

# SCOUTS BSA

## Guide for Establishing a Troop for Girls

Updated 12/18/2018



***SCOUTS STAND OUT.***

Greater St. Louis Area Council, Boy Scouts of America

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHECKLIST TO START A GIRL TROOP _____	3
SCOUTS BSA OVERVIEW AND FAQ _____	4
FAQ – Structure and Timing _____	4
FAQ – Adult Leadership _____	5
Examples of Approved Leadership _____	7
FAQ – Program and Advancement _____	7
FAQ – Summer Camp _____	9
FAQ – Order of the Arrow _____	10
Scouts BSA Branding Guidelines _____	12
CONTACT US _____	17
District Staff Contacts _____	17
District Volunteer Contacts _____	17

# CHECKLIST TO START A GIRL TROOP

Ready to start a Scouts BSA troop for older girls in your community? Follow these steps. Staff and volunteers stand ready to assist you. The following pages provide additional info, answers to frequently asked questions, and marketing strategies for your new troop.

## **CHARTER ORGANIZATION**

The top decision-maker at the organization ("Institution Head") must authorize chartering a Scouts BSA troop for girls. He or she should provide these items.

- ✓ 1. Submit [BSA New Unit Application](#)
- ✓ 2. Submit [BSA Annual Charter Agreement](#)
- ✓ 3. Submit \$40 unit liability insurance fee

## **ADULT LEADERS**

Scouts BSA troops require a minimum of five adults registered in the following positions.

- ✓ 4. Identify, recruit, train, and collect registration fees from each of these adult leaders:

	Charter Org. Rep.	Scout- master	Committee Chairman	Committee Member 1	Committee Member 2
Name					
Submit <a href="#">BSA Adult Application</a>					
Complete <a href="#">Youth Protection Training</a> and Print Certificate					
Submit BSA Registration Fee - \$30.25*					

\*The registration fee is \$0 if the individual is already registered with the BSA.

## **YOUTH MEMBERS**

Scouts BSA troops require a minimum of five registered youth members.

- ✓ 5. Identify, recruit, and collect registration fees from each of these Scouts:

	Scout 1	Scout 2	Scout 3	Scout 4	Scout 5
Name					
Submit <a href="#">BSA Youth Application</a>					
Submit BSA Registration Fee - \$30.25					

\*At least five Scouts must pay their primary registration fee in the troop. If a girl under 18yo is already registered in a Sea Scout Ship or Venturing Crew, she can transfer her membership to the Scouts BSA troop at no cost.

- ✓ 6. Submit these materials to your Scouting representative (contact info on next page).

# SCOUTS BSA OVERVIEW AND FAQ

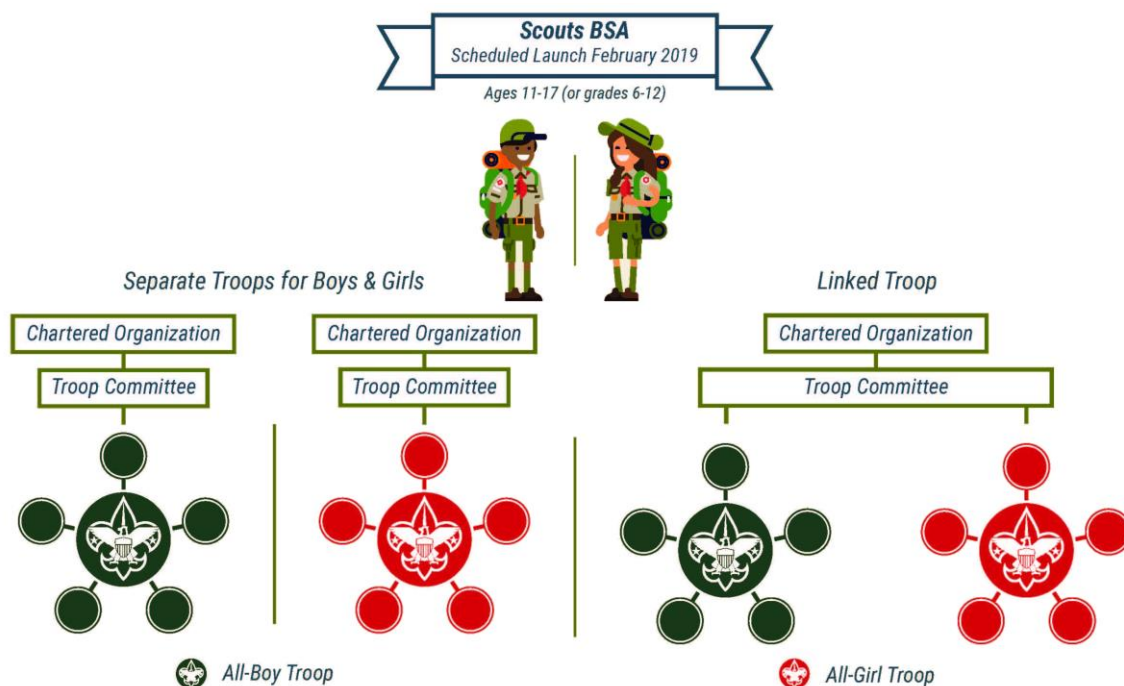
Effective February 2019, the program for older youth will be named Scouts BSA, which perfectly represents the new, inclusive program for older Scouts that the Boy Scouts of America is proud to offer. Scouts BSA builds on the legacy of the Scout name, the Scout handbook, Scouts themselves – we have more than 108 years of heritage and tradition build on the Scout name.

