



# SCOUTS BSA TROOP Planning Guide '26-'27

*Adventure Awaits: Your guide to an epic Scouting year!*



**Fun**



**Family**



**Character**



**Citizenship**



**Life Skills**



GREATER ST. LOUIS AREA  
SCOUTING



# FUNDING YOUR PROGRAM

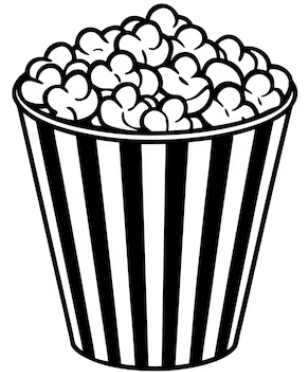
Your troop can choose to participate in any of these approved fundraisers.

**Popcorn Fundraiser:** Raise money for your troop while also helping fund local camp scholarships, community service projects, and much more!

- No upfront cost to your unit.
- Troops 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](http://stlbsa.org/popcorn)
- Sale begins in August and runs through December.

Sell in Several Ways:

1. Show and 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 Scouts 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](http://stlbsa.org/camp-cards) to learn more



**Coffee Fundraiser:** Benefits your unit and Scouts 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 troop.
- Troops pay for only the product they sell.
- Troop commission is 33% of all sales.
- Built-in prize program encourages for troops and Scouts to sell.
- Year round online and subscription commission available
- 73% of people drink coffee everyday.
- Sign up at [stlbsa.org/coffee](http://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

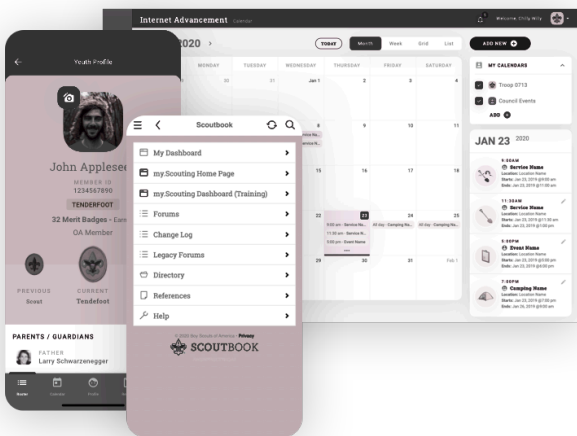


**Scan the QR code and help support our Annual Giving Campaign. Your donation helps provide life-changing experiences for young people throughout the area.**



# SCOUTBOOK

Leading a troop should be about spending time with Scouts, not paperwork. Scoutbook simplifies troop management so leaders can focus on what matters most. Use one tool to manage your calendar, send messages to members, track advancement, connect Scouts with merit badge counselors, and access training resources. Scoutbook saves time, reduces hassle, and helps your troop run smoothly so you can spend more time delivering a great Scouting experience. Scoutbook is **FREE** for all troops!

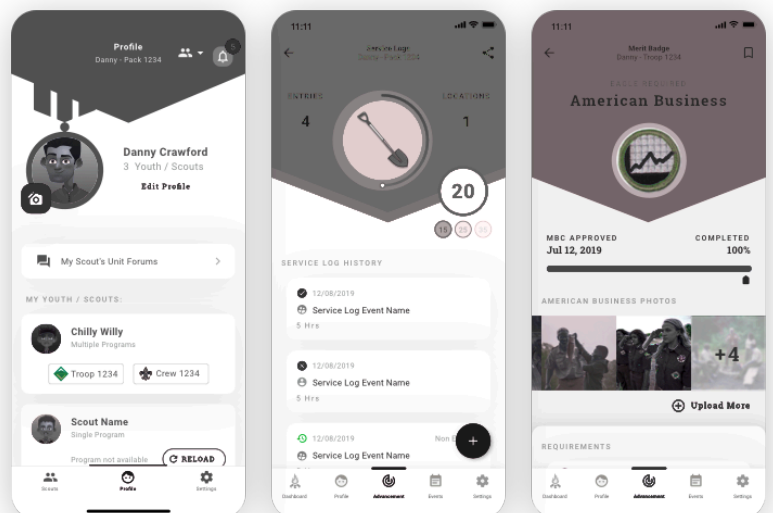


**Scoutbook:** Scoutbook is web-based, not a phone app, but you can add a shortcut to your home screen for quick access. [scoutbook.scouting.org](https://scoutbook.scouting.org)

