

# 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](mailto:mike.eschbach@scouting.org)

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

## Contact Us !

It's almost Spring ! That means that Winter Scouting activities draw to a close, we've installed some new District Committee Chairs to help keep our Scouting program moving along and... the Spring/Summer camping season is just around the corner. Take note of the camping info in this issue and get your units ready for a great 2018 for outdoor fun ! As always if anyone has questions feel free to contact us:

### GT District Sub Committees:

Commissioner: [Kris Mehrstens](#)  
C. 314-276-3033  
[krismehrtens@yahoo.com](mailto:krismehrtens@yahoo.com)

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

Camping: [Chris Merris](#)  
C. 314-494-9974  
[merrisc@gmail.com](mailto:merrisc@gmail.com)

OA: [Brian Mischel](#)  
[bmischel780@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bmischel780@sbcglobal.net)

Membership: [Joe Sartorius](#)  
C. 314-402-3799  
[jsartorius@sbuniv.edu](mailto:jsartorius@sbuniv.edu)

Activities: [David Fansler](#)  
[dmf138@aol.com](mailto:dmf138@aol.com)

Training: [Gary Dedeker](#)  
C. 314-740-0986  
[woodyccs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:woodyccs@sbcglobal.net)

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

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

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

## District Directors Corner

**G**reetings Scouters!

Thanks for all you did to make 2017 a great year. Once again, the district achieved **Gold** in Journey to Excellence - which means our Scouts had great program - advancement, camping, trained leaders, community service hours and much more. Congratulations to the 5 District Award of Merit Recipients who were recognized at the District Dinner on January 19: **Jason Scaroni, Ron Armstrong, Robert Juergens, Chris Merris and David Fansler.**

As we say thanks to several outgoing individuals we welcome new some new district leadership. Thanks to outgoing District Chairman **Alan Hautly**, outgoing District Commissioner, **Paul Leicht**, outgoing camping chairman **Gil Kauffman** and outgoing District Membership Chairman, **Ken McFadden**. They all went above and beyond for many years in service to our Scouts. We welcome **Dennis Holter**, our new District Chairman, **Kris Mehrstens**, our new District Commissioner in the Gravois Trail District. We also welcome new District Membership Chair, **Joe Sartorius**, new District STEM Chair, **Jerry Fix** and new Camping Chair, **Chris Merris**.

Spring is almost here. 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.

Yours in Scouting,

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

## Activities

### 69th Annual Memorial Day Good Turn

Scouts of all ages are invited to participate in the Memorial Day Good Turn. Check-in for Jefferson Barracks Good Turn, hosted by the Gravois Trail District, 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.

For more than six decades, approximately 5,000 Scouts have gathered at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery prior to Memorial Day to decorate each of the 150,000 graves with an American Flag. The tradition, in its 69th year in 2018, is one of the longest running Memorial Day events within the Boy Scouts of America.

For more info and registration, go [HERE](#)



### CERT Training

In March, Gravois Trail Venture Crew 2725 participated in CERT training. CERT (**C**ommunity **E**mergency **R**esponse **T**eam) educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

CERT offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, which allows them to focus on more complex tasks. Through CERT, the capabilities to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters is built and enhanced.



## OA



### Spring Conclave

The Shawnee Lodge Spring Conclave is our first inductions event of the year! Join 1,400+ Arrowman for a weekend, of fellowship, fun and service. The Spring Conclave will be held April 13-15th at the Beaumont Scout Reservation in High Ridge, MO.

Ordeal candidates called out in 2017 who have not yet completed their Ordeal are invited to do so at this event. Brothers who are interested in sealing their membership in the Order by completing the Brotherhood Honor can do so at this event.

The 2018 Shawnee Lodge Vigil Honor class will be recognized at a special ceremony on Saturday evening.

### Event Info and Check In

All brothers who bought tickets in advance of the event may check-in at their at one of the check-in areas listed below. Brothers who need to purchase tickets or are arriving on Saturday should check-in at the Emerson Center business office. When checking in, you will receive your event wristband and patch, and other helpful items to make your weekend an enjoyable experience.

Check-in will be Friday, April 13th from 5:30pm to 9:00pm at the following locations: Lane Pavillion, Shippey Pavillion and Emerson Center Office.

### Spring Conclave Leadership Team

Hayden Rosenthal, Lodge Chief  
Jack Cunningham, Conclave Chairman  
Tom Schaefer, Conclave Adviser

### Spring Conclave Leadership Team

There is an early-bird discount for registering before March 30th.

Register [HERE](#)

## Camping

### Welcome Chris Merris

Hello, let me introduce myself, my name is Chris Merris and I am the new Gravois Trail camping chair.