Scouts BSA is the same iconic program with a name that welcomes young men and women to the adventure of Scouting.

The BSA will continue to build the future of Scouting with Scouts BSA, as we deliver character and leadership, and offer a path to the rank of Eagle Scout for boys and girls.

## FAQ – Structure and Timing

To provide opportunities for older youth to participate in Scouts BSA, chartered organizations have options. They may offer both a boy troop and a girl troop – linked together under their administration – or they may elect to offer only a boy troop or a girl troop.



**Q: Will Scouts BSA be rolled out like a pilot, or implemented all at one time?**

The BSA's Board of Directors unanimously approved to welcome girls into its iconic Scouting programs and to deliver a Scouting program for older girls that will enable them to advance and earn the highest rank of Eagle Scout. This will not be handled as a pilot. For Scouts BSA, there will be no soft launch; implementation for this program is scheduled for February 2019.

**Q: Can linked troops share troop numbers?**

Yes. A local council may have administrative procedures in place to differentiate them for systems such as online charter renewal or online camp reservations. These same procedures – often adding a prefix to the troop number – are used when councils merge. These prefixes are not typically referenced by Scouts or displayed on uniforms or flags.

**Q: Do linked troops have to share the same troop number?**

No. A linked Scouts BSA troop for girls can have a different number if requested.

**Q: If a chartered organization is not able to establish a new troop based on the required number of same-gender youth needed, can boy patrols and girl patrols be combined to form a troop?**

No. A new troop must be started using the current youth and adult requirements; however, chartered organizations can consider the linked troop model so that the newly-established girl troop will have the same Chartered Organization Representative and can share the troop committee.

**Q: Can boy and girl patrols make up a troop?**

No. Troops must be all male or all female youth members.

**FAQ – Adult Leadership****Q: Will the Scoutmaster position change in a Scouts BSA troop for girls?**

No, the Scoutmaster is still responsible for training and guiding youth leaders in the operation of the troop and for managing, training, and supporting Assistant Scoutmasters in their role.

**Q: Can a boy troop and a girl troop share the same Scoutmaster?**

No. Chartered organizations should have separate Scoutmasters for their boy troop and girl troop.

**Q: Can both male troops and girl troops share the same committee?**

Yes. A chartered organization can decide if they want the same or separate committee.

**Q: Must the leaders of a boy troop be men and all the leaders of a girl troop be women?**

No. Adult leadership may be men, women, or both men and women together. All youth protection guidelines are to be in use no matter the make-up of the adult leadership.

**Q: May an adult male lead an all-girl unit?**

Yes, an adult male can lead an all-girl unit, just as we already have adult females leading all-boy programs. Youth protection requirements still apply to both male and female participants.