**Scoutbook Plus:** New and expanded features that cannot run on Scoutbook's older system are available in Scoutbook Plus. If a feature has moved, you will be automatically redirected, so there is no need to worry about using the wrong system. Once all features have transitioned, Scoutbook Plus will become the single system in use. [advancements.scouting.org](https://advancements.scouting.org)

## Hey Scout and parents!

With the **Scouting app**, it's easier than ever to track advancement and stay connected to your troop! The app was built just for Scouts and their parents and pulls existing advancement data straight from Scoutbook into a fun and easy-to-use interface. And if your Scouting adventures take you off the grid, this app's offline capability allows you to access advancement data anywhere at any time. Available for download on **Apple** and **Android** devices.



# Safeguarding Youth Training



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

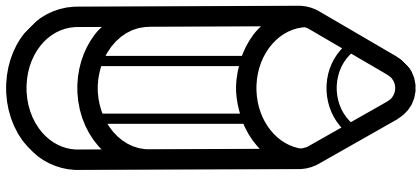
Scouting America places the highest importance on providing a secure environment for all Scouts. Youth Protection Training is required for all registered volunteers- regardless of position- and must be completed every year. However, you do not have to be registered member of Scouting America to take the training. Every parent involved in Scouting is encourage to complete the course which is available 24/7 at [my.scouting.org](https://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 Safeguarding Youth Training (SYT).
- 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.

SYT refresher is an annual 15–20 minute online course for adult leaders who have already completed the full 90-minute training. It is required to keep certifications current, covers abuse prevention, and is available in English and Spanish via the Volunteer Learning Center

**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://scouting.org/youthprotection)  
[stlbsa.org/resources/incident-reporting](https://stlbsa.org/resources/incident-reporting)



# SCOUTS BSA LEADER TRAININGS

Get trained and put on the best program ever.

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

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 Scouting program all it can be!

In addition to the training listed in this section, your district will host **leader position-specific training**. Training specific to your role in the troop! View your district calendar to find dates of trainings.



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

Visit [my.scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) to create an account from which you can access dozens of training courses to help you be a better prepared leader in your unit.

## **UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING**

**NOVEMBER 7, 2026**

**Webster University** in Webster Groves, MO

University of Scouting is the largest one day training event in the council 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.

## **BACK COUNTRY LEADERSHIP SKILLS TRAINING**

**OCTOBER 9-11, 2026 AND APRIL 23-25, 2027**

This course is designed for the adult Scouter and experienced youth Scouts who understand the role High Adventure plays in keeping older youth involved in Scouting. This course will give you the skills and confidence to realize your vision of High Adventure in your troop or crew. If you are a first-time Philmont Crew Advisor, this training will jump-start your ability to prepare your crew for a peak Philmont trek. Your Council High Adventure Training Team will help you deliver the promise of Adventure to your Scouts and Venturers. More info at [stlbsa.org/training](https://stlbsa.org/training)

## **WOOD BADGE**

**2026 FALL COURSE: SEPTEMBER 25-27 AND OCT 10-11 AT CAMP WARREN LEVIS**

**2027 SPRING COURSE: MAY 21-23 AND JUNE 5-6 AT BEAUMONT SCOUT RESERVATION**

Advanced 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 THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS. GET INFORMATION AT [STLBSA.ORG/SPECIAL-NEEDS-SCOUTS](https://stlbsa.org/special-needs-scouts)**

Attend these training sessions with professionals in the field of Special Needs and Education to learn how to provide the best services for every Scout.

# SCOUTS BSA YOUTH TRAININGS

Scouts BSA aims to teach our future leaders. Start with these trainings and encourage all youth to attend!



## 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 females Scouts 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.

### 2026 Summer Offerings:

3 weeks at S-F Scout Ranch - June 14-20, June 21-27 or July 12-18

Weekend course:

August 7-9 and August 14-16, Camp Warren Levis

### 2027 Summer Offerings:

3 weeks at S-F Scout Ranch - June 6-12, June 20-26, or July 11-17

Weekend course:

August 6-8 and August 13-15, Camp Warren Levis



## Den Chief Training

A Den Chief is a member of Scout BSA troop 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 2026 and Spring 2027!

