



GREATER ST. LOUIS AREA COUNCIL
SCOUTING

Venturing & Sea Scout Program Guide

Adventure Awaits: Your Guide to an Epic Scouting Year!

2024-2025



What's Inside

Explore firsthand:

- Membership insights
- Exciting activities
- Helpful trainings
- Unit planning and budgeting resources
- Weekend camping adventures
- Premier campgrounds
- Religious awards guidance
- Fundraising opportunities
- and much more!

All tailored exclusively for Venturing crews and Sea Scout ships!

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Venturing

Provides positive experiences through exciting and meaningful youth-run activities for pursuing special interests, growing by teaching others, and developing leadership skills.

Sea Scouting

For over 100 years, Sea Scouting has promoted better citizenship and improved members' boating skills through instruction and practice in water safety, boating skills, outdoor, social, service experiences, and knowledge of our maritime heritage.

(both programs are for young women & men ages 14-20 or 13 years old & completed 8th grade)



CONTACT US

Get the latest on info and events in the Greater St. Louis Area Council by staying connected with us on social media and regularly visiting our website, stlbsa.org!



facebook.com/stlbsa



@stlbsa

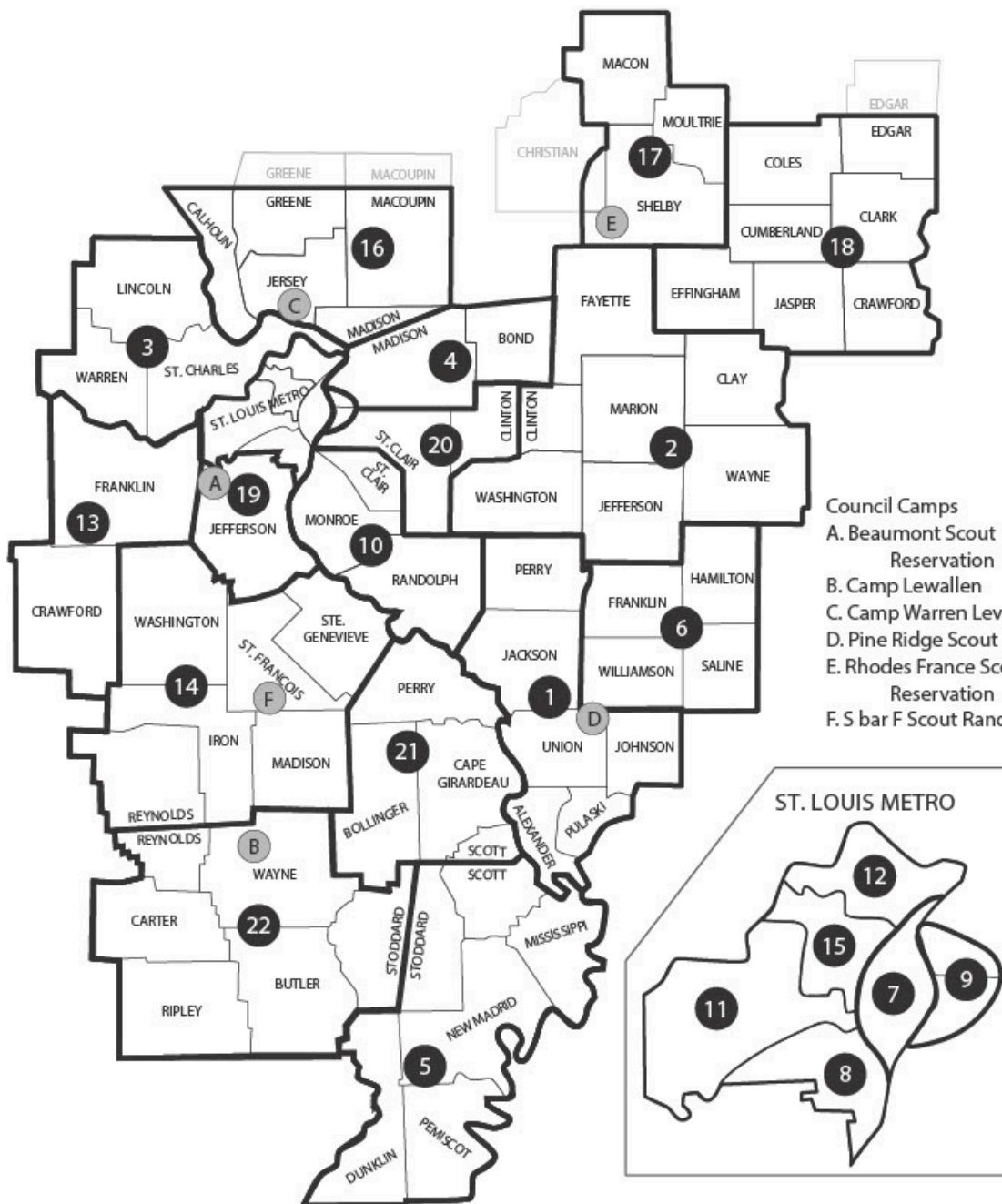


@stlbsa

website: stlbsa.org

phone: 314-361-0600

email: help@stlbsa.org



- Council Camps
- A. Beaumont Scout Reservation
 - B. Camp Lewallen
 - C. Camp Warren Levis
 - D. Pine Ridge Scout Camp
 - E. Rhodes France Scout Reservation
 - F. S bar F Scout Ranch

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 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. Soaring Eagle 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 | |



STLBSA.ORG



SERVICE CENTERS AND SHOPS

We are here for you.

Get the help you need by visiting or contacting your nearby service center. You can also buy Scout gear at a service center, at one of our standalone stores known as BSA Outfitters, or via our online store - GatewayTraders.org.