**Q: Are there going to be changes to the requirements for adult leadership?**

As always, we will maintain our continuous improvement model to ensure the safety of all.

Effective, October 1, 2018, two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities, including meetings. There must be a registered female adult leader over 21 in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader over 21 must be present for any activity involving female youth. Notwithstanding the minimum leader requirements, age- and program-appropriate supervision must always be provided.

Eligible volunteers would need to be:

1. 21 and over
2. Registered as volunteers with the BSA
3. Have gone through a background check, and
4. Be up to date on Youth Protection training

*This is a change from our previous policy where one volunteer could be 21 years of age or older with a second volunteer who could be 18 years of age or older.*

## **Examples of Approved Leadership**

- **Scouts BSA Troops for Boys**

Volunteers may be all male, all female, or a combination of male and female, but at least two volunteers must be 21 years of age or over.

- **Scouts BSA Troops for Girls**

Volunteers may be all female or a combination of male and female, but at least two volunteers must be 21 years of age or over and at least one must be female.

- **Overnight activities**

A change from the previous policy where only one of the adults was required to be registered, we are now requiring two 21 years old or over leaders for all activities, including overnights; if girls are present, at least one of the volunteers must be female (to be a volunteer, you must be registered).

- **Additional leadership**

As one example of additional leadership, camp standards require not only the minimum adult leadership, but also require certain ratios (e.g., aquatics (PS-201-1) and COPE (SQ-409-3)).

All adults accompanying a Scouting unit who are present at the activity for 72 total hours or more must be registered as leaders. The 72 hours need not be consecutive.

## **FAQ – Program and Advancement**

### **Q: Will you change the program to accommodate girls?**

Our existing programs are relevant for both young men and women. After all, the values of Scouting as outlined in the Scout Law – trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent – are relevant and important values for both young men and women. As such, the programs for girls ages 11 to 17 will be the same curriculum offered in the Boy Scout program.

**Q: Will girls be able to earn the same merit badges?**

Yes.

**Q: Will girls have to meet the same requirements to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout?**

Yes.

**Q: Will the Boy Scout Handbook be updated to reflect the new name?**

Yes.

**Q: Can a boy troop and girl troop meet at the same time?**

Yes. Based on the preferences of the chartered organization, the boy troop and girl troop could meet at the same time and place.

**Q: Can a boy troop and girl troop meet as one big troop?**

Opening and closing of the meetings can be together or separate, depending on space and desire of the chartered organization and unit leadership. The other components of the Scout meeting should be run separately.

**Q: Can a boy troop and girl troop plan and conduct events or campouts together?**

Yes, they can plan and conduct events or campouts together, as troops currently do.

**Q: Can courts of honor be held jointly?**

Yes, courts of honor can be held jointly if the chartered organization chooses.

**Q: Can a council and district run camporees that both boy troops and girls attend?**

Yes, a council and district can run council and district events for both boy troops and girl troops to attend if they are following the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) and all current youth protection guidelines.



## **FAQ – Summer Camp**

### **Q: Will there be separate Scouts BSA summer camps for boy troops and girl troops?**

No. The Greater St. Louis Area Council offers one of the premier summer camp experiences in the BSA, with dozens of traditional and specialty camps from which to choose. At this time, all sessions are open to both boy troops and girl troops. Guidelines for adult leadership and adequate accommodations must be followed. Visit <http://camping.stlbsa.org> for more info.

### **Q: What facility changes will need to happen at our camps?**

The Boy Scouts of America has been serving young women for decades, so many camps already accommodate women. Each council will evaluate their facilities and make any needed changes.

### **Q: What are the policies for sleeping accommodations?**

Separate accommodations for adult males and females and youth males and females are required.

## **Tenting**

- Separate tenting arrangements must be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth.
- Youth sharing tents must be no more than two years apart in age.
- In Cub Scouting, parents and guardians may share a tent with their family. In all other programs, youth and adults tent separately.
- Spouses may share tents.

## **Lodging/Cabin Accommodations**

Whenever possible, separate cabins or lodging should be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth. Where separate accommodations cannot be provided due to group size or limited availability, modifications may be made. Where separate accommodations are not available, additional supervision is required.