I am excited to share with you some updates about our **Spring Camporee** for the Boy Scouts. Our Campmaster for the Spring Camporee will be Gavin Knapp, his adult advisor is Mr. David Fansler and they have a great program in store for the Camporee. The event will be held at S-F Scout Ranch from **April 27-29th**. The camp manual can be found **HERE** and we are making arrangements to take registrations online. We also take the traditional reservations as well.

The theme for the weekend is called "Something Different", Gavin has worked hard to come up with some new events and to offer access to some other parts of S-F. Without spoiling all the fun I can offer a sneak peak that we are planning to have Mountain Bikes available and Carboard Boat races down at the Famous Eagle water front. Hopefully by the time you see this the manual and registration will be up and running online.

Additionally, we are in full swing for registering individuals for Summer Camp and Cub Day Camp programs. The Summer Program in my estimation is a major component to the scouting program and it is amazing how many stories I still hear from my scouts about Summer Camp and Cub Day Camp regardless of how old they are. Please take some time to register your Troop, Pack or Crew and I would love to hear about your experiences. If you have any questions about the Gravois Trail camping program feel free to contact me at: [merrisc@gmail.com](mailto:merrisc@gmail.com)

### Twilight Camps

Twilight camps are an awesome way for Cubsouts to meet new friends and try new things. This summer we've got two awesome ones to checkout:

#### Bee Tree Fishing Twilight Camp

Bee Tree County Park  
June 18-21, 2018 5:30pm to 8:30 PM  
Contact Tom Burton  
[burtont91@sbcglobal.net](mailto:burtont91@sbcglobal.net)

#### Simpson Park Shooting Sports Twilight Camp

Simpson park, Valley Park MO  
Julu 10-13, 2018 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM  
Contact Jason Sciaroni  
[didactical@gmail.com](mailto:didactical@gmail.com)





## Commissioner's Staff

### Meet The New District Commissioner - Kris Mehrtens

As the new District Commissioner, I would like to introduce myself. I have been a life-long scout in the Gravois Trail district since joining Pack 222 and later in Troop 217, where I earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

As an adult, I have served as an Assistant Scoutmaster with the same unit. At the regional/area level, I have staffed several week-long National Camp School events as the Climbing Section Director and is the Area COPE/ Climbing Advocate. I am also currently part of the council's Challenge Course/Climbing Instructor Staff and Okpik Cold Weather Camping program staff.

I became a Unit Commissioner in 2013 and in 2015 became an Assistant District Commissioner. I also serve on Eagle Scout Board of Review.

Professionally, I am a licensed architect at a local architectural firm with over 20 years of experience and a member of the Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce. In my free time I enjoy hiking, backpacking, rock climbing & mountaineering.

I look forward to getting to know and serving all the units in the Gravois Trail District as your next District Commissioner.

## Explorers

### Essex Explorers Post 9415

Many of you may not know that we have an Explorers post here in Gravois Trail focused on Engineering and Aviation. The Explorers program through Learning for life brings "Real-World" career experiences to young men and women. Engineers from Essex Industries match their ideas and resources to the interests of youth in the community.

Essex Explorers Post has entered the 2018 GAMA competition where we design our own airplanes and complete a prepared course while minimizing gas usage and maximizing payload weight.

The General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) is sponsoring the Aviation Design Challenge to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education through aviation in high schools across the United States.

The competition will receive complimentary "Fly to Learn" curricula, which comes with flight simulation software powered by X-Plane. Essex Engineers will guide Explorer Post students through the science of flight and airplane design, completing the curricula in approximately six weeks in the classroom or in four weeks through an accelerated program. The Essex Explorer's Post will apply what they have learned by modifying the design of an airplane. They will then compete in a virtual fly-off, which will be scored on aerodynamic and performance parameters while flying a specific mission profile. Judges from GAMA will select the winning school based on that score and other factors.

For more info contact Bill Dean, Engineering Post Advisor at: [explorers@essexind.com](mailto:explorers@essexind.com)

For more info on GAMA, click [HERE](#)



## Earth Day

### BSA Partners with Goodwill

Boy Scouts are partnering with Goodwill and Shop N' Save to help collect donations on Earth Day while completing advancement requirements in their commitment to reduce, reuse, and recycle!

The community will be able to drop off donations to a number of area locations throughout the entire council between 8 a.m.-4 p.m. All items will be accepted free of charge, and donors do not need to sort their items prior to dropping them off. Participants will receive a tax receipt for their donation.

Goodwill is the "original recycler." By donating clothing and household items, you are not only helping to put people to work, but you are giving them an opportunity of a lifetime.