## Range and Target Activities

Greater St. Louis Area Scouting holds a variety of training courses to certify adults to conduct range and target activities for district and unit events. This includes training for Range Safety Officer (RSO), Basic Instructor (BIT), NRA Instructor for rifle, shotgun, and Chief Range Safety Officer.

[stlbsa.org/training/shooting-sports](https://stlbsa.org/training/shooting-sports)

## Map and Compass

### Training

Map and 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 3, 2026 and April 27, 2027.

[stlbsa.org/training/map-compass](https://stlbsa.org/training/map-compass)

## Distinguished Conservation Award

The Greater St. Louis Area Scouting Conservation Committee has 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 Scout property and you complete two projects versus one. More information can be found at [scouting.org/outdoor-programs/conservation-and-environment](https://scouting.org/outdoor-programs/conservation-and-environment) and training is available on [my.scouting.com](https://my.scouting.com).



# ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS AND TRAININGS

## First Class Orienteering Requirement Event

Bring your Scouts BSA to work on their First Class rank orienteering requirements. Members of our Map and Compass Committee will be on-hand to help scouts learn new skills and complete the requirement. This event will be held May 16, 2026, October 17, 2026, and May 15, 2027 at Beaumont Scout Reservation.

[stlbsa.org/calendar](https://stlbsa.org/calendar)

## Wilderness First Aid Training

Wilderness First Aid Training 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 at [stlbsa.org/training/first-aid](https://stlbsa.org/training/first-aid)



# 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 14 | BAG DISTRIBUTION DAY

NOVEMBER 21 | BAG COLLECTION DAY

**SFF.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 food drive kicks off with "Bag Distribution Day" – where Scouts distribute more than a million grocery bags to homes across our region. 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 nearly two million food items to support more than 600 pantries and agencies addressing food insecurity.

## MEMORIAL DAY GOOD TURN

MAY 24, 2026 AND MAY 30, 2027

### **Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery and Good Turn for Jewish War Veterans (St. Louis)**

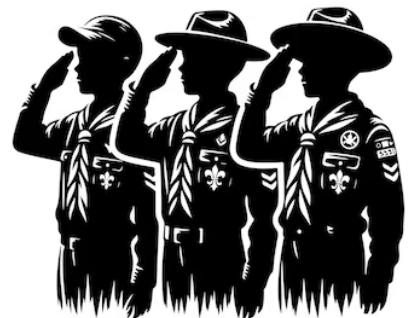
[stlbsa.org/calendar](https://stlbsa.org/calendar)

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 Scouting 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.

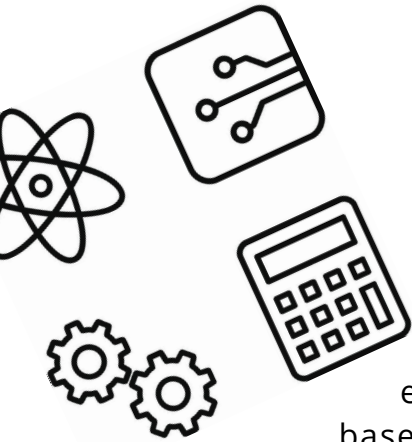


# STEM EVENTS



Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

Must attend events and activities



## STEM U

DEC 5 - UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI ST. LOUIS

JAN 9 - SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

JAN 30 - SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY - EDWARDSVILLE

FEB 27 - SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY - CARBONDALE

MAR 20 - LAKE LAND COLLEGE - MATTOON

One of our most popular events, STEM University is a day-long event for Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA focused on earning STEM-based advancements and NOVA awards. Scouts get to visit a college campus, work with STEM experts, and participate in fun, hands-on educational activities.

## SCOUTS BSA NOVA DAY AND BADGE WORKSHOPS

Various dates and locations

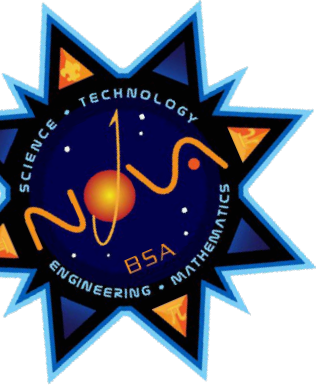
Scouts BSA can explore the cool environment of our host sponsors and at other locations when announced throughout the year. Learn from the expert instructors and earn a STEM NOVA Award. Workshop activities have included using drones, earning corresponding Merit Badges, talks with real scientists, and planetarium shows.

