



VENTURING & SEA SCOUT

Planning Guide '25-'26

Adventure Awaits: Your guide to an epic year!



Character



Citizenship



Life Skills



Fun



Family



GREATER ST. LOUIS AREA
SCOUTING





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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

Keep up with the latest news, events, and program updates from Scouting in the Greater St. Louis Area by following us on social media and visiting stlbsa.org regularly!



facebook.com/stlbsa



@stlbsa

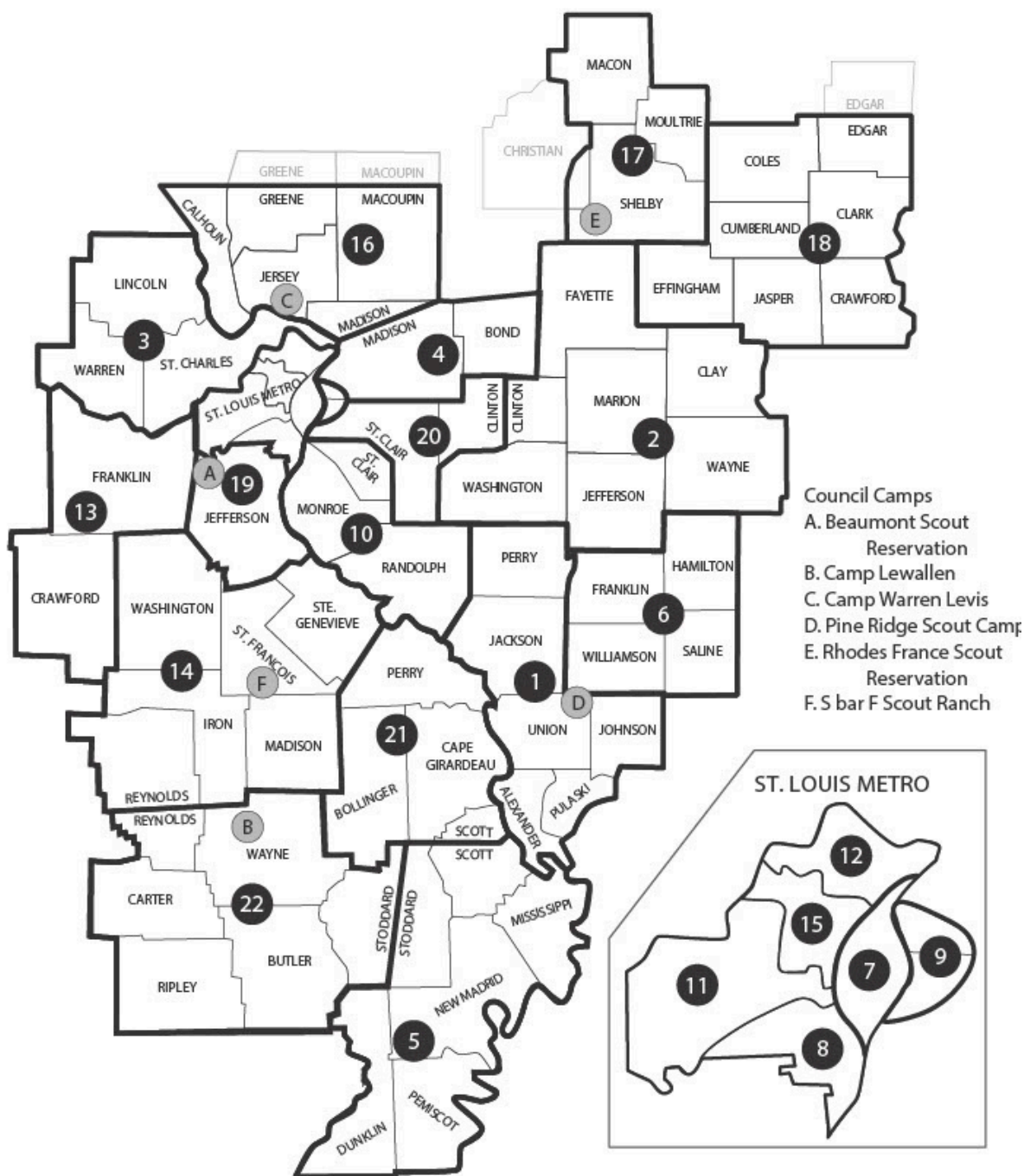


@stlbsa

website: stlbsa.org

phone: 314-361-0600

email: help@stlbsa.org



- 1. Big Muddy District
- 2. Black Gold District
- 3. Boone Trails District
- 4. Cahokia Mounds District
- 5. Cherokee District
- 6. Egyptian District

- 7. Keystone District
- 8. Gravois Trail District
- 9. Illini District
- 10. Kaskaskia District
- 11. New Horizons District
- 12. North Star District

- 13. Osage District
- 14. Ozark Trailblazers District
- 15. Pathfinder District
- 16. Piasa Bird District
- 17. Arrowhead District
- 18. Redhawk District

- 19. River Trails District
- 20. Soaring Eagle District
- 21. Shawnee District
- 22. Sioux District



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



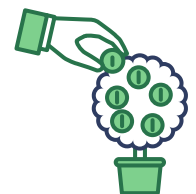
LET'S PLAN AND BUDGET

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:

- **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, 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.
- After that, 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.
- Lastly, communicate it to your families the plan. You can do a simple list with dates shared via email and at the crew/ship meetings, or you can get creative and produce and share Facebook events, a google calendar, or use some other medium.

Create a Budget and Fund the Fun



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/ship fundraising goals should be.

See a sample budget worksheet on the next page:

SAMPLE BUDGET WORKSHEET

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

Annual Operating Budget				
Venturing Crew #			1	
Program Expenses	About	Annual Cost per Scout/Unit	Number of Scouts / Adults	Total
Youth Registration Fees	# of Youth	\$85	25	\$2,125
Adult Registration Fees	# of Adults	\$65	10	\$650
Charter Fee	Yearly Fee	\$100	1	\$100