MacArthur Service Center

4568 West Pine Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108
314-361-0600 or 800-392-0895
9 AM - 5 PM
Scout Shop: M - F, 9 AM - 5 PM

Central Illinois Service Center

and Scout Shop
262 W. Prairie Ave., Decatur, IL 62523
217-429-2326
8:30 AM - 5 PM

Ritter Service Center

and Scout Shop
3000 Gordonville Rd., Cape Girardeau, MO 63703
573-335-3346
8:30 AM - 5 PM

Southern Illinois Service Center

and Scout Shop
803 East Herrin St., Herrin, IL 62948
618-942-4863 or 888-942-4863
9:30 AM - 4:30 PM (Closed for lunch: 12:30 - 1 PM)

BSA Outfitters - 2 locations

13347 Manchester Rd.
Des Peres, MO 63131
314 -984-0014
M - Th, 9 AM - 7 PM
F 9 AM - 6 PM
Fa, 9 AM - 4 PM

5205 N. Illinois St.
Fairview Height, IL 62208
618-222-1574
M - F 10 AM - 6 PM
Sa 10 AM - 3 PM

LET'S PLAN AND BUDGET

How to Develop and Fund Your Crew/Ship Program

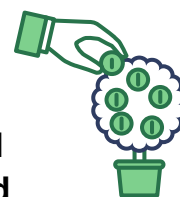
Creating an exciting program for every Venturer is key to a successful year! Here's how to get started:

- Brainstorm fun activities, adventures, and experiences your crew could have this year. Include all the youth and parents, if you can, to get the most and best ideas.
- Next, look for events put on by your district and council. These events are easy to attend and fun because they bring together youth from many nearby crews.
 - They include family camping opportunities, summer camps, helpful training courses, fall hayrides, and many more!
 - Find them on our Event Calendar - stlbsa.org/calendar
 - In the calendar menu, select "council" to see all events and "district" to see more events near you.
 - What traditional crew activities will you include?
 - What resources do you have in your crew? Are there parents who work at locations where you could do activities?
 - What are some fun activities you may want to include, however big or small, like picnics, a trip to Six Flags, weekend campouts, etc.?
- Next, your Crew committee can review all the suggestions, narrow down to the activities that make sense for your unit, and plan on when they make the most sense to do.
- Next, your Crew committee can review all the suggestions and narrow down to the activities that make sense for your unit and plan on when they make the most sense to do.
- Lastly, communicate it to your families the plan. You can do a simple list with dates shared via email and at the Troop meetings, or you can get creative and produce and share Facebook events, a google calendar, or use some other medium.

BUDGET & FUNDING

Program planning needs to also include a funding plan. Use the budget planning tool on the next page to see how much your year of Scouting will cost, and what your individual youth and/or crew fundraising goals should be.

See a sample budget worksheet on the next page:



SAMPLE BUDGET WORKSHEET

Sample Crew Budget			Crew Operating Budget		Actual Budget		
Annual Cost Per Venturer/Unit	no. of Venturers/ Adults	Total Unit Cost			Annual Cost Per Person	no. of Venturers/ Adults	Total Unit Cost
\$ 80.00	16	\$ 1,280.00	PROGRAM EXPENSES:				
\$ 60.00	6	\$ 360.00	Registration - Youth	Total Youth	\$ 80.00		\$ -
\$ 24.00	5	\$ 120.00	Registration - Adult	Total Adults	\$ 60.00		\$ -
\$ 100.00	1	\$ 100.00	Scouts Life	Total subscriptions @ \$24 ea	\$ 24.00		\$ -
\$ 15.00	22	\$ 330.00	Unit charter fee	Yearly flat fee @ \$100			\$ 100.00
			Awards & Ranks	Purchase through Scout Shop	\$ 15.00		\$ -
			Activities	Location			
\$ 15.00	22	\$ 330.00	(1) Activity				\$ -
\$ 15.00	22	\$ 330.00	(2) Activity				\$ -
\$ 15.00	22	\$ 330.00	(3) Activity				\$ -
\$ 15.00	22	\$ 330.00	(4) Activity				\$ -
\$ 15.00	22	\$ 330.00	(5) Activity				\$ -
\$ 15.00	22	\$ 330.00	(6) Activity				\$ -
\$ 20.00	22	\$ 440.00	District events	Camporees			\$ -
\$ 15.00	22	\$ 330.00		Other			\$ -
\$ 15.00	22	\$ 330.00	Special activities	Ranger Day			\$ -
\$ 19.99	16	\$ 319.84	Handbooks	One for each new Venturer @19.99 ea.			\$ -
\$ 50.00	5	\$ 250.00	Training	ILSC, POWDER Horn, Kookak, NYLI, NAYLE, etc.			\$ -
\$ 20.00	22	\$ 440.00	Crew equipment purchases	Tents, cook stoves, etc			\$ -
\$ 50.00	2	\$ 100.00	Advisor camp fees				\$ -
\$ 50.00	1	\$ 50.00	Advisor recognition	Thank yous, veterans awards, etc.			\$ -
		\$ 6,429.84	TOTAL UNIT BUDGETED PROGRAM EXPENSES:				\$ 100.00
			INCOME:				
\$ 52.00	22	\$ 1,144.00	Annual dues (weekly)				\$ -
\$ 500.00	1	\$ 500.00	Surplus from prior year (beginning fund balance)				\$ -
		\$ -	Other income source				\$ -
		\$ 1,644.00	INCOME SUBTOTAL:				\$ -
		\$ 4,785.84	TOTAL FUNDRAISING NEED:				\$ -
\$ 12,857.00 x 25% = \$ 3,214.25			FUNDRAISER CREW GOAL:				\$ -
\$ 12,857.00 / 25 = \$ 514.28			___% includes qualifying for all bonus dollars	Need	Commission	Unit goal	\$ -
Unit Goal No. of Members Member Goal			FUNDRAISER GOAL PER MEMBER:	Sales goal	No. of Venturers:	Venturer goal	\$ -
Camp Fees Budget							\$ 500.00
\$ 370.00 x 25 = \$ 9,250.00			*Resident camp	*Total youth @ \$325 ea.			\$ 500.00
\$ 500.00			Additional sales that would cover summer camp costs	Additional camp sales goal per Venturer			
Date budget completed: 7/1/20xx			UNIT DETAIL:				
Unit No.: 555			Advisor: _____	Date budget completed: _____			
District: Somewhere			Assistant advisor: _____	Unit No.: _____			
Projected No. of Venturers: 16			Committee chair: _____	District: _____			
			Treasurer: _____	Projected No. of Venturers: _____			
			Fundraiser chair: _____				
\$ 1,200.00 12 \$ 14,400.00			OPTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:				
			High adventure	Montreal, Sea Base, nonnorm tier, jamboree, etc.			\$ -
				approx \$1,200 ea.			

* Many units include all or a portion of the resident camp fee in the annual budget. This helps ensure that all youth have the opportunity to attend.