[stlbsa.org/stem/upcoming-stem-events](http://stlbsa.org/stem/upcoming-stem-events)



# STEM EVENTS

# STEM ON CAMPUS



5/31-6/3, '26 and 6/6-9, '27 | Southeast Missouri State University  
6/3-6, '26 and 6/9-12, '27 | University of Missouri-St. Louis  
8/2-4, '26 and 6/3-5, '27 | Eastern Illinois University

**STEM on CAMPus** events are unique "camp" experiences where Scouts get a taste for college life! Camp in the dorms, eat in the dining halls, and earn up to 6 Novas or Merit Badges per camp with STEM experts! They also get to check out the cool campus amenities like the Rec Centers and ropes courses.

**New - Scouting the Arts on CAMPus at SEMO - 6/5-7, '26**

Check out a great number of arts based badges at this inaugural camp!



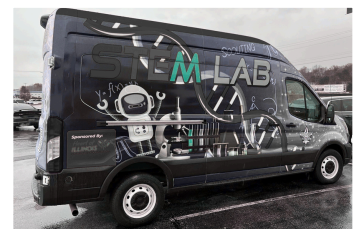
# STEM AND SKILLED TRADES CAMP

JULY 19-25, 2026 and JULY 18-24, 2027 | Camp May - Beaumont

STEM/Skilled Trades Camp is an extraordinary experience for Scouts BSA full of many STEM-based merit badges and activities. Scouts will attend one merit badge (nearly 60 to choose from!) or one NOVA class each day. Afternoons and evenings will include other fun STEM and career programs and exhibits to experience.

## MOBILE STEM LABS

Reserve a vehicle from our STEM fleet for your next troop meeting or activity! These hands-on programs make science, technology, engineering, and math fun and interactive. Each STEM vehicle includes activities like Sphero robots, Ozobots, 3D pens, snap circuits, laser engraving, vortex cannons, microscopes, pop rockets, stomp rockets, and more! For less than \$100, our STEM staff deliver this program to you. The troop will need to provide some volunteer support depending on your group's size.



**Reserve the STEM FLEET for your next Troop activity!**

**[stlbsa.org/stem](http://stlbsa.org/stem)**



# VENTURING AND SEA SCOUT ACTIVITIES

SCOUTS AGED 14+ CAN ALSO ATTEND THESE EVENTS

## FALL FUN RALLY

**SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026** **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 16-17, 2027** **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 overnight tours and adventures around St. Louis.

## TASTE OF VENTURING

**APRIL 2-4, 2027** **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 16, 2026 AND MAY 15, 2027**

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, 2026 AND JUNE 5, 2027**

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

**SEPTEMBER 12, 2026**

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



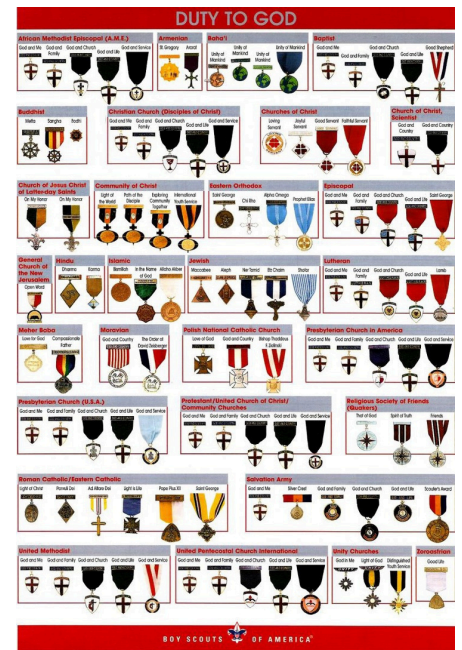
# DUTY TO GOD

## 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.

[stlbsa.org/advancement-awards/religious-emblems-program/](https://stlbsa.org/advancement-awards/religious-emblems-program/)



## Scout Sunday and Scout Sabbath

In 2027, Scout Sunday is celebrated on February 7, 2027, and Scout Sabbath (Shabbat) is observed on February 6, 2027, marking the start of Scouting America Anniversary Week. These services allow Scouts to represent their faith and "Duty to God" during worship.

**Scouts Read Sacred Texts Worldwide** is an event to encourage youth to read their sacred texts in conjunction with the U.S. National Day of Prayer. The event aligns with the values, principles, and spiritual aims of Scouting. It is intended for Scoutmasters, Cubmasters, Advisors, and other adult leaders seeking a simple, respectful way to support a Scout's Duty to God.

