



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY COUNCIL BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Scouting Matters

SPRING 2021

Quincy Service Center
2522 Locust Street, Quincy, IL 62301
Phone: (217) 224-0204

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

*Happy
Anniversary!*

The Mississippi Valley Council could not do what it does without the support of our Sponsoring Organizations. Through their loyal support, we can accomplish many significant community service projects and prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes. 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>
Griggsville Christian Church	Griggsville	IL	Troop 17	1 Year
Quincy Area Vocational Technical Center	Quincy	IL	Post 240	1 Year
Great River Health System	West Burlington	IA	Post 1221	5 Years
Liberty Lions Club	Liberty	IL	Troop 58	5 Years
Griggsville Christian Church	Griggsville	IL	Pack 17	5 Years
Living Faith United Methodist Church	Bowen	IL	Troop 32	10 Years
Winfield Lions Club	Winfield	IA	Pack 21	20 Years
American Legion Post 765	Smithshire	IL	Pack 63	35 Years
Quincy Fire Department	Quincy	IL	Post 104	35 Years
Warsaw Lions Club	Warsaw	IL	Troop 50	40 Years
Salem Evangelical United Church of Christ	Quincy	IL	Pack 6	50 Years
Community of Christ	Nauvoo	IL	Pack 56	55 Years
Letts United Methodist Church	Letts	IA	Pack 54	55 Years
Vermont Street United Methodist Church	Quincy	IL	Pack 52	60 Years
American Legion-Daniel Matson Post #243	Mediapolis	IA	Pack 53	70 Years
Holy Name Society of St. Francis Catholic Church	Quincy	IL	Pack 22	70 Years
Trinity United Methodist Church	Keokuk	IA	Troop 43	75 Years
St. Peter Catholic Church	Quincy	IL	Troop 5	85 Years
Holy Name Society of St. Francis Catholic Church	Quincy	IL	Troop 22	90 Years
Blessed Sacrament Parish	Quincy	IL	Troop 1	95 Years
St. John's Catholic Church	Burlington	IA	Troop 3	105 Years

Drive-Through Christmas Party



On Thursday, December 17th, Pack 1 of Blessed Sacrament Church in Quincy held a drive-through Christmas pack meeting at the Quincy Service Center on Locust. All leaders, Scouts, and their families in the cars wore masks. As each car drove through the



parking lot, Scouts received their advancement for the month, a pinewood derby car, hot chocolate mix, and some popcorn and candy canes to snack on. Even Santa was there to greet the Scouts!

Scout Sunday



February 21, 2021 marked the Council's first annual Scout Sunday celebration at St. Francis Solanus Catholic Church in Quincy. Nearly 200 Scouts, leaders and their families attended the mass with another 200 people viewing the livestream broadcast on the parish and council Facebook pages. Thank you to Marsha Collins, Scoutmaster of Girls' Troop 225 sponsored by Holy Name Society of St. Francis Catholic Church, for organizing this special celebration along with newly elected Mississippi Valley Council Executive Board member and Pastor of St. Francis Church, Fr. Steven Arisman who presided over the mass. Each Quincy Catholic Pack and Troop was represented and had participants contribute in the various roles of the mass as ushers, readers, servers, musicians, and flag bearers. The mass culminated with



the awarding of the *Parvuli Dei* religious award to a den of Webelos Scouts. Organizers plan to make this an annual event on the third Sunday of February. To learn more about religious awards, please visit <https://www.scouting.org/awards/religious-awards/>.

Winter Activities Recap



The Mississippi Valley Council stayed very active this past winter! While we had to postpone our Cub Scout Yukon Day Camp until the spring, we were able to host our 50th Polar Bear Virtually! Scouts from across the council gathered in small groups and performed the many Polar Bear Challenges! We were able to display those achievements virtually through the private Polar Bear Facebook group!

The council also offered the following online merit badges this winter – Citizenship in the Community, Communications, American Heritage, and Genealogy. Coming up soon we will host the following small group, in-person merit badges – Environmental Science at Camp Eastman and we are partnering with Gardner Camp to provide Astronomy!



The 2nd annual Pinewood Derby Car Clinic occurred in January! We maintained small groups and social distance all while Cubs were able to come to Camp Eastman with their unfinished block of pinewood and leave with creative masterpiece Pinewood Derby Cars! Many thanks go to Chris and Jennifer Meeks for hosting this special event!