Scout's Life Subscription	# of Youth	\$15	20	\$300
Advancement	Average Cost per Year	\$15	20	\$300
Recognition	Thank you's / Veteran Awards	\$15	20	\$300
Handbooks	1 for each new youth	\$25	20	\$500
Camping Trips / Activities	Location	Cost per Participant	# of Participants	Total
Camping Trip A	Crew Hike	\$10.00	10	\$100.00
Camping Trip B	Boat Trip	\$10.00	10	\$100.00
Camping Trip C	State Park	\$10.00	15	\$150.00
Camping Trip D	Local Park	\$10.00	15	\$150.00
Camping Trip E (Add more rows as needed)		\$0.00	0	\$0.00
District Events	Location	Cost per Participant	# of Participants	Total
Fall Fun Rally	Camp	\$40.00	15	\$600.00
Taste of Venturing	Camp	\$25.00	10	\$250.00
Summer Camp / Day Camp	Location	Summer Camp Fees	# of Participants	Total
Youth		\$370.00	10	\$3,700.00
Adults		\$120.00	5	\$600.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	About	Total Estimated Costs		Total
Program Materials	Ceremony supplies, den projects, camping items, etc.	\$200.00	1	\$200.00
Troop Equipment	Upgrades or replacement to crew equipment	\$250.00	1	\$250.00
Leader Training	Advisor Training	\$50.00	1	\$50.00
Reserve Fund		\$100.00	1	\$100.00
Other Expenses		\$100.00	1	\$100.00
Total Budgeted Program Expenses				\$10,625.00
Income		Per Scout Fees	Number of Scouts	Total
Annual Dues	(If your unit charges them)	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Surplus from Prior Year	(Beginning fund balance)	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Other Income	(Parent payments e.g. summer camp, etc.)	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Income Subtotal				\$0.00
Fundraising Needed				\$10,625.00
Fundraising Plan				
How much of your fundraising do you want to come from the popcorn sale? (Percentage)			100%	
How much of your fundraising do you want to come from the camp card sale? (Percentage)			0%	
Popcorn				
Need	\$10,625.00	Sales Goal	\$30,357.14	100%
Commission Rate	35%	# of youth	20	
Crew Goal	\$30,357.14	Youth Goal	\$1,517.86	

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

FUNDING YOUR PROGRAM

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

Popcorn Fundraiser: 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 Scouting summer camp!
- 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 Card Fundraiser: An easy sale that helps Venturers earn funds for camps and activities!

