



# A GUIDE TO VENTURING



GREATER ST. LOUIS AREA COUNCIL  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

## ➤ Why Join Venturing

Venturing is an inclusive program through the Boy Scouts of America for males and females aged 14-21 (or 13 and completed the 8th grade). It's operated through Venturing Crews, units of youth and advisors that meet on set schedules and plan activities and events for youth like you!

All teens have one—a moment that opens their eyes to a world that's bigger than they ever imagined. It might happen while paddling a quiet lake, bonding with new friends around a bonfire, or rising to the challenge of leading an exhausted crew to the edges of adventure. Venturing gives young men and women access to a range of programs and empowers them to create their own experiences. It brings Scouting values to life through both high adventure outdoor activities and challenging real-world projects. The program helps young people mature, build leadership skills, grow by teaching others, and pursue their own unique interests.

### 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)*

## Uniform Checklist

Venturing has no “official” uniform that all members must wear; in keeping with the flexibility of the Venturing program, uniforms are approved by each individual crew. A crew may choose to design or purchase a Venturing t-shirt, polo, or any number of options.

Venturing’s recommended uniform includes two distinct styles: the “field uniform” and the “activity uniform.” The field uniform consists of the green Venturing shirt, a Scouting belt, gray Venturing pants or shorts, and gray Venturing socks. The activity uniform includes a Scouting belt, gray Venturing pants or shorts, gray Venturing socks, and a Scouting t-shirt or polo. It is up to the crew to decide when each version of the uniform is worn, and may be decided based on the activity or setting of the event.

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Crew Number: \_\_\_\_\_

	<input type="checkbox"/> Venturing Shirt	<b>Handbooks</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Venturer/Ranger Guidebook <input type="checkbox"/> Venturing Leader Manual <input type="checkbox"/> Quest Handbook <input type="checkbox"/> Sea Scout Manual <input type="checkbox"/> Trust Handbook
	<input type="checkbox"/> Venturing Switchbacks™ Pants	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Venturing Belt and Buckle	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Venturing Socks	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Venturing Cap	
	<b>Insignia</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Shoulder Loops - Green	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Council Shoulder Patch	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unit Numerals	
	<input type="checkbox"/> World Crest Emblem	

My crew: \_\_\_\_\_

My crew meets: \_\_\_\_\_

My patrol is: \_\_\_\_\_

My Venturing Advisor’s name is: \_\_\_\_\_

My Venturing Advisor’s phone number is: \_\_\_\_\_

My Venturing Advisor’s email is: \_\_\_\_\_

Venturers are expected to communicate, as needed, with their crew’s youth leadership. Parents should allow their child to be responsible for the routine flow of information between the family and the crew. Parents are encouraged to join the crew committee to learn more about the crew to assist their child.

## ▶ How Venturing Works

### The Venturing program aims to enable young adults to:

- Experience a program that is fun and full of challenge and adventure.
- Acquire skills in the area of their crew's specialty.
- Become a skilled training and program resource for other youth groups.
- Experience positive leadership from adult and youth leaders and be given opportunities to take on leadership roles.
- Learn to make ethical choices throughout their lives by instilling the values of the Scout Oath and Law.
- Learn and grow in a supportive, caring, and fun environment.

The Venturing program **emphasizes four main areas** known as the A-L-P-S model:

**Adventure** - Mentoring, leading, and participating in crew-led adventures.

**Leadership** - Ongoing leadership development through training, mentoring, and hands-on leadership.

**Personal Growth** - Goal-setting in support of personal growth.

**Service** - Leading and participating in community service.



## ▶ How Venturing Works

The Boy Scouts of America aims to build character, develop citizenship and foster personal fitness. The Venturing program uses the components listed below to meet our needs and the goals of the Boy Scouts of America:

**Leadership and Mentoring** - Venturers are given opportunities to learn and apply proven leadership skills. A Venturing crew is led by youth officers. Training courses, such as the Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews, uses experiential learning to teach Venturers how to lead effectively. Once Venturers have led several activities, they are asked to then mentor the other leaders in their crew.

**Group Activities and Adventure** - Venturers work with teams on everything they do. Their success is dependent on the interaction and cooperation of all, preparing Venturers for their future careers and paths.

**Recognition** - Venturing includes an optional awards program that acknowledges and recognizes our youth for their progress through Venturing's four main areas of emphasis (ALPS).

**Adult Association** - Adults serve to advise the youth as they plan events and make decisions, while ensuring the program remains youth-inspired and youth-led. This partnership provides our youth with essential connections and lessons that will prove useful in their future paths.