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/venturing/crew-resources/annual-program-planning/>



This is an example, your budget may include more or fewer lines, depending on your program.

FUNDING YOUR PROGRAM

Your crew can choose to participate in any of these approved fundraisers.

Popcorn Sales raise money for your unit while also helping fund local camp scholarships, community service projects, and much more!

- No upfront cost to your unit.
- Units pay for only the product they sell.
- Sales support local Scouting.
- A built-in prize program encourages Scouts to sell.
- Popcorn sales teach Scouts the responsibility and value of earning their way.
- Popcorn is easy to sell.
- Scouts can earn free camping at a Greater St Louis Area Council camp of their choice!
- Sign up at stlbsa.org/popcorn
- Sale begins in August and runs through December.

Sell in Several Ways:

1. *Show & Sell* (sell in person at a display table or booth),
2. *Take Order* (ask neighbors and friends to place an order),
3. *Online Sales* (create your own online store through our vendor)



Camp Cards are an easy sale that helps Venturers earn funds for camps and activities!

- No upfront costs
- Earn up to 50% profit on every card sold
- Cards are different by region and support local businesses
- Visit stlbsa.org/camp-cards to learn more



Coffee Sales benefit your unit and Venturers earn money for camp while also helping fund the council camp scholarships, camp improvements, and much more!

- There is no up-front cost to your unit.
- Units pay for only the product they sell.
- Unit commission is 33% of all sales.
- A built-in prize program encourages for crews and Venturers to sell.
- Year round online & subscription commission available
- 73% of people drink coffee everyday.
- Sign up at stlbsa.org/coffee



Beyond the Council supported fundraisers on the previous page, submit this application to the local service center for all other crew fundraisers.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA DATE _____

Received in council service center _____
(Date)

UNIT MONEY-EARNING APPLICATION

Applications are not required for council-coordinated money-earning projects such as popcorn sales or Scout show ticket sales.

Please submit this application to your council service center at least two weeks in advance of the proposed date of your money-earning project. Read the 10 guides on the other side of this form. They will help you in answering the questions below.

Pack

Troop No. _____ Chartered Organization _____

Team

Crew

Community _____ District _____

Submits the following plans for its money-earning project and requests permission to carry them out.

What is your unit's money-earning plan? _____

About how much does your unit expect to earn from this project? _____ How will this money be used? _____

Does your chartered organization give full approval for this plan? _____

What are the proposed dates? _____

Are tickets or a product to be sold? Please specify. _____

Will your members be in uniform while carrying out this project? (See items 3-6 on other side.) _____

Have you checked with neighboring units to avoid any overlapping of territory while working? _____

Is your product or service in direct conflict with that offered by local merchants? _____

Are any contracts to be signed? _____ If so, by whom? _____

Give details. _____

Is your unit on the budget plan? _____ How much are the dues? _____

How much does your unit have in its treasury? _____

Signed _____ Signed _____

(Chartered Organization Representative)

(Unit Leader)

Signed _____

(Chairman, Unit Committee)

(Address of Chairman)

FOR USE OF DISTRICT OR COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE: Telephone _____

Approved by _____ Date _____

Approved subject to the following conditions _____

GUIDES TO UNIT MONEY-EARNING PROJECTS

A unit's money-earning methods should reflect Scouting's basic values. Whenever your unit is planning a money-earning project, this checklist can serve as your guide. If your answer is "Yes" to all the questions that follow, it is likely the project conforms to Scouting's standards and will be approved.

1. *Do you really need a fund-raising project?*

There should be a real need for raising money based on your unit's program. Units should not engage in money-earning projects merely because someone has offered an attractive plan. Remember that individual youth members are expected to earn their own way. The need should be beyond normal budget items covered by dues.

2. *If any contracts are to be signed, will they be signed by an individual, without reference to the Boy Scouts of America and without binding the local council, the Boy Scouts of America, or the chartered organization?*

Before any person in your unit signs a contract, he must make sure the venture is legitimate and worthy. If a contract is signed, he is personally responsible. He may not sign on behalf of the local council or the Boy Scouts of America, nor may he bind the chartered organization without its written authorization. If you are not sure, check with your district executive for help.

3. *Will your fund-raiser prevent promoters from trading on the name and goodwill of the Boy Scouts of America?*

Because of Scouting's good reputation, customers rarely question the quality or price of a product. The nationwide network of Scouting units must not become a beehive of commercial interest.

4. *Will the fund-raising activity uphold the good name of the BSA? Does it avoid games of chance, gambling, etc.?*

Selling raffle tickets or other games of chance is a direct violation of the BSA Rules and Regulations, which forbid gambling. The product must not detract from the ideals and principles of the BSA.

5. *If a commercial product is to be sold, will it be sold on its own merits and without reference to the needs of Scouting?*

All commercial products must sell on their own merits, not the benefit received by the Boy Scouts. The principle of value received is critical in choosing what to sell.

6. *If a commercial product is to be sold, will the fund-raising activity comply with BSA policy on wearing the uniform?*

The official uniform is intended to be worn primarily for use in connection with Scouting activities. However, council executive boards may approve use of the uniform for any fund-raising activity. Typically, council popcorn sales or Scout show ticket sales are approved uniform fund-raisers.

7. *Will the fund-raising project avoid soliciting money or gifts?*

The BSA Rules and Regulations state, "Youth members shall not be permitted to serve as solicitors of money for their chartered organizations, for the local council, or in support of other organizations. Adult and youth members shall not be permitted to serve as solicitors of money in support of personal or unit participation in local, national, or international events."

For example: Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts and leaders should not identify themselves as Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts or as a troop/pack participate in The Salvation Army's Christmas Bell Ringing program. This would be raising money for another organization. At no time are units permitted to solicit contributions for unit programs.

8. *Does the fund-raising activity avoid competition with other units, your chartered organization, your local council, and the United Way?*

Check with your chartered organization representative and your district executive to make certain that your chartered organization and the council agree on the dates and type of fund-raiser.

The local council is responsible for upholding the Charter and By-laws and the Rules and Regulations of the BSA. To ensure compliance, all unit fund-raisers MUST OBTAIN WRITTEN APPROVAL from the local council NO LESS THAN 14 DAYS before the fund-raising activity.

