This is **OUR** District Newsletter. This is just the tip of the iceberg of the scouting events and activities that are available. Check out our Facebook group page and GSLAC web site for information to a host of so many other scouting activities ongoing every month. If you see something you are not aware of, don’t hesitate to ask!

**Our new Egyptian District Executive**

Please welcome our new Egyptian District Executive Lauren Schuette!!

**Unit Awards**

Congratulations goes out to all the adult and unit award winners for 2017. A thanks goes out to the awards committee members for making the tough decisions and the awards banquet committee for putting everything in place. But a special thank you and congratulations goes to all of the leaders nominated and to the people who recognized their talents, and nominated them. A separate sheet of all winners and names is available

**Scout Sunday**

4–11 February. Typically, for most churches, this event takes place on the first or second Sunday in February. Plan now to assist and attend your church service. In many units that are chartered by a church, this is the day when the unit charter is presented. Typical activities scouts provide at these services are ushering, opening flag ceremony, passing out bulletins or liturgist. Plan now with your local church to make this day special

**Reporting Service Hours**

This is an area that isn’t discussed much. It’s easy to do and it’s important. As leaders, you maintain a local log of all your service hours and projects you complete. But those hours also need to be reported to our national BSA counterparts much like we report our food count for scouting for food. The reporting is easy. Use your unit ID number which can be obtained at the Herrin Service Center. You then go online and fill in the blanks according to the type of service you provided.

[https://servicehours.scouting.org/UI/Security/Login.aspx](https://servicehours.scouting.org/UI/Security/Login.aspx)

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**Upcoming Events**

**February 4-11**
Scout Sunday

**February 6**
District Roundtable
7:00 PM Zion Church, Marion

**February 28**
Eagle Board
7:00 LDS Church Johnson City

**March 6**
District Roundtable
7:00 PM Zion Church, Marion

**March 16-18**
Webelos Weekend
Camp pine ridge

**March 24**
Egyptian District Pinewood Derby
Herrin

**April 6-8**
Outdoor leader training
Camp pine ridge

**April 20-22**
Egyptian District Camporee
Camp Pine Ridge

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For additions to this newsletter contact Reed Bigelow reed.bigelow@mchsi.com
BE A SCOUT
This national site is all about finding a local scouting unit. It’s sort of your responsibility to keep the site updated with names of people who are still part of your unit. Take 5 minutes and update your unit’s site information. https://beascout.scouting.org/#programsearch

STEM UNIVERSITY
This is for both cub scouts and boy scouts at SIU, Carbondale on 24 February to work on both NOVA projects and STEM related merit badges. Registration is at: https://stlbsa.org/activities/other-activities/step/step-university/

SUMMER CUB SCOUT CAMPS
We are looking for adults and youth to lead and assist our cub scout summer camps to include our STEM Camp, Day Camp, and Webelos Mini Camp. Sign ups are just around the corner, but with no staff and directors, there will be no camps. This year’s theme is Weird Wacky Science. To register online: https://stlbsa.org/cub-scout-day-camps/

TRAINING
For our adult leaders, the next big training sessions will be coming in March and April. For Boy scout committee members, and parents, there will be a training session on 10 March at Murphysboro UMC from 9-11:30. For scoutmasters and assistant scoutmasters, their training starts at 1-3:30. These training sessions are followed by an outdoor training session conducted 6-8 April at Camp Pine Ridge. If your unit has other training needs, don’t be afraid to ask. Contact Mark Beyke to sign up and for additional details.

Camp Card fundraiser and Friends of Scouting.
These fundraisers are an easy way to raise funds for both your unit and our council. You will never realize how much of what you give actually goes back to you until you visit a scout facility in a different council. The GSLAC facilities are some of the best in the nation. While you may not see physical evidence in nearby scouting facilities, a lot of that money is directed towards keeping camping costs as low as possible, and trading post prices down. Our STEM and Day camps could easily be a lot more expensive. When someone asks for your financial support, please give generously.

Woodbadge
There will be an informational dinner for all prospective Woodbadge campers on 26 February at Camp Beaumont. there will be three opportunities to attend this year in the Spring and fall. Contact Larry Sanders or Tracy Lake.

If you would like to purchase this non-official patch for our District and wear it on your right shoulder, the cost is $5. Contact: Reed Bigelow.

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