

The Trail

Cub Scouts - Boy Scouts - Venturing



SCOUT IT OUT



GREATER ST. LOUIS
AREA COUNCIL

SCOUTING FOR FOOD NOVEMBER 17



Thanks to our 2018 sponsors,
MERS Missouri Goodwill, Great Clips & Raising Cane's

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 Face-](#)

[book](#)

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

We're Fall-ing into Winter...

Fall seemed to go by pretty fast. That means we've had our PACAO, Fall Fun Rally, Popcorn... but we've still got the Klondike Derby, Scouting For Food, The Gravois Trail District Dinner... and more. And as always, don't hesitate to contact a committee chair if you have questions or need some help.

GT District Committees:

Commissioner

Kris Mehrtens
C. 314-276-3033
krismehrten@yahoo.com

Advancement

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

Camping

Chris Merris
C. 314-494-7794
merrisc@gmail.com

Activities

Dave Fansler
dmf138@aol.com

Training

Gary Dedeke
C. 314-740-0986
woodyccs@sbcglobal.net

STEM & Communication

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

OA

Dawn Fansler
dmf138@aol.com

Membership

Joe Sartorious
C. 314-402-3799
jsartorious@sbuniv.edu

Venturing

Michael O'Donnell
eaglescout721@gmail.com

Advancement

[Eagle Project Grants](#)

The Eagle Scout Association has awarded over \$3,900.00 to qualified Scouts to help fund their Eagle Scout Service Projects. These grants are awarded based on their effect on the community, their uniqueness, quality and the financial needs of the project. Typical grants range from \$50.00 - \$200.00, with the average being approximately \$100.00. Grants are awarded in the form of gift cards or checks for reimbursement of materials.

Scouts wishing to apply for a grant must be part of the Greater St. Louis Area Council and their project must be first approved by their District's Eagle Project Review Board.

For full information on the grant program and a fillable pdf of the application form: [HERE](#)

[The Role of Scoutmaster in the Merit Badge Program](#)

A few merit badges may have certain restrictions, but otherwise any registered Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or qualified Venturer or Sea Scout may work on any of them at any time. Before the Scout begins working with a merit badge counselor, however, they must have a discussion with their unit leader. That a discussion has been held is indicated by the unit leader's signature on the Application for Merit Badge (blue card.). See [THIS DOCUMENT](#) for a lot more helpful information

[The Five Tests](#)

The Five Tests of an Acceptable Eagle Scout Service Project:

The Proposal section of the Eagle Scout Service Project is an overview, but also the beginnings of planning. It shows the unit leader and any representatives of a unit committee, council, or district that the following tests can be met:

1. The project provides sufficient opportunity to meet the requirement.
2. The project appears to be feasible.
3. Safety issues will be addressed.
4. Action steps for further detailed planning are included.
5. The candidate is on the right track with a reasonable chance for a positive experience.

And the requirement is: While a Life Scout, plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, and school, or your community. (The project must benefit an organization other than the Boy Scouts of America.)

Unit leaders and committees are encouraged to make sure the leadership component of the requirement is part of the project. "Others" means at least two people besides the Scout. There are no other portions of the requirement for number of people led or their makeup.

[District Directors Corner](#)

Greetings Scouters!

It is November already!!
With Scouting for Food here now, I want to take a moment to thank you all for everything you do for this event.

Scouting for Food was created in St. Louis as a Gravois Trail scout's Eagle Project. It is now a national scouting event that brings in millions of cans to food banks all over the country. It is amazing to see the impact of one scout's Eagle Project. And to know that it was a Gravois Trail Eagle Scout makes it even more special to all of us.

The cans you collect and/or donate stay locally in the Greater St. Louis Area and provide food to thousands of families in need of assistance. What you do for this event truly makes a difference and changes lives.

And, hard to believe, but it is also re charter time – they are due to be completed and turned in by November 31.

Yours in Scouting,
Mike Eschbach
314-256-3060
mike.eschbach@scouting.org



Camping

Gravois Trail hosted their **Fall Pacao** the weekend of October 12-14 at Beaumont Scout Reservation. Nearly 450 Scouts, Cubs, WEBELOS and Scouters braved some rain and cool temperatures to have a great weekend. One of the highlights was the Archery where Mr. Machenheimer brought out his bottle launcher and boys attempted to hit moving targets. Other activities included: shotguns, raffles, fire building, among others. **Co-dy Corrigan** and his Adult Advisory **Mary Knapp** did a great job planning their event.

