

RHODES FRANCE SCOUT RESERVATION



GREATER ST. LOUIS AREA
SCOUTING



2026

SCOUTS BSA
Program Guide





Merit Badges

AGE RECOMMENDATIONS

Some merit badges have physical or mental demands that are more suited to Scouts of a particular age, maturity, or skill level. In the class catalog, you can view which merit badges may have restrictions on ages and/or ranks. Unit leaders are responsible for ensuring that Scouts meet age, maturity, and skill levels needed for all sessions.

PREREQUISITES AND PARTIAL COMPLETIONS

Some programs have requirements that cannot be completed at camp and should instead be completed before or after camp. Details are available in the class catalog.

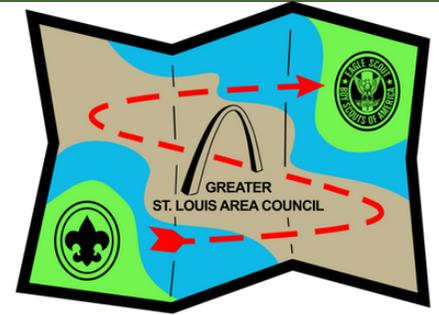
Partial completion of a merit badge is not a failure, it is what the name indicates; partial success. Many Scouts will complete only sections of badges with prerequisites or that are very difficult. They then can complete them with another counselor at home or back at camp the following summer. Partials are valid until a Scout turns 18. Be sure to provide the required documentation for Scouts who have completed requirements for merit badges before they come to camp.

MERIT BADGE PROGRAM

Unit Leaders should guide Scouts to set achievable goals. Some subjects require a greater length of time for instruction than others, and this should be taken into account when scheduling them.

Please remember to review this guide and schedule around certain activities that Scouts wish to participate in such as open swimming. Scouts should be able to have some free time at camp to enjoy themselves. There is much more to summer camp than merit badges! **Click here to view the class catalog!**

Camp Program



WAYFINDER PROGRAM

The Wayfinder Program is our summer camp program for Scouts who have recently joined a troop or have just crossed over from Cub Scouts. This program replaced the Pathfinder program of previous years. In Wayfinder, new Scouts are immersed in the Scouting Program and Rhodes France. Scouts will learn the patrol method and basic Scouting skills, and experience some of the many programs available at summer camp. Leaders will receive a printout of what was completed at camp, but the staff do not “sign-off” on the requirements.

WAYFINDER

Scouts may now register for individual rank sessions based on their needs. Sessions are divided into Scout and Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class.

Like merit badge registration, you can select the sessions that each scout needs.

Merit badges are not automatically included in the program. Depending on the number of rank sessions in which the scout is enrolled, he or she may register for 3-5 merit badges of their choice. The rank sessions have been scheduled to offer at least one Swimming merit badge session at a non-conflicting time.

Leaders with more than five Scouts in the Wayfinder program are asked to assist by providing adult supervision as they have time available.

APEX OLDER SCOUT PROGRAM

The APEX Program features activities designed for Scouts who are at least 14 years old or in their fourth year of summer camp. Activities will include off-property outings and access to unique programming at camp, including Range & Target Activities.

Unit leaders may need to help provide transportation to off property activities.

A schedule of APEX events will be available prior to camp and will also be available at the Sunday Leader’s meeting.



APEX

Open Programs



Free Swimming

The pool is available in the afternoons from 3:00pm - 5:00pm.

There are not set times that Scouts and leaders can swim - come when it works for your schedule!

Open Boating

Canoes, rowboats, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards are available from 3:00pm - 5:00pm Monday through Friday. Note: Scouts must be Scouting America Swimmers to use kayaks and paddleboards.

Mile Swim

The Mile swim is held during each session of camp. The specific time of the Mile Swim will be announced at camp.

Note: Any participant in the Mile Swim must have a minimum of four hours of practice swimming in camp prior to the Mile Swim to qualify. Unit leadership is responsible for ensuring the practice swimming occurs during the week. Click [here](#) to see the full requirements for the Mile Swim.

Open Range and Target Activities

The Rifle, Shotgun, and Archery Range are available during the week for open shoots. Schedules will be posted at the beginning of each week. There is no charge for Rifle or Archery shooting. The fee for shotgun is \$10 for 10 shots - payable at the Trading Post in advance.

Top Shot Award (Youth Rifle)

This award recognizes the highest score in rifle shooting for the week. Scouts can work towards this honor during open shooting times at the range. The award will be presented during the closing campfire.

Top Archer Award (Youth Archery)

This award recognizes the highest score in archery shooting for the week. Scouts can work towards this honor during open shooting times at the range. The award will be presented during the closing campfire.

Top Gun Award (Adult Rifle)

This competition is for adults at camp and takes place on Thursday from 2:00pm - 3:30pm. The highest scorer will be recognized during the closing campfire on Friday night.

Duty to God Award

Scouts are encouraged to attend the Chapel Service on Sunday at 7:00pm to receive more information on how to earn this award during their week of camp. You must attend the service in order to qualify.