- No upfront costs
- Earn up to 60% profit on every card sold
- Cards are different by region and support local businesses
- Visit stlbsa.org/camp-cards to learn more



Coffee Fundraiser: Benefits your unit and Venturers earn money for camp while also helping fund summer camp scholarships for families with need, 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





Annual Giving Campaign

Greater St. Louis Area Scouting's **Annual Giving Campaign** generates nearly 20% of the organization's annual revenue. That means a significant portion of the support behind our programs comes directly from the generosity of Scouting families, alumni, and community partners. Without this vital funding, we couldn't provide the resources needed to deliver a high-quality, adventure-filled Scouting experience.

Each contribution helps to provide:

- insurance for leaders and participants
- improvements at camp properties for your Scouts and future Scouts
- financial assistance for families in need
- volunteer training and support



Scan the QR code and help support our 2025 Annual Giving Campaign. Your donation helps provide life-changing experiences for young people throughout the area.

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: 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.

Scouting America places the highest importance on providing a secure environment for all Scouts. Youth Protection Training is required for all registered volunteers- regardless of position- and must be completed every year. However, you do not have to be registered member of Scouting America 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 and at all events where female youth are present.

ALL INJURIES, ILLNESSES, OR INCIDENTS THAT OCCUR DURING OFFICIAL SCOUTING ACTIVITIES MUST BE REPORTED WITHIN 24-48 HOURS TO THE “SAFE SCOUTING SPECIALIST” WITHIN GREATER ST. LOUIS AREA SCOUTING OR YOUR DISTRICT EXECUTIVE.

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



VENTURING & SEA SCOUT 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 1, 2025

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

2025 FALL COURSE: SEPTEMBER 27-29 & OCTOBER 19-20, S-F SCOUT RANCH

2026 SPRING COURSE: MAY 1-3 & MAY 16-17, BEAUMONT SCOUT RESERVATION

2026 FALL COURSE: SEPTEMBER 26-28 & OCT 11-12, WARREN LEVIS

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. GET INFORMATION AT THIS LINK [STLBSA.ORG/SPECIAL-NEEDS-SCOUTS](https://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 additional to their leadership skills, participants also practice low-impact camping, hiking, canoeing, and learn the proper use of compass for navigation.

2025 Summer Offerings:

3 weeks at S-F Scout Ranch - June 15-21, June 22-28 or July 13-19

Weekend course:

August 18-20 & August 25-27, Camp Warren Levis

2026 Summer Offerings:

3 weeks at S-F Scout Ranch - June 9-15, July 7-13, or July 21-27

Weekend course:

August 9-11 & August 16-18, Camp Warren Levis



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 2025 and virtual in Spring 2026!

Shooting Sports Adult Training

The Greater St. Louis Area Council holds a variety of training courses to certify adults to conduct shooting sport programs for district and unit events. This includes training for Range Safety Officer (RSO), Basic Instructor (BIT), NRA Instructor for rifle, shotgun, and pistol, and Chief Range Safety Officer. Learn more and register @ <https://stlbsa.org/training/shooting-sports/>.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS & TRAININGS

Map & Compass

Training

Map & Compass training is for leaders 18 years and older. This training prepares leaders to take their troops through the map and compass program at Beaumont Scout Reservation. The program is a progressive learning experience incorporating games, fun, map reading and compass skills. The day will culminate by using the skills on an orienteering course. The course will be held October 4, 2025 and February 22, 2026. Register @ <https://stlbsa.org/training/map-compass/>.

