

Thank you for volunteering to visit with units to Promote camping in the Greater St. Louis Area Council.

Before the Presentation:

- Make sure to confirm the location and time the day before the meeting.
- Know beforehand what is the unit status of attending camp. Are they undecided, just want to know more about the camp(s), or have they not been to a GSLAC camp before.
- Did they have a bad experience before?
- Make sure to have enough materials for the Scouts and/or parents
- Does the unit have a way to show a presentation?
- Be passionate and energetic about camping.

The Presentation:

(Slide 1)

Good Evening Scouts! Thank you for allowing me to come to your meeting tonight. My name is _____ and I am with _____ Lodge, Order of the Arrow and I am here to tell you about the opportunities you have available to you if you attend summer camp this coming summer in the Greater St. Louis Area Council. As we go through the presentation, you will see QR codes that you can scan for videos and other information.

(Slide 2)

The Greater St. Louis Area Council operates 4 Scouts BSA Summer Camps, 1 Venturing Summer Camp, and hosts a variety of specialty camps each summer. You can experience many different programs and camps without ever having to leave the Council territory! And being a member of GSLAC, you can benefit from special discounts and our Campership program which provides financial support so all Scouts can attend summer camp. Choose from Rhodes France Scout Reservation near Pana, IL, Camp Lewallen near Silva, MO, or the camps at S bar F Scout Ranch outside of Farmington, MO.

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While each camp has their own identity and unique programs, there are several features that each camp will have. These include many great merit badge offerings, excellent staff, aquatics programs, range and target activities, campfire programs, STEM, and much more!

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First up, I want to tell you about Rhodes France Scout Reservation. RFSR is located near Pana, IL and is a 640 acre camp featuring flat, grassy campsites, 2 small lakes, an air-conditioned dining hall, and inground pool for swimming. The camp is well-known for excellent range and target sport facilities and unique shooting programs for Scouts who love the thrill of shooting sports. The Summer Camp program offers merit badges that are required for Eagle such as Communication, Citizenship in the Nation, and Citizenship in the World. Older Scouts can participate in the APEX Program which includes on and off-site adventures that will be fun and educational.

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Next up is Camp Lewallen on the banks of the St. Francis River situated in the Ozarks near Silva, Missouri. Sitting in the shadow of Mt. Logan, Camp Lewallen is the only GSLAC Camp with access to a river for float trips that are part of the program each week. You can also participate in the Council's only ATV Program and try out the trails after learning how to safely operate one of the Polaris 4-wheelers. Scouts at Lewallen enjoy fantastic programs in the air-conditioned dining hall and can hike to the top of Mt. Logan for an overnight outpost during the week. The camp also has a great climbing complex and many competitions for Troops and Patrols each week. Older Scout opportunities exist as well such as Cowboy Action Shooting, Welding Merit Badge, and more!

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To start off the camps that are part of S bar F Scout Ranch is sunny Camp Gamble. Gamble is a traditional, Patrol Cooking camp where Scouts prepare all meals on their campsite during the week and work to strengthen how they practice the Patrol Method in their Troop while doing so. Campers at Camp Gamble enjoy the 270-acre Nims Lake and all of the Aquatics Programs offered there such as Water Skiing, Standup Paddleboards, the Anvil Inflatable, and more! Get hands-on learning in the STEM Area with unique merit badge offerings like welding and metalwork. We encourage Troops at Gamble to focus on the basics of Scouting to strengthen their patrols with the support of the camp staff.

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If you are looking for something completely different from a traditional Summer Camp, you should try Swift High Adventure Base at S bar F. This camp is one of the only Venturing Summer camps in the Midwest, but it is not just for Venturers. Scouts who are at least 14 years old can attend Swift and will be paired with a Venturing Crew for the week. Troop leaders do not have to attend! At Swift, participants create their own schedule to make the most of their time doing the activities they love. Choose from mountainboarding, skiing, tubing, horseback riding, climbing, rappelling, sailing, Challenge Courses, range and target

activities, specialty programs, and just about anything else you can imagine during your time at Swift.

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Back across the lake from Swift is Camp Famous Eagle. Scouts attending Camp Famous Eagle can choose from over 40 merit badges as they build their schedule for summer camp. Meals are served family-style in the 16,000 square-foot, air-conditioned dining hall. Access to Nims Lake and all of the aquatics activities that we told you about at Camp Gamble is also available at Famous Eagle. Scouts can participate in overnight canoe outings at outpost sites along the shores of Nims Lake. Participants who are at least 14 years old can hone their outdoor and survival skills in the Green Bar Area which features a coal forge, vintage wood working tools, cooking over a campfire, and more!