#34427



<https://stlbsa.org/resources/helpful-forms-and-links>



DID YOU KNOW THAT Home State Health Insurance CAN COVER THE COST OF REGISTRATION FOR SCOUTING

No youth will be denied a Scouting experience due to financial hardship.
For youth only, sorry but this is not able to be used for adult membership.

For more information on how to join, call Missouri Care USA Health Insurance at 1-855-694-4663

Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Please ask for Member Services and they will be able to help you get the form needed.

They'll provide you with a Club Voucher. Once you get your voucher in the mail, you can use it at one of our listed clubs. Missouri Care USA Health Insurance will pay for your membership.

Application at <https://stlbsa.org/resources/helpful-forms-and-links>

Friends of Scouting (FOS) is the annual giving campaign of the Greater St. Louis Area Council. The FOS campaign provides nearly 20% of the council budget every year. That means that a significant portion of the council budget comes from the generosity of Scouting families, alumni and community supporters. Without this funding, our council could not supply the resources necessary to provide a quality, adventure-filled Scouting program.

Each FOS contribution to the council provides tremendous assistance for:

- insurance for leaders and participants
- improving camp properties for your Venturers and future Venturers
- financial assistance for families in need
- volunteer training and support
- growing the Scouting program

We need your help! A volunteer would like to attend your unit's meeting to share more information about Friends of Scouting and give families an opportunity to donate. As you are planning your calendar, make sure you schedule 5-10 minutes for a FOS volunteer to talk at a spring Crew gathering. We would also like 5 minutes at a meeting 1-2 months BEFOREHAND to introduce the campaign and share your unit's unique donation website.

MEMBERSHIP

We believe that Scouting is the best leadership and character development program for youth and strive to ensure that every youth in every community has the opportunity to join. As a leader in your Crew or Ship, you can ensure other families in your community receive that invitation, while also ensuring that your unit grows and continues to thrive and provide life changing program for young adults.

How to grow your crew or ship

Most youth join Venturing crews or Sea Scout ships through peer to peer recruitment or through a partner Scouts BSA troop.

Best practices to ensure your crew or ship is growing are:

- Build a relationship with the local Scouts BSA troop(s) so that when their Scouts are interested in moving on and doing more high adventure, they already are familiar and comfortable with your unit.
- Host a open house every year. Families' locations and schedules are ever changing, so some Scouts will join your crew because they are new to the community or are looking for new and different activities.
- Encourage Scouts to recruit their friends, perhaps by having every Scout invite a friend to attend a certain activity or event with the crew or ship.
- Host a booth at the local high school promoting Venturing / Sea Scouting activities.



For resources and ideas to help with recruiting, visit: <https://stlbsa.org/recruitment/>



SCOUTBOOK

Scoutbook is your online resource to assist with managing your unit. Included in this free app are calendars, award tracking, and other tools including ways to communicate with parents.

SCOUTBOOK IS FREE FOR EVERYONE REGISTERED IN SCOUTING.



YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING

PROTECTING OUR YOUTH CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY EVERYONE COMMITTING TO THAT PROTECTION.

The BSA places the highest importance on providing a secure environment for all youth. Youth Protection Training is required for all BSA -registered volunteers- regardless of position- and must be completed every two years. However, you do not have to be registered member of the BSA to take the training. Every parent involved in Scouting is encourage to complete the course which is available 24/7 at my.scouting.org

- No new leader can be registered without first completing the training.
- No Unit may re-charter without all leaders current on their Youth Protection Training.
- Two registered adult leaders at least 21 years of age are required at all Scouting activities, including all meetings. There must be a registered female adult leader at least 21 years of age in every unit serving females.

Learn more at: scouting.org/youthprotection & <https://stlbsa.org/resources/incident-reporting/>

ALL INJURIES, ILLNESSES, AND INCIDENTS THAT OCCUR DURING OFFICIAL SCOUTING ACTIVITIES MUST BE REPORTED WITHIN 24-48 HOURS TO THE SAFE SCOUTING SPECIALIST OR YOUR DISTRICT EXECUTIVE





VENTURING LEADER TRAININGS

Get trained and put on the best program ever.

A trained leader is knowledgeable and more confident in their role.

Trained leaders

- impact the quality of programs
- leader tenure
- youth tenure
- safety
- and whole lot more!

In short, a trained leader is better prepared to make the Scouting program all it can be!



E-LEARNING AT [MY.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org)

Visit my.scouting.org and follow the instruction to sign in and create an account to access dozens of supplemental training courses designed to provide orientation beyond the basic training offered in leader-specific training.

UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING

NOVEMBER 4, 2023

Webster University in Webster Groves, MO

University of Scouting is a multi day event offering the widest variety of training opportunities in all program areas. This training event is for all registered leaders, covering a plethora of topics, from shooting sports to basic leader training.

WOOD BADGE

2023 FALL COURSE: SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1 & OCTOBER 14-15, PINE RIDGE

2024 SPRING COURSE: MAY 17-19 & JUNE 1-2, BEAUMONT SCOUT RESERVATION

Advance adult leader training designed to enhance leadership skills and develop more effective leaders. The Wood Badge program gives participants a greater understanding of Scouting aims and methods.

SPECIAL NEEDS AWARENESS TRAINING

HELD ON DATES IN THE FALL AND SPRING AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND THE THE COUNCIL. GET INFORMATION AT THIS LINK STLBSA.ORG/SPECIAL-NEEDS-SCOUTS

For all ages. There will be activities for Cub Scouts, Disabilities Awareness Merit Badge for Scouts BSA, and other programs for older youth. Attend this training with professionals in the field of Special Needs and Education for the opportunity to learn how to provide the best services for every youth.

VENTURING YOUTH TRAININGS

Get trained this year!



National Youth Leadership Training

NYLT is advance training for youth leaders in Scouts BSA troops and Venturing crews. Through this week long outdoor training conducted during summer camp, male and female youth members grow and improve their leadership skills while following the guidelines of the Scout Oath and Law. NYLT offers a land-base and water-based course. The water based course , called Pack and Paddle is conducted in the S bar F Scout Ranch back country and on Nims Lake. In addition to their leadership skills, participants also practice low-impact camping, hiking, canoeing, and learn the proper use of compass for navigation.