Distinguished Conservation Award

The National Council and the GSLAC Conservation Committee have been working hard to bring awareness to Scouts and Scouters about opportunities that exist to become better stewards of natural resources on Council properties, as well as public lands and community preserves. Part of that effort is the revamped Distinguished Conservation Service Award. This award is very similar to the Eagle project process but varies in that it targets conservation issues which can be on a BSA property and you complete two projects versus one. More information can be found at <https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/conservation-and-environment/> and training is available on my.scouting.com. If you need assistance or are looking to see how you can help, please contact the Council Conservation Chair Chad Deschane at GSLACCONS@gmail.com.



Wilderness First Aid Training

GSLAC's Wilderness First Aid 16-hour course is consistent with guidelines established for and by Scouting America. This course is designed to meet the needs of those who go into areas beyond the reach of urban EMS. It is required for those units going to National High Adventure Bases (Philmont, Sea Base, Northern Tier) and is recommended for back country camping, hiking, canoeing, or other high adventure activities. Learn more and register @ <https://stlbsa.org/training/first-aid/>.



VENTURING & SEA SCOUT EVENTS

Must-attend events and activities

FALL FUN RALLY

SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2025 **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 17-18, 2026 **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 27-29, 2026 **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 & MAY 17, 2026

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 & MAY 29-30, 2026 **Swift Base @ S-F**

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 ammenties!

SEA SCOUT BALL

AUGUST 2, 2025 & AUGUST 1, 2026 **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.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

DO A "GOOD TURN" FOR YOUR COMMUNITY.

Service projects are meaningful ways for Scouts to put the Scout spirit into action by giving back to their communities. Whether it's cleaning up a park, repairing a place of worship, restoring a wildlife habitat, or launching a recycling campaign—every act of service makes a difference. Don't forget to record your service hours in Scoutbook so we can celebrate your impact and share it with our communities!

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

NOVEMBER 15, 2025 | BAG DISTRIBUTION DAY
NOVEMBER 22, 2025 | BAG COLLECTION DAY

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

Scouting for Food is Greater St. Louis Area Scouting's annual service project and the largest one-day food drive in Scouting 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 25, 2025 AND MAY 24, 2026

**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 74th 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

A Scout is 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 Scouting service center or contact the religious organization directly to obtain the curriculum booklets.

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



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **Greater St Louis Area Scouting**
 - Homepage: <https://stlbsa.org/>
 - Help Center: <https://stlbsa.org/help>
 - Forms & Links: <https://stlbsa.org/resources/helpful-forms-and-links>
 - Online Store: <https://gatewaytraders.org>
 - Parent & Leader Resources Toolbox: <https://stlbsa.org/resources/resources-toolbox/>
 - Religious Emblems Program: <https://stlbsa.org/advancement-awards/religious-emblems-program>
 - Incident Reporting: <https://stlbsa.org/resources/incident-reporting>
- **Scouting America**
 - Homepage: <https://www.scouting.org>
 - Scoutbook: <https://scoutbook.scouting.org>
 - Venturing Resources: <https://www.scouting.org/programs/venturing>
 - Sea Scouts Resources: <https://seascout.org>
 - Membership Management and Training Center: <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, outdoor campfire amphitheater, 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.



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 Equestrian Center (home of our 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, nearby Crab Orchard Lake, and beautiful sunsets make Pine Ridge an excellent place to camp. Cabin camping, rock climbing at nearby Giant City State Park, as well as kayaking, canoeing, fishing at Crab Orchard and Devil's Kitchen lakes. Two cabins, dining facility, pavilion, and many beautiful campsites are available to enjoy.

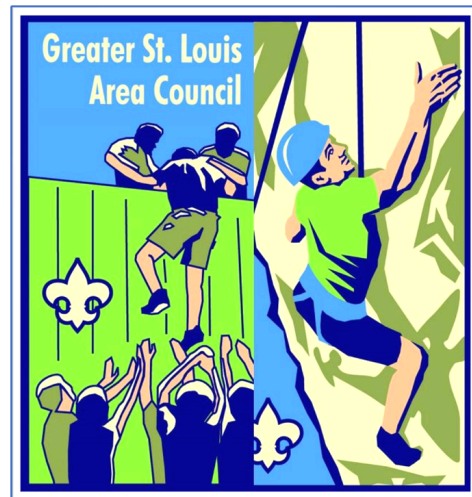
Two cabins, dining facility, pavilion, and many beautiful campsites are available to enjoy.



