



VENTURING AND SEA SCOUTING Planning Guide '26-'27

Adventure Awaits: Your guide to an epic year!



Character



Citizenship



Life Skills



Fun



Family



GREATER ST. LOUIS AREA
SCOUTING



FUNDING YOUR PROGRAM

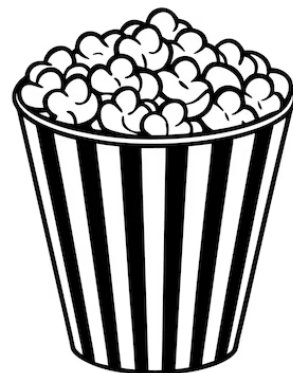
Your crew/ship can choose to participate in any of these approved fundraisers.

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

- No upfront cost to your crew or ship.
- Crews and ships pay for only the product they sell.
- Sales support local Scouting.
- Built-in prize program encourages youth to sell.
- Popcorn sales teach youth the responsibility and value of earning their way.
- Popcorn is easy to sell.
- Youth can earn free camping at a Greater St Louis Area Scouting summer camps!
- Sign up at 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 Venturers and Sea 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 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 crew or ship.
- Crews and ships pay for only the product they sell.
- Crew and ship commission is 33% of all sales.
- Built-in prize program encourages youth to sell.
- Year round online and 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 youth and future members
- 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 Scouting unit should be about spending time with kids, not paperwork. Scoutbook simplifies unit management so leaders can focus on what matters most. Use one tool to manage your calendar, send messages to members, track advancement, 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!**

Scoutbook: scoutbook.scouting.org

Scoutbook Plus: advancements.scouting.org

New features are being added at Scoutbook+ but you'll be automatically redirected between the two, so there's no need to worry about using the wrong program.



Safeguarding Youth 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 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
stlbsa.org/resources/incident-reporting



VENTURING AND 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 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 volunteer and experienced youth who understand the role High Adventure plays in keeping older youth involved in Venturing. 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

WOOD BADGE

2026 FALL COURSE: SEPTEMBER 25-27 AND OCTOBER 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 addition 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 troop, crew, or ship who assists a Cub Scout leader at den and pack meetings and other Scouting events. Den Chief training is for older youth 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

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

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 and training is available on my.scouting.com.



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



ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS AND TRAININGS

First Class Orienteering Requirement Event

Bring your members who are working 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

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.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

DO A "GOOD TURN" FOR YOUR COMMUNITY.

Service projects are meaningful ways for Venturers and Sea 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)

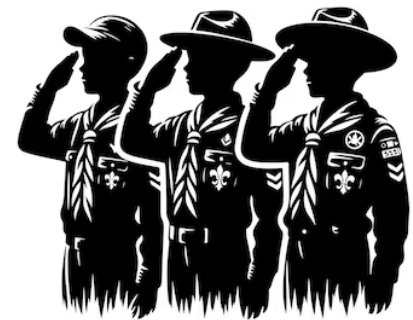
stlbsa.org/calendar

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.



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/



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

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 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.

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.

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
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	X	X	X	X		
Sailing		X						
Fishing		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Business								
Hi-Speed Internet	X	X		X				
Audio/Visual (Projector, screen, speakers)	X	X	X					
Small group (<50) indoor meeting space	X	X	X	X	X			
Large group (>50) indoor meeting space	X	X	X	X				
Indoor Commercial Kitchen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Outdoor Chapel	X			X		X		

~OUTDOOR ADVENTURES AWAIT~



Greater St. Louis Area 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

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 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



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.

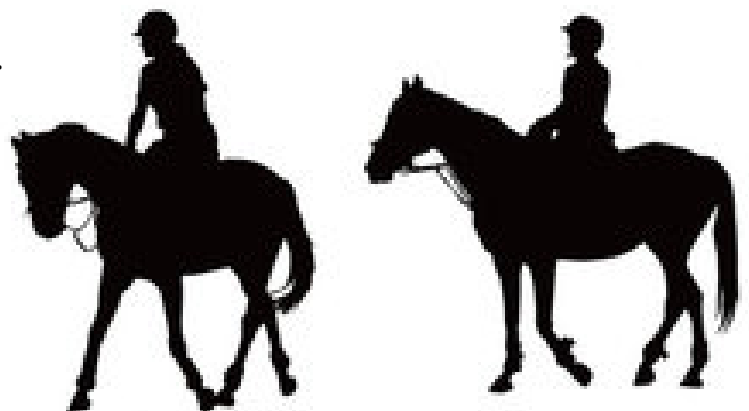
There are four program options, 1 ½ hour ride, three-hour program, six-hour program, and an overnight program. Each ride has a maximum of 12 riders with a minimum of 5 riders needed to run each ride.

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

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

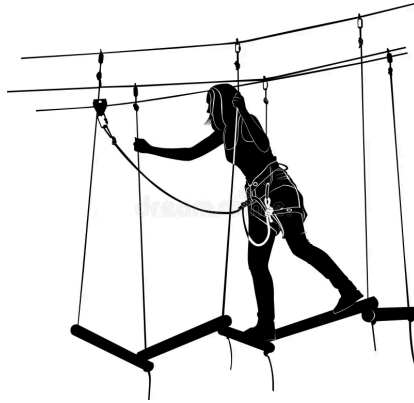
HIKING TRAILS



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/.