2023 Summer Offerings:

Three weeks at S-F - June 11-17, June 18-24, or July 9-15
July 23-29 at Camp Warren Levis
Weekend course: August 18-20 & August 25-27, Beaumont

2024 Summer Offerings:

Three weeks at S-F - June 9-15, June 16-22, or July 7-13
July 21-27 at Camp Warren Levis
Weekend course: August 9-11 & August 16-18, Beaumont



Den Chief Training

A Den Chief is a member of Scout BSA troop, Venturing crew, or Sea Scout ship who assists a Cub Scout leader at den and pack meetings and other Scouting events. Den Chief training is for Scouts who desire a leadership role and are interested in working with younger Scouts.

Check out our council website for training dates coming in Fall 2023 and virtual in Spring 2024!



VENTURING & SEA SCOUT EVENTS

FALL FUN RALLY

SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2024 **Beaumont Scout Reservation**

The Fall Fun Rally is a non-stop weekend of activities, programs, trainings, gatherings, and displays will be held. Spanning shooting sports to STEM, climbing to Sea Scouts, trainings to evening parties, the weekend has something for everyone.

VENTURING/SEA SCOUTING - STL AFTER DARK

JANUARY 18-19, 2025 **Something fun to do in the winter...**

This event has varied over the years as one to stay up all night with your friends, be a lock-in format, or one that involves over night tours and adventures around St. Louis.

TASTE OF VENTURING

MARCH 28-30, 2025 **Camp Warren Levis**

Venturers and those interested in learning more about Venturing are invited to this exciting event. Experience high adventure, camp out under the stars, and enjoy loads of games, shooting sports, STEM, and aquatic activities.

CELEBRATION DINNER

MAY 18, 2025

Join with all of Venturing and Sea Scouting in the Greater Saint Louis Area Council to look back over the past year. All in Venturing and Sea Scouting, as well as friends and family, are invited to attend. The Ranger, Quest, TRUST, Summit, Sea Scout Quartermaster, Venturing Leadership, Sea Scout Leadership awards will be presented, and the Venturing Pathfinder and Discovery will be recognized.

SWIFT'S BIG KICKOFF

MAY 30 - JUNE 1, 2025 **Swift High Adventure Base**

Help to improve the Swift Base and set up some of the programs for the summer. Then after completing some amazing projects, try out some of the fun amenities!

SEA SCOUT BALL

AUGUST 2, 2025 **Location TBA**

This event is put on by the Sea Scout Squadron and includes food, a dance, and often an evening on the water sailing.



VENT **16**

STLBSA.ORG



ADVENTURE SUMMIT '25

April 25-27, 2025

Save the date! Plan to attend this unforgettable weekend of adventure and fun at our council-wide camping extravaganza, happening April 25-27, 2025 across all six phenomenal campgrounds.

- 30+ activities tailored to accommodate all ages of Scouting - including things like target sports, fishing, skills, games, STEM, aquatics, climbing, and many more!
- Saturday night campfire show featuring demonstrations, skits, and live music – a standout event you won't want to miss!
- And much more!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

DO A GOOD TURN FOR YOUR COMMUNITY.

A service project is a community service opportunity that puts Scout spirit into action. Projects can take many forms such as a community cleanup, repairing a place of worship, improving a wildlife habitat, or organizing a recycling effort.

Be sure to report all service hours. We want to keep track of all the good Scouting does for the community, and it is a key measurement goal in the Journey to Excellence program.

To easily log your unit's service hours, visit the Scoutbook app and load into Internet Advancement.



SCOUTING FOR FOOD

NOVEMBER 16, 2024 | BAG DISTRIBUTION DAY
NOVEMBER 23, 2024 | BAG COLLECTION DAY

[SFF.STLBSA.ORG](https://sff.stlbsa.org)

Scouting for Food is the council's annual service project and the largest one-day food drive in the Boy Scouts of America.

The campaign is launched on "Bag Distribution Day" when youth members distribute more than 1 million plastic bags to residences. The Scouts return to neighborhoods the following week on "Bag Collection Day," to retrieve the bags filled with donated non-perishable food.

Each year, Scouting for Food collects about 2 million items of food— enough to provide more than 1.5 million meals for those in need.

MEMORIAL DAY GOOD TURN

MAY 26, 2024 & MAY 25, 2025

Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery and Good Turn for Jewish War Veterans (St. Louis)
<https://stlbsa.org/calendar/>



For more than six decades, Scouts have been decorating graves with an American flag to honor veterans for Memorial Day.

At Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, the tradition, entering its 72ND year, is one of the longest running Memorial Day events within the Boy Scouts of America. This Good Turn begins with a solemn procession into the cemetery and short 30-minute ceremony honoring deceased military personnel. Following the ceremony, Scouts and Venturers place an American flag at more than 150,000 graves throughout the cemetery.

Members of all religions and ages are also invited to help place over 8,000 flags on the graves of our war veterans at eight local Jewish cemeteries in the St. Louis area. The event is sponsored by the Jewish War Veterans and the Jewish Committee on Scouting. Youth perform a brief ceremony at each grave site for a meaningful experience.

Scouts of all ages and from all districts are invited to participate in both Good Turn events.

DUTY TO GOD

Religious Emblems Programs

Scouting programs encourage youth members to be reverent. They are reverent toward God. They are faithful in their religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion.

To encourage members to grow stronger in their faith, religious groups have developed the religious emblems programs. The various religious groups administer the programs. Check with your local council service center or contact the religious organization directly to obtain the curriculum booklets.

<https://www.scouting.org/awards/religious-awards>

<https://stlbsa.org/advancement-awards/religious-emblems-program/>



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Greater St Louis Area Council, BSA: stlbsa.org
 - <https://stlbsa.org/resources/helpful-forms-and-links/>
- National BSA: [Scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org)
 - Venturing Leader resources:
<https://www.scouting.org/programs/venturing/>
- Scout supplies: <https://www.scoutshop.org/>
- Council apparel and camp goods: <https://gatewaytraders.org/>
- Scoutbook: <https://scoutbook.scouting.org/>
- Volunteer succession planning:
<https://stlbsa.org/resources/resources-toolbox/>
- Training and unit resource: <https://my.scouting.org/>

CAMPGROUNDS

COME EXPLORE WITH US!

