

# Scouting Matters

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## Eagle Scout Journey

To Help Other People



Jackson Weyrick is a member of Troop 57, sponsored by the Oakville United Methodist Church. Jackson chose his Eagle Scout project to build a GaGa pit for the City of Oakville in Iowa. It was placed on the existing tennis court located in the city park.

The City of Oakville was in need of some recreational equipment and the city felt a GaGa pit would be a good addition to its current facilities in the city park.

Jackson approached Dale Whitaker, a member of the Oakville City Council, who thought about building one for the local youth groups to enjoy.

Jackson explained, "Since Camp Eastman had recently installed one at their camp, I knew exactly what it was, so I thought it would be a great project. The GaGa pit adds another activity to the park and makes it more user friendly."

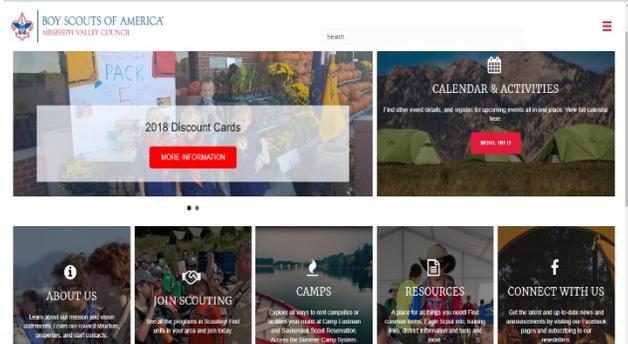
The GaGa ball game became popular among Jewish camps during the 1970's and has seen a resurgence recently at camps, schools, and youth activity centers outside of the Jewish community. GaGa actually translates from Hebrew as "touch-touch" and is a variation of dodgeball. GaGa Ball is a fun, easy game to learn and play.

## Mississippi Valley Council has a New Look!

Thanks to our friends at Vervocity Interactive, we can better communicate with our volunteer leaders and parents. New features include:

-  Interactive Calendar
-  Online Registration
-  Resources Library
-  Camp Facilities Rental
-  New Summer Camp System

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



# Happy Anniversary!

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.

## Celebrating our Partnerships

<u>Chartered Partner</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Anniversary</u>
LDS – Nauvoo Stake – Keokuk Branch	Keokuk	IA	Troop 108	1 Year
Quincy Fire Department	Quincy	IL	Post 9104	1 Year
United Church of Crawfordsville	Crawfordsville	IA	Pack 32	5 Years
LDS – Nauvoo Stake – Keokuk Branch	Keokuk	IA	Pack 108	5 Years
River of Life Church	Dallas City	IL	Troop 51	15 Years
Oquawka United Methodist Church	Oquawka	IL	Troop 61	20 Years
Burlington Fire Department	Burlington	IA	Post 45	20 Years
Corse PTO	Burlington	IA	Pack 40	25 Years
First Christian Church	Burlington	IA	Troop 40	25 Years
Community of Christ	Nauvoo	IL	Troop 56	30 Years
First United Methodist Church	Mount Pleasant	IA	Pack 27	35 Years
Warsaw Lions Club	Warsaw	IL	Pack 50	45 Years
West Burlington United Methodist Church	West Burlington	IA	Pack 14	45 Years
LaHarpe Lions Club	LaHarpe	IL	Troop 138	45 Years
American Legion Post 1176	Biggsville	IL	Troop 60	50 Years
LDS – Nauvoo Ward – Nauvoo Stake	Nauvoo	IL	Troop 107	50 Years
St. Anthony Church	Quincy	IL	Pack 76	50 Years
Danville Lions Club	Danville	IA	Troop 71	50 Years
United Methodist Church Admin. Board	Oquawka	IL	Pack 61	55 Years
Blackhawk School PTO	Burlington	IA	Pack 87	55 Years
Blessed Sacrament Parish	Quincy	IL	Pack 1	55 Years
C.A.R.E. Association	Kahoka	MO	Pack 145	60 Years
Sunnyside School PTO	Burlington	IA	Pack 85	65 Years
Adams School Parents	Quincy	IL	Pack 21	65 Years
St. James Lutheran Church	Quincy	IL	Pack 2	65 Years

# 2017 By the Numbers

## Our Camps

1,152 Scouts in Summer Camp  
5% Increase in Cub Scout Camping  
11% Increase in weekend camping  
32 Scouts attended Provisional Camp,  
a 21% increase  
164 Scouts attended Boy Scout Polar Bear  
227 Scouts attended Cub Scout Yukon

## Building a Legacy

11 New James E. West Fellows  
Founded Explorer Officer Association  
Developed unit planning workshop called PBJ  
(Planning, Budget, Join)  
Evaluated Council structure and successfully  
redistricted two districts into Eagle Valley District

## Rank Advancement

53 Eagle Scouts  
1,081 Cub Scout Ranks Earned  
393 Boy Scout Ranks Earned  
2,326 Merit Badges Earned

## In the Community

31,108 Recorded Service Hours, a 54.9% increase  
6,517 Scouts and leaders participated  
in 610 Projects  
32,892 Items Donated at Scouting for Food  
2 Storefront Popcorn Blitz Days

## Adventure of a Lifetime

10 Scouts attended Philmont  
5 Scouts attended Northern Tier Adventure Base  
1 Scout attended Philmont OA Trail Crew  
36 Scouts & 4 leaders attended National Scout  
Jamboree at The Summit Bechtel Reserve  
25 people visited or served on staff  
at National Jamboree

## Our Membership

2,742 Youth Served  
157 Kindergarten youth served in Lions Pilot  
Program  
13.25% Total Membership Market Share  
74.83% Membership Retention  
Founded 6 New Units

## S.T.E.M.

68 Scouts attended STEM Camp,  
a 63% increase  
522 STEM-related merit badges were earned,  
a 46% increase

## Envision

Saukenauk Scout Reservation new Philmont Cabins  
Saukenauk Scout Reservation new bouldering wall  
Camp Eastman Pete's Pond renovation completed  
Camp Eastman new Honor Cabins  
Both Camps Internal Signage

**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. Last year, Scouts collected 33,199 food items.

This year's Scouting for Food Drive is underway. Bag distribution is March 10th and food collection on Saturday, March 17th. Please support our efforts to restock food pantries across our council area. Thank you!

## Welcome to the Scouting Family!



The Mississippi Valley Council partnered with six new chartered partners in 2017:

Liberty Lions Club in Liberty, IL – Boy Scout Troop 58  
Keokuk Middle School in Keokuk, IA – Explorer Club 9002  
West Burlington United Methodist Church in West Burlington, IA – Venture Crew 44  
Saint Alphonsus in Mount Pleasant, IA – Venture Crew 1862  
Stone Gardens Apartments in Burlington, IA – Cub Scout Pack 1002  
Great River Health System in West Burlington, IA – Explorer Post 1221

## Congratulations, Silver Beaver Recipients!



The Silver Beaver Award is the council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. Recipients of this award are registered adult volunteers who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to the council and community. The Silver Beaver is an award given to those who implement the Scouting program and perform community service through hard work, self-sacrifice, dedication, and many years of service. It is given to those who do not seek it.

This year's honorees received their awards with their wives by their sides at the Mississippi Valley Council's Annual Dinner held on February 10<sup>th</sup> at Quincy Regional Airport. Congratulations, Keith, Jim and Tad! Pictured above from left to right are Keith & Pam Klusmeyer, Jim & Penny Mehaffy, and Tad & Julie Sorrells. Past recipients can be found by visiting our council website at <https://tinyurl.com/y92sjmv8>

### 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  
Rosanna Voss, Staff Writer & Designer

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