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **Greater St Louis Area Scouting**
  - Homepage: [stlbsa.org](https://stlbsa.org)
  - Help Center: [stlbsa.org/help](https://stlbsa.org/help)
  - Forms and Links: [stlbsa.org/resources/helpful-forms-and-links](https://stlbsa.org/resources/helpful-forms-and-links)
  - Online Store: [gatewaytraders.org](https://gatewaytraders.org)
  - Parent and Leader Resources Toolbox: [stlbsa.org/resources/resources-toolbox/](https://stlbsa.org/resources/resources-toolbox/)
  - Religious Emblems Program: [stlbsa.org/advancement-awards/religious-emblems-program](https://stlbsa.org/advancement-awards/religious-emblems-program)
  - Incident Reporting: [stlbsa.org/resources/incident-reporting](https://stlbsa.org/resources/incident-reporting)
- **Scouting America**
  - Homepage: [scouting.org](https://scouting.org)
  - Scoutbook: [scoutbook.scouting.org](https://scoutbook.scouting.org)
  - Troop Leader Resources: [troopleader.scouting.org](https://troopleader.scouting.org)
  - Membership Management and Training Center: [my.scouting.org](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.

The Ranch 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!

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### 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.

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### 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 Scouters' 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 for Scouts, 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.



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**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, Scouts will never be short of things to do.



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**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.

# Campground Comparison

Feature	Beaumont Scout Reservation	S F Scout Ranch	Rhodes France Scout Reservation	Camp Warren Levis	Pine-Ridge	Camp Lewallen	Baker Lodge	Kickapoo
<b>Cabin Type</b>								
Bunkhouse-style cabins	X	X			X		X	
Family/small group cabins			X					
Adirondacks (3-sided open air cabin)	X	X						
<b>Activities</b>								
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	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
<b>Business</b>								
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 Scouting Challenge Course and Climbing Program and Training Overview

Greater St. Louis Area Scouting 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 bar F Scout Ranch and Giant City State Park near Pine Ridge Scout Reservation (Makanda IL)

### 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 RAPPELLING** are conducted twice each year. **Challenge and Rock Climbing** initial training includes a Wednesday evening meeting at Beaumont, and a weekend training from early Saturday morning until Sunday evening. Initial **Tower** training is a single day event. To use the challenge course (Beaumont or S bar F) where initial training did not occur, instructors should take the one-day orientation which is offered in spring and fall each year at the other camp (see below).

### Timing of 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 2026 Training Dates/Location	Fall 2026 Training Dates/Location
Challenge Course	May 6 (evening) + May 16-17 Weekend at S bar F	Sept 2 (evening) + Sept 12-13 Weekend at Beaumont
<i>Wednesday Evening Sessions are at Beaumont Theatre at Emerson Center (Lower Level)</i>		
One-Day Challenge Orientation	June 28 S bar F + Beaumont	October 25 S bar F + Beaumont
Rock Climbing & Rappelling	May 27 (evening) + June 6-7 Weekend at S bar F	Aug 12 (evening) + Aug 22-23 Weekend at S bar F
<i>Wednesday Evening Sessions are at Beaumont Theatre at Emerson Center (Lower Level)</i>		
Climbing Towers	March 28 Warren Levis May 2 Beaumont	October 3 Beaumont
<i>Tower Training is also offered at Camp Lewallen summer camp every week</i>		
Recertification	March 1	October 4

All training activities are supervised by experienced Course Directors and Training Staff. Questions about Challenge Course, Climbing and Tower Training? Contact Challenge and Climbing Training Director Bob Backer 314-852-0682 or [gslac.cc.training@gmail.com](mailto:gslac.cc.training@gmail.com)

## 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.

**Training objectives** include 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.

More questions? Contact Challenge and Climbing Chairman Terry Pogue. 314-780-9023 or [gslac.cc.chairman@gmail.com](mailto: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

On most weekends from September through May, horseback rides are available for Scouting units and other groups. Rides are in and around the rolling hills of the Beaumont Scout Reservation.