- If adults and youth of the same gender occupy single-room accommodations, there must be a minimum of two adults and four youth, with all adults being Youth Protection trained.
- Physical separation by other means, including temporary barriers or space, should be used only when no other arrangements are possible.
- These modifications are limited to single-gender accommodations.

**Q: What is the policy for restroom and showering facilities?**

Separate shower and latrine facilities should be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth. If separate facilities are not available, separate times should be scheduled and posted. This is not a change.

Separate shower and latrine facilities should be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth. If separate facilities are not available, separate times should be scheduled and posted. Privacy of youth is respected.

- Adults and youth must respect each other's privacy, especially in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp.
- Adult leaders should closely monitor these areas but only enter as needed for youth protection or health and safety reasons.

**FAQ – Order of the Arrow**

For over 100 years, the Order of the Arrow (OA) has recognized Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. Arrowmen are known for maintaining camping traditions and spirit, promoting year-round and long-term resident camping, and providing cheerful service to others.

**Q: Will girls be able to be members of the Order of the Arrow?**

Beginning February 1, 2019, unit elections will be permitted in Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scout units.

**Q: Will camping be counted retroactively for girls currently in Venturing and Sea Scouts?**

Yes. Camping that has taken place within the two years immediately prior to the election will be counted beginning February 1, 2019. This camping must have taken place while an individual was registered with the BSA as a program participant and must be while participating with a BSA Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship.

**Q: Will the OA literature be updated to reflect these changes?**

We are planning that all literature will be updated by Summer of 2019.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## ORDER OF THE ARROW

The National Order of the Arrow Committee has approved some exciting updates to Scouting's National Honor Society. Beginning February 1, 2019, unit elections will be permitted in Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scout units. The new Order of the Arrow membership requirements include:

### OLD:

- OA Mission.
- OA Purpose.
- Be a registered member of the BSA.
- Spend 15 nights camping while registered with a troop or team within the previous two years, including at least one (but no more) long-term camp consisting of at least five consecutive nights of camping (with a maximum of five nights). At least 10 nights must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps of, at most, three nights each.
- Youth must be under 21, hold First Class rank or higher and, following approval by the Scoutmaster or Varsity team Coach, be elected by the youth members of their troop or team.
- Registered adults 21 or older who meet the camping requirements may be selected following nomination to the lodge adult selection committee.

### NEW:

- *Unchanged.*
- *Unchanged.*
- *Unchanged.*
- Spend 15 nights camping while registered with a **troop, crew, or ship** within the two years immediately prior to the election. For Sea Scouts, **ship nights** may be counted as camping. (All other camping requirements remain unchanged.)
- At the time of their election, youth must be under the age of 21, hold the **Scouts BSA First Class rank**, the **Venturing Discovery Award**, or the **Sea Scout Ordinary rank** or higher and, following approval by the Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor, or Sea Scout Skipper, be elected by the youth members of their unit.
- *Unchanged.*

## **Scouts BSA Branding Guidelines**

The following brand guidelines must be adhered to when promoting or conducting Scouts BSA info sessions or recruitment events. For assistance, contact Christine Rasure, Director of Marketing and Communications, at 314-256-3030 or [christine.rasure@scouting.org](mailto:christine.rasure@scouting.org).

	<b>DO</b>	<b>DON'T</b>
<b>What to Use</b>	Only BSA-sourced marketing materials from Brand Center	Locally-developed marketing materials  GSUSA programs, marks, logos, uniforms or images
<b>What to Say</b>	Scouts BSA girl troops Troops for girls Girl troops	girl Scouts girl Scouts BSA
<b>What to Do</b>	Educate the public about the BSA, our mission and aims  Continue positive relationships  Notify the National PR team if contacted by media	Disparage any other youth-serving organization  Speak on behalf of the GSUSA

### **What to Use**

- Only use marketing materials located on the [BSA Brand Center](#) or produced by the Greater St. Louis Area Council.
  - Email templates, fliers, postcards, posters, social media images, troop cards, videos, and web banners

### **What NOT to Use**

- Other assets. While well-intentioned, assets developed by volunteers and units can be problematic and are NOT permitted.



