

# THE NORTH STAR NUGGET

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1  
JANUARY 2024

## GSLAC – NORTH STAR ROUNDTABLE NEWS





**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**January/February 2024**

<b>Jan 6, 2024</b>	Swimming Skills Center Starts – See Flyer for Details
<b>Jan 9, 2024</b>	STEM University - SEMO
<b>Jan 13, 2024</b>	Venturing – STL After Dark
<b>Jan 27, 2024</b>	STEM University – SIU-E
<b>Feb 24, 2024</b>	STEM University – SIU-C
<b>Feb 24, 2024</b>	Pathfinder Klondike - Beaumont

**Looking Ahead Beyond  
February 2024**

<b>Mar 8-10, 2024</b>	Spring Camporee – Warren-Levis
<b>Mar 16, 2024</b>	STEM University – Lincoln Land College
<b>Mar 22-24</b>	Taste of Venturing - Beaumont
<b>Apr 8, 2024</b>	Eclipse Fest – Pine Ridge

## January 2024 -- Celebrating God's Role through Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a week-long holiday celebration of African-American culture held annually from [December 26](#) to [January 1](#), culminating in a communal feast. This is not a religious holiday but a cultural celebration based on African harvest festival traditions and is a way to celebrate African heritage and legacy, much like other cultural celebrations.

Fundamentally, Kwanzaa celebrates family, culture, community, and the harvest during the dark days of winter. The word "Kwanzaa" itself comes from the Kiswahili phrase *matunda ya kwanza*, meaning "first fruits [of the harvest]."

The ideas and concepts of Kwanzaa are expressed in the Swahili language, one of the most widely spoken languages in Africa. The seven principles which form its core were drawn from widespread values found throughout the African continent. These principles are: [Umoja](#) (Unity), [Kujichagulia](#) (Self-Determination), [Ujima](#) (Collective Work and Responsibility), [Ujamaa](#) (Cooperative Economics), [Nia](#) (Purpose), [Kuumba](#) (Creativity), and [Imani](#) (Faith). Kwanzaa is rooted in first fruit celebrations found in cultures throughout Africa both in ancient and modern times.

Each family celebrates Kwanzaa in its own way, but celebrations often include songs and dances, African drums, storytelling, poetry reading, and a large traditional meal. On each of the seven nights, the family gathers and a child lights one of the candles on the Kinara (candleholder). The first night, the black candle in the center is lit and the principle of umoja/unity is discussed. One candle is lit each evening and the appropriate principle is talked about. The principles, called the Nguzo Saba (seven principles in Swahili) are values of African culture which contribute to building and reinforcing community among African-Americans. An African feast, called a Karamu, is held on December 31.

In 1966, Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor and chairman of Black Studies at California State University, Long Beach, created Kwanzaa in response to the 1965 [Watts riots](#) in Los Angeles. He was searching for ways to bring African Americans together as a community.

References:

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/initiatives/kwanzaa>

<https://www.almanac.com/content/when-is-kwanzaa>

<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/kwanzaa-history>

# Commissioner Corner

Happy New Year North Star!

As we enter another year, I'm excited for what this year will bring! We have another year to help deliver the best youth program the country has ever seen, helping mold the future leaders of America. It's a very rewarding opportunity.

Please make sure you are working with your commissioners to get your recharter done if you don't already have it complete, we are here to support you in any way we can. And just because it's kind of cold outside, doesn't mean the activity stops! There are plenty of indoor activities that troops and packs can do year around to ensure that every single youth is getting something out of the program. Again, if you need ideas or assistance, please reach out to your commissioner.

And finally, as always, be on the lookout for potential new members and LEADERS. Any event/activity you host is an opportunity to recruit. We finished 2023 strong, we want to make 2024 even better, I know this district can do it!

As always, thank you for all you do for the youth we serve and for scouting, it really does make a difference in our community and in the world we live in.

YIS

Dave Kedge

SM, C3-312-20-2

# The Camping Corner

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## Join Us for the 2024 Klondike!

Our Klondike Campmaster is Isacc Muller from Troop 525 in Maryland Heights. As always, Staff will come from units across the district and there is still time to join our staff.

- Scout Trek: Deep Freeze 9
- Games, Skits, and Yells
- Sled Race
- **For Scout BSA Units and AOL Dens Only.**
- **Points awarded for attending January/February Roundtables & Camping with AOL Scouts!**

The Klondike Manuals are available on the [Pathfinder Website](#).