**Ideals** - Venturers are expected to know and live by the Scout Oath and Law, ideals of Scouting created to inspire a culture of servant leadership, both inside and outside of Venturing.

**Group Identity** - Venturers are not asked to conform to a set uniform. Instead, they have the opportunity to create their own standards for attire at their events and meetings, as they see fit.

**Service** - Venturers serve their local and distant communities through personal and group service as the crew plans activities and individuals make progress through the Venturing awards program.



## ➤ Venturing Awards Program

The first step in any journey is the courage to begin. The Venturing awards program is designed to help Venturers grow in the areas of adventure, leadership, personal development, and service (the ALPS model). Awards serve as benchmarks that give Venturers a structure for developing their own personal vision into manageable goals that lead to recognition by their peers, mentors, and the larger community.

The Venturing awards program has four levels:

- All Venturers should earn the **Venturing Award** soon after formally joining the program.
- Venturers then proceed by earning the **Discovery** and **Pathfinder** Awards.
- Finally, Venturers earn the **Summit Award**, in which a young person formally serves as a mentor to other Venturers in his or her crew.

Venturing is a flexible program, and the awards program is designed to help all Venturers, no matter what their crew specialty, to grow and develop.

### The Core Awards

Venturing Award



Discovery Award



Pathfinder Award



Summit Award



# VENTURING MOTTO LEAD THE ADVENTURE

## 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

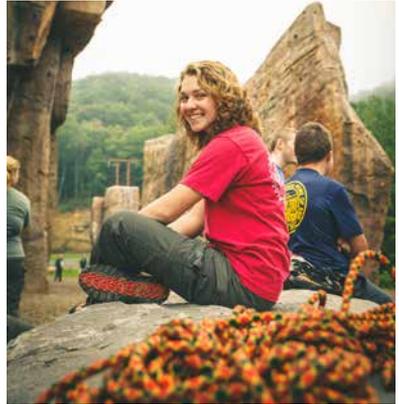
The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

## 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 Venturers are invited to attend such as:

### Fall Fun Rally

Join more than 1,000 Venturers, Explorers, and volunteer leaders for an event-filled weekend with more than 100 activities, trainings, demonstrations, and competitions. This event, put on by the Greater St. Louis Area Council, 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 Ventures participate. Youth members help distribute bags to homes in their neighborhoods on Saturday, Nov. 13 then return on Saturday, Nov. 20 to collect donated food.



### 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 Venturer, 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 Venturing crews perform this service at their local cemeteries too.

## ➤ Venturing Summer Camp

### **Swift High Adventure Base**

Swift High Adventure Base is the longest running Venturing summer camp in the BSA, and features non-stop activities throughout your week at Swift. It's a program designed from the ground up for Venturers that has been running since 1966!

### **Camp Staff**

A summer employment opportunity for youth ages 15 and older. The camp staff is an integral part of summer camp. The Greater St. Louis Area Council is looking for dedicated and passionate individuals to serve on summer camp staff who can help provide a fun, positive experience for campers.

### **National Youth Leadership Training**

Through this weeklong outdoor training, male and female Venturers grow and improve their leadership skills while following the guidelines of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. NYLT is conducted during summer camp. Venturers earning the NYLT shield are better prepared to interact with adult leaders and face the challenges and demands ahead. This course is offered to both male and female Venturers.

### **Horse Camp**

This seven-day, adventure-filled experience has more than just horsemanship. Spend a week riding a horse (of course), improving your skills, and then showing off your riding skills in a horse show. Other highlights of the week include swimming, skeet shooting, climbing tower, ropes course, and campfires.

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



## ➤ Funding Your Experience

*Information about all Council product sales can be found at [stlbsa.org/resources](https://stlbsa.org/resources).*

### **Fundraisers help the crew put on a quality program.**

Want to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses? Help fund your program through the council's Camp Card, Coffee, or Popcorn Fundraisers. Money raised can be used to cover the cost of awards and recognition, registration fees, camp, equipment, and more.



### **Popcorn Fundraiser**

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

### **Camp Card Fundraiser**

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. Youth sell cards for \$5 each and can earn up to 50% profit for their sales. The sale runs March 1 - April 30, giving crews two full months to sell. The program is risk free. Crews 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 crew is ineligible to participate in the pilot sale, there will be another opportunity open to all crews March 1 - April 30, 2022.