**OUR COMMUNITY**  
**PACK AND TROOP**

**COME ON DOWN!**  
Pack [redacted] meets on Thursday nights from 6:15 pm - 7:30pm in the Youth Lounge and is looking for boys and girls in grades K-4.

Boy Troop [redacted] meets on Thursday nights from 7:30 pm - 9:00pm in the Youth Lounge and is looking for boys from 5th grade up to 18 years old.

We are in the process of forming a Girl Scouts BSA Troop as well (meetings will start at the beginning of February), which will meet Thursday nights from 7:30pm - 9:00pm (location still TBD) and are looking for interested girls from 5th grade up to 18 years old. For more information, please email me at [redacted].

All three units are always looking for adults to volunteer as well. Come on down and see how much fun it is!"

By [redacted]

*Summer fun at [redacted]*

*Religious Awards Breakfast Article*

View [redacted] for the latest information

- Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) assets.
  - The GSUSA has prohibited co-branding of GSUSA and BSA.
  - Do NOT use the programs, marks, logos, uniform, or images of the GSUSA (e.g. "Girl Scouts").
  - Do NOT combine GSUSA marks, logos, uniform, or images with those of the BSA (e.g. "Golden Eagle") when alluding to the Gold Award.



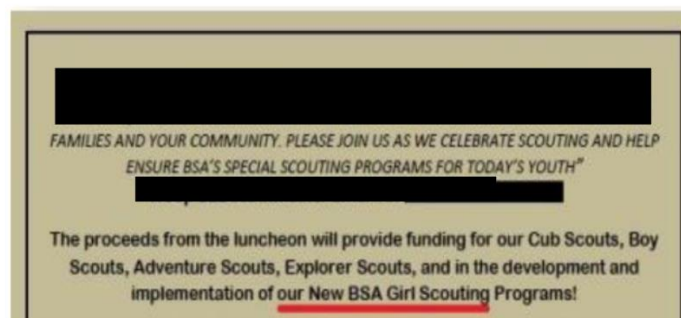
## What to Say

- The separate troops can be called:
  - Scouts BSA girl troops; Scouts BSA boy troops
  - Troops for girls; troops for boys
  - Girl troops; boy troops

- For instance:
  - In a recruitment setting, it is best to refer to Scouts BSA girl troops.
  - In a meeting setting, it is best to refer to troops for girls.

### What **NOT** to Say

- **NEVER** put the word “girl” immediately before the word “Scout” when referring to girls who are part of the BSA.
  - DO NOT SAY: “girl Scouts BSA troop” or “girl Scouts”



### What to Do

- Focus on our mission

## MISSION STATEMENT

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.

### 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	Obedient
Loyal	Cheerful
Helpful	Thrifty
Friendly	Brave
Courteous	Clean
Kind	Reverent

- Focus on our aims
  - Character development
  - Citizenship
  - Leadership
  - Personal fitness
- Help educate the public
  - Reiterate that the BSA and GSUSA are separate organizations.
  - The Boy Scouts of America is the only Scouting organization in the United States that is a member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM).
- Continue positive relationships
  - The GSUSA has instructed its members and volunteers not to conduct joint activities with the BSA.
  - Do reach out to your local GSUSA representative should you receive requests to conduct joint activities.
- Use the national PR team
  - The national PR team includes media experts available to respond to any inquiry.
  - Send ALL media inquiries to [PR@scouting.org](mailto:PR@scouting.org).

### **What NOT to Do**

- Do not speak for or on behalf of the GSUSA or try to interpret its programs or policies for others.
- Instead, refer questions to a local GSUSA council or [www.GirlScouts.org](http://www.GirlScouts.org).





# Be Prepared. For Scouts BSA.

## Do...

...share your passion for the Boy Scouts of America (BSA)! We believe the BSA offers the best program for youth - but we also believe it's important for youth to be involved in the programs that are right for them.

## Don't...

...compare the programs of the BSA to other youth programs.

## Do...

...refer all questions about GSUSA programs to the local GSUSA council or website.