- Arrow of Light Units must register through a Troop.
  - Need help finding a Unit to camp with? See the [Pathfinder Unit Directory](#) or contact [joel.schwartz@shawneelodge.org](mailto:joel.schwartz@shawneelodge.org). **Don't wait – reach out to a Pack or Troop Today!**

## Klondike

- **February 24, 2024**
- **Beaumont Scout Reserve – Lane Field**
- **Registration Now Open**

## Youth Leadership Opportunity!

### Have Scouts interested in being on Staff?

It's not too late. Contact Issac Muller at [iasacm713140@gmail.com](mailto:iasacm713140@gmail.com) or Joel Schwartz at [joel.schwartz@shawneelodge.org](mailto:joel.schwartz@shawneelodge.org) for more information. **Klondike Points Award for Staffing at least one scout per unit.** Staff developments are January 7, 14, 21 and February 4 and 18 at 5 PM (except for February 4, time TBD)

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## Save the Date

Spring Camporee 2024, April 5-7, 2024 Camp Warren Levis

Yours in Scouting,  
*Joel and Matt*

Contact: [joel.schwartz@shawneelodge.org](mailto:joel.schwartz@shawneelodge.org)

# Activities

**District Dinner** – I would like to announce that we are looking for staff to help plan the district dinner. If you are interested in being on staff, please contact Rebecca Garrett or Fred Schaljo.

**Polaris Award** – Please see attached the Polaris Award nomination form. We would need at least 6 nominations. Please have them by March Roundtable.

**Pinewood Derby** – We are also looking for volunteers to help with the pinewood derby. If are interested, please contact Rebecca Garrett.

**Swimming Skills Center** – The Swimming Skill center is at Hazelwood West High School.

# BSA Swim Skills 2024



**When:** January 6-February 10, 2024 (Saturdays)

**Where:** Hazelwood West High School Pool  
1 Wildcat Ln St Louis, MO 63042

**Cost:** \$10 per participant

**Sessions:** 9-10:30 Lifesaving & Swimming Merit Badges  
10:45-11:30 Learning to Swim  
11:45-12:30 Learning to Swim

Register online @ [stlbsa.org/North Star District](https://stlbsa.org/NorthStarDistrict)  
by Jan 5 at midnight  
Walk-ins welcome



**JOIN. ENGAGE. LEAD.**

**CLICK HERE TO CONTINUE YOUR ADVENTURE!**



# PINEWOOD DERBY

MARCH 16, 2024



CHECK-IN 8AM RACE  
STARTS 9AM



St.ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE  
SCHOOL  
3500 ST CATHERINE ST, FLORISSANT, MO 63033







Join us for

A Night

In Margaritaville

DATE AND LOCATION - TBA

**NOW SEEKING STAFF**

First staff meeting  
January 14, 2024,  
2 PM

St Louis Bread Co- Florissant, MO





# Upcoming Events

January 2024 to April 2024

## Northstar Banquet

NS Banquet will be on Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup> from 2pm-4pm at Church of the Good Shepherd. This year's theme is Movie trivia. Come on out and test your knowledge on some of your favorite movies. Watch your emails and Facebook for more info information.

## Dues

Dues are now open. They are \$12 or \$60 for a season pass. Get yours on the Shawnee Lodge website today.

## Spring Conclave

Spring Conclave will be at the usual location, at Beaumont Scout Reservation. There will be service projects, Inductions, and ceremonies. Come support your fellow brothers and mark your calendars for April 12<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>.

## More Information



[shawneelodge.org/upcoming-events/](https://shawneelodge.org/upcoming-events/)



SHAWNEE LODGE

ORDER OF THE ARROW

@Shawneelodge51   

## North Star Family Friends of Scouting 2024 Campaign



**SCOUTS STAND OUT.**

Greater St. Louis Area Council, Boy Scouts of America

### **Family Friends of Scouting preparations for 2023 campaign.**

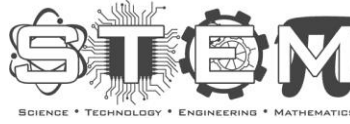
The 2024 campaign will run during the 2024 calendar year. The best dates will be January through April. We are requesting packs, troops and crews to provide the dates (and time and location) of their Blue and Gold banquets or Courts of Honor, etc. We are ready to take this information at the January roundtable. If you don't know your dates yet, once they are known, the information can be sent to Jim Schneider ([jschneider8@gmail.com](mailto:jschneider8@gmail.com)/ home 314-921-6686. google voice 314-669-5939), Jerome Flynn ([jmf41862@yahoo.com](mailto:jmf41862@yahoo.com)) or Kaua'i Johnson ([Kauai.johnson@scouting.org](mailto:Kauai.johnson@scouting.org)).