S-F Scout Ranch

120 US-67
Farmington, MO 63640

One of the foremost Scout camps in America, "The Ranch" features 5,200 wooded acres including Nim's Lake, a 270-acre swimming, boating, and fishing paradise at the heart of the property. The 3-Notch Trail system explores all points of S-F and offers a great experience for backpacking, trail cooking, and team building.

Leadership Hall is our 16,000 square foot climate-controlled dining facility, complete with AV capabilities, private restrooms, and a large stone fireplace.

S-F features the "tree houses," which are elevated, 3-sided bunk structures on the edge of Nim's Lake. Additional cabins are located near the camporee field and at Swift Base. Adirondack and tipi camping is also available. Don't forget to visit Castle Rock, one of the most popular destinations at S-F!

Camp Warren Levis

5500 Boy Scout Lane
Godfrey, IL 62035

Camp Warren Levis, located just north of Alton IL, is 250 rolling acres of outdoor fun. A beautiful private lake accommodates boating and fishing activities.

Swaim Lodge Dining Hall, is climate controlled in the winter and seats up to 200 people.

Program Areas include a climbing tower, bouldering wall, canoes, pedal boats, council ring, GaGa pit, pool, archery, BB guns, rifle, and a chapel.

Camp Lewallen

1588 Wayne Route K
Silva, MO 63964

Located along the St. Francis River in Southeast Missouri, Camp Lewallen features a Climbing Complex, all terrain vehicle programs, a serene private lake, and large open fields.

The Earl Jarvis Dining Hall is a large climate-controlled dining facility with plenty of meeting room and a large fireplace.

Mount Logan serves as the backdrop to this camping paradise, and features two trails to explore its beautiful view.

Visit www.stlbsa.org
for more information about the
properties and to make reservations.



CAMPGROUNDS

COME EXPLORE WITH US

Beaumont Scout Reservation
6480 Beaumont Reservation Dr,
High Ridge, MO 63049

In Southwestern St. Louis County sits 2,400 acres of wooded, rolling hills and adventure called the Beaumont Scout Reservation. This multi-use property is located just 20 minutes from downtown St. Louis.

Beaumont offers countless activities and facilities, featuring:

- New climbing complex
- Mud Cave exploration
- Swimming pool
- High and low challenge courses
- Cub World
- Nagel Explorer Base (home of the council's horse programs),
- 8 Cabins (including climate-controlled options)

At the heart of Beaumont is the Emerson Center, a multi-use dining and meeting facility. This building includes:

- 5,000+ square foot dining hall
- Climate-controlled comfort
- Two built-in AV areas
- Large industrial kitchen
- Multiple breakout rooms

The Emerson Center is commonly used for Blue and Gold banquets, Courts of Honor, various trainings, and other large events.

Rhodes France Scout Reservation
815 North 500 East Road, Pana, IL 62557

Rhodes France is located about 40 minutes south of Decatur, Illinois.

With two lakes, an in-ground swimming pool, excellent shooting sports facilities, and a well-stocked trading post, campers will never be short of things to do.

Camp Pine Ridge
1139 Pine Ridge Lane, Makanda, IL 62958

Tall pines, abundant wildlife, Little Grassy Lake, and beautiful sunsets make Pine Ridge an excellent place to camp. Kayaking, canoeing, fishing, a pontoon boat, and more are all available to rent at Pine Ridge.

Two cabins, dining facility, pavilion, and many beautiful campsites are available to enjoy.

Visit www.stlbsa.org

for more information about the properties
and to make reservations.



Property Comparison

Feature	Beaumont Scout Reservation	S F Scout Ranch	Rhodes France Scout Reservation	Camp Warren Levis	Pine-Ridge	Camp Lewallen	Baker Lodge	Kickapoo
Cabin Type								
Bunkhouse-style cabins	X	X			X		X	
Family/small group cabins			X					
Adirondacks (3-sided open air cabin)	X	X						
Activities								
Challenge/COPE course	X	X						
Council Ring (outdoor amphitheater)	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Climbing and/or rappelling	X	X		X				
Pool (summer only)	X		X					
Horse Programs	X							
Archery Range	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Shotgun Range	X	X	X	X		X		
Rifle Range	X	X	X	X		X		
BB Range	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Paddlecraft (kayaks, canoes, rowboats)		X	X	X	X	X		
Sailing		X						
Fishing		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Business								
Hi-Speed Internet	X	X		X				
Audio/Visual (Projector, screen, speakers)	X	X	X					
Small group (<50) indoor meeting space	X	X	X	X	X			
Large group (>50) indoor meeting space	X	X	X	X				
Indoor Commercial Kitchen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Outdoor Chapel	X			X		X		

~OUTDOOR ADVENTURES AWAIT~

Greater St. Louis Area Council Challenge Course and Climbing - Program and Training Overview

The Greater St. Louis Area Council offers multiple Challenge Course and Rock Climbing opportunities for our Scouts. These include two different High and Low Ropes courses, climbing towers at Beaumont, Lewallen and Camp Warren Levis, and natural rock face climbing and rappelling.

Training and Reserving Sites and/or Gear

TO REGISTER FOR TRAINING: Register and pay online using the links on our training page: <https://stlbsa.org/training/challenge-course-climbing/>

TO REGISTER TO USE THE CHALLENGE COURSE OR CLIMBING GEAR: Register as explained during training for one or two spots on any Saturday or Sunday; the Challenge Course site, Climbing Towers and Climbing gear are reserved using the same system as you use to reserve a campsite.

IMPORTANT: ONLY CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS MAY "CHECK OUT" CHALLENGE COURSE AND CLIMBING GEAR. The unit is required to provide one or two trained and qualified instructors.

Instructor Training Details

The initial training for the CHALLENGE COURSES, CLIMBING TOWERS and ROCK CLIMBING AND RAPELLING are conducted twice each year. Each initial training includes a Wednesday evening meeting at Beaumont, and a weekend training from early Saturday morning until Sunday evening. To use the Beaumont Challenge Course, instructors should take the one-day orientation which usually follows the main S Bar F training.

Training Events

After you have completed the training, you demonstrate your skills during a unit outing to become certified. Once certified, you can re-certify every two years.