## Do...

...refer all inquiries from media outlets (TV, radio, newspapers, online) to the BSA public relations team by email at [pr@scouting.org](mailto:pr@scouting.org)

## Do...

...be clear. Be sure to use official BSA marks and logos from the [BSA Brand Center](#) when using terms like "Scout Me In" whether in print, social media, or digital.



▶ SCOUT ME IN ◀

## Remember...

...girls who are in Scouts BSA aren't members of the Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA). Avoid using the word "girl" before "Scouts." This includes fliers, in conversation, social media, etc. For example, you shouldn't say, "Let's have that group of Scouts BSA girl Scouts line up."

## Do...

...remember that the BSA and GSUSA are separate organizations. If those around you say or suggest otherwise, politely correct them!

## Don't...

...use names, programs, marks, logos, images, or awards of the GSUSA or combine them with those of the BSA.

## A Scout is Courteous

The Boy Scouts of America applauds the work of the GSUSA in service to our nation's youth and is committed to respecting the organization's rights and programs.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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



# CONTACT US

## District Staff Contacts

### Team 1

Tim Lampley	Grand Towers, District Executive	314-256-3090	<a href="mailto:timothy.lampley@scouting.org">timothy.lampley@scouting.org</a>
Tori Smith	Illini, District Executive	708-264-4425	<a href="mailto:tori.smith@scouting.org">tori.smith@scouting.org</a>
Daron Storman	North Star, District Director	314-256-3078	<a href="mailto:daron.storman@scouting.org">daron.storman@scouting.org</a>
Khary Floyd	North Star, Sr. District Executive	314-256-3082	<a href="mailto:khary.floyd@scouting.org">khary.floyd@scouting.org</a>
William Humphrey	Thunderbird, District Executive	314-256-3088	<a href="mailto:william.humphrey@scouting.org">william.humphrey@scouting.org</a>

### Team 2

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Ken Etter	Osage, District Executive	314-256-3106	<a href="mailto:ken.etter@scouting.org">ken.etter@scouting.org</a>
Nathan Mead	Piasa Bird, District Executive	618-207-6429	<a href="mailto:nathan.mead@scouting.org">nathan.mead@scouting.org</a>

### Team 3

Mike Eschbach	Gravois Trail, District Director	314-256-3060	<a href="mailto:michael.eschbach@scouting.org">michael.eschbach@scouting.org</a>
Zoran Lazic	New Horizons District Director	314-256-3054	<a href="mailto:zoran.lazic@scouting.org">zoran.lazic@scouting.org</a>
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### Team 4

Joe Blasko	Black Gold, District Executive	816-225-6201	<a href="mailto:joseph.blasko@scouting.org">joseph.blasko@scouting.org</a>
Lauren Schuette	Egyptian, District Executive	573-450-9424	<a href="mailto:lauren.schuette@scouting.org">lauren.schuette@scouting.org</a>
Grayson Wolcott	Kaskaskia, District Executive	618-207-6427	<a href="mailto:grayson.wolcott@scouting.org">grayson.wolcott@scouting.org</a>
Matt Kasate	St. Clair, District Director	618-207-6425	<a href="mailto:matthew.kasate@scouting.org">matthew.kasate@scouting.org</a>
Nick Schubert	St. Clair, District Executive	618-207-6433	<a href="mailto:nicholas.schubert@scouting.org">nicholas.schubert@scouting.org</a>

### Team 5

<i>Vacant</i>	Big Muddy, District Executive	618-942-4863	
Mindy Sanders	Cherokee, District Executive	573-450-9983	<a href="mailto:mindy.sanders@scouting.org">mindy.sanders@scouting.org</a>
Adam Hinds	Ozark Trailblazers, District Executive	573-450-5409	<a href="mailto:adam.hinds@scouting.org">adam.hinds@scouting.org</a>
Ashley Metelski	Shawnee, District Executive	314-920-0621	<a href="mailto:ashley.metelski@scouting.org">ashley.metelski@scouting.org</a>
Mike Dineen	Sioux, District Executive	573-778-7687	<a href="mailto:michael.dineen@scouting.org">michael.dineen@scouting.org</a>

## District Volunteer Contacts

District Membership Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_



***SCOUTS STAND OUT.***

Greater St. Louis Area Council, Boy Scouts of America