**2023 results:** Thank you North Star. Through direct donation, North Star reached \$22,990, which is 96% of its 2023 family friends of scouting goal.

Thank you, North Star.

*Jerome Flynn*, North Star Family FOS chairman

*Jim Schneider*, co-chairman



## Upcoming Events: <https://stlbsa.org/stem/upcoming-stem-events/>

### STEM Universities

- SIUE – 27 January 2024 – Registration is open
  - Cub Scouts – Fearful Symmetry Nova
  - Scout BSA – 10 STEM Merit Badges offered
  - Adults – STEM training courses for Nova and Supernova Counselor
- SIUC – 24 February 2024
- Lincoln Land College – 16 March 2024

### 8 April 2024 (Less than 100 days) – Eclipse Fest

- <https://www.eclipse-bsa-2024.com/>
- [2024 Pine Ridge Eclipse Fest registration in open](#) - \$25 per camper or staff
- Events are all weekend starting on the April 5<sup>th</sup> for Cubs through Venturing
- Activities are being also being planned for the S-F, and maybe Lewallen

## District STEM Challenge

### Scouts in District Earned:

- **Nova Awards**
- Supernova Awards
- **STEM based Merit Badges**
- STEM Star Patches

### Note:

Items in bold have already been met for 2024.

### Scouts in District Attended:

- STEM Council Events
- STEM Vendor Workshops

We need 10 by end of October to reach gold status

District hosted STEM Events

District had STEM trailer visits

District recruited Unit STEM Coordinators

District held STEM Training sessions

**District STEM Chair Volunteered or recruited a volunteer for a STEM event**

District STEM Chair Volunteered or recruited a volunteer for a STEM camp

## Social Media:

Facebook -> <https://www.facebook.com/GSLACSTEM>

Instagram -> <https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/stemandscouting/>

YouTube -> <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLomHx8InOFuXLb8zBDxHDQ>

If you need any assistance implementing STEM into your program, please let me know.

Alan Kreppert – North Star District STEM Chair

314-616-4592

alan.kreppert@sbcglobal.net

# North Star Venturing Officers Association (VOA) News

## Our North Star VOA officers are:

President - Precious Bolade (Crew 2749)  
Vice President Administration - Gabe Blamey (Crew 2921)  
Vice President Program - Amelia Bazzell (Crew 2749)  
Vice President Communication - Kip MacDonald (Crew 2749)

The Venturing year is underway. Greater St. Louis Area Council committees have started planning for the following activities and events:

STL After Dark, January 13-14, 2024, 6:45 pm to 7:00 am

Saint Louis Area Food Bank, Maryland Heights  
6:45 pm-7:45 pm, tour and service, free

Upper Limits, 8:30 pm-7:00 am

8:30 pm - Registration

9:00 pm-1:00 am Open Climbing — COMPLETE WAIVER ONLINE

Multiple top rope climb sites and other climbing themed events  
pizza and soda served

1:00 am - National Parks Presentation, Video Games, Movie,

Board Games, Large games like Nine Square in the Air, Other Fun Games

7:00 am - Depart Upper Limits

Cost - Climbers (Youth or Adult)

\$38 if registered through January 8, 2024

\$39 if registered through January 12, 2024

\$40 if registered at the door

Non-Climbing Adult Chaperones:

\$7 to cover cost of pizza, drinks

[scoutingevent.com/312-dark24](https://scoutingevent.com/312-dark24)



Taste of Venturing, March 22-24, 2024 - Weekend of fellowship and activities

Theme: Super Heroes

[scoutingevent.com/312-tov2024](https://scoutingevent.com/312-tov2024)

Celebration Dinner, May 19, 2024 - Annual recognition dinner

[scoutingevent.com/312-cele24](https://scoutingevent.com/312-cele24)

Swift's Big Kickoff, Saturday, June 1, 2024 - Improve our favorite summer camp and have fun