Campground 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	X			
Pool (summer only)	X		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						
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 at S-F Scout Ranch and Camp Pine Ridge.

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, or take initial challenge course training in the Fall at Beaumont (see below).

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 2025 Training Dates/Location	Fall 2025 Training Dates/Location
Challenge Course	May 7 (evening) + May 17-18 Weekend at S Bar F	Sept 3 (evening) + Sept 13-14 Weekend at Beaumont
<i>Wednesday Evening Sessions are at Beaumont Theatre at Emerson Center (Lower Level)</i>		
One-Day Challenge Orientation	June 22 Beaumont	October 26 (Tentative) S Bar F + Beaumont
Rock Climbing & Rappelling	May 28 (evening) + June 7-8 Weekend at S Bar F	Aug 13 (evening) + Aug 23-24 Weekend at S Bar F
<i>Wednesday Evening Sessions are at Beaumont Theatre at Emerson Center (Lower Level)</i>		
Climbing Towers	March 29 Warren Levis May 3 Beaumont	October 4 Beaumont
<i>Tower Training is also offered at Camp Lewallen summer camp every week</i>		
Recertification	March 2	October 5 (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 Chairman Terry Pogue 314-780-9023 or gslac.cc.chairman@gmail.com



HORSE PROGRAMS

Explore the many opportunities available through Greater St. Louis Area Scouting's very own herd of horses! Whether you're looking for a scenic trail ride or an exciting horse camp experience, there's something for every Scout to enjoy.

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 17 - December 6 and March 1 - May 9. \$40 per person.

HORSE CAMP –July 27-August 2, 2025 & July 26-August 1, 2026

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 Abby Wilson @ abbygail.wilson@scouting.org.

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

HORSEMANSHIP MERIT BADGE SKILL CENTER – March 2026

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 14, 21 and 28. 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/>.

