

# The Trail

Cub Scouts - Boy Scouts - Venturing



GREATER ST. LOUIS  
AREA COUNCIL

Welcome  
Lincoln Trails Council

## Where To Get Info

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)

## Happy New Year...

It may not feel like it, but it's Winter all right. A New Year means new Scouting fun: Klondike Derby, Blue and Gold, Pinewood Derby.... It's coming up. So don't let the short days get you down—there is plenty of fun this time of year in Scouting! As always, if you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact a District Committee Chairperson for help.

### GT District Committees:

#### Commissioner

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## Order of the Arrow

### WINTER BANQUET

February 16th is our District Banquet and meeting at St Dominic Savio Catholic Church. Gathering time starts at 5:30pm and with dinner at 6:00pm. We are having a Chili, Soup and Corn Bread cook off. Your Unit can come and bring multiple Chili's, Soups and cornbreads for a chance to win some great prizes and bragging rights. There will be a Champion for each Category! The Unit with the most members in attendance will also receive a great prize to be shared by all. We will have some fun entertainment and there will be Ceremonial Team representatives who will promote our District Ceremonial Teams. Cost is \$10, and you can register at Roundtable.

### ELSEWHERE ELECTIONS

If you aren't camping in Council and know where you are going there are some new forms we have to fill out and the Lodge is asking that we go ahead and start processing paperwork for Units who know they will not be at a GSLAC camp like Lewallen or S-F. Please, go to [shawneelodge.org](http://shawneelodge.org) for this registration due no later than March 31st.

### COMMUNICATION

It has been our mission to communicate information better and across broader platforms. We are in the process of updating Lodge Master for emails, we have been able to secure the Admin Rights to our FB pages, as well as our Twitter account. We are working on other avenues as well, like Instagram and Group Me, so check us out on Social Media for timely updates and reminders.

[FACEBOOK \(click\)](#)

[TWITTER \(click\)](#)

Additionally, we have made much needed updates to our Gravois Trail District website pages found on the Shawnee Lodge website [HERE](#)

### COMING UP

**Arrowman Experience  
American Indian Seminar**

February 23  
March 22-24, 2019 @Beaumont  
(Open to ANY registered members of the BSA)

**Spring Conclave  
One Day of Service  
Fall Reunion**

April 5-7  
May 4  
September 6-8



2018 Vigil Honorees

### District Directors Corner

#### Greetings Scouters!

2018 was another strong year for the Gravois Trail District. Thanks to all of our leaders, parents and all district volunteers, we once again grew in membership and our programs are top notch. I believe 2019 will continue this trend and we will serve more youth again.

In 2018 we welcomed girls into Cub Scouting and 2019 will welcome girls into Boy Scouts. We are learning as we go on this and your patience is appreciated.

While it does not feel like winter...it is and we have a lot of program coming up- District Dinner, Klondike, University of Scouting and much, much more. AND- it is time to get ready for Cub Day Camps, Family camps and Boy Scout and Venturing Camp and High Adventure... this is why our members join!

Once again, thanks again for all you do. It is a pleasure working with each of you and we will continue to offer our Scouts the BEST program around.

Yours in Scouting,  
**Mike Eschbach**  
314-256-3060  
[mike.eschbach@scouting.org](mailto:mike.eschbach@scouting.org)



## Life To Eagle

NEW!!!! A new Life to Eagle Seminar will be going into effect starting on **February 5, 2019**. **Life to Eagle Seminar** is an important instruction on how to navigate the Eagle Scout Process. You will travel from the beginning of your Life Rank all the way to your Eagle Board of Review. This is not just for Scouts but should be attended by Scoutmasters, Eagle Project Coaches, Eagle Advisers and parents. The information presented at this seminar will save the Scout many hours of work and frustration in the process of earning his Eagle Rank. The Scout may even get some project ideas.

The Life To Eagle Seminar is conducted at all Roundtable nights (1st Tuesday of the month starting at 7:00 p.m.). These are held in conjunction with the Roundtable and will be held at the same meeting place (Please insert the location of Roundtable here. I'm not sure of the location). Scoutmasters give your scouts the opportunity and the chance to show the leadership needed for his trail to Eagle but attending and learning the correct process.

All scouts that have reached the Life rank and will be working towards Eagle should attend, along with a parent or guardian if possible.

If you have any questions please contact Terry Madden @ 314-229-5489 or [terrymadden1@aol.com](mailto:terrymadden1@aol.com)

*“A new **Life to Eagle** Seminar will be going into effect starting on **February 5, 2019**”*

### Scouting For Food

#### UPDATE

The largest one-day food drive in the Boy Scouts of America took place in November as thousands of Scouts throughout the St. Louis metro area, south-east Missouri, and southern Illinois canvassed neighborhoods collecting Scouting For Food donations.

