

A GUIDE TO SCOUTS BSA



SCOUTS
BSA



GREATER ST. LOUIS AREA COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

➤ Why Join Scouts BSA

Scouts BSA is a year-round program for boys and girls ages 11 to 17 that provides fun, adventure, learning, challenge, and responsibility to help them become the best version of themselves.

In Scouts BSA, young men and women go places, test themselves, and have one-of-a-kind adventures that can't be found anywhere else. There's something for everyone. With 135+ different merit badges and countless other indoor and outdoor activities, there's no limit to the things you can learn or the adventures you can take. Scouting builds character and instills values for a lifetime.

Service, community engagement and leadership development become increasingly important parts of the program as youth lead their own activities and work their way toward earning Scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout.

SCOUTING PROGRAMS



Cub Scouts. Through fun activities, challenging adventures and community service projects, Cub Scouts make new friends and discover the importance of cooperation, citizenship, responsibility and physical fitness in their everyday lives. *(girls and boys in grades k-5)*



Scouts BSA. Scouting is the ultimate form of learning by doing. Youth lead their own activities and participate in service, outdoor adventures, and leadership development programs. Scouts are introduced to countless hobbies, interests, sciences, and even future career choices. *(boys and girls ages 11-17)*



Venturing. Provides positive experiences through exciting and meaningful youth-run activities for pursuing special interests, growing by teaching others, and developing leadership skills. *(young women and men age 14-20 or 13 years old & completed 8th grade)*



Exploring. Career exploration and workforce development program. Youth gain practical insight and hands-on knowledge in a career field of their choice. *(young women and men age 14-20 or 13 years old & completed 8th grade)*

➤ How Scouts BSA Works

In Scouting, leadership is learned through adventure, both in the great outdoors and in our communities. In Scouting, young people learn leadership by putting the principles of Scouting into practice every day. In this time-tested program, youth lead their own activities and work their way toward earning Scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout.

Scouting encourages youth to learn and grow by advancing through "ranks" in the organization. The highest rank, Eagle Scout, requires an enormous amount of hard work, dedication, and leadership. An Eagle Scout has proven their character and leadership by making a positive impact in their own life, family, and community.

Scouting teaches life lessons centered on the four aims of Scouting:

- Character
- Fitness
- Citizenship
- Leadership

Scouting provides youth with programs and activities that allow them the opportunity to

- Try new things
- Provide service to others
- Build self-confidence
- Reinforce ethical decision making

Scouts BSA Troops are divided into patrols, which helps the Troop run smoothly. A Patrol is a group of Scouts who belong to the same troop and who are probably similar in age, development, and interests. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in a small group outside the larger troop context, working together as a team and sharing the responsibility of making their patrol a success. The patrol, not the adults, make most of the decision including electing the patrol leader. The patrol method places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys and girls how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where members can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through elected representatives.

➤ Scouts BSA Advancement

Rank Advancement

Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. Scouts plan their own advancement and progress at their own pace as they meet each challenge. Scouts are recognized and rewarded for each achievement, which helps them gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

Merit Badges

There are more than 135 merit badges across practically any field of study where your child can explore the world and find their passions or future careers.

Receiving Earned Awards

The troop will hold a Court of Honor and formally recognize all the Scouts' achievements.



SCOUTS BSA MOTTO BE PREPARED

SCOUT OATH

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
And to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

SCOUT LAW

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

MISSION

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.



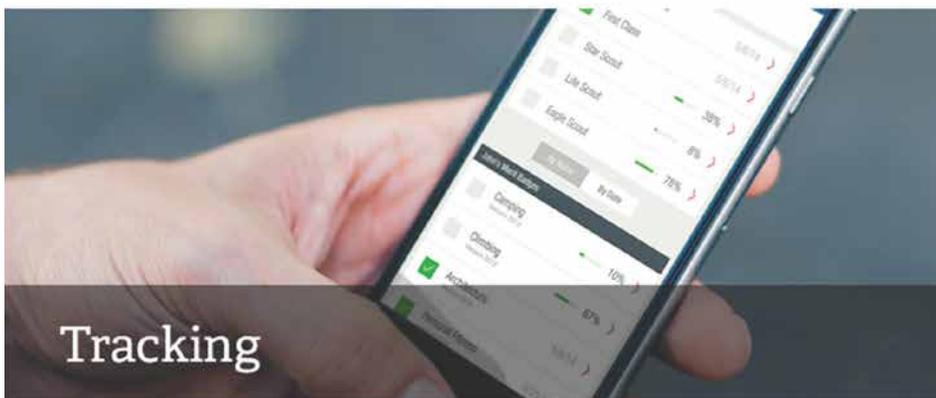
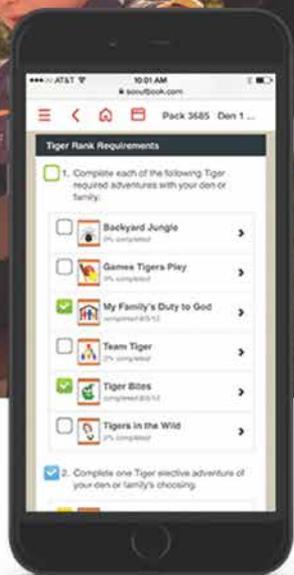
SCOUTBOOK