Open Programs



Baden Powell Patrol Award

This Patrol based award includes requirements that a Patrol must complete during their week of camp including Troop and Patrol activities, a pioneering gadget, service projects, etc. Troops will sign up with the Camp Commissioner to work on the award and projects.

Leader Dessert Competition

This dessert competition takes place on Thursday at 2:15pm in the Range and Target Activities area during the Adult Top Shot competition. Bring your best dessert to enter!

Battle Boats Competition

This exciting event takes place at the Lakefront area from 4:00pm - 5:00pm on Tuesday! Come and compete and expect to get wet!

Leader Golf Competition

Leaders who want to take part in this event will meet at the Friendship Circle at 2:15pm on Tuesday.

Open Program Area Time

Taking place from 4:00pm - 5:00pm daily, this time can be used for merit badge makeup, service projects, and plenty of other exciting activities in the Program Areas.

Leader Lounge Out

This activity features an open swim time just for Adults at the pool. Join us on Monday at 3pm!

Fish Fry

Join the Nature Staff in McCoy Village at 4:00pm on Thursday!

Trading Post Party & Adult Leader Root Beer Float Party

Join the staff and PARTY outside of the Trading Post on Friday night following the closing campfire! Leaders are invited to a Root Beer Float party during this time!

Evening Programs

OPENING & CLOSING CAMPFIRES

The Opening Campfire is presented by the Camp Staff on Sunday night. The Closing Campfire will take place on Friday and Troops will have a chance to perform skits, songs, and more!

FAMILY NIGHT & OA CALL-OUT CEREMONY

Parents are invited to visit Camp on Wednesdays! They may arrive at camp beginning at 5:00 PM. Troops should plan to help guide visiting parents from the main parking lot to their campsite, where they are welcome to visit until after the Family Night Campfire & OA Call Out Ceremony at 8:15pm.

Many units host potluck dinners on Wednesday in their campsites. Guest meals are also available for purchase for \$8 so guests can eat in the dining hall.

MONDAY NIGHT

Open Games - Join in the fun on the lawn in front of the Administration Building @ 7:15pm

Dungeons & Dragons, Board Games, and Magic the Gathering Night - In the dining hall beginning @7:15pm

Cowboy Action Shoot - Scouts at least 14 years old can participate at the Brookman Family Shooting Sports Complex beginning @ 7:15pm

Evening Swim - Splash around in the pool beginning @ 7:15pm

TUESDAY NIGHT

Scout Olympics

This competition will test the Scouts' skills and be a lot of fun for all. Groups participating will meet at the Parade Field at 6:45pm.

THURSDAY NIGHT

RATA Night

Join us for some Range and Target Activities at the Ranges!

Crate Stacking

Astronomy Night

There will be a Star Party for the Astronomy Merit Badge Class (and anyone else interested) at 9:00pm.



Leader Training

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills Training (IOLS) & Leader Specific Training

This hands-on course provides adult leaders the practical outdoor skills they need to lead Scouts in the out-of-doors. Upon completion, leaders should feel comfortable teaching Scouts the basic skills required to obtain the First Class rank. Along with Scoutmaster Specifics this course is required of all direct contact leaders registered in Scouts BSA Troops in order to be considered “trained”.

Specifics on timing of this course will be covered at a leaders meeting early during the week of camp.

Additional Trainings

With the availability of the internet in the Administration Building, leaders can spend some time during their week at camp completing any of the online trainings offered via my.scouting.org.



Specialty Camps

Greater St. Louis Area Scouting offers multiple “Specialty” Camps that Scouts can attend individually each summer. Troops do not have to provide leadership for these programs.

S-F RANGER PROGRAM

Scouts who are at least 14 years old and adults can participate in this week-long backpacking and hiking adventure that traverses the 5,200 acre S-F Scout Ranch. The group will meet on Sunday at Wenzel Lodge and then depart for a week of activities and hiking. Sessions must have at least 6 participants to run. Sessions held in June and July! 5 to choose from!



STEM & SKILLED TRADES CAMP

July 19 - 25
Camp May - Beaumont Scout Reservation

This camp is an *extraordinary experience* for Scouts full of many STEM based merit badges, **new** Skilled Trades merit badge track, and over-the-top activities. Scouts will attend one merit badge (*over to 60 to choose from!*) or one NOVA activity class *each day* and may have the opportunity to work on other badges in the evening.

HORSE CAMP

July 26 - August 1
Nagel Equestrian Center, Beaumont Scout Reservation

Spend a week at an intermediate riding camp cantering around the property and learning more about horses. There are many trails to be ridden, competitions/games to be played on horseback in the riding ring, and other activities to further your horsemanship along with a chance to show off your advanced skills in a Cavalcade at the end of the week. Other activities while at Horse Camp include swimming, rifle/shotgun shooting, climbing tower, ropes course, campfires, and much more.



Resources

Rhodes France Scout Reservation
815 N 500 East Rd
Pana, IL 62557