The drive accumulated **1,970,766** items of food that stocked local food pantry shelves just in time for the holidays.

THANKS TO EVERYONE !

### Eagle Scout Information

#### EAGLE SCOUTS FOR 2018

We had 77 Eagle Scouts for 2018 compared to 89 for 2017.

We had Eagle Scouts from 35 different troops

41% of the Eagles had reached their 18th birthday by the time they had their Eagle Board of Review

Troops with 3 or more Eagle Scouts in 2018

Troop	Eagles	Troop	Eagles
725	7	111	3
67	5	331	3
646	4	648	3
824	4	661	3
165	3	752	3
169	3	776	3

## Welcome !

### LINCOLN TRAILS

As of January 1, 2019, Lincoln Trails Council officially became part of the Greater St. Louis Area Council!

The [newly merged council](#) serves nearly 70,000 youth in 63 counties throughout Missouri and Illinois.

We are currently migrating information from [lincoln-trailscouncil.org](http://lincoln-trailscouncil.org) to the GSLAC website. To help make the transition a little easier, here is important information on upcoming events for legacy Lincoln Trails volunteers:

#### [Camp Kick-Off](#)

- Thursday, January 17 at 6:30 p.m.
- Effingham Event Center | 1501 Fayette Ave.

#### [2019 Klondike](#)

- Saturday, January 12 at 7:30 a.m.
- Rhodes-France Scout Reservation

#### [OA Winter Banquet](#)

- Saturday, January 5 at 5 p.m.
- Nazarene Church, Shelbyville, IL

Merit Badge Counselors *(link coming soon)*

Spring Rendezvous, May 17-19 at Wolf Creek State Park

## Camping

Hello All—I hope you have had a great holiday break and are ready to get your Units back out into the Great Outdoors. If you managed to get your Unit out over the holidays, I hope you had a great time. Below is the outline of upcoming events you can take advantage of.

### January 26<sup>th</sup> Gravois Trail Klondike Derby

The annual Klondike will be helped at Beaumont Scout Reservation in Lane Field. The Campmaster is Douglas Tague and he is looking for Staff members. If you know a youth who would like to Staff email Douglas at [tagued@afftonschoools.com](mailto:tagued@afftonschoools.com)

We are looking for some adult help for the Klondike, if you are an RSO that can run Archery or Paintball, please reach out to the Adult Advisory Angie Ellison at: [av-alentine1971@yahoo.com](mailto:av-alentine1971@yahoo.com) or Camping Chair Chris Merris at: [merrisc@gmail.com](mailto:merrisc@gmail.com)

You can find the manual and register online for the Klondike [HERE](#)



Cost is \$8.00 per person.

If you intend to camp either Friday night, Saturday night or both you will need to make a separate reservation through the STLBSA reservation site [HERE](#)

### April 26-28 Gravois Trail Spring Camporee

The Spring Camporee will be held at Camp Vandeventer in Waterloo, Illinois. This is about a 30-35 minute drive from the majority of the Gravois Trail District. This is a great camping location and we would love to have a great turn out. This weekend would be a great time to check out some of the things Camp Vandeventer has to offer. The Campmaster for Spring Camporee is Kyle Kiser and he will be rolling out his program in the next month or so.

### Summer Camping

If you have not already done so please take the time to register your Unit for long term camping this Summer at one of GSLAC's camping properties. You can register at [HERE](#)

If your Unit is not going to Summer Camp in council or is going on a High Adventure Trip instead of Summer Camp please let Camping Chair Chris Merris know where and when you are going. We would love to hear your stories of your experiences at camping properties so we could share these on The Trail.

Happy Camping Everyone!



## Venturing

### VENTURING AT ROUNDTABLE

We have been having amazing turnout at all events so far in the year. I hope we can keep this going with our next roundtable on the 8th at Rodgers Middle School. Also on February 2nd at 5:45 we will have our annual snow tubing event at Hidden Valley that is open to all people that are either 14 or 13 and have finished 8th grade. The cost will be \$25 and registration will be on the BSA website soon.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Snow Tubing**  
February 2, 2019  
6PM-8PM

**STL Adventure Scavenger Hunt**  
February 23, 2019  
8AM-3PM



2018/2019 Gravois Trail VOA

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**“Scouting For Food Collected 1.97 Million Items Of Food in 2018”**

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## Upcoming Training

**REMINDER:** Roundtable will be held at Rogers Middle School:



Click map to link to larger map

**Feature Training Topic:** What would you like to see at future Roundtable meeting?

- Guest speakers on a specific Scouting topic?
- Alternative camping locations and Scout skill instructions?
- How to recruit Scouts or retain existing Scouts?
- Other topics of interest?

