 & Under; 15 & Over; or Outlaw.

The first, second and third place trophies were awarded to the top three fastest times in each event. The overall fastest car from all categories raced at The Construction Industry Pinewood Derby at The Moto Museum in April. 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 was a success! Thanks to Keith Guller, Deanna Sichra and the employees of Essex!



Re Connect With Scouting

Do you know someone who should or wants to "Reconnect" with Scouting?

This is for individuals not currently involved in Scouting but can hear all about how they can help....pass the word to people not currently involved....but should be...

Tuesday, May 9th

4:00 pm

Trattoria Toscana

11686 Gravois Road, St. Louis, MO 63126

Hosted by Keith Guller, CEO of Essex Industries

RSVP to Deanna Sichra at dsichra@essexind.com or 314-338-8759



Activites

Earth Day

On Saturday April 22, The Greater St. Louis Area Council, Boy Scouts of America partnered with Goodwill for their **Earth Day Donation Drive**. Scouts from all over the Greater St. Louis Council donned their uniforms and 'helpful' spirit then ventured out into the cooler temperatures to accept donations from members of the community. Thankfully the rain stayed away and the sun came out not only warming the volunteers but also warming the hearts of friends and neighbors as some came with cars full of donations.

As a member of the Gravois Trail District, I had the distinct pleasure of working with an amazing group of Scouts who gladly accepted donations ranging from board games and clothing to electronics and furniture at the Gravois Trail District site at Sperrang Middle School. 25 Scouts and parents donated their time, some all day, and 10 units were proudly represented. A special thank you should be given to the parents and adult leaders who encourage these young people to give back to their community by participating in events such as this. It instills a sense of pride in where they come from and an understanding that even just a few hours can make a difference in someone's life.

Although we did not fill the trailer to its full capacity with donations, I'm sure that the remaining amount was filled with laughter, comradery and the Scout spirit. Thank you to all the members of the community who made donations, and thank you to Goodwill for allowing the Boy Scouts of America to partner with you on this great event.

Swan Klenke, Troop 780



Camping

Camporee (or not...)

Thanks for all of your patience with the cancelation of Spring Camporee. We probably dodged a major disaster.

Many of us lived through Camp Sunken and Hillsboro fairgrounds. Those Camporees were not fun but miserable. Plus unsafe. We likely would have gotten to Camp Lewellan, set up camp, got miserably wet Friday night, then evacuated Saturday morning. That area got almost 7 inches of rain through Friday. The large amount of road closings and flash flooding has confirmed our decision to cancel. Thanks to Patrick Meehan for all of his hard work putting together this event.

Summer Camp

Please **DO** camp promotion within your troops, packs, and crews. When asked what part of scouting is your favorite. Most scouts say camping. Solidify your scouting program by taking the kids to summer camp, day camps, high adventure

Membership

Summer Time

As we finish off the school year I hope everyone stays connected and active in Scouting throughout the summer months. Stay safe and we'll see you in August for another packed year of pure fun.

Memorial Day Good Turn

This is a reminder about the GSLAC Memorial Day Good Turn Event

As usual, the annual Memorial Day Good Turn is well represented by Gravois Trail Scouts and Venturers. St Louis and Southern Illinois communities get to see the character of our Scouts.

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 68th year, is one of the longest running Memorial Day events within the Boy Scouts of America.

Scouts honor those who served our country by raising the American Flag and then lowering it to half-mast as Scout buglers play "Taps." Scouts who earned the rank of Eagle Scout- the highest rank in Scouting- during the past year serve as the color guard. Scouts and leaders then decorate each grave in the cemetery with a small American Flag.

It takes just two hours for Scouts to place more than 280,000 flags, which are provided by the cemetery.

In 1866, Jefferson Barracks was established as a national cemetery and today is one of the oldest interment sites of the National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

For information on where to meet, how to register and other details, go [HERE](#)





FAMILY CAMP

The new and improved Parent and Pal!

Family Camps allow Scouts to spend the night over the weekend at one of our properties sharing the fun of the outdoors with mom, dad, and Cub Scout-aged siblings! Every camp has BB guns, archery, swimming, hiking, and fun in the sun!

