

# PARENT ORIENTATION GUIDE



## **Congratulations on becoming a Scouting Family!**

Take these first steps to ensure that your family gets the most out of Scouting:

1. Complete a Youth Application.
2. Know your Cubmaster and the best way to contact him or her.
3. Ask your Cubmaster about the uniform, handbook, Scoutbook, and how you can get involved. Scouting is a family activity and we want you to enjoy it with your child!

**Welcome to Scouting. Your adventure starts now!**



GREATER ST. LOUIS AREA COUNCIL

## ➤ Your Pack Information



GREATER ST. LOUIS  
AREA COUNCIL

Pack # \_\_\_\_\_

Den Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Times \_\_\_\_\_

District Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Scouts' Life Magazine

Scouts' Life Magazine is full of wholesome, educational, entertaining stories and valuable information. It's also available by downloading the app and online.

## ➤ Your Council Information

### BSA Outfitters/Metro East

5205 N. Illinois St.  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208  
(618)234-9111  
M-F, 10am-6pm, Sat, 10am-3pm

### BSA Outfitters/West County

13347 Manchester Rd.  
Des Peres, MO 63131  
(314) 984-0014  
M-Th, 9am-7pm, Fri 9am-6pm,  
Sat, 10am-3pm

### Central Illinois Service Center

262 W. Prairie Ave.  
Decatur, IL 62523  
(217)429-2326  
M-F, 8:30am-5pm

### MacArthur Service Center

4568 West Pine Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
(314)361-0600  
M-F, 9am-5pm

### Ritter Service Center

3000 Gordonville Road  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703  
(573)335-3346  
M-F, 8:30am-5:00pm

### Southern Illinois Service Center

803 E. Herrin St.  
Herrin, IL 62948  
(618)942-4863  
M-F, 9:30am-4:30pm

### Share the Scouting Adventure!

Share the memories you make with your Scout on social media by using

#ICanDoThat



Facebook.com/stlbsa



Instagram.com/stlbsa



## ► How Cub Scouting Works

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

- Your child is a member of a **DEN**, consisting of 5-8 children, similar in age who typically meet once a week with a Den Leader, usually a parent.
- All of the **DENS** (Scouts from grades K-5) make up the **PACK**.
- The **PACK** meets once a month with the Cubmaster, with all the other **DENS** in attendance. At the **PACK** meeting, you will have fun activities and have the opportunity to engage with other **DENS**.
- Your **PACK** is part of the **Greater St. Louis Area Council**, which serves over 25,000 youth & families in southeast Missouri, southern Illinois, central Illinois and St. Louis Metropolitan areas.

## Scout Oath



*On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.*

## Scout Law

**A Scout Is...**

<b>Trustworthy</b>	<b>Obedient</b>
<b>Loyal</b>	<b>Cheerful</b>
<b>Helpful</b>	<b>Thrifty</b>
<b>Friendly</b>	<b>Brave</b>
<b>Courteous</b>	<b>Clean</b>
<b>Kind</b>	<b>Reverent</b>





## ➤ Scouting Results

**130,000**

In 2022, local Scouts officially recorded **130,000 service hours**, helping communities in the Greater St. Louis Area Council.



Children who participate in Scouts are more likely to hold a **leadership position at their place of work or in the community.**



Long-term Scouts are nearly twice as likely as non-scouts to **graduate from college.**



Scouts are more likely to be active in a group that works to **protect the environment** than non-scouts.

## ➤ Cub Scout Uniforms & Scout Handbooks



The Cub Scout uniform is an important part of being a Cub Scout. The official uniform should be worn to den meetings, pack meetings, and any special Scouting activities.

The official uniform for Tiger, Wolf and Bear Cub Scouts include the blue Cub Scout pants, shorts or skorts and shirt with insignia for your rank. 4th & 5th grade Scouts wear the tan shirt with green pants. Each rank has its own cap, neckerchief and slide in the rank colors.

Additionally, each rank will also have a handbook for you and your Scout to work through together.