[scoutingevent.com/312-swiftko24](https://scoutingevent.com/312-swiftko24)

Sea Scout Ball, August 3, 2024 - Evening of food, dance and water sailing

[scoutingevent.com/312-ball24](https://scoutingevent.com/312-ball24)

Fall Fun Rally, September 20-22, 2024 - Huge weekend of fun

[www.fallfunrally.org](http://www.fallfunrally.org)

Jerome Flynn

North Star VOA Advisor

[jmf41862@yahoo.com](mailto:jmf41862@yahoo.com)





# NOMINATION FOR THE DISTRICT AWARD OF MERIT



NOTE: The nomination is confidential.  
To avoid possible disappointment,  
please do not advise nominee in any  
way of your action in his or her behalf.

\_\_\_\_\_ Council  
\_\_\_\_\_ District  
\_\_\_\_\_ Unit

**TO THE DISTRICT AWARD OF MERIT COMMITTEE:**

It is a pleasure to present for your consideration for the DISTRICT AWARD OF MERIT:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City or Town \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Currently registered in Scouting as \_\_\_\_\_

The nominee has earned the following (provide dates):

_____ Den Leader's Training Award or Den Leader Award	_____ Scouter's Religious Award	_____ Other (specify) _____
_____ Den Leader Coach's Training Award or Den Leader Coach Award	_____ Silver Beaver	_____
_____ Cubmaster Award	_____ Order of the Arrow	_____
_____ Cub Scouter Award	_____ Wood Badge	_____
_____ Webelos Den Leader Award	_____ Venturing Awards	_____
_____ Scouter's Training Award	_____ Distinguished Commis- sioner Service Award	
_____ Scouter's Key		

The noteworthy service upon which this nomination is based follows:

(Furnish as much information as possible. For example: president, Rotary Club; vestryman, St. Paul's Church; chairman, Red Cross campaign; vice-president, PTA; medical director, hospital; Cubmaster, 3 years; Scoutmaster, 4 years; Venturing Advisor, 3 years; commissioner, etc. Use additional paper, if necessary.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of nomination

\_\_\_\_\_ Name of person making nomination

\_\_\_\_\_ Position in Scouting

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact number

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The District Award of Merit is a council award presented by districts in the same manner that the Silver Beaver is a national award presented by councils.

The award is available to Scouters who render service of an outstanding nature at the district level.

The award is made available annually on the basis of 1 for each 25 traditional units or fraction thereof. The district need not present all the awards to which it is entitled each year.

It is not appropriate to nominate a Scouter who has already received this award.

A professional Scouter or other council employee may not receive this award based on employment service. However, a professional Scouter or employee who also serves as a volunteer Scouter may be eligible, based on *volunteer* service.

## REQUIREMENTS

1. A nominee must be a registered Scouter.
2. A nominee must have rendered noteworthy service to youth in Scouting, outside Scouting, or both.  
**Note:** The nature and value of "noteworthy service to youth" may consist of a single plan or decisions that contributed vitally to the lives of large numbers of youth or it may have been given to a small group over an extended period of time.
3. Consideration must be given to the nominee's Scouting position and the corresponding opportunity to render outstanding service beyond the expectations of that Scouting position.
4. The nominee's attitude toward and cooperation with the district and/or council is to be taken into consideration.
5. Nominations cannot be considered for posthumous awards.

## PROCEDURE

1. Annually, district chairmen will appoint a temporary special District Award of Merit committee of not more than five persons who will consider all candidates and make recommendations of those to receive the award to the council through the Scout executive.
2. The Scout executive will inform the district chairman of those nominations approved by the council committee.
3. The following procedure is suggested for such presentation ceremonies:
  - a. The recipient and spouse should be in attendance at the annual meeting or recognition dinner.
  - b. A district and/or council officer should explain the award and its significance.
  - c. Eagle Scouts or Silver Award Venturers should be asked to escort the recipients to a place of honor at the head table or on stage.
  - d. A suitable citation for each recipient should be read indicating what each has done in Scouting.
  - e. The award (certificate, No. 33719; plaque, No. 17565; and lapel pin, No. 17551) may be presented at this time with appropriate congratulations.
  - f. The only uniform insignia which accompanies this award is an embroidered overhand knot, No. 05013.
  - g. A group picture may be taken for use in neighborhood or community newspapers (district responsibility).

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District approval

Council approval



**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**  
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<http://www.scouting.org>

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