~OUTDOOR ADVENTURES AWAIT~ 2026

Greater St. Louis Area Scouting Challenge Course and Climbing Program and Training Overview

Greater St. Louis Area Scouting offers multiple Challenge Course and Rock Climbing opportunities for our Scouts. These include two different High and Low Ropes courses, climbing towers at Beaumont, Lewallen and Camp Warren Levis, and natural rock face climbing and rappelling at S bar F Scout Ranch and Giant City State Park near Pine Ridge Scout Reservation (Makanda IL)

Training and Reserving Sites and/or Gear

TO REGISTER FOR TRAINING: Register and pay online using the links on our training page: https://stlbsa.org/training/challenge-course-climbing/

TO REGISTER TO USE THE CHALLENGE COURSE OR CLIMBING GEAR: Register as explained during training for one or two spots on any Saturday or Sunday; the Challenge Course site, Climbing Towers and Climbing gear are reserved using the same system as you use to reserve a campsite.

IMPORTANT: ONLY CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS MAY "CHECK OUT' CHALLENGE COURSE AND CLIMBING GEAR. The unit is required to provide one or two trained and qualified instructors.

Instructor Training Details

The initial training for the **CHALLENGE COURSES, CLIMBING TOWERS** and **ROCK CLIMBING AND RAPPELLING** are conducted twice each year. **Challenge and Rock Climbing** initial training includes a Wednesday evening meeting at Beaumont, and a weekend training from early Saturday morning until Sunday evening. Initial **Tower** training is a single day event.
To use the challenge course (Beaumont or S bar F) where initial training did not occur, instructors should take the one-day orientation which is offered in spring and fall each year at the other camp (see below).

Timing of Training Events

After you have completed the training, you demonstrate your skills during a unit outing to become certified. Once certified, you can re-certify every two years.

Training	Spring 2026 Training Dates/Location	Fall 2026 Training Dates/Location
Challenge Course	May 6 (evening) + May 16-17 Weekend at S bar F	Sept 2 (evening) + Sept 12-13 Weekend at Beaumont
Wednesday Evening Sessions are at Beaumont Theatre at Emerson Center (Lower Level)		
One-Day Challenge Orientation	June 28 S bar F + Beaumont	October 25 S bar F + Beaumont
Rock Climbing & Rappelling	May 27 (evening) + June 6-7 Weekend at S bar F	Aug 12 (evening) + Aug 22-23 Weekend at S bar F
Wednesday Evening Sessions are at Beaumont Theatre at Emerson Center (Lower Level)		
Climbing Towers	March 28 Warren Levis May 2 Beaumont	October 3 Beaumont
Tower Training is also offered at Camp Lewallen summer camp every week		
Recertification	March 1	October 4

All training activities are supervised by experienced Course Directors and Training Staff
Questions about Challenge Course, Climbing and Tower Training? Contact Challenge and Climbing Training Director Bob Backer 314-852-0682 or gslac.cc.training@gmail.com



Benefits of Challenge Course and Rock Climbing/ Rappelling for your Unit

Challenge Courses provide an opportunity for each participant to achieve success as an individual and as a member of a patrol or team. The objectives include building confidence, developing leadership skills, and attaining a sense of common cooperation among team members.

Rock Climbing & Rappelling have become very popular because they provide excitement and a challenge as the participants attempt to master the rock face. Tower climbing provides a similar thrill but can be accomplished any time, since the towers are lit for night climbing.

Age Requirements

Scouts BSA units and Venture Crews are eligible to participate in the Challenge Courses and tower or natural rock face climbing and rappelling.

Cub Scouts are eligible for Tower climbing only (no rappelling).

Adults must be 18 years or older to take Challenge Course, Rock Climbing or Tower training.

More questions? Contact Challenge and Climbing Chairman Terry Pogue. 314-780-9023 or gslac.cc.chairman@gmail.com