### 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

The youth have leadership roles as President, Vice President - Administration, Vice President - Program, Secretary, Treasurer.

There must also be 4 adult members willing to fill the following positions: The main positions are called the Key 3: Chartered Organization Representative, Crew Advisor, and Committee Chair.

**Advisor** — is the adult responsible for working directly with the Venturers to help them create the program for the crew. The Advisor trains leaders to run the crew by providing direction, coaching, and support.

**Associate Advisor(s)** — is/are an adult backup leader for the Crew Advisor, and can be male or female, but must be at least 21 years of age.

**Committee Chairman** — appoints and supervises the unit committee and unit leaders.

**Committee Members** — are responsible for conducting the business of the crew, setting policy, and helping the Advisor and Venturers with planned activities.

### **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](http://stlbsa.org/properties).



## ▶ 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](https://stlbsa.org/training) or [scouting.org/health-and-safety](https://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](https://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](https://stlbsa.org/training).

#### How to complete Youth Protection Training?

- 1.) Visit [my.scouting.org](https://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](https://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

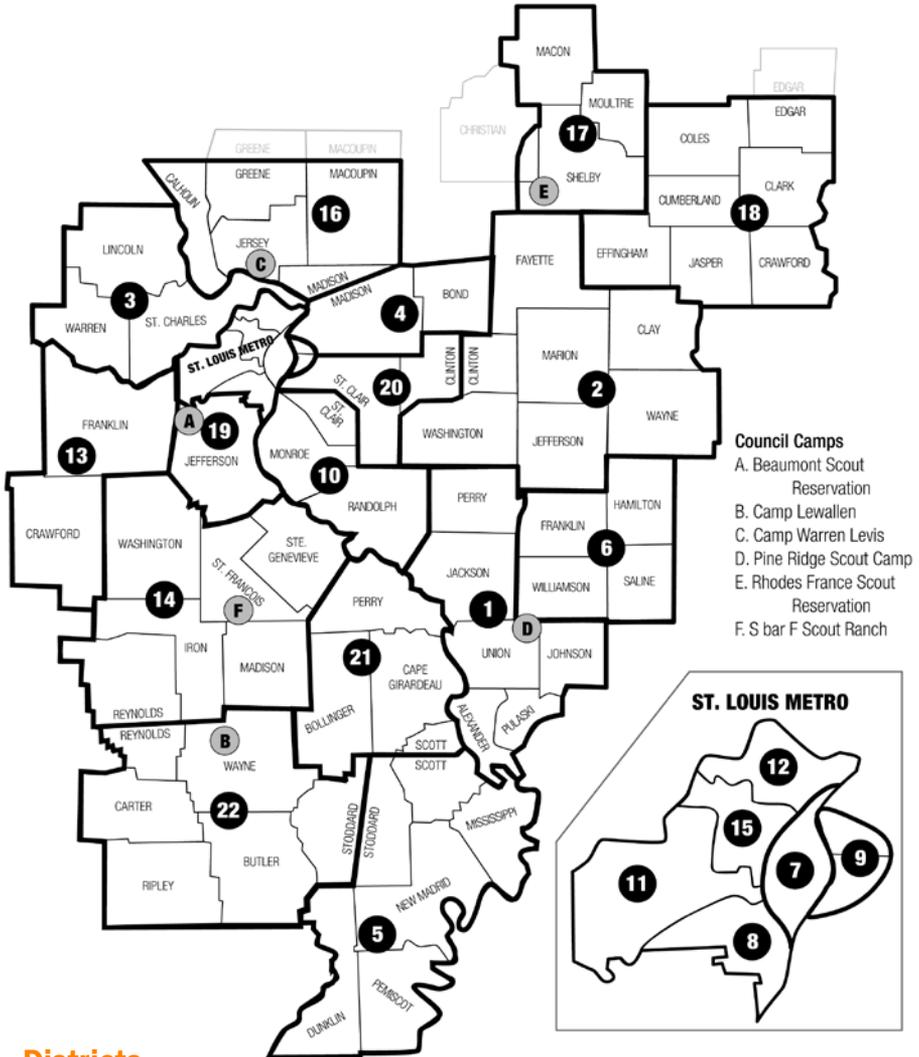
Together, these expert-informed barriers help keep kids safe



Find additional trainings at  
[my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org) and [stlbsa.org/training](http://stlbsa.org/training)

# 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 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

## 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](http://www.stlbsa.org) (Local)  
[www.scouting.org](http://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://www.twitter.com/stlbsa)