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:

Commissioneer
Kris Mehrtens
C. 314-276-3033
krismehrtens@yahoo.com

Activities
Dave Fansler
dmf138@aol.com

OA
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STEM & Communication
Jerry Fix
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Venturing
Gil Kaufman
C. 314-910-3994
gilkauffmann@gmail.com

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
Jerry Fix: jerry.fix@gmail.com
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 pro- gram around.

Yours in Scouting,

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

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 for this registration due no later than March 31rst.

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

Spring Conclave April 5-7
One Day of Service May 4
Fall Reunion September 6-8

2018 Vigil Honorees
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, southeast 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!

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

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

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

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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 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 26th 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@afftonschools.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 or Camping Chair Chris Merris at: 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!
Scouting For Food Collected 1.97 Million Items Of Food in 2018

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

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<td>Snow Tubing</td>
<td>February 2, 2019</td>
<td>6PM-8PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>STL Adventure Scavenger Hunt</td>
<td>February 23, 2019</td>
<td>8AM-3PM</td>
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REMINDER: Roundtable will be held at Rogers Middle School:

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

“Scouting For Food Collected 1.97 Million Items Of Food in 2018”
Camp Card Update

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.