The Whole Scouting Experience Rolled Into One Great Web App



Enhance Your Scouting Experience - Scoutbook

With ScoutBook, You can begin tracking your Scouts progress from the first knot learned in Tiger, all the way to finalizing his Eagle Scout project.



Tracking

Forget the hassle of trying to upkeep old binders full of logged paperwork. Scoutbook does this for you. Simply input the Scouting task completed and all documentation is automatically saved. Scoutbook can even capture images and videos at the time of completion to be added along with the certificate of completion. The memory of achievement will always be with your family thanks to Scoutbook!

Activities

In Scouting, youth can participate in activities all year long. Several times throughout the year, the Greater St. Louis Area Council holds large-scale events that all Scouts are invited to attend such as:

Fall Fun Rally

Join other youth and leaders for an event filled weekend at Beaumont Scout Reservation, with dozens of activities, trainings, demonstrations, and competitions. This is a unique event drawing participants from more than a dozen states.



Scouting for Food

This annual food drive in November benefits local food pantries. Part of the Scouting program is to help other people, and this food drive provides a service project in which Scouts participate. Scouts distribute bags throughout their neighborhoods on Saturday, Nov. 13 and return to collect food donations on Saturday, Nov. 20.



STEM University

Each year, thousands of Scouts invade area college campuses for a full day of classes and hands-on activities involving STEM subjects.

University of Scouting

University of Scouting is a day-long event that offers the widest variety of training opportunities, in all program areas, all in one place! You will find just about anything to do with Scouting at University of Scouting whether you are a Scout, leader, commissioner, or parent! And be sure to visit the midway where local companies and organizations will be set up to show off their upcoming opportunities.

Memorial Day Good Turn

On the Sunday before Memorial Day, thousands of Scouts gather at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery to honor veterans by decorating all graves with an American flag. Many troops perform this service at their local cemeteries too.

➤ Scouts BSA Summer Camp

Hundreds of Scouts gather for a week to earn merit badges, swim, mountain bike, climb, boat and more. The Greater St. Louis Area Council hosts Scouts BSA Summer Camps at S bar F Scout Ranch (Camp Gamble, Camp Famous Eagle, Swift High Adventure Base), Camp Lewallen, and Rhodes-France Scout Reservation.

In addition to traditional Scouts BSA camp weeks, the council offers many specialty camps throughout the summer. Most of these camps can be attended on an individual-basis, with our camp staff or volunteers providing leadership for participants. These camps include:

Ranger Camp (S bar F Scout Ranch) — Each day Scouts backpack to a different outpost at The Ranch where you'll find programs that challenge your outdoor survival skills.

Horse Camp (Beaumont Scout Reservation) — Spend a week learning horsemanship. Other highlights of the week include swimming, shooting, climbing, ropes course, and campfires.

National Youth Leadership Training (Camp Sakima, S-F Scout Ranch) — NYLT is a six-day course that delivers training in a troop and patrol outdoor setting with an emphasis on immediate application of learning in a fun environment. Scouts grow and improve their leadership skills while following the guidelines of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

STEM on CAMPus - Earn STEM Merit Badges and NOVA Awards at this STEM Camp. Get a real campus experience, sleep in the dorms and enjoy evening activities.

Camperships— Every youth deserves the opportunity to attend summer camp, regardless of financial situation. The council offers several ways for Scouts to earn their way to camp, including popcorn, coffee, and camp card fundraisers. For families who need additional assistance, camperships may be available.