All efforts to recycle used goods keep material out of landfills and help MERS Goodwill stores generate revenue to advance the Goodwill mission and programs.



Gravois Trail will be working the Fenton and Lemay Shop and Save locations:

FENTON Shop N'Save  
45 Gravois Bluffs Plaza Dr  
Fenton, MO 63026

LEMAY Shop N'Save  
1032 Lemay Ferry Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63125

For more info and to sign up, go [HERE](#)



# Advancement

## Eagle Scouts So Far in 2018

Gravois Trail had **15** Scouts complete the requirements for Eagle and pass their Board of Review so far in 2018 (January - March).

Congratulations to **ALL** our new Eagle Scouts !



Anthony Bryan Klutho, Jr., Cody Robert Going, Drew Jonathan Ganley, Jacob Thomas Brunsman, Daniel Jay Lang, Matthew Albert Chenot, Cade Theodore Jones, Jonathan Bernard Marie de Foy, Tyler Robert Kilper, Callum Richardson Cunningham, Robert John Mense III, Elijah Paul Neely, Dylan Reid Casteel, Maxwell Stern Kriegshauser, Samuel Mark Siess





# FIND YOUR TRUE NORTH

## #BUILDTHEFUTURE



GREATER ST. LOUIS AREA COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

## Overview

Recruitment is a year-round effort. While most new Scouts join in conjunction with the start of a school year in the fall, the spring months provide opportunities to be at the forefront of recruiting right before fun summer activities.

### Focus Areas

This year's campaign is a targeted approach to recruit specific groups.

- Tigers: boys entering 1<sup>st</sup> grade
- Webelos-to-Scout crossover
- Boy Scouts: boys entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade

### Important Notes

- ✓ The Lion program does not officially begin until August.
- ✓ Spring recruitment for packs will focus on new Tigers.
- ✓ Special attention should be given to recruit a full den and a Tiger Den Leader.
- ✓ Only packs with an active summer program should enroll new Scouts in the spring.

## Timeline

### March

- Membership committee trains leaders, secures unit commitments, and collects calendars at Roundtable
- Packs and troops submit recruitment dates by March 31
- Flyers ordered by March 31

### April

- Volunteers and staff conduct school presentations by April 27
- Packs and troops conduct recruitment events by April 27

### School Relationships

Maintaining relationships with schools is imperative. Staff and volunteers will meet with schools to talk about # of students in Scouting, the Tufts Univ. study, and year-round recruitment.

- ✓ May 31: 100% superintendents
- ✓ May 31: 33% principals
- ✓ June 30: 66% principals
- ✓ July 31: 100% principals





# Free St. Louis Cardinals Tickets!

**1 New Scout = 4 Cardinals Tickets (that's right... 4)**

Thanks to generous support from Cardinals Care, each new Scout recruited this spring will receive **four** free St. Louis Cardinals baseball tickets!

This will allow the new Scout, the recruiter, and two adults to attend!

Tickets are available for games on May 17 (vs. Phillies, 6:15 p.m.) or June 11 (vs. Padres, 7:15 p.m.), and distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. To request tickets, visit <http://stlbsa.kintera.org/cardinals> or contact Mark Hays at [mark.hays@scouting.org](mailto:mark.hays@scouting.org), 314-550-4233.



## Promoting the Sign-up Event

Promote at Your School	Promote in Your Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage current Scouts to wear uniforms to school the day of your recruitment event.</li> <li>Post a yard sign at school. If school won't permit it, ask the house across the street.</li> <li>Display posters in hallways.</li> <li>Post recruitment event on school marquee.</li> <li>Be present at school events.</li> <li>Ask school to share on social media (Facebook, websites).</li> <li>Distribute flyers to classrooms.</li> <li>Utilize email or phone blasts.</li> <li>"Boy Talks" – Talk to students!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask your Scout families to share on their social media.</li> <li>Post to communities' Facebook pages.</li> <li>Get your Charter Organization involved. Post to their social media, website, or in bulletins.</li> <li>Deliver extra flyers/posters to libraries.</li> <li>Hang a flyer on community event bulletin boards.</li> <li>Send a story to your local radio or newspaper.</li> <li>Attend community events, parades, fairs, and expos.</li> </ul>

### Resources

The following materials are available (while supplies last):

- New youth applications
- Sign-in sheets
- Flyers
- Yard signs
- Posters
- Stickers
- Collection envelopes
- Onboarding envelopes
- District school enrollment workbooks
- Principal visit worksheets
- Superintendent visit worksheets
- Webelos Scout rosters