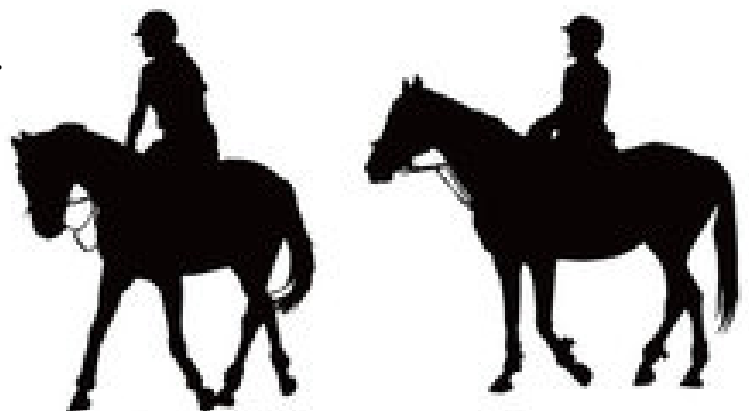
There are four program options, 1 ½ hour ride, three-hour program, six-hour program, and an overnight program. Each ride has a maximum of 12 riders with a minimum of 5 riders needed to run each ride.

Trail Rides are available Saturday and/or Sunday during the months of September, October, and December – May. Overnight rides are only available during the months of April, May, September, and October. All rides are weather permitting (i.e. rain, snow, severe cold, extreme heat). There must be two registered Unit Leaders per ride. Riders for trail rides must be at least 11 years old and registered in Scouts BSA, Venturing, or Exploring. For safety reasons no one can ride who is over the maximum weight limit of 230 pounds. Weight will be checked at camp. Rangers and/or trail guides have the authority to restrict any person from taking part in a horse-related activity who may pose, in their opinion, a safety risk to themselves, others, or the horses. Reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance.

## HORSE CAMP

Spend a week at an intermediate riding camp cantering around the property and learning more about horses. There are many trails to be ridden, competitions/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, range and target activities, climbing tower, challenge courses, campfires, and much more.

All youth participants must be Venturing age, 14 and out of the eighth grade. Maximum number of participants is 24. The Greater St. Louis Area Council Trail Guide Committee provides adult leadership for Horse Camp.





# HORSE PROGRAMS

## **JUNIOR WRANGLER/MERIT BADGE**

Saddle up for a scouting experience like no other. Open to Scouts BSA, this program is to help youth become more comfortable with everything horses! Learn about horse behaviors, equipment, and of course riding! Parents are not required to stay but are welcome to watch skills their child has learned during a horse show on the last day of the session. All activities depend on riding skills of the participants.

Each scout in the Junior Wrangler program will have the opportunity to earn the Horsemanship Merit Badge. Each session has specific age ranges, 11-13 and 14-18, so make sure you pick the appropriate session

## **HOLIDAY PROGRAMS**

Nagel Base has a fall festival and a Christmas at the Barn each year. Check the website for specific dates and details.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Interested in working with the horses? Doesn't matter the level of riding experience, we will train you. You must be 21 years old and 230lbs or under.

## **THINGS TO KNOW**

Reservations for horses must be made at least two weeks in advance at a Greater St. Louis Area Scouting office or online by visiting [campreservation.com/312/Home](http://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 at [stlbsa.org/scouts-bsa-calendar](http://stlbsa.org/scouts-bsa-calendar)

# HIKING TRAILS



Get out there and hike!

The Greater St. Louis Area Council sponsors hiking trails throughout Missouri from a 4-mile trail over the rolling hills of Beaumont Scout Reservation to the rugged, two-day 20-mile hike across Taum Sauk Mountain in the Ozarks. There are also historic trails such as the Gateway West in downtown St. Louis and the Les Petites Cotes in St. Charles. A list of the Council's hiking trails, and instructions on how to file a hiking report can be found at [stlbsa.org/calendar/](http://stlbsa.org/calendar/).

# SCOUTS BSA SUMMER CAMP

## 5 CAMPS TO CHOOSE FROM!

### CAMP LEWALLEN

All Terrain Vehicle Program, 3-Part Climbing Complex, St. Francis River floating. Mt. Logan overnight treks, Cooking competitions. Wayfinder First-Year Camper Program

### CAMP GAMBLE at S-F Scout Ranch

270-acre Nim's Lake, Water sports, Fishing and Fly Fishing, Patrol method cooking, STEM merit badges, Horsemanship, Huck's Cove Water Park, Wayfinder first-year camper program, APEX Older Scout Program

