

Scouts STEM April 2026
For more details go to STLBSA.ORG/STEM

[Greater St Louis Area Council STEM Exploration DRONES E-mail Logan Lawrence to schedule logan.lawrence@scouting.org](mailto:logan.lawrence@scouting.org)

This module is designed to help you explore how **drones are involved in everyday life**.

1) **Exploration** Learn about the history, manufacture, and use of drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). This can include watching videos or live performances or reading (Cub Scouts do 30 – 60 mins; **Scouts BSA and Venturing – 2 hours**) Then do the following: a) Keep a list of the sources you read/watched to show your counselor. b) Create at least 3 to 5 questions or ideas from what you learned. c) Discuss two of the questions or ideas with your counselor that relate to drones or unmanned aerial vehicles. What did you find most interesting? How might you get answers to your questions?

2) **Drone Pre-flight activities** Before flying, it is important to know as much as possible about the drone / UAV you will be flying. Find answers for each of the following. a) Name the four main types of drones / UAVs. b) List four components of a drone that are required for it to fly. c) What are two similarities and two differences between hobbyist and commercial drones? d) List three differences between rotor drones and fixed wing drones. e) Pick an industry and explain three ways the industry is currently using drones or could benefit from using drones in the future.

3) **Safety Check** It is important to understand the safety requirements and where you are permitted to fly a drone. a) Where do you find the rules and safety tips to help you fly safely? b) List five of these rules for recreational flyers and three for commercial flyers c) Complete the Recreational Drone Safety Test. (Cub Scouts please do this with an adult) (<https://pilotinstitute.com/courses/drones/>) and click on the header “TRUST” Or you can access the Pilot Institute TRUST website directly at: (<https://trust.pilotinstitute.com/login/signup.php>) This free website will let you get your recreational drone certificate to be able to legally fly your drone. Be sure to download your certificate before exiting the site as all your information (account) will be deleted once you finish the exam. d) Discuss with your counselor or another adult why these rules are important.

4) **Visit / Meet / Experiment** Complete THREE activities from the following list. a) Visit a place where drones/UAVs are used and talk to someone about how they use drones (this can be done virtually by watching a drone/UAV being used). Discuss with your counselor what you learned from this visit. b) Watch the following video or a similar video instruction on how to fly a drone:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_XneaFmOmU Take notes to talk with your counselor about what you watched. c) Build a drone and show it to your counselor i) From a kit (SBSA and Venturing) ii) Make a model of a drone using recycled materials (Bear to AOL Cub Scouts) iii) Draw a picture of a drone and label the parts of the drone (Lion/Tiger Scouts) d) Fly a drone for ~15-30 minutes i) A drone with a controller (Bear to AOL Cub Scouts) ii) A “hand operated” drone (Lion/Tiger Scouts). Search Amazon or internet for hand-operated drones. iii) Obstacle flight test – set up an obstacle course, ie: a hula hoop taped to stand up and maneuver the drone through the obstacle. e) Come up with five potential new uses for drones f) Learn about Drone racing and report what you learn to your counselor. g) Learn about careers involving drones and report what you learn to your counselor. 5) **Discuss Reflect** on what you have done in this module, and how the technology of drones impacts your everyday life. Discuss with your counselor what you have learned and what you expect in the future regarding drones.

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Aviation Merit Badge – Creve Coeur Airport, Creve Coeur, MO – April 11, 2026 1:30 to 5:30 pm – Meet in Main Office at 1:15 pm – Call ahead to reserve a spot for Scout - limit 20 scouts – Simulator will be used to complete Merit Badge – Flight can be scheduled this summer with St Louis University at St Louis Downtown Airport – Call Tom Dougherty to verify spot for this merit badge - 314-422-4342 – Limit 20 scouts – if you miss this time there will be more in the near future, call to verify interest and be place on list for next Merit Badge.

STEM on CAMPus Highlights

STEM on CAMPus is a unique “camp” experience where Scouts BSA get a taste for college life! Sleep in the dorms, eat in the dining halls, and have fun each evening with a variety of activities including campus rec center nights! Scouts have the opportunity to earn up to 6 Merit Badges or NOVAs at each camp.

Southeast Missouri State University - Cape Girardeau MO-May 31st-June 3rd, 2026 overnight in dorms

University of Missouri-St. Louis - St. Louis, MO-June 3-6, 2026 overnight in dorms

Eastern Illinois University - Charleston, IL-June 7-9, 2026 overnight in dorms

STEM & Skilled Trades Camp at Beaumont – 6 days

***Qualifies for Second Week Discount of \$100!**

STEM Week Highlights

This camp is an *extraordinary experience* for Scouts full of many STEM based merit badges, **new** Skilled Trades merit badge track, and over-the-top activities.

Scouts will attend one merit badge (*over to 60 to choose from!*) or one NOVA activity class *each day* and may have the opportunity to work on other badges in the evening.

Afternoon and evenings will include other fun STEM programs and exhibits to experience (drones, 3D printing, things that go boom... you get the idea). If you want more in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and Skilled Trades

Camp May - Beaumont Scout Reservation

July 19-25, 2026