➤ Troop Leadership

CAMP PROPERTIES

Beaumont Scout Reservation

High Ridge, MO

Camp Lewallen

Silva, MO

Camp Warren Levis

Godfrey, IL

Pine Ridge Scout Camp

Makanda, IL

Rhodes-France Scout Reservation

Pana, IL

S bar F Scout Ranch

Knob Lick, MO

A well-functioning Scout troop — one that's new or one that's been around for generations — is always developing, replenishing, reorganizing, and improving. The Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster(s), the Troop Committee, and the Patrol Leaders' Council are continually met with opportunities to explore and challenges to meet, in order to assure the promise of Scouting is being delivered in the best way possible.

Troop are Scout-Led, meaning, the adults are guiding the youth on their path. The Youth have leadership roles such as Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Quartermaster, Scribe, Chaplain Aide, just to name a few.

The Adult roles helping guide the youth on their path are Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Committee Chairman and Committee Members.

More than just summer camp.

Greater St. Louis Area Council camps are not just for summer time. Whether you're looking for a weekend family campout or a spot to host your meeting, we offer a variety of year-round programs at six unique properties.

To reserve a GSLAC campsite and/or program activity, visit our online reservation system at stlbsa.org/properties.



Information about all Council product sales can be found at stlbsa.org/resources.

Fundraisers help the troop put on a quality program.

Want to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses for summer camp? Or need to purchase a new uniform? Help fund your Scouting program through the Camp Card sale and Popcorn sale. Money raised through fundraising can be used to cover the cost of advancement recognition, registration fees, Scout equipment and summer camp.

Popcorn Fundraiser

Every fall, the Greater St. Louis Area Council conducts its annual popcorn fundraiser. Not only do troops benefit from selling popcorn, but these sales also benefit the council by funding things such as camperships for Scouts who need financial assistance to attend camp and maintenance of our camp properties. The sale runs September 1 - October 25.



Camp Cards

Camp cards offer discounts at local businesses. There are different cards for each region of the council — St. Louis metro area, southeast Missouri, central Illinois and southern Illinois. Scouts sell cards for \$5 each and can earn up to 50% profit for their sales. The sale runs March 1 - April 30, giving troops two full months to sell and close out their accounts. The program is risk free. Troops can simply return any unsold cards by the sale deadline with no penalty.

Coffee Fundraiser

The Greater St. Louis Area Council will conduct a pilot Coffee Fundraiser in the fall of 2021, running September 1 - October 25, limited to 100 units council-wide. We are offering this opportunity to units that have not participated in the Popcorn Fundraiser since 2018. If your troop is ineligible to participate in the pilot sale, there will be another opportunity open to all troops March 1 - April 30, 2022.

➤ Scouting's Commitment To Safety



The safety of our youth, families, volunteers, and staff is the most important part of the Scouting experience. Learning by doing is a hallmark of outdoor education. Scouting offers youth the chance to learn new life skills in a safe, supportive environment that is free from judgment, and where risks are identified and mitigated. Along the way they acquire skills that make them more self-reliant, stronger leaders, and better able to achieve their goals.

The Scouting program, as contained in our handbooks and literature, integrates many safety features. These include everything from guidelines for safe activities to protecting youth from any form of abuse, including bullying.

The Boy Scouts of America has established a multi-tiered youth protection approach focused on volunteer screening, education, clear policies, and training for everyone in the program. The BSA is recognized as having some of the strongest barriers to child abuse found in any youth-serving organization. Just a few of these include: ongoing required youth protection training, a formal volunteer selection process that includes criminal background checks, prohibiting one-on-one contact between adults and youth members, and a volunteer screening database.

To learn more about youth safety in Scouting, visit stlbsa.org/training or scouting.org/health-and-safety.

Every Scout Deserves A Trained Leader

Scouting is a volunteer-led program and the council has the training and tools to help you along the way. Training will give you fresh ideas, a place to talk to other Scout parents, and the knowledge and information you need to carry out the Scouting program. The required trainings needed to be a Cub Scout Leader are available at my.scouting.org. There are numerous online trainings in the BSA Learn Center, referenced below.

We take youth protection very seriously. Youth Protection Training is required for all leaders and for adults accompanying youth at events. Learn more about Youth Protection at stlbsa.org/training.

How to complete Youth Protection Training?