Coming up on **January 26th 2019 at Beaumont** will be the Winter Klondike. **Douglas Tague** is the youth Campmaster and his Adult Advisory is **Angie Ellison**. The theme is "High Adventure

Reindeer Games". The manual and online reservations will be available in early December. Cost is \$8.00. This is a day event, if you would like to camp as part of the weekend you will need to make your reservations separately. We are always on the look out for adults and youth to staff events, if you are interested please contact Camping Chair, Chris Merris via email merrisc@gmail.com

*"Coming up on **January 26th at Beaumont 2019** will be the **Winter Klondike**"*

Thank You Scott !

As most of you know, Scott Jones has moved to Reno Nevada and accepted a position with the Nevada Area Council. Best wishes Scott! It was a pleasure to work with him and we are thankful for all that he did for our Scouts were and blessed with his support.



Eagle Scout Information

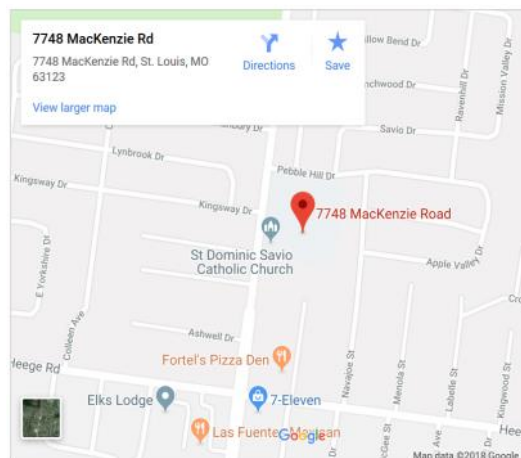
New Location For Monday Board of Review

Starting in December 2018, Monday Night Eagle Boards of Review will move to a new location. BORs on the first Monday of the month will now be held at **St. Dominic Savio (now called John Paul II) at 7748 Mackenzie Road, Affton, 63123**. The reviews will be in the Hahn Center, which has two meeting rooms and a waiting/lobby area.

Arranging For Your Project Review

Eagle Project reviews are held on the first Tuesday of every month except July in conjunction with District Roundtable.

A reminder: Scouts seeking approval of their Eagle Scout Service Project should call Mike Nebel, Eagle Project Review Coordinator, 314-892-7606, to arrange for their District Project Review. While reservations are not required, preference will be given to those Scouts who call in advance.



Click map to open in your browser

Odds and Ends

[Fall Ranger Program](#)

Experience the Ranch this November during the Fall Ranger Program, Nov. 23-25. This weekend allows participants to explore the backcountry of S bar F during a time of year that gives a whole new perspective on the scenery and wildlife that comprises this Scouting paradise. Participants will try their hand at blacksmithing, trail cooking, black powder rifle shooting and more. For more info, go [HERE](#)

[Giving Tuesday](#)

Save the date! Nov. 27 is #GivingTuesday! Support the Greater St. Louis Area Council and make an impact on young people in your community! Go [HERE](#) for more info



Order Of The Arrow

Next Chapter Meeting

There is a change in the date for the upcoming **November Chapter Meeting**. We heard from many of our members that Wednesday night was difficult to attend with so many school commitments in the middle of the week. So in an effort to increase availability for attendance for a broader group of members we have **changed the date to Sunday afternoon, November 18, 2:00pm at Swing Around Fun Town in Fenton (335 Skinker Ln, 63026)**. This place has an arcade, go-karts and many other fun things to do. We will have a short business meeting with attendance prizes at the beginning and then you will be free to participate in activities together at your own expense. Anywhere from \$5-20 will be enough for your entertainment. They also have a Concession Stand with food and drinks.

Vigil Nominations

Vigil Nominations are due by November 1st. The nomination form can be found on the Shawnee Lodge website [HERE](#) and sent directly via email to vig-il@shawneelodge.org.