Training	Spring Training Dates/Location	Fall Training Dates/Location
Challenge Course	May 8 (evening) + May 18-19 Weekend at S Bar F	Sept 4 (evening) + Sept 14-15 Weekend at Beaumont
<i>Wednesday Evening Sessions are at Beaumont Theatre at Emerson Center (Lower Level)</i>		
One-Day Challenge Orientation	June 23 Beaumont	October 27 (Tentative) S Bar F
Rock Climbing & Rappelling	May 29 (evening) + June 8-9 Weekend at S Bar F	Aug 14 (evening) + Aug 24-25 Weekend at S Bar F
<i>Wednesday Evening Sessions are at Beaumont Theatre at Emerson Center (Lower Level)</i>		
Climbing Towers	March 23 Warren Levis May 4 Beaumont	October 5 Beaumont
<i>Tower Training is also offered at Camp Lewallen summer camp every week</i>		
Recertification	March 3	October 6 (Tentative)

All training activities are supervised by experienced Course Directors and Training Staff



Benefits of Challenge Course and Rock Climbing/ Rappelling for your Unit

Challenge Courses provide an opportunity for each participant to achieve success as an individual and as a member of a patrol or team. The objectives include building confidence, developing leadership skills, and attaining a sense of common cooperation among team members.

Rock Climbing & Rappelling have become very popular because they provide excitement and a challenge as the participants attempt to master the rock face. Tower climbing provides a similar thrill but can be accomplished any time, since the towers are lit for night climbing.

Age Requirements

Scouts BSA units and Venture Crews are eligible to participate in the Challenge Courses and tower or natural rock face climbing and rappelling.

Cub Scouts are eligible for Tower climbing only (no rappelling).

Adults must be 18 years or older to take Challenge Course, Rock Climbing or Tower training.

Questions? Contact Challenge and Climbing Training Director Bob Backer 314-852-0682 or gslac.cc.training@gmail.com



HORSE PROGRAMS

Several opportunities exist with the Greater St. Louis Area Council's herd of horses. Come out and enjoy a trail ride, or horse camp!

TRAIL RIDES

Scouts BSA, Venturers, and Explorers can hit the trail, beginning and ending at Nagel Base. Approximately 10 horses are available for each 1 ½ hour ride and each horse can handle all levels of riding experience — beginner through advanced. Rides are available Saturday and/or Sunday, August 20 - December 6 and March 1 - May 8. \$40 per person.

HORSE CAMP – July 28-August 3, 2024 & July 27-August 2, 2025

Spend a week at an intermediate riding camp cantering around Beaumont and learning more about horses. There are many trails to be ridden, competitions and games to be played on horseback in the riding ring, and other activities to further your horsemanship along with a chance to show off your advanced skills in a Cavalcade at the end of the week. Other activities while at Horse Camp are swimming, skeet shooting, climbing tower, ropes course, campfires, and much more. You must be at least 14 years old and pass a riding test prior to camp to make sure everyone is at an advanced level. The riding test must be taken by July 18th before signing up. Please arrange your test with Wrangler Jordan Mutert @ Jordan.mutert@scouting.org.

Learn more @ <https://stlbsa.org/camps/scouts-bsa-venturing-summer-camp/>.

HORSEMANSHIP MERIT BADGE SKILL CENTER – March 2025

The Horsemanship Merit Badge Skill Center provides Scouts with knowledge of how to care, groom and ride a horse. The skill center begins with an orientation session and then is held over three Saturdays: March 15, 22, and 29. In addition to learning how to safely ride and care for horses, Scouts who earn this merit badge will gain an understanding of horse's instincts and behaviors, as well as humane and effective methods for training horses. Scouts must be age 14 or older. Registration will be available at <https://stlbsa.org/advancement-awards/merit-badges/>.

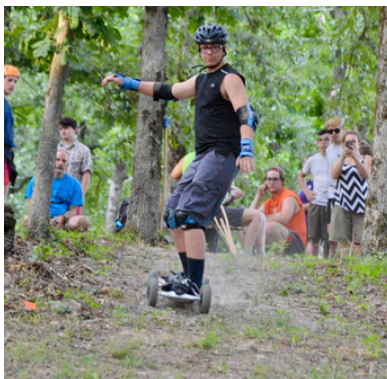
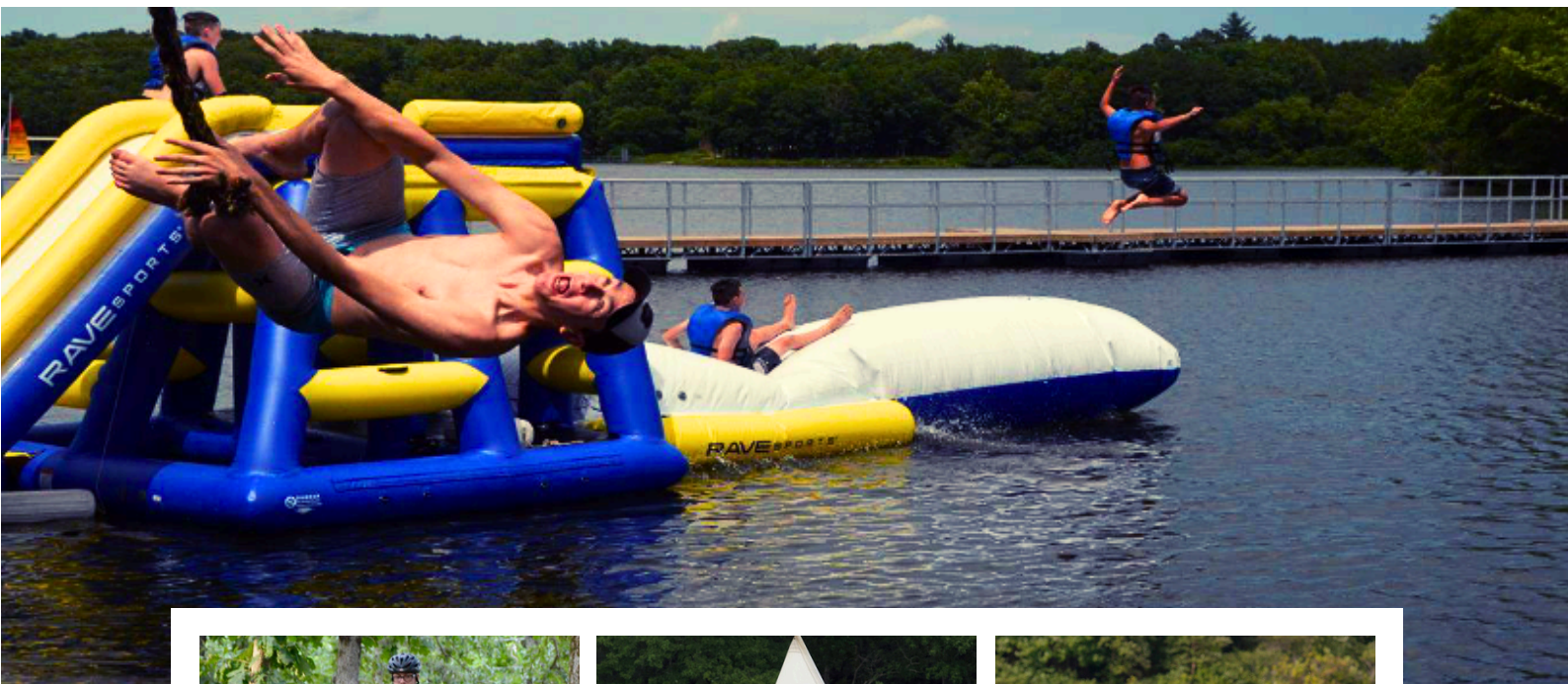
THINGS TO KNOW