### RHODES FRANCE SCOUT RESERVATION

NRA First Steps Pistol Program  
Wayfinder first-year camper program  
Baden Powell Patrol Award  
Duty to God Award  
Unique Range and Target Activities  
APEX Older Scout Program

### CAMP FAMOUS EAGLE at S-F Scout Ranch

270-acre Nim's Lake, Water sports, 16,000 sq. ft air-conditioned dining hall, STEM merit badges, Huck's Cove Water Park, Wayfinder first-year camper program  
Provisional Camping, APEX Older Scout Program

### SWIFT HIGH ADVENTURE BASE at S-F Scout Ranch

#### (VENTURERS AND OLDER SCOUTS)

Challenge courses and climbing, horseback riding, sailing, dancing, off-camp excursions, mountain boarding, tubing, water skiing, and more!

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT  
[stlbsa.org/camps](https://stlbsa.org/camps)



# SPECIALTY CAMPS

## What is a Specialty Camp?

Specialty camps offer programs focused on a particular interest. All specialty camps can be attended individually, with the adult staff providing leadership and guidance. Check them out in 2026 and in 2027!

### S-F Ranger Program

Explore the back country of the S-F Ranch.

- Blacksmith
- Black powder rifle shooting
- Cook trail meals
- Explore old homesteads

**Qualifies for 2nd Week Discount**

### Swift Aquatics Badge Workshops

Whether you are looking to ski or ready to hoist the sails, the 2026 Aquatics Badge Workshops have something for every Scout. Learn from expert instructors, enjoy the great outdoors, and complete merit badges - all while soaking up summer fun!

This adventure is for all Scouts BSA members. Scouts can choose which days they attend or choose the overnight option.

### Horse Camp

Horsemanship

Trail rides

Swimming

Shooting Sports

Climbing

Challenge Courses



***More 2027 camp details will be released this Fall***

### STEM and 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!

All 10 NOVA Awards

Evening STEM programs and exhibits

Leadership is provided for all who attend!

Qualifies for 2nd Week Discount



## **CAN'T ATTEND CAMP WITH YOUR TROOP? JOIN OUR PROVISIONAL TROOP!**

Scouts who can't attend summer camp with their troop can sign up for our provisional troop at Famous Eagle or older scouts can join a provisional crew at Swift Base! Leadership will be provided and Scouts can sign up individually. Scouts 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 Scouting 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](http://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 one of our summer camps 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 one of Greater St. Louis Area Scouting's Scouts BSA summer camps.

## **CAMP STAFF THE ULTIMATE CAMP EXPERIENCE**

Each year, we hire 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](http://stlbsa.org) later this Fall for the 2027 Camp Staff application and interview information.

## **TAKE CAMP STAFF FOR A TEST DRIVE AS A CIT!**

The Counselor In Training (CIT) Program allows Scouts 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 Rhodes- France, and Camp May. Lodging and meals will be provided. CIT applicants will take part in the camp staff interviews in late 2026.

# 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](http://stlbsa.org) regularly!



facebook.com/stlbsa



@stlbsa

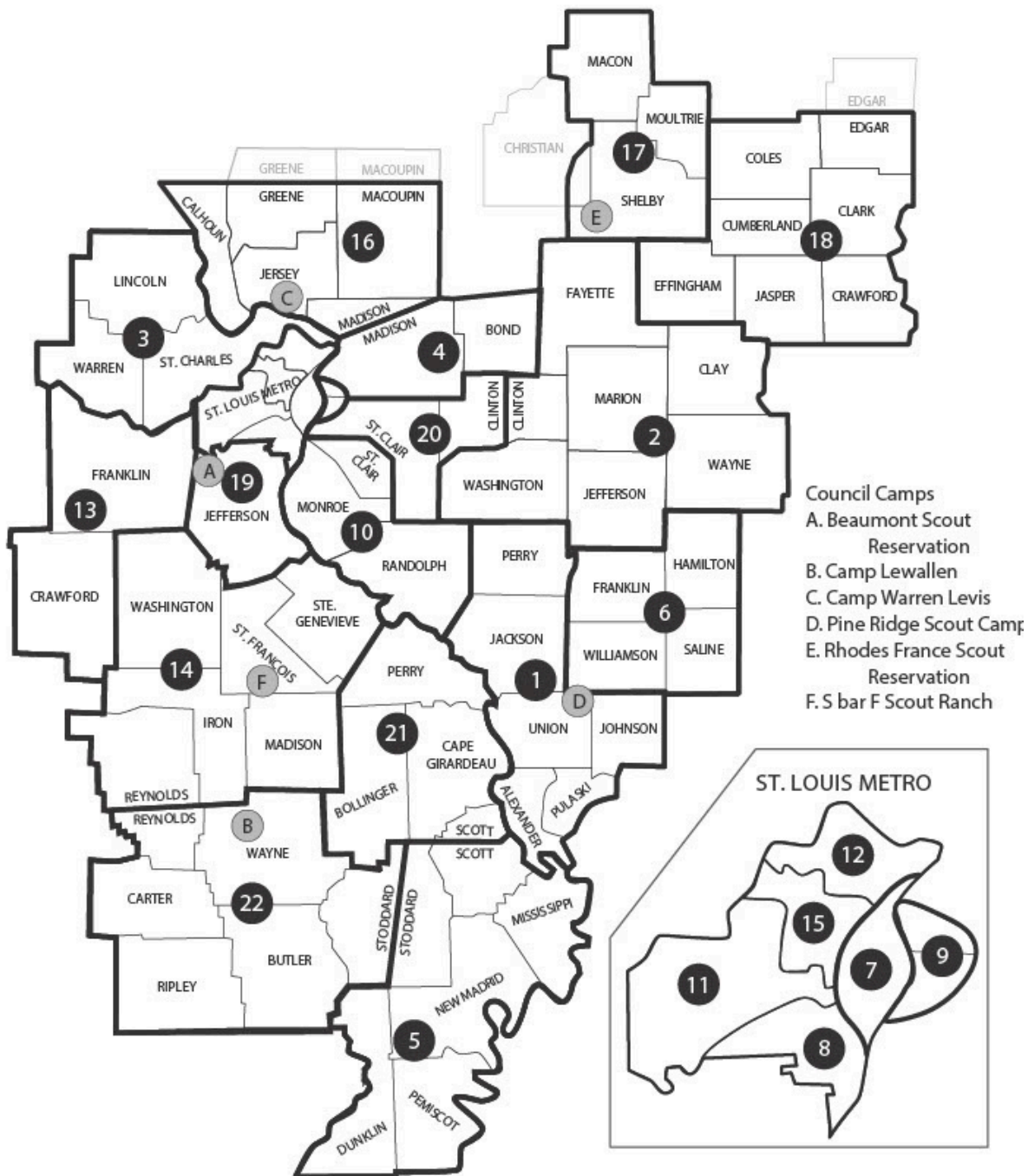


@stlbsa

website: [stlbsa.org](http://stlbsa.org)

phone: 314-361-0600

email: [help@stlbsa.org](mailto:help@stlbsa.org)



- |                            |                           |                                 |                            |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 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            |                            |

# 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](http://GatewayTraders.org).

### **Scouting Outfitters – West County Scout Shop**

1122 Town and Country Commons Dr. , Ste. 200

St. Louis, MO 63017

M-F 9 am – 6 pm, Saturday 9 am – 4 pm. Closed Sunday.

*Extended hours in the fall: 9/8/2026 – 10/17/2026*

M-F 9 am – 7 pm, Saturday 9am – 4 pm. Sunday 10 am – 2 pm.

(314) 984-0014

### **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 Metro East**

5205 N. Illinois St.

Fairview Heights, IL 62208

618-222-1574

M - F 10 AM - 6 PM

Sa 10 AM - 3 PM



Online retail at **Gateway Traders** [GatewayTraders.org](http://GatewayTraders.org)

# 2025 *Year in Review*

**79,462**

*Total  
Advancements*

**28,135**

*Scouts Served*  
IN 2025

**5<sup>th</sup>**

*Largest Council*  
IN SCOUTING

TOP 3  
*Mentor Badges*

First Aid  
Swimming  
Citizenship in  
the Community

**\$302,690**

*Financial Assistance  
Provided*

**1,893,637**

*Scouting for Food*  
Total Items Collected

**5,706**

*Scouts Served*  
IN OUTREACH PROGRAMS

**456**

*Eagle Scouts*

**531**

*Chartered Partners*

**8,951**

*Total Camp  
Experiences*

AT  
SUMMER CAMP AND DISCOVERY BASE



GREATER ST. LOUIS AREA  
SCOUTING

**Scouts BSA Planning Guide**

[STLBSA.ORG](http://STLBSA.ORG)  
314-361-0600