Winter Banquet

This year's Winter Fellowship Banquet will be at Orlando's Banquet Hall in South County (4300 Hoffmeister Ave. Saint Louis, MO). It is on Sunday, December 16th at 5pm. The banquet will cost \$15 with early registration. The later fee for registration will be raised to \$25, so make sure you sign up quickly! Come for a night of fun and fellowship with your fellow brothers! Hope to see you there! No tickets are sold at the door, so be sure register ahead of time [HERE](#)

From Your New Chapter Chief

I would like to thank you for electing me as your Chapter Chief for this year. I look forward to serving the Gravois Trail District.

A bit about me: I am an Eagle Scout with 6 Palms in Troop 780. I have enjoyed many great adventures in Scouts including Philmont, Northern Tier, and Swamp Base. I am a Veteran Staff member of NYLT and currently serve as Youth Director.

In the Order of the Arrow I have enjoyed attending Shawnee Lodge Events, the Centennial NOAC, and the Section Conclaves. I have served Gravois Trail as an Ordeal Team Member for more than four years and participated in numerous ceremonies, including Cross-over and Akela's Rings for several Packs throughout our District.

Again, I look forward to the coming year as your Chief. If I can be of service to you or your Troop, please, send me an email at Josah.Fansler@shawneelodge.org.



New Eagle Scouts

September

Clayton Gansner Troop 331

John Barnard Troop 725

Ethan Budge Troop 111

Bfennan Weber Troop 648

Gavin Cain Troop 661

Joseph Soete Troop 25

October

Sterling Smith Troop 661

Luke Kotcher Troop 824

Benjamin Horosewski Troop 111

Baker Merris Troop 725

STEM—Update

STEM University

Have you checked out the classes being offered for STEM University UMSL yet? There will be 4 NOVAs and 21 Merit Badges for the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts get to earn their Out of This World Nova! Register today!



For Boy Scouts go [HERE](#)

For Cub Scouts go [HERE](#)

District Dinner and Annual Awards

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!

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 25th at Andre's on Telegraph Road.

If you have any questions please contact Terry Madden at 314-229-5489 or 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





The Role of the Scoutmaster in the Merit Badge Program



A Scout develops an interest in a merit badge and may begin working on the requirements.

A few merit badges may have certain restrictions, but otherwise any registered Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or qualified Venturer or Sea Scout may work on any of them at any time. Before the Scout begins working with a merit badge counselor, however, they must have a discussion with their unit leader. That a discussion has been held is indicated by the unit leader's signature on the Application for Merit Badge (blue card.)

It is the unit leader's responsibility to provide the name and contact information for at least one merit badge counselor who is registered and approved. The Scout may have a different counselor in mind with whom he would like to work. The unit leader and Scout should come to agreement as to who the counselor will be. Lacking agreement, the Scout must be allowed to work with the counselor of his choice, so long as the counselor is registered and has been approved by the council or district advancement committee.

There is no limit on the number of merit badges a youth may earn from one counselor. However, in situations where a Scout is earning a large number of badges from just one counselor, the unit leader is permitted to place a limit on the number of merit badges that may be earned from one counselor, as long as the same limit applies to all Scouts in the unit.

A Scoutmaster should consider making more of the process of the initial signing of the blue card than just providing a signature. The opportunity exists to provide inspiration and direction in a youth's life. Preliminary merit badge discussions can lead to conversations about talents and interests, goal setting, and the concept of "challenge by choice." The benefits can be much like those of a well-done Scoutmaster conference. The discussion should include any concerns the Scoutmaster has related to working on the merit badge and provide appropriate counseling. It is then the Scout's decision whether or not to proceed with the merit badge.

Because of the counseling opportunity involved, it is the unit leader's responsibility to sign blue cards. In the role of giving leadership to the delivery of the unit program, a Scoutmaster, for example, has a better opportunity than other leaders to get to know the youth. This background with the Scouts allows a unit leader to add greater value in the discussion and counseling intended to take place with the signing of the card.

However, in circumstances when this may be impractical – such as in large units or when the unit leader may be absent – the unit leader may delegate authority to sign cards and conduct the discussions. This authority should only be given only to a knowledgeable assistant unit leader.