**Find uniforms, gear and more at your local Scout Shop or online at [www.gatewaytraders.org](http://www.gatewaytraders.org)**



### SCOUTBOOK

From the first knot tied to final hours of service performed, the Scouting experience is a journey like no other. Scoutbook is a digital tool that ensures not a moment is missed – tracking advancement, milestone achievements and all the fun along the way.

To watch a tutorial and learn about Scoutbook visit [help.scoutbook.scouting.org/knowledge-base/scoutbook-tutorial-for-parents](http://help.scoutbook.scouting.org/knowledge-base/scoutbook-tutorial-for-parents)

## ➤ Cub Scout Pack Organization



### Pack Committee

The Pack Committee members perform administrative functions for the Cub Scout Pack.



### Chartered Organization Representative

The Chartered Organization Representative is the direct contact between the Scouting unit and the chartered organization (typically your church, school or service club).



### Committee Chair

The Committee Chair presides over all Pack Committee meetings. They help recruit adult leaders and lead the Pack.



### Cubmaster

The Cubmaster helps plan and carry out the Pack program with the help of the Pack Committee. They also emcee the monthly Pack meeting and attend the Pack Leaders' meeting.



### Den Leader

The Den Leader leads the Den at weekly Den and monthly Pack meetings. They also attend the monthly Pack Leaders' meeting.

## ➤ Volunteer with Your Pack



### Choose How You Can Get Involved

Scouting is, at its core, a family activity. By volunteering, you are not only helping to develop your child's character but also supporting the community at large. Build your adventure together and watch as your Scout thrives!

You can help out in many ways such as bringing snacks to a Pack meeting or holding a position with your Pack. Talk to your Cubmaster to see where you can get involved!

**I CAN DO THAT!**







## ► Plan Your Scout's Cub Camp Adventures this Summer!

*Did You Know?* You Can Attend Summer Camp as:



An Individual

OR



With Your Friends

OR



With Your Den

OR



With Your Pack

### Cub Scout Day Camps

Day Camp is a three to five day adventure for Cub Scouts and siblings. These camps are held at various locations throughout the council in the St. Louis metro area, southeast Missouri, central Illinois and southern Illinois. Each camp offers a slightly unique program schedule, including events like BB guns, archery, wrist rockets, fishing, STEM activities, visits from community experts and much more! Scouts do not spend the night at Day Camps.

### Cub Scout Overnight Camps

Cub Scout Overnight Camp is the best part of your den's year, where you and your Scouts have fun, learn and grow from outdoor programs and adventures. Activities include swimming, boating, STEM, BB guns, archery, fishing, hiking, camping, outdoor skills, nature programs, climbing, campfires and more! No matter which overnight camp you attend, advancement plays an important role, allowing your den to start the program year with several Adventures/advancements and awards completed.

### Family Camps

This camp provides Scouts with the opportunity to spend the weekend at one of our camp properties, sharing the fun of the outdoors with mom, dad and Cub Scout-aged siblings. At every Family Camp, meals and tents are provided. Activities include swimming, boating, BB guns, archery, fishing, outdoor skills, campfires and more!

### Camperships

Every child deserves the opportunity to attend summer camp, regardless of financial situation. The council offers several ways for Scouts to earn their way to camp, including popcorn, camp card and coffee fundraisers. For families who need financial assistance, camperships may be awarded to Scouts in need. Contact the council to apply.

[Stlbsa.org/camps](http://Stlbsa.org/camps)





## ➤ Fund Your Scouting Experience

### Popcorn

Every fall, the Greater St. Louis Area Council conducts its annual popcorn fundraiser. Not only do packs benefit from selling popcorn, but these sales also benefit the council by providing camperships for Scouts who need financial assistance, events including Cub Launch and Scouting for Food and more. There are several ways to sell: Show & Sell, Take Order Sale and Online Sale. Sale runs September — October.



### Camp Cards

Camp Cards are handy discount cards that offer great deals and your favorite local establishments. There are Camp Cards for different regions of our Council—St. Louis metro, southeast Missouri, southern Illinois and central Illinois. Scouts sell the cards for \$5 and the pack keeps \$2.50 profit. Incentives and prizes are available too! Sale runs March — April. Unsold cards can be returned, so there is no risk to you or the Pack!