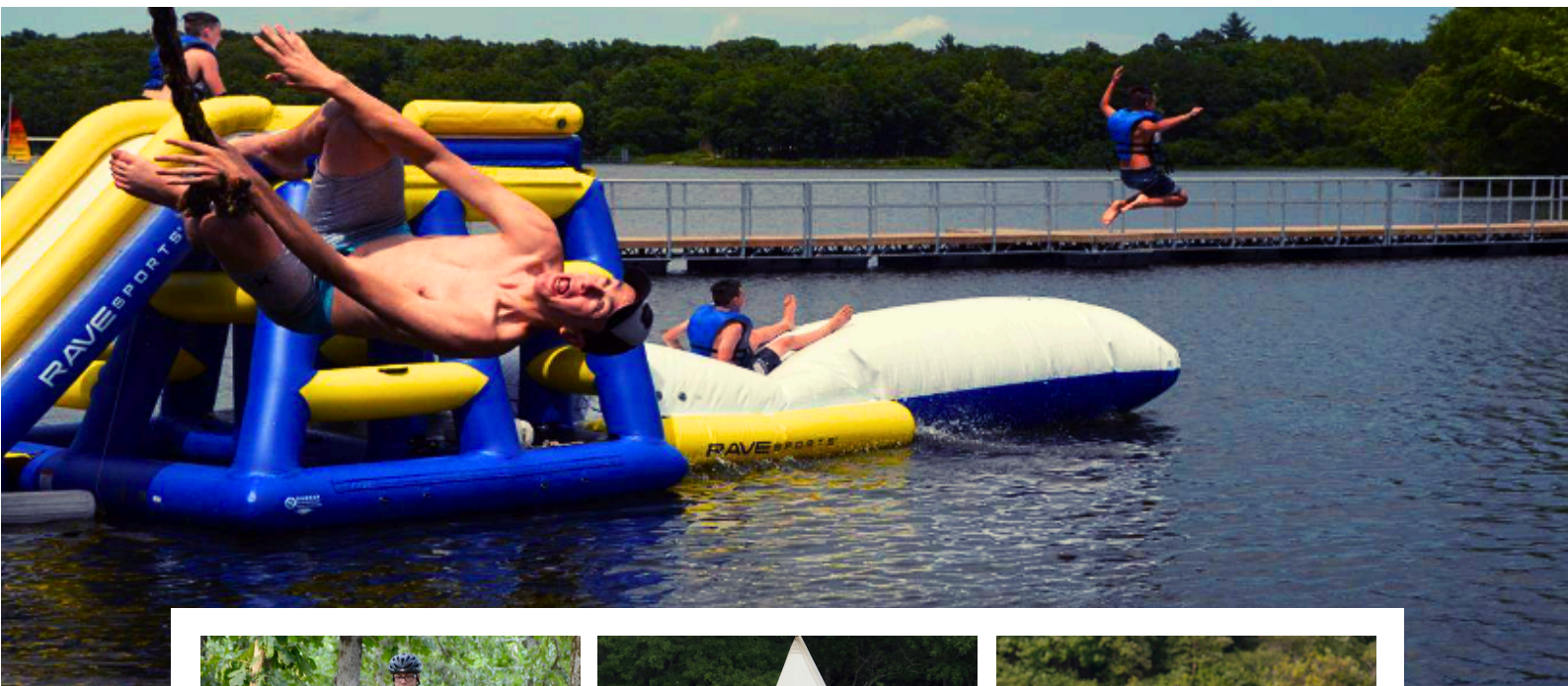
THINGS TO KNOW

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 & Sea Scouts 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 2025?
Make sure to ask about our 2nd Week Discount!**

Get all of the dates, locations and times at 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

Music Camp

Enjoy the high adventure activities at Swift as you immerse yourself in workshops led by seasoned musicians. From fingerstyle guitar to bluegrass jams, there's something for everyone. Participate in campfire jams, camp activities (Climbing, Aquatics, shooting sports and more) and learn more about the music you love. Leave with newfound skills, cherished memories, and a deeper love for music.

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



VENTURING SUMMER CAMP

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

Youth who can't attend summer camp with their crew/ship 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 2026 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 2025.

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.



2024 Year in Review

I CAN DO THAT!



GREATER ST. LOUIS AREA
SCOUTING

Advancements

51,215
Cub Scout Adventures

7,473
Cub Scout Ranks

3,565
Scouts Attended
a STEM Event

253
STEM Lab
Reservations

860
Nova Awards

86
Supernova Awards

502
Eagle Scouts

4,498
Scouts BSA Ranks

22,357
Scouts BSA Merit Badges

TOP 3 Merit Badges

784
First Aid

621
Swimming

616
Citizenship
in Society

6,504
Youth Members Served
\$113,629
Provided for Camperships

Outreach PROGRAM

Discovery Base
AT BEAUMONT
1,162
Community Youth
Participants

8,296
Volunteer Leaders

Adult LEADERSHIP

Summer Camp
EXPERIENCE
5,917
Total Youth Experienced
Summer Camp

Total Scouts
SERVED IN 2024 31,101

5th LARGEST COUNCIL
IN SCOUTING

1,545,870
Food Items Collected

Scouting
FOR FOOD

Diversity

21.18%
African American
Growth

7.25%
Hispanic Growth

12.78%
Female Growth

30.97%
Diversity

National RANKINGS

#1 African
Americans

#2 Cub
Scouts

#2 Caucasians

#2 Venturing

#3 Exploring

#3 New
Units

#4 Females

Financial
ASSISTANCE
\$279,998
Provided for Registration
and Program Support

87%
Units are in
Good Health

Unit HEALTH

Charter
PARTNERS
555
Charter Partners Sponsored
853 Packs, Troops, Crews, Ships and Posts