



**2015 Merit Badge Rankings:**  
Which were the most popular nationwide?

(taken from Bryan on Scouting - Scouting Magazine's official blog)

Meet the new king - same as the old king.

The First Aid merit badge, dethroned by the Cooking merit badge in 2014, reclaimed the crown in 2015.

Put another way: More Scouts earned the First Aid merit badge in 2015 than any other merit badge. And it wasn't really close.

The Cooking merit badge, which simmered its way to the top of the charts in 2014, cooled to third place in the 2015 merit badge rankings.

The Swimming merit badge dolphin-kicked its way into second, and the Environmental Science and Citizenship in the World merit badge rounded out the top five.

80,716 Scouts earned the First Aid merit badge in 2015, which put that badge atop the charts. It beat second-place swimming by nearly 9,000 merit badges earned.



## 2015 Highlights

In 2015, over **1,180** youth attended **Boy Scout Resident and Cub Scout Adventure Camp** at Mississippi Valley Council Camps.

**2,815** youth participated in the BSA program.

**1,242** Adult Volunteers ran our program.

We had **65** Scouts and Scouters attend **BSA High Adventure Bases**.

**3** Nationally Accredited Summer Camp Programs.

We improved e-mail communication to volunteers and parents through the weekly publication, *The Current* and developed the quarterly *Scouting Matters*.

**Council Leadership:**

Joe Henning, Council President  
Cecil Haskins, Council Commissioner  
Todd Lamison, Scout Executive/CEO

**Scouting Matters Staff**

Sarah Fernandez, Vice President of Marketing  
J. David Gilbert, Staff Advisor  
Teresa Hardin, Staff Writer & Designer

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Find us online: [www.mississippivalleybsa.org](http://www.mississippivalleybsa.org) Visit us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MississippiValleyCouncil>

# Scouting Matters

Gardner Service Center  
2336 Oak Street, Quincy, IL 62301  
Phone: (217) 224-0204

Burlington Service Center  
3007 Flint Hills Drive, Burlington, IA 52601  
Phone: (319) 754-8413

### The Eagle Trail



Christian Sterett, (better known as Andy), started as a Tiger Cub with Pack 60 and is now a member of Troop 60 of Biggsville, IL. Andy has completed his Eagle Scout project and is now waiting for his Board of Review.

Andy wanted to choose a project that would benefit his home town and he came up with an idea of an outdoor informational kiosk that would be placed in front of the Community Building. City leadership and event planners would use it for locating and displaying occasions and information.

One life lesson learned from the Eagle Project is how to amend your project as challenges present themselves and this project was no exception. Andy says that long lead times prevented him from getting the recycled plastic kiosk that he really wanted and intended to use as his project, so he had to re-plan and go in a slightly different direction. He then went back and worked with local businesses to create an aluminum Outdoor Message Board.

Andy showed his leadership skills by attending the Biggsville Village Board Meeting to present his plans and ask for permission to do the project. He coordinated, made phone calls, and scheduled the other members of his Troop for work days. Good luck, Andy!

### Community Service Hours

The Mississippi Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America ended 2015 with our units totaling **18,359 Community Service Hours**.

So far in 2016, 8 units have turned in **362 Community Service hours**, which does not include hours with Scouting for Food.

Scouting for Food takes place on two consecutive weekends. On the first weekend, Scouts distribute bags to let their neighbors know about the drive. On the second, Scouts revisit those houses to pick up bags full of canned food, cereal, pasta, peanut butter, juice and other nonperishable items.

The food is delivered to needy families all throughout the Mississippi Valley Council's 12 counties.



Thank you to our partner, **County Market**, for helping make 2016's food drive a success.

# Thank You!

The Mississippi Valley Council could not do what it does without the support of our Sponsoring Organizations. Through their loyal support, we are able to accomplish many significant community service projects and prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes. So sometimes it just needs to be said...Thank you! The units in the list below are celebrating a significant anniversary this year.

Chartered Partner	City	State	Unit No.	Anniversary
Edward Stone Middle School	Burlington	IA	Post 9822	1
The Hancock Lodge #20	Carthage	IL	Pack 39	1
Danville Fire Department	Danville	IA	Post/Club 200	1
Farmington Locker	Farmington	IA	Post 1066	1
Griggsville Christian Church	Griggsville	IL	Pack 17	1
Clark County R1 Middle School	Kahoka	MO	Post 9145	1
American Legion Post 41	Keokuk	IA	Pack 48	1
Mediapolis Community Ambulance	Mediapolis	IA	Post 2958	1
Parents for Safe Shooting Sports	Mendon	IL	Crew 357	1
Pleasant Hill Fire Department	Pleasant Hill	IL	Club 343	1
Living Faith United Methodist Church	Bowen	IL	Troop 32	5
Burlington Police Department	Burlington	IA	Post 911	5
Southeast IA Regional Airport	Burlington	IA	Post 747	5
Tribe of the Silver Tomahawk	Burlington	IA	Crew 4	5
Columbus City Masonic Lodge #107	Columbus City	IA	Pack 17	5
LDS - Nauvoo Stake - Mount Pleasant Branch	Mt Pleasant	IA	Troop 111	10
Ursa Christian Church	Ursa	IL	Pack 70	15
St Vincents PTO	Keokuk	IA	Pack 36	20
Living Faith United Methodist Church	Bowen	IL	Pack 32	25
First Christian Church	Burlington	IA	Troop 40	25
Hamilton Kiwanis Club	Hamilton	IL	Pack 41	30
First United Methodist Church	Mt Pleasant	IA	Troop 24	30
St Marys Catholic Church	West Point	IA	Troop 20	30
Lions Club	La Harpe	IL	Pack 138	35
Faith Presbyterian Church	Quincy	IL	Troop 136	40
Pleasant Hill American Legion	Pleasant Hill	IL	Pack 16	50
Blackhawk School PTO	Burlington	IA	Pack 87	55
American Legion #192	Kahoka	MO	Troop 145	60
Luther Memorial Church	Quincy	IL	Pack 7	60
Sunnyside School PTO	Burlington	IA	Pack 85	65
Pittsfield Volunteer Fire Department	Pittsfield	IL	Pack 18	65
St Peter Catholic Church	Quincy	IL	Pack 5	65
Golden Lions Club	Golden	IL	Troop 42	75
Versailles Lions Club	Versailles	IL	Pack 11	75

Troop 3, sponsored by St Johns Catholic Church in Burlington, will celebrate their 100th year anniversary as a Scout Troop on April 1, 2017. We look forward to their celebration.



## NYLT and NYLT Extreme!



National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) is an exciting, action packed week of program to provide young men and women with leadership skills and experiences they can bring back to their home units. Content is delivered in an outdoor setting with the emphasis on immediate applications of learning. **NYLT** integrates the best of modern leadership theory with the traditional strengths of the Scouting experience. Through activities, presentations, challenges, discussions, and audio-visual support, Scouts learn:

- ◆ Vision/Goals/Planning
- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Servant Leadership
- ◆ Conflict Resolution
- ◆ Ethical Decision Making



**NYLT Extreme!** takes the leadership skills out of the campsite and into the back country of Saukenauk Scout Reservation. Scouts go into parts of camp that most don't get to see. The core leadership presentations are taught and supplemented with exciting adventures and activities including canoeing, shooting sports, team building activities, and the Zip Line.

### 6th Annual PHYSICALLY STRONG Adventure Race

Held March 19, 2016

Mississippi Valley Council is proud to partner once again with Quincy Medical Group to host the 6th annual Physically Strong Adventure Race at Saukenauk Scout Reservation. This unique activity challenges participants with an 8-hour course including canoeing, mountain biking, orienteering, climbing, and other special Scout skills.

This year over 30 people participated in the event. Our course is recognized as a 2016 regional qualifier for the US Adventure Racing Association.

Scouting for Food is just one way the Boy Scouts of America works to improve communities across the nation. Scouts are actively cleaning up parks, building houses, gathering for the needy, and even helping with disaster preparedness. We need millions of volunteers to provide these opportunities for youth to learn and grow.

#### Troop 91- Chartered to Chaddock in Quincy, IL participates In SCOUTING FOR FOOD