**All product sales information can be found at [stlbsa.org/resources](http://stlbsa.org/resources)**



## Support Local Scouting While Making Everyday Purchases!

Get involved with your Cub Scout Pack by helping to support the Council with these unique community partnerships. You can help support the council by starting a Facebook birthday fundraiser or requesting a Eagle Scout or Order of the Arrow license plate! All of these are great ways to support scouting that you may already be doing. Find out more at [stlbsa.org/give-now](http://stlbsa.org/give-now)

**I CAN DO THAT!**

## ➤ Events & Activities

Throughout the year, the Greater St. Louis Area Council offers many different types of events for your Scout to attend. From Cub Launch, to Day and Summer Camp, there is always something fun for your Scout to participate in.

Check out [stlbsa.org/calendar](https://stlbsa.org/calendar) and mark your calendar!

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### Shoot-O-Ree

Cub Scouts can choose from BB gun shooting, archery, sling shots, water balloons, rubber band shooters & more at this fun one-day event!



### Fall Fright Fest

A huge Halloween-themed event that is fun and safe for the entire family. Encounter the haunted forest, walk through the pirate ship, explore the fort & more!



### Pinewood Derby

Cub Scouts design and build small wooden cars to race on an inclined track. This is a great opportunity for kids to work with their parents to construct a race car and compete in the race. Check your Pack calendar to see when your race is!



### Blue and Gold

This is a big pack event, usually full of food, skits, and awards! All Scouts join in the celebration and the fun. The Blue and Gold banquet typically occurs during Scouting Anniversary week.



### Camping

Whether you're looking for an incredible summer camp experience or a weekend campout, the Greater St. Louis Area Council offers a variety of summer and year-round programs at our six properties.



### Scouting For Food

What started as an Eagle Scout project by a St. Louis Area Scout has grown into one of the largest single-day food drives in the country! Scouts and volunteers distribute bags on Saturday November 11 and return Saturday November 18 to collect food donations.

# CALLING ALL CUB SCOUTS

## JOIN US AT CUB LAUNCH

Cub Launch is a single day event for all Cub Scouts, where families get to have fun doing activities like hiking, shooting sports, leatherworking, crafts, games, and more!



Activities vary by location

Experience over 20 different activities at Beaumont Scout Reservation including mud cave tours, horseback riding, fishing demos, bounce house and shooting sports!

For more details visit our website [STLBSA.ORG](http://STLBSA.ORG)



## LOCATIONS

### October 7th 2023 @ Beaumont Scout Reservation

- **Locations:** Beaumont Scout Reservation & other GSLAC scout Properties
  - Camp Warren Levis - Sept. 16th - 10AM to 4PM
  - Sam Dale State Park - Sept 16 - 9AM to 1PM
  - Cape Girardeau Jackson City Park - Sept 23 - 9AM to 1PM
  - Beaumont Scout Reservation - Oct 7 - 9AM to 3PM
  - Wentzville UMC - Oct 7 - 9AM to 1PM
  - O'Fallon IL Sportsman Club - Oct 7 - 9AM to 1PM
  - Rhodes France Scout Res - Oct 7 - 9 AM to 3PM
  - S-F Scout Ranch - Oct 7- 9AM to 1PM
  - Pine Ridge - Oct 6-8 - overnight
  - Camp Vandeventer - Oct 14 - 9AM to 3PM



## ➤ Scouting's Commitment to Safety

The safety of our youth, families, volunteers, and staff is the most important part of the Scouting experience. **Learning by doing** is a hallmark of outdoor education. Scouting offers youth the chance to learn new life skills in a safe, supportive environment that is free from judgment, and where risks are identified and mitigated. Along the way they acquire skills that make them more self-reliant, stronger leaders, and better able to achieve their goals.