- 1.) Visit my.scouting.org and click "create an account." You will receive a temporary ID number to proceed.
- 2.) Once logged in, click the **Youth Protection Training** icon (on the right side) to access the BSA Learn Center.
- 3.) Scroll down and click Youth Protection Training. Click Enroll button then follow the links to start the modules.

**Note: If you are registering as an adult, your BSA Membership ID # will be issued after you complete training and turn in your Adult Application. Print out a copy of your Youth Protection Certificate and turn it in with your Adult Application. When your ID # is issued, enter it into your My Profile settings on my.scouting.org.*



Scouting is Safer than Ever Before

EFFECTIVE
BARRIERS
TO ABUSE

MILLIONS OF PARENTS TRUST
THE BSA TO PROVIDE
**MEANINGFUL
PROGRAMMING**
IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

RECOGNIZE
RESPOND
REPORT
1-844-SCOUTS1

Barriers to Abuse

Together, these expert-informed barriers help keep kids safe



Find additional trainings at
my.scouting.org and stlbsa.org/training

SCOUTING IS A PATH TO SUCCESS

Scouts are **TWICE** more likely to get a bachelor's degree (75.6% of Scouts alumni compared with 36.0% national average)



Scouts are **TWICE** more likely to get an advanced graduate degree (29.0% of Scouts alumni compared with 13.4% national average)

Scouts are more likely to make almost **DOUBLE** of the personal income as an adult (\$62.5k individual median income compared with \$33.7k national median)



Scouts are more likely to have very good or exceptional (750+) credit scores (55.7% of Scouts alumni compared with 39.7% national average)

Scouts are more likely to move up in their socio-economic status. Scouts that come from low-income family background are, on average, more likely to make almost twice the personal income as an adult compared to their non-scout peers with similar childhood family background.

SCOUTS ARE CHANGE AGENTS

BSA strives to bring larger, broader, and longer social impact. The BSA values (Character, Leadership, Citizenship, and Fitness) imprinted during childhood go a long way. BSA alumni continue to change the world by taking more leadership roles in organizations, engaging in more entrepreneurial activities, and undertaking more civic duties.