Reservations for horses must be made at least two weeks in advance at a Greater St. Louis Area Council office or online by visiting <https://campreservation.com/312/Home>.

A minimum of five and a maximum of 10 horses can be reserved for trail rides. A maximum of 20 people are allowed on a hayride wagon. Learn more @ <https://stlbsa.org/scouts-bsa-calendar/>.



THE BEST SUMMER YET



Venturing summer camp

A year of Venturing is not complete without spending a week at Swift High Adventure Base, the premier Venturing Summer Camp in the Midwest!

One of the few Venturing Camps in the U.S.!

High and low challenge courses, sailing, water skiing, tubing, & kneeboarding, horses, pistol, rifle, & shotgun shooting, Sporting arrows, Dances, Rock climbing & rappelling, Mountain boarding.

**Will this be your second week of summer camp in 2024?
Make sure to ask about our 2nd Week Discount!**

Get all of the dates, locations and times here: STLBSA.ORG



VENTURING SUMMER CAMP



Specialty Camps

What is a Specialty Camp? Specialty camps offer programs focused on a particular interest. All specialty camps provide adult supervision, so Scouts can attend individually, if needed.

S-F Ranger Program



Explore the back country of S-F

Blacksmith

Black powder rifle shooting

Cook trail meals

Explore old homesteads

Qualifies for 2nd Week Discount



Horse Camp

Horsemanship

Trail rides

Swimming

Shooting Sports

Climbing

Challenge Courses



Visit stlbsa.org for
dates and prices.

STEM & Skilled Trades Camp

Enjoy a week of camp with an emphasis on learning about STEM, careers and trades!

60 STEM and Career merit badges to choose from!

Visits by engineers, chemists, mathematicians, tradesmen and more!

NOVA Awards

Evening STEM programs and exhibits

Leadership is provided for all who attend!

Qualifies for 2nd Week Discount



STLBSA.ORG

VENTURING SUMMER CAMP

CAN'T ATTEND CAMP WITH YOUR CREW? JOIN A PROVISIONAL UNIT!

Youth who can't attend summer camp with their crew can sign up for our provisional crew at Swift Base!

Leadership will be provided and youth can sign up individually. Youth will have access to all of the programs offered at these camps.

CAMPERSHIPS

Every youth deserves the opportunity to attend summer camp, regardless of financial situation. The Greater St. Louis Area Council offers several ways for Scouts to earn their way to camp, including popcorn sales, camp cards, and coffee sales.

For those Scouts who need additional assistance, camperships can be awarded to Scouts in need. A campership application is available at stlbsa.org

DISCOUNTS

Second week discount: Attend a week of Scouts BSA or Venturing summer camp and get \$100 off a second week of camp (excludes National Youth Leadership Training, and Horse camp). Or, get \$50 off a GSLAC camp if you spend a week at another council's camp or high-adventure base. Family discount: A \$100 discount is available for siblings who also attend a GSLAC camp.



CAMP STAFF

THE ULTIMATE CAMP EXPERIENCE

Each year, the Greater St. Louis Area Council hires dedicated and passionate individuals to serve on summer camp staff. Staff members help provide a fun, positive experience for campers—while earning a salary! They also have the opportunity to earn a college scholarship worth up to \$1,250.

Check the Camp Staff page at stlbsa.org later this Fall for the 2024 Camp Staff application and interview information.

TAKE CAMP STAFF FOR A TEST DRIVE AS A CIT!

The Counselor In Training (CIT) Program allows youth who are 14 or 15 years old to participate for up to three weeks as a volunteer camp staff member. Participants work in several program areas giving them the experience to decide if working as a full-time camp staff member in the future is something they would enjoy. The program is conducted at Camp Warren Levis, Rhodes- France, and Camp May. Lodging and meals will be provided. CIT applicants will take part in the camp staff interviews in late 2023.



EXPLORING™

DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE

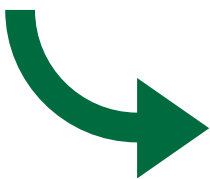
WHAT IS CAREER EXPLORING?



Exploring is another great program resource in our Council and provides exciting hands-on activities and adult mentorship for youth, 14-20 years of age, looking to discover their future, their career. Primarily a school year-based program meeting once or twice a month with some summer opportunities. It is a fantastic program toward workforce readiness.

Whether you're a local organization looking to strengthen the community, build a pathway of talent, or a young person wanting to uncover the possibilities of your future, Exploring is a great place to start. Our Council hosts 32 Exploring Posts around the region with major focuses on Health Care, Skilled Trades, Aviation, Law Enforcement, and Fire and EMS.

Go to the link below to find out more on local Exploring programs, how to get involved, and steps our Council Exploring Committee takes to start new Post opportunities.



Ready to get involved in Exploring near you? Find an Exploring Post at <https://stlbsa.org/exploring/> or contacting us at stl.exploring@scouting.org.



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

Mahendra Gupta, Virgil Professor of Accounting and Management and Former Dean Olin School of Business Washington University, Jack Zhang, 4th year Ph.D. student in Organizational Behavior at Washington University 2020

Venturing/Sea Scout Program Guide