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If you and your Troop choose to camp at one of the camps at S bar F, you'll also have the opportunity to participate in other ranch-wide programs such as the APEX Program. This is an older Scout program for those at least 14 years old that features many high adventure activities and specialty shooting sports.

Troops can spend some time during the week at Hucks Cove Waterpark on Nims Lake. Choose from 2 different waterslides, a Zip Line into the lake, Rope Swing, Water Volleyball, Rope Carousel, water bikes, and more great water activities.

Along with Horsemanship Merit Badge opportunities, our herd is ready for afternoon or evening trail rides.

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Scouts participating in APEX or the Climbing Merit Badge will be able to visit the Cliffs to climb and rappel on the Natural Rock faces at S bar F.

APEX Participants and Scouts at Swift get to participate in the low and high Challenge courses as well.

Looking for something a little more laid-back, the Ranch features over 19 miles of hiking trails that you and your Troop can explore!

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We have talked about the Scouts BSA and Venturing Summer Camp options that you would typically participate in with your unit. Now I want to share the opportunities for individual attendance at camps in 2025. We call these programs Specialty Camps.

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First, if you are interested in STEM or are looking for more hands-on education about Skilled Trades, the STEM and Skilled Trades Camp at Beaumont Scout Reservation is for you. Participants in this camp will learn from experts in many different fields and have the opportunity to earn merit badges, Nova awards, and take part in traditional summer camp activities like Range and Target Sports, Swimming, Climbing, and fun campfire programs! All Scouts BSA members can register to attend, and all adult leadership is provided by the camp.

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If you are looking for a challenging program, take part in the S bar F Ranger Program. Each week during the summer the Scouts in the Ranger Program explore the 5,200 acre Ranch by hiking the backwoods and visiting parts of the property others do not get to see. They also take part in special programs like blacksmithing, black-powder shooting, trail-cooking, and more. You must be at least 14 to participate.

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Horse Camp at Beaumont is one of our longest-running specialty camps. This all-encompassing week in the backwoods of Beaumont Scout Reservation will broaden your love and understanding of horseback riding. Scouts will participate in trail rides for half of the days and will spend the rest of their time doing fun camp activities such as climbing, target and range activities, high and low Challenge Courses. Evenings feature swimming and games to wind down after a jam-packed day of fun and horses.

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All Scouts BSA members and Venturers are encouraged to bring their instrument and attend the 2nd Annual Music Camp at Swift High Adventure Base. Scouts can sign up individually for this camp since all adult leadership is provided. Spend time with musicians and other enthusiasts in workshops, performances and jam sessions. Participants will also be able to participate in all of the fun activities at Swift I mentioned earlier. This is a great weekend camp for those who cannot attend a full-week program - or those who want a second event at camp.

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If you want to strengthen your leadership skills, then you should participate in the National Youth Leadership Training, or NYLT. In 2025 we will offer 3 week-long courses at Camp Sakima at S bar F Scout Ranch and one 2-weekend course at Camp Warren Levis. Scouts must be at least 1st Class rank and at least 13 years old to participate. The sessions at

Camp Sakima also have a Pack and Paddle option which will take you across Nims Lake and to different parts of the Ranch for your program.

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If you are older and think you have done everything at Summer Camp, but you have not yet served on Camp Staff, then you should apply! Applications for the 2025 Camp Staff will open on October 1st. You must be at least 15 years old by June 6, 2025 to apply. Choose your favorite camp and apply! Interviews will be held in December just before Christmas.

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I hope you are excited to attend Summer Camp in 2025. You have seen the opportunities we have in our Council for a fun-filled summer! You can see more about all of these camps and sign-up online at stlbsa.org/camps. Leaders guides for 2025 will be available on December 1st and will have the 2025 camp fees in them. If you have other questions you can contact one of the Council Service Centers and they can direct you to a member of the Program Department. Also, remember that there are year-round opportunities to enjoy all six of our GSLAC properties. On behalf of _____ Lodge, thank you for your attention this evening and I hope you enjoy your time at camp in 2025!

Things to know:

We have four Scouts BSA Resident Camps to choose from:

- Rhodes France Scout Reservation
- Camp Famous Eagle at S bar F
- Camp Lewallen
- Camp Gamble at S bar F

We have one Venturing Resident Camp that Scouts BSA members who are at least 14 can also attend without their leaders.

- Swift High Adventure Base at S bar F

Other Notes:

- There are camps across the Council territory, so you don't have to travel far.
- Week-long camps run from Sunday afternoon to Saturday morning.
- There are camperships available from the Greater St. Louis Area Council to offset the cost of attending camp.
- Campership Applications are due May 1st.
- There are discounts for Scouts who attend multiple sessions of camp.
- There are discounts available for siblings attending the same type of camp.

- Scouts and leaders must have a completed Annual Health and Medical Record (parts A, B, and C) to attend.