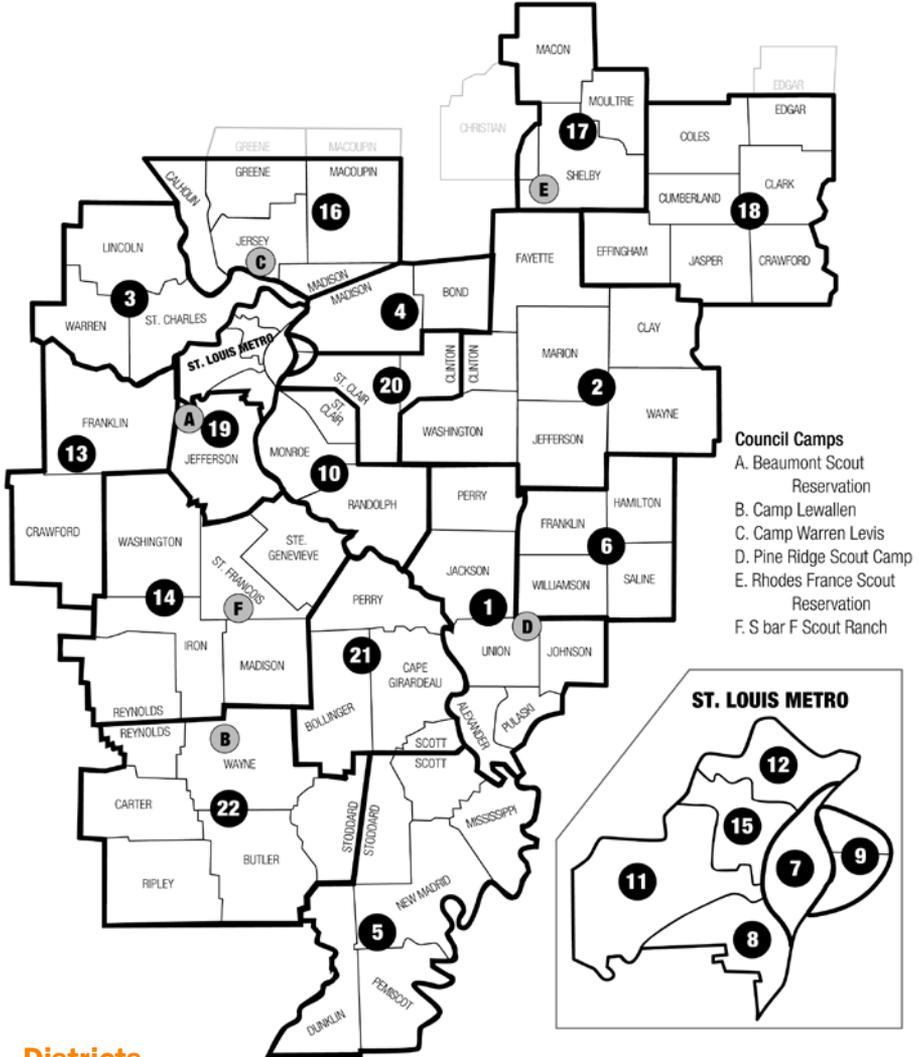


GREATER ST. LOUIS AREA COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

STLBSA.ORG
314-256-3000

Greater St. Louis Area Council

The Greater St. Louis Area Council, one of the largest in the Boy Scouts of America, has more than 34,000 youth members and 10,000 adult volunteers. They come from 63 counties across Missouri and Illinois.



Districts

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Big Muddy District | 7. Keystone District | 13. Osage District | 19. River Trails District |
| 2. Black Gold District | 8. Gravois Trail District | 14. Ozark Trailblazers District | 20. St. Clair District |
| 3. Boone Trails District | 9. Illini District | 15. Pathfinder District | 21. Shawnee District |
| 4. Cahokia Mounds District | 10. Kaskaskia District | 16. Piasa Bird District | 22. Sioux District |
| 5. Cherokee District | 11. New Horizons District | 17. Arrowhead District | |
| 6. Egyptian District | 12. North Star District | 18. Redhawk District | |

➤ Scouting Uniform Checklist

Bring this checklist to the Scout Shop, and we'll help outfit you in your first complete uniform.

NAME: _____

Troop Number: _____

	Uniform	Handbook
	<input type="checkbox"/> Shirt: long or short sleeve <input type="checkbox"/> Convertible pants or shorts <input type="checkbox"/> Uniform Web Belt <input type="checkbox"/> Socks	<input type="checkbox"/> Scout handbook
	Insignia	Items that might be useful
	<input type="checkbox"/> Shoulder Loops — Green <input type="checkbox"/> Council Shoulder Patch <input type="checkbox"/> Unit Numerals <input type="checkbox"/> World Crest Emblem	<input type="checkbox"/> Handbook cover <input type="checkbox"/> Field book <input type="checkbox"/> Requirements book <input type="checkbox"/> BSA Cap

➤ Your Council Information

BSA Outfitters/Metro East

5205 N. Illinois St.
Fairview Heights, IL 62208
(618) 234-9111
M-F, 10am-6pm, Sat, 10am—3pm

Central Illinois Service Center

262 W. Prairie Ave.
Decatur, IL 62523
(217) 429-2326
M-F, 8:30am-5pm

MacArthur Service Center

4568 West Pine Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63108
(314) 361-0600
M-F, 9am-5pm

Ritter Service Center

3000 Gordonville Road
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703
(573) 335-3346
M-F, 9:30am-4:30pm

Southern Illinois Service Center

803 E. Herrin St.
Herrin, IL 62948
(618) 942-4863
M-F, 9:30am-4:30pm

For more information and resources, visit

www.stlbsa.org (Local)
www.scouting.org (National)

Share the Scouting Adventure!

Share the memories you make with your Scout on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter by using **#ScoutsStandOut**



[Facebook.com/stlbsa](https://www.facebook.com/stlbsa)



[Instagram.com/stlbsa](https://www.instagram.com/stlbsa)



[Twitter.com/stlbsa](https://twitter.com/stlbsa)

➤ Contact Information



My Troop Information

My Troop: _____

My troop meets: _____

My patrol is: _____

My patrol leader's name is: _____

My patrol leader's phone number is: _____

My senior patrol leader's name is: _____

My senior patrol leader's phone number is: _____

My Scoutmaster's name is: _____

My Scoutmaster's phone number is: _____

My Scoutmaster's email is: _____

Scouts are expected to communicate, as needed, with their troop's youth leadership. Parents should allow their Scout to be responsible for the routine flow of information between the family and the troop.

Parents are encouraged to join the troop committee to learn more about the troop to assist their Scout.



SCOUTS STAND OUT.
Greater St. Louis Area Council, Boy Scouts of America