2020 – A Year in Review

Our Camps

1,436 Scouts & Scouters enjoyed a weekend campout
171 Scouts attended Scouts BSA Polar Bear and Cub Scout Yukon

Our Membership

1,775 Youth Served in 111 Units
Served 233 girls in our Cub Scout & Scouts BSA programs
5.10% Total Membership Market Share
Founded 4 New Units

Rank Advancement

41 Eagle Scouts
501 Cub Scout Ranks Earned
21 Scouts BSA Ranks Earned
324 Merit Badges Earned

In the Community

3,756 Recorded Service Hours
181 Scouts and leaders participated in 49 Service Projects
5,083 Items Donated at Scouting for Food
Monetary Value of this Volunteer Time is \$95,515

Virtual Programming

Virtual programming was held four nights per week throughout the Spring & Fall for Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA youth
Two virtual camporees were held, a COVID(eo) camporee in the Spring and a Spook-o-ree camporee in the Fall

Envision Projects Completed

Completed Burlington Scout Shop Remodel
Saukenauk Scout Reservation Dining Hall Renovations Continue
Saukenauk Scout Reservation Pistol Range Renovations Continue
4 Additional Honor Cabins at Camp Eastman

Our Accomplishments

Burlington Service Center Receives Facelift



The Burlington office recently received a facelift with grant money received from the John H. Witte, Jr. Foundation. Thanks to this great gift, we were able to update the Scout Shop with new racks, a television monitor to advertise our upcoming events, and a beautiful new counter. In addition, we added backstock shelving, new conference room chairs and table wrap, and remodeled the Program Director's office. We will have an open house at some point in the future.



Delivering the Promise



If you've been following our social media or other communications, you may have seen messages about our **Deliver the Promise** campaign. What is it? It's the new theme of our annual campaign, formerly called *Friends of Scouting*. Why the change? We want to better communicate what your contributions go towards.

We, the Mississippi Valley Council, promise to ensure every young person in our service area will have an invitation to join the Scouting program. When they do, we promise to deliver the promise of fun and adventure at Saukenauk Scout Reservation, at Camp Eastman, and by ensuring all of our volunteer leaders have the resources/support they need to run the program on a weekly basis.

More information, stories, videos, testimonials, and ways to contribute can be found on our website www.givescouting.com or via GuideStar where we have a Gold seal of transparency.

Eagle Scout Spotlight



Varyk Henke is a member of Troop 71, sponsored by Danville Lions Club in Danville, IA. For his Eagle Project, he made an irrigation system in the garden near West Burlington's Peace Lutheran Church to make watering much easier and more accessible.

In the Spring of 2020, Varyk first went to the YMCA garden to help with weeding and watering at his church. He noticed that the watering hose was a long distance from the garden, and it seemed to be a hassle to get the hose to the garden. The church members had to pull it across the entire YMCA parking lot to get to the garden on the other side. Varyk observed that this was very difficult for the older members of the church. When he was deciding on what to do for his Eagle project, he felt it most productive to make the irrigation system to make watering much easier and more accessible.



When talking with other members of the church, Varyk discovered that the YMCA garden also makes it easier to get healthy food options to the Burlington, IA food pantries. He said, "These pantries support organizations like one I've participated in before called *Bridges Out of Poverty*. This situation reminded me of a fable called *The Fisher King* because during this project, I learned that the simple act of adding an irrigation system to the garden really helps all of us support the people in need in our community."

Thank you, Rosanna, for nearly 28 Years of Service!

A celebration honoring Rosanna's nearly 28 years of employment will be held on Thursday, April 29th at Native Grill & Wings. For more information, visit our website at <https://www.mississippivalleybsa.org/events/rosanna-voss-retirement-party/>.

Rosanna Voss, Executive Assistant, has announced her retirement in April, after over 27 years of employment with the Mississippi Valley Council. Rosanna began her career with the Boy Scouts of America September 1, 1993 as Council Registrar. She was then employed as Office Manager, and finally Executive Assistant.

Rosanna says, "I have worked under the leadership of Scout Executives David Richart, Quentin Karlstrand, Gary Mertz, Todd Lamison, and I'm finishing my career with a great Scout Executive, Ricci Dula. I have been blessed to work for these wonderful men as well as the rest of the staff of the Mississippi Valley Council. I will greatly miss working with our amazing team of staff and volunteers, but it's time for me to move on."



Rosanna plans to enjoy her retirement by camping, travelling with her husband, and spending time with her family.

Welcome, Matthew Ghirarda!



Please help us welcome Matthew Ghirarda as Senior District Executive of Eagle Valley District. Matt grew up in Scouting in his hometown of Somerville, MA. As a youth, he spent many summers working at T.L. Storer Scout Camp in Barnstead, NH. When he started his Scouting career, it was in his home council of the former Boston Minuteman Council as a Program Specialist. He has also served as District Executive in Katahdin Area Council in Bangor, ME and as District Director in the former Nashua Valley Council in Lancaster, MA. Most recently, Matt has served as the Program Director for the Seneca Waterways Council in Rochester, NY. Matt has been married to his wife, Danielle, for 16 years. They both enjoy hiking and exploring the regions where they live.

Council Leadership:

Will Duryea, Council President
Ben Schmidgall, Council Commissioner
Ricci Dula, Scout Executive/CEO

Scouting Matters Staff

Christine Tracy, Vice President of Marketing
Keely Kangas, Staff Advisor
Rosanna Voss, 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>