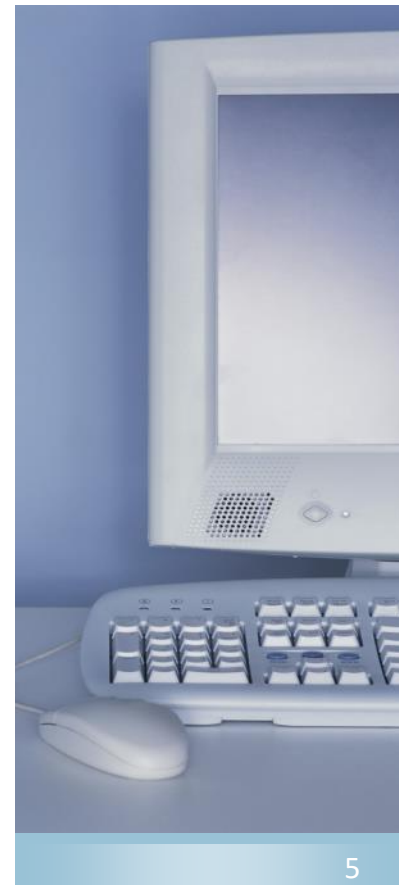
### New Leaders for the Unit!

Have you had at least one new adult leader join your unit since last summer? How about a Scout who has turned 18 and is interested in becoming an Assistant Scoutmaster? Do not lose this opportunity to use these valuable resource, why not take advantage of this opportunity. This new leader will add diversity, fresh ideas enthusiasm, or extra pair of hands.

Encourage this new Leader to be trained. Below is a list of upcoming training opportunities offered by Gravois Trail through February:

January 26, 2019 University of Scouting @ SIUE

February 25, 2019 Woodbadge Promotional Dinner @ Beaumont



### 10 Reasons To Go

1. There are literally dozens of different courses to choose from, and that doesn't include the merit badge classes.
2. Scouts can attend too! University of Scouting offers dozens of merit badge classes for Boy Scouts.
3. Training isn't just useful in the Scouting program, but it can be applied in your personal life as well. In the EDGE course, participants learn how to teach any skill to any person using the EDGE method and communication. Or attend First Aid and learn how to respond to your family or others in times of need.
4. Courses are taught by volunteers with proven success in each topic. Learn from the best!
5. Network with other Scouters and share best practices.
6. Take up to six different courses in ONE day! An efficient and effective use of your time.
7. It's inexpensive. University of Scouting is only \$20 if registered before January 20.
8. Learn more about popular STEM programs and NOVA awards.
9. A huge midway will be set up where local companies and organizations show off their upcoming Scout opportunities.
10. It's Fun !

Sign up for the Camp Card Sale! Sale begins on February 8, 2019



and ends April 8, 2019. Scouts sell cards for \$10 each and keep 50% profit for Scouting programs including camp, gear, and registration fees if cards are turned back in before April 6. All unsold cards can be returned before April 5 without penalty.

Cards will be distributed at your District's February Roundtable meeting. Card orders may be adjusted based on a unit's past sale performance. Weekly reconciliation meetings will take place to turn in money and collect unsold cards during February through March.

Go [HERE](#) for more info

## District Dinner and Annual Awards

### LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP !

Another year has rolled past us and it is time to celebrate all the achievements that all the Packs, Troops and Crews have accomplished. Come and join other Scouters from Gravois Trail at the District Dinner. This dinner will include a buffet, a open bar along with the Adult Spark Plug Awards, District Award of Merit and a new award to the outstanding Pack, Troop or Crew of the district.

If you have someone in your unit that should be recognized for their efforts to Scouting please submit their name for either the Spark Plug or District Award of Merit. This is a great time to acknowledge the hard working women and men.



The dinner will be on January 18th at Andre's on Telegraph Road.

If you have any questions please contact Terry Madden at 314-229-5489 or [terrymadden1@aol.com](mailto:terrymadden1@aol.com).

**IMPORTANT NOTE: THE NOMINATIONS ARE CONFIDENTIAL— TO AVOID POSSIBLE DISAPPOINTMENT, PLEASE DO NOT INFORM NOMINEES IF YOU ARE AWARE OF A NOMINATION**