- **Camp May at Beaumont (High Ridge, MO):** Enjoy swimming in the pool, exploring the cave, playing on the pirate ship, and much more at this St. Louis metro camp!
June 17-18, June 24-25, July 8-9, and July 15-16

- **Camp Lewallen (Silva, MO):** Conquer the brand new bouldering wall, catch your first fish, and enjoy the best dining hall program and customer service that Boy Scouts has to offer!
June 24-25

- **Camp Famous Eagle at S bar F Scout Ranch (Knob Lick, MO):** Zip line and water slide into the lake at our Huck's Cove Water Park! Boulder to the top of Castle Rock, and go exploring in a canoe!
June 24-25 and July 8-9

\$40 per participant, or \$120 for a family of four.
Meals, tents, and program supplies are provided.

cubcamping.stlbsa.org

FISH ON!



Join us for these upcoming fishing events!

- **Fishing Pre-Summer Camp Workshop:** May 6, May 21
(see reverse side for more details)
- **Scout and Scouter Fishing Day:** May 20 | S bar F Scout Ranch
- **Fish-O-Ree:** June 3 | Forest Park Hatchery



stlbsa.org/activities/fishing

Boy Scouts can attend these events to satisfy fishing and fly fishing merit badge requirements:

Cabela’s Hazelwood Store: May 6 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Fly Fishing	
3	Knots (pre-work required)
4	Tie 2 flies and know fly types

Camp Joy: May 21 | 9 a.m.-Noon

Fly Fishing	
3	Knots (pre-work required)
4	Tie 2 flies and know fly types
5	Casting
10	Catch a fish

2017 St. Louis Memorial Day Scout Good Turn



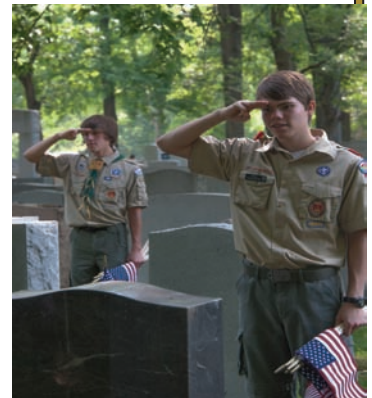
Help Honor our War Veterans

Sunday, May 28th



All Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers and Scouters are invited to help place over 7000 Flags on the Graves of our War Veterans

Youth will be performing a brief ceremony at each Grave Site for a more meaningful experience.



**Free Breakfast
Provided for
Participants**



Sponsored by:
Jewish War Veterans
and the
Jewish Relations Committee
of the
Greater St. Louis Area
Council of the B.S.A.

Pre-registration will help us to get everyone out the doors promptly at 8:30am in route to your assigned cemetery. Preregistration is requested, not required.

NOTE:

MEETING LOCATION CHANGE !!

**United Hebrew
Congregation**

13788 Conway Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63141



Registration Starting at 7:00am

Free Breakfast Beginning at 7:15am

Pre-registrants may arrive as late as 7:45am

Departure Meeting 8:15 - 8:30

Departure to Cemeteries at 8:30am

Past Years have Finished by 11:30am

Members of all religions encouraged to participate.

Pre-registration forms available at: <https://stlbsa.org/activities/other-activities/faith-based-events/jewish-scouting/>

Please e-mail registration form or questions to Steve Sobelman at: smsobelman@gmail.com



MEMORIAL DAY GOOD TURN

Sunday, May 28, 2017

Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery

For more than six decades, Scouts have been decorating graves at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery with an American flag to honor veterans for Memorial Day.

Scouts of all ages are invited to participate in the 68th annual Memorial Day Good Turn, hosted by the Gravois Trail District. Check-in runs from 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. in front of Building 24 on the Missouri National Guard Base adjacent to the ceremony. The procession from the National Guard Base to the cemetery will begin at 12:30 p.m.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
Greater St. Louis Area Council

Register at

stlbsa.org/memorial-day-good-turn



NYLT: BE PREPARED TO LEAD THE WAY.

Grow and improve your leadership skills while following the guidelines of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Scouts earning the National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) shield are better prepared to interact with adult leaders and face the challenges and demands ahead.

Course Dates

- June 11 - 17
- June 11 - 17 (Camp Vandeventer)
- June 18 - 24 (Boy Scouts & Venturers)
- June 25 - July 1
- July 9 - 15
- July 16 - 22 (Venturing only)

Pricing

- \$255 if paid in full by April 2
- \$275 if paid in full by June 2
- \$290 if paid in full after June 2



scoutingevent.com/312-2017nylt

Course Requirements

- A current registered member of the BSA who has attended long-term Boy Scout camp for a minimum of two years
- First Class rank or higher
- At least twelve years old
- Member of a troop whose Scoutmaster has completed the adult Boy Scout Leader Basic Training Course
- A current or prospective youth leader recommended by the Scoutmaster

**Venturing participants must meet all of the above but the First class rank requirement.*

Course dates:

June 11 – 17
June 11 – 17 (Camp Vandeventer)
June 18 – 24 (Boy Scouts & Venturers)
June 25 – July 1
July 9 – 15
July 16 – 22 (Venturing only)

**Course takes place at S bar F Scout Ranch except where noted.*

NYLT Staff

Already attended NYLT? Consider applying for staff for next Summer and share your knowledge and skills with other Scouts. An application and information available at stlbsa.org/training/youth/national-youth-leadership.

Incentives

- Send two Scouts more than in 2016 and receive \$25 off per scout.
- Send three Scouts more than in 2016 and receive \$35 off per scout.
- Send four or more Scouts than in 2016 and receive \$50 off per scout.

Pack & Paddle

The Pack & Paddle course is conducted in the S bar F Scout Ranch backcountry and on Nims Lake during the NYLT courses. Attending Scouts develop leadership skills, practice low-impact camping, hiking, canoeing and learn the proper use of a compass for navigation.

All participants must stow food, crew gear, shelter, personal items and any other essential equipment in their packs. It's important to remember, that when selecting equipment, this is a physically demanding course.

Pack & Paddle requirements

- Meet all NYLT requirements
- Be 14 years of age by date of summer camp
- Pass the BSA swim test (swim 100 yards using strong strokes)

FEES

Save by paying early!

NYLT and Pack & Paddle

☐ **\$255 if paid in full by April 2**

- \$275 if paid in full between April 3 and June 1
- \$290 if paid in full between June 2 and start of camp



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
Greater St. Louis Area Council

scoutingevent.com/312-2017NYLT

Wood Badge is advanced training for adult leaders in Scouting designed to enhance contemporary leadership skills and develop more effective Scouters. The Wood Badge program gives participants a greater understanding of Scouting aims and methods, while developing true Scout Spirit.

WOOD TRAINING FOR ADULT LEADERS. BADGE

Spring Course: C3-312-17-1

Beaumont Scout Reservation, High Ridge, Mo.
Fri., May 19, 7:30 a.m. – Sun., May 21, 5:30 p.m.
AND
Fri., June 2, 7:30 a.m. – Sun., June 4, 5:30 p.m.

Course Director: Steven Smith
314.399.1268 | steven.smith.2112@gmail.com

REGISTER: scoutingevent.com/312-2017springwoodbadge

Fall Course: C3-312-17-2

Pine Ridge Scout Camp, Makanda, Ill.
Fri., Aug. 25, 7:30 a.m. – Sun., Aug. 27, 5:30 p.m.
AND
Fri., Sept. 8, 7:30 a.m. – Sun., Sept. 10, 5:30 p.m.

Course Director: Chris Webb
618.513.4219 | christophertroop7156@gmail.com

REGISTER: scoutingevent.com/312-2017fallwoodbadge

Fall Course: C3-312-17-3

Camp Vandeventer, Waterloo, Ill.
Fri., Sept. 8, 7:30 a.m. – Sun., Sept. 10, 5:30 p.m.
AND
Fri., Oct. 7, 7:30 a.m. – Sun., Oct. 9, 5:30 p.m.

Course Director: Cory Reeves
618.623.8584 | coreyreeves@originfirst.com

REGISTER: scoutingevent.com/312-17vanwoodbadge

Course Fee

\$260 if paid in full 30 days before the respective course's Pre-Course Meeting

\$285 if paid in full less than 30 days prior to course.

A \$50 non-refundable deposit may be submitted with the application to hold a spot in a course until full payment can be made.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
Greater St. Louis Area Council

stlbsa.org/training/adult/wood-badge



Save
the
Date!

Prepare for an adventure traveling through time!

Mom & Me family camp will take you and your mom
(or guardian) to destinations in ancient times
through the future — without leaving Illinois!

Mark your calendar now!

Cost is \$100 per pair before August 21;
late fees apply thereafter.
Additional Scouts are \$40.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

SEPTEMBER 22-24
CAMP WARREN LEVIS
GODFREY, ILL.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
Greater St. Louis Area Council

cubcamping.stlbsa.org