

Scouting Matters

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September 2017

Where's Ethan?



Cub Scouting is full of adventure! Throughout the month of September and October, Ethan, a cardboard cut out, is going on an adventure and you can join him as he visits six locations throughout the council each week. Ethan serves as a guide to our elementary-school aged youth and points out important lessons in the Cub Scout handbooks.

Scouts all over the Tri-states will have the opportunity to join Scouting this fall. Our volunteer membership recruitment committees and our staff are visiting schools to get kids excited for Scouting, distributing flyers, yard signs, post cards, book marks and more! Let your friends know that they can sign up for Scouting by visiting www.beascout.org.

As an added bonus, all new Scouts will have the opportunity to earn their Bobcat badge at the free Bobcat Bonanzas occurring in most communities. They also get to attend their first campout, the Cubanapolis, for free!

New Camp Cabins – Envision 2020 Update



Now open to the public and to our Scouting groups, both Camp Eastman (Nauvoo) and Saukenauk Scout Reservation (Mendon) have new cabins to be utilized for off-season housing and camp staff housing during the summer. Saukenauk, located in Mendon, IL has five new cabins, each named after one of the mountain peaks at Philmont Scout Ranch, one of the four BSA High Adventure Bases. Each cabin comes equipped with bunkbeds and the large cabin has a full kitchen and a large fireplace. Camp Eastman in Nauvoo, IL has three new unnamed cabins. Thank you to the volunteers who helped design, construct, and install all eight of our new cabins.

Thank you, Dona, for 35 Years of Service

A celebration honoring Dona's 35 years of employment will be held on Saturday, October 21st.

If you would like to receive a personal invitation, please contact Rosanna Voss at 217-224-0204 or rosanna.voss@scouting.org



Dona Coultas, Field and Program Admin, has announced her retirement in October, after 35 years of employment with the Mississippi Valley Council. But we can't just let her go after so many years without talking to her about her time here...

Dona, how did you hear about the job opening 35 years ago? *"I had just gotten my Master's Degree in History and planned on teaching. I saw an advertisement in the paper for a secretary for a nonprofit organization and came in for an interview. The first 10 years I worked for the Boy Scouts, I also taught history at Quincy College part time."*

When you meet new people and they find out that you work for the Boy Scouts, what do they say or ask you? *"I am used to total strangers looking at me funny and then saying 'The Boy Scout Office, that's where I know you from'. Many people want to tell me about the Eagle Scouts in their family or their brothers or*

fathers who were Scouters. I tell them what a wonderful place this is to work at because you deal with some of the best people in the world; people who want to shape our future community leaders. Many people don't stop to think what dedication it takes to be a unit leader."

How many Scout Executives have you worked for? *"I have enjoyed working under the leadership of Van Braidwood, Don Oblander, David Richart, Quentin Karlstrand, Gary Mertz and I'm finishing my career here with a great Scout Executive, Todd Lamison. I've been so blessed to work for such wonderful and generous men. Just as few people understand the dedication to be a Unit Leader, many don't understand what it takes to run a whole Council."*

Tell us of the different jobs that you have done for Scouting in your 35 years. Which were some of your favorites and why? *"I started out as the registrar and running the little Scout Shop that was on the main floor. We moved the shop down to its present location around 1990 and I was there until 3 years ago, when I moved upstairs to take care of camping, events and Eagle Scout projects and applications. I've really missed meeting new people since I moved upstairs. I especially miss the new Cub Scouts in the fall who come in so excited that they often want to wear their new uniform out of the shop. That was my favorite job."*

What has made you stay in one job for 35 years? *"The people I work with who have all been great and the volunteers. I thought a few times in the early years about trying to find a teaching job, but I just loved the atmosphere around Scouting. I was so impressed by the values it was trying to instill in our young members and the dedication of our leaders. The bottom line was I loved this job and didn't want to leave. And that's how 35 years passes in the wink of an eye."*

What do you plan on doing when you are not working full time? *"My sister, Pam, and I plan on traveling and we will take our younger sister, Diana, with us when possible but with 8 children and 6 grandchildren, she is kind of busy. I want to get involved in the mentoring program at JWCC. I would love to teach someone to read or to write. I think if you can open that door for them, you have given them a great gift that they will have for the rest of their lives. I'm really looking forward to that."*

Advice to our great volunteers? *"My best wishes to each of you, may God Bless and keep you as you work to make this world a better place."*

You can see the full interview with Dona on our Council Website: <http://mississippivalleybsa.org/About%20Us/dona>

It has been a real blessing to work with Dona. We want to thank her for being a tireless professional, a helpful coworker, and a good friend. She has made a lasting impact on the world of Scouting in the Mississippi Valley Council and we've been so fortunate to have her years of experience to rely on. Dona, we hope retirement brings you wonderful things. You will be greatly missed.

Fort Madison Clay Crushers, Trap Shooting Team Go to Nationals



The Fort Madison Clay Crushers trap shooting team recently went to Nationals in Sparta, Illinois. The group pictured won the pre-sub junior squad title for Class A. Pictured are Boy Scout Edward Schroeder (Troop 7, Holy Family Parish, Fort Madison) on the far left, Boy Scout Drew Dravis (Troop 19, Congregational United Church of Christ, Denmark) on the far right. Others pictured from left to right are Trevor Edwards, Trey Edwards, and Brett Azinger. Edward Schroeder also won runner-up in the Class C pre-sub division as an individual!

Drew Dravis, Troop 19, has been shooting two years with the Clay Crushers. Edward Schroeder is finishing his first year as a rookie!

Troop 15, Sponsored by the United Methodist Church in Barry, IL Hosts a Group of Boys from East St. Louis Christian Action Center

Troop 15 of Barry hosted a group of boys from East St. Louis Christian Action Center at Saukenauk Scout Reservation this last April.

Assistant Scoutmaster, Tracy Martin said, "This was the first time most of the boys had ever been camping. They had a blast as did the Troop. They scaled the rock climbing tower, did the zip line, and canoed on the lake. The Troop boys wish to host them again in the future because of so much fun they had."



Boy Scout's Camp Eastman and Saukenauk Scout Reservations are both available for surrounding communities and non-Scout organizations to use, as well as our own units. For a tour or more information, contact J. David Gilbert at 217-224-0204 or email him at JDavid.Gilbert@Scouting.org.

Scouts Attend Camp Thanks to Campership Donors

Since its inception, Scouting has taught personal responsibility and how to be Thrifty. That's why there might be a boy knocking on your door to ask if you want to buy popcorn or discount cards. Scouts who still need additional funding can apply for a Campership.

In 2017 the Council awarded \$9,921 of Camperships to Scouts in our thirteen county Council. The Mississippi Valley Council does its best to ensure every Scout has the opportunity to get to Camp Eastman or Saukenauk Scout Reservation for a week or weekend of adventure and fun.

We want to thank the following for their contributions: Kiwanis Club of Burlington, Dennis Wilson, Quincy Noon Kiwanis, Black Hawk Lodge – Order of the Arrow, Tribe of the Silver Tomahawk, CEDA Randy Plummer Memorial, Jonathan Guyton Memorial, Bill Paxton, Kim Perron, Matt Hutmacher Memorial, Gnuse Sporting Clay Team, Area Disposal Sporting Clay Team, Charles Rucker, the United Way and Mississippi Valley Council.

Thank you so much. Donors. I always have fun at camp and it was a bunch of fun. You are all amazing!
 -Riley

My favorite activity was the Zip Line because the view was very beautiful, but the hike up the hill was hard to climb!
 -James

Thank you for your donation so I could go to camp. It was the highlight of my Summer!
 -Dominic

Thank you so much for helping me. I was able to get my Welding, Wilderness Survival, and Motorboating merit badges. I even helped the Instructor of the Zip Line because he needed help. Thank you so much.
 -Parker

To make a donation to help send a kid to camp, contact us at mvc@Scouting.org.

Introduction To Outdoor Leader Skills or Better Known as OLS

Outdoor skills are critical to the success of the Scouting program, and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills provides leaders with the basic outdoor skills information needed to start a program right.

Do you know how to select your campsite? You must admit, that is a very important thing to know. You need to look at the environmental impact, and check any safety issues. For example, you don't want to pick a site that is under dead trees and limbs. These are only a couple of things that new leaders will learn.

We have been able to send 94 new leaders to Introduction of Outdoor Leader Skills for FREE over the last three years, thanks to Friends of Scouting and Popcorn sales.



Training



COPE / CLIMBING TOWER TRAINING

Exciting and Challenging. Not only Scouts, but other organizations can benefit from COPE and Climbing exercises and training.

Physical, mental and emotional challenges are put together to enhance personal growth and team building. Goals of the program are:

Leadership, Self Esteem, Communication, Trust, Decision Making, Teamwork, Problem Solving and Planning.

Contact us at mvc@scouting.org for more information.



**HIS SAFETY
IS OUR PRIORITY.**



THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

The Council Offices have had over 517 volunteer hours since January 1, 2017. Thank you!

We can't do this without you!

(This does not include the countless volunteer hours at camp or at the unit level.)

Council Leadership:

Kevin Mineart, Council President

Dennis Stewart, Council Commissioner

Todd Lamison, Scout Executive/CEO

Scouting Matters Staff

Bob Dickson, Vice President of Marketing

J. David Gilbert, Staff Advisor

Teresa Hardin, Staff Writer & Designer

Scouting Matters is published four times a year by the Mississippi Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America. Articles and pictures are always welcome for consideration and may be e-mailed to mvc@scouting.org.

Find us online: www.mississippivalleybsa.org

Visit us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MississippiValleyCouncil>