As outlined in our handbooks, the Scouting program takes youth safety very seriously. Rigorous safety features have been integrated into the program such as guidelines for safe activities and protecting youth from any form of abuse, including bullying.

The Boy Scouts of America has established a multi-tiered youth protection approach focused on volunteer screening, education, clear policies, and training for everyone in the program. The BSA is recognized as having some of the strongest barriers to child abuse found in any youth-serving organization. Just a few of these include: ongoing required youth protection training, a formal volunteer selection process that includes criminal background checks, prohibiting one-on-one contact between adults and youth members, and a volunteer screening database.

To learn more about youth safety in Scouting, visit [stlbsa.org/training](https://stlbsa.org/training) or [scouting.org/health-and-safety](https://scouting.org/health-and-safety).

## Every Scout Deserves a Trained Leader

Scouting is a volunteer led program and the Council has the training and tools to help you along the way. Training will give you fresh ideas, a place to talk to other Scout parents, and the knowledge and information you need to carry out the Scouting program. The required trainings needed to be a Cub Leader are available at [my.scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org). There are numerous online trainings in the BSA Learn Center, referenced below.



We take youth protection very seriously. Youth Protection Training is required for Scout Leaders and for adults accompanying youth at events. Learn more about Youth Protection at [stlbsa.org/training](https://stlbsa.org/training).

### How to complete Youth Protection Training?

- 1.) Visit [my.scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) and click "create an account." You will receive a temporary ID number to proceed.
- 2.) Once logged in, click the **Youth Protection Training** icon (on the right side) to access the BSA Learn Center.
- 3.) Scroll down and click Youth Protection Training. Click Enroll button then follow the links to start the modules.

**\*Note:** If you are registering as an adult, your BSA Membership ID # will be issued after you complete training and turn in your Adult Application. Print out a copy of your Youth Protection Certificate and turn it in with your Adult Application. When your ID # is issued, enter it into your **My Profile** settings on [my.scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org).

**Find other trainings at [my.scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) and [stlbsa.org/training](https://stlbsa.org/training)**



# Scouting is Safer than Ever Before

EFFECTIVE  
**BARRIERS**  
TO ABUSE

MILLIONS OF PARENTS TRUST  
THE BSA TO PROVIDE  
**MEANINGFUL  
PROGRAMMING**  
IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

RECOGNIZE  
**RESPOND  
REPORT**  
1-844-SCOUTS1

## Barriers to Abuse

Together, these expert-informed barriers help keep kids safe



Find additional trainings at [my.scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) and  
[stlbsa.org/training](https://stlbsa.org/training)



**Purchase your Cub Scout Uniform kit online  
and have it delivered to your home!  
Skip the line and the commute!**







I CAN DO THAT!

2023 — 2024

# ADVENTURE PASS

**INCLUDED IN THE PASS:**

- A BRANDED BACKPACK, WATER BOTTLE AND WRIST BAND
- \$40 CUB SCOUT EVENT VOUCHER
- YOUR CUB SCOUT HANDBOOK



## ➤ Resources

**I CAN DO THAT!**

### Greater St. Louis Area Council Website

The Greater St. Louis Area Council website offers information about all of the local activities, events, trainings, etc.

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

Questions? Email [help@stlbsa.org](mailto:help@stlbsa.org)

### National BSA Website

The National Boy Scouts of America website is where you will find Scouting information such as age appropriate activities and guidelines.

[www.Scouting.org](http://www.Scouting.org) (Example: Search "Age Appropriate Guidelines")

### Parent/Volunteer Resources

Visit our website for parent & leader resources, information on membership, recruitment and more.

[www.stlbsa.org/resources](http://www.stlbsa.org/resources)

### Scoutbook

Most units use this free website to plan activities, track rank advancements, and more.

[www.scoutbook.scouting.org](http://www.scoutbook.scouting.org)

## Cub Scout Motto

Do Your Best

## Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country  
And to obey the Scout Law;  
To help other people at all times;  
To keep myself physically strong, mentally  
awake and morally straight.



## Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

## Mission

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

The Greater St. Louis Area Council is a  
United Way agency.