THE BEST SUMMER YET



Venturing Summer Camp

A year of Venturing and Sea Scouts is not complete without spending a week at Swift High Adventure Base, located at the S-F Scout Ranch in Farmington, MO.

One of the only Venturing Camps in the country!

High and low challenge courses · sailing, water skiing · tubing
knee-boarding · horses · rifles · shotguns · sporting arrows
dances · rock climbing and rappelling · mountain boarding
and much more!

Discounts and financial assistance may be available.

Get all of the dates, locations and times at STLBSA.org

VENTURING SUMMER CAMP



Specialty Camps

Specialty camps offer programs focused on a particular interest. Most specialty camps provide adult supervision, so Scouts can attend individually, if needed.

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



Visit stlbsa.org for dates and prices.

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!

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.

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 locally-run 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 one of our camps.

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 2027 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 2026.

EXPLORING™

DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE



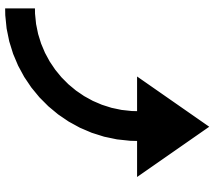
WHAT IS CAREER EXPLORING?



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 stlbsa.org/exploring or contacting us at stl.exploring@scouting.org.



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

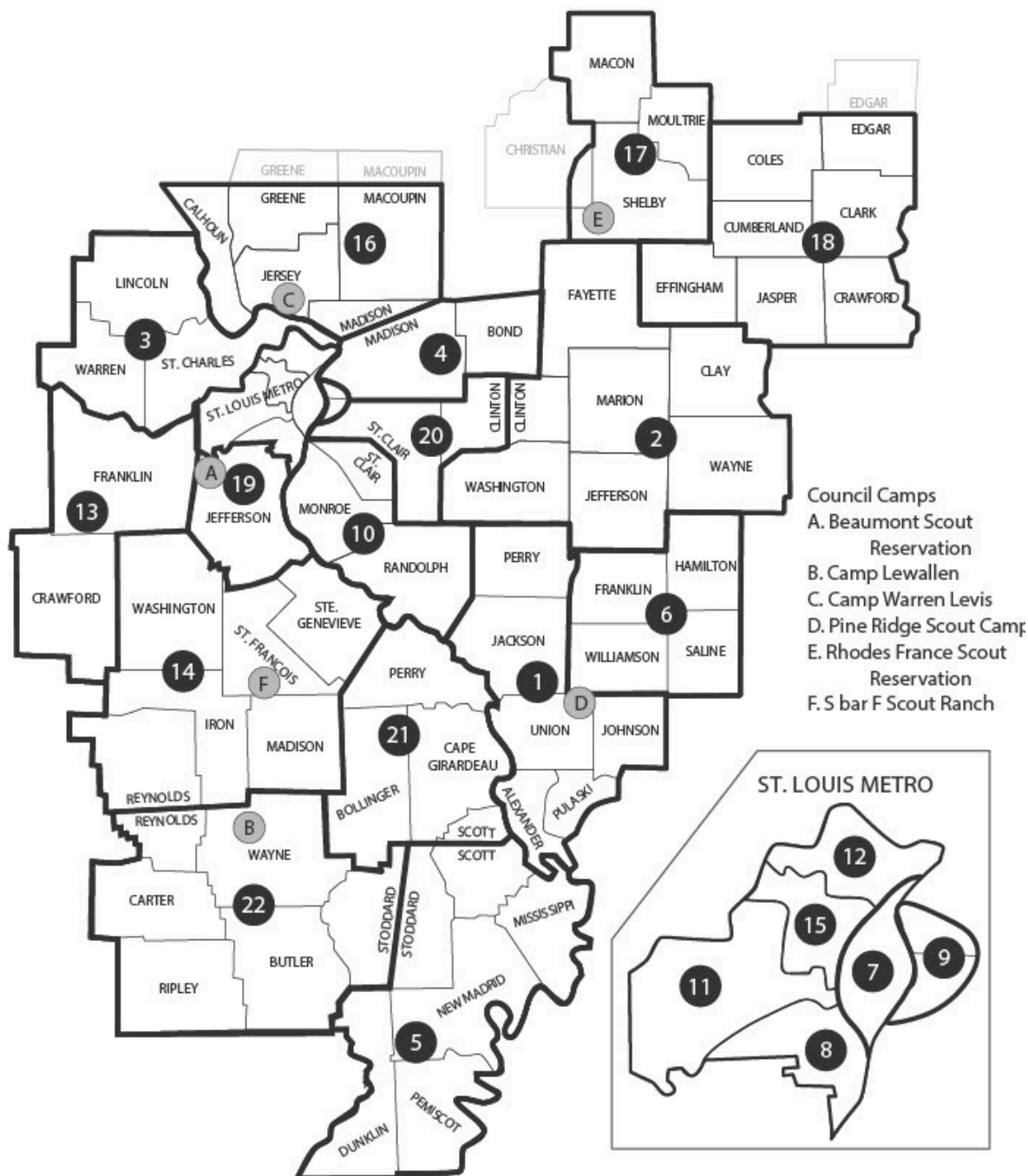


@stlbsa

website: stlbsa.org

phone: 314-361-0600

email: help@stlbsa.org



- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Big Muddy District | 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.

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/

2025 *Year in Review*

79,462

*Total
Advancements*

28,135

Scouts Served
IN 2025

5th

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

**Venturing and Sea Scouting
Planning Guide**

STLBSA